



Stevens girls win 13th straight title

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SIoux FALLS — It was business as usual for the defending State AA team champs and a building block for the Aberdeen Central squads during the state track and field meet Saturday at Howard Wood Field.

Rapid City Stevens won its 13th straight state girls' championship by scoring 127 points. Yankton was a distant second with 97½. Rapid City Central, behind four individual firsts from outstanding female athlete selection Jasmine King, was third.

Pierre captured its third consecutive state boys' title. The Governors, led by outstanding male athlete pick Matt Tetzlaff, racked up 104 points. Rapid City Central was second.

Aberdeen Central's Alli Arampatzis finished second in the pole vault for the second straight year. The sophomore, who broke her own school record in the event earlier this season by vaulting 12 feet, keeps getting better with age.

"I want to improve more every single year," Arampatzis said. "I have a goal to get 13-6."

By hitting the 13-foot mark, Arampatzis noted she would be ranked nationally. "That would be sweet," she said.

Arampatzis and teammate Lexi Jares both played key roles in helping the Golden Eagles score 25 points. Each athlete earned four medals during the state meet.

"Anytime you can get that, that's awesome," said Central girls' coach Jim Appl. The Eagles peaked at the right time of the season, according to Appl.

"Overall, I was quite pleased with our effort. We were hitting personal records and hitting the best marks of the season and that's all you can ask for. We had three relays today that got some medals. We got about as many medals as we could."

Appl said his squad gained valuable experience and

State AA Track & Field Meet

came home with state medals in the process.

"We were pleased with what we got out of here, today," Appl said. "We have a lot of kids getting medals that have never gotten medals before."

The Central boys finished with 14 points, all coming on the opening day of the meet.

"(Friday) we ran pretty well in a couple of relays and didn't qualify, but we ran our best times all year," said Central boys' coach Mike Flakus.

The highlight of the weekend was when sophomore Jared Hannigan won the long jump on Friday.

"That was fun to see," Flakus said.

It appeared the Eagles might get another place on Saturday when Josh Wilson was at the front of the 1,600-meter run halfway through the event. However, a strong field prevented Wilson from placing.

"There was a lot of guys. I just wanted to stick with the main pack and try to run a fast time," Wilson said. "The main guys just kind of took off. I just tried to hang with them the best I could."

Wilson said running against a strong wind gradually took its toll during the four-lap event.

"After you get past the first half mile, it feels a lot stronger," Wilson said of the wind.

Wilson placed in the 3,200-meter run on Friday.

"It was a great way to finish off the season," Wilson said.

The state meet was also a strong way to finish one season and prepare for another for a young Central boys' team.

"We have so many kids that got a chance to run this year that the next couple of years we can look forward to some pretty good track teams," Flakus said. "I'm pretty excited about the next couple of years."

Saturday at Howard Wood Field

Class AA Girls

Team points — Rapid City Stevens 127, Yankton 97.5, Rapid City Central 93, Watertown 88, Roosevelt 58, Lincoln 39, O'Gorman 37, Spearfish 31.5, Pierre 31, Brandon Valley 29, Washington 26, Aberdeen Central 25, Sturgis 18, Brookings 15, Douglas 15, Mitchell 9, Huron 1.

Shot put — Brooke Garner (RC Stevens) 44-2, Jane Swenson (Brandon Valley) 43-7.25, Kelly Herrmann (RC Stevens) 41-2, Christine Broders (Yankton) 39-11, Polly Gill (Pierre) 37-6.5, Breanna Janovy (Sturgis) 37-0, Kayla Salonen (Yankton) 36-10.25, Christina Georgas (RC Stevens) 36-8.75.

Pole vault — Leslie Brost (Watertown) 12-10 (all-time state meet record, old mark 12-7 by Malory Peck, O'Gorman, 2005), Alli Arampatzis (Aberdeen Central) 11-6, Peggy Ronke (Watertown) 11-0, Hollie Bloom (RC Central) 10-6, Hannah Lehmann (RC Stevens) 10-0, Emily VanLaackon (Watertown) 9-6, Adrienne Skaggs (Aberdeen Central) 9-6, Becca Schetz (Spearfish) 9-0, Jordan Lillie (Yankton) 9-0.

100 — Jasmine King (RC Central) 11.91, Brittany Page (Watertown) 12.26, Megan Bren (Roosevelt) 12.40, Becca Bedard (RC Stevens) 12.47, Ashlee Johnson (Yankton) 12.63, Jordyn Anderson (Pierre) 12.65, Abby Albers (Spearfish) 12.93, Lorie Williams (Huron) 13.12.

200 — Jasmine King (RC Central) 25.32, Brittany Page (Watertown) 26.43, Megan Bren (Roosevelt) 26.51, Ashlee Johnson (Yankton) 27.12, Darlan Thompson (Spearfish) 27.08, Karissa Pritch (RC Stevens) 28.20, Allison Eckrich (Spearfish) 28.52.

400 — Jasmine King (RC Central) 56.87, Darlan Thompson (Spearfish) 58.66, Megan Bren (Roosevelt) 59.14, Chandler Nielsen (O'Gorman) 1:00.21, Madison Whitley (RC Central) 1:00.73, Alyson Perrett (RC Stevens) 1:01.36, Allison Eckrich (Spearfish) 1:01.81, Kendra Knight (Mitchell) 1:02.58.

800 — Erin Hargens (Roosevelt) 5:16.38, Annie Pfeifle (RC Stevens) 5:18.26, Megan Hilson (Yankton) 5:18.33, Mariah Hofer (Yankton) 5:22.99, Bailey Eich (Douglas) 5:23.31, Bailey Breems (Roosevelt) 5:23.54, Madeline Takahashi (Sturgis) 5:25.98, Taryn Sahli (RC Stevens) 5:26.76.

100 hurdles — Anna Gaglianno (RC Central) 14.62, Nevada Sorenson (Lincoln) 14.67, Steph Bachman (Brandon Valley) 15.28, Haylee Weisgram (RC Stevens) 15.41, Alexa Berg (Pierre) 15.44, Melanie Horst (RC Stevens) 15.49, Kylie Robinson (Yankton) 15.63, Emily DeVries (Lincoln) 15.65.

300 hurdles — Nevada Sorenson (Lincoln) 45.87, Emily DeVries (RC Stevens) 45.88, Kalle Cox (Watertown) 46.45, Jacque Jasme (RC Central) 48.55, Haylee Weisgram (RC Stevens) 49.16, Tricia Watson (Watertown) 49.49, Sarah Peters (Lincoln) 49.83, Taylor Nelson (RC Stevens) 50.14.

400 relay — RC Stevens (Melanie Horst, Haley DeVries, Haylee Weisgram, Becca Bedard) 50.60, Brookings 50.60, Pierre 51.26, RC Central 51.57, Lincoln 52.50, Watertown 52.52, Spearfish 52.82, O'Gorman 53.35.

800 relay — Watertown (Leslie Brost, Kalle Cox, Taylor Kellogg, Brittany Page) 1:45.93, RC Stevens 1:47.93, Roosevelt 1:49.06, Pierre 1:49.13, Spearfish 1:49.48, Lincoln 1:49.94, RC Central 1:50.22, Aberdeen Central 1:51.80.

1,600 medley — Yankton (Cassie Shafer, Shannon Fitzsimmons, Rachel Weinandt, Krista Creager) 4:19.37, Watertown 4:19.78, RC Central 4:26.36, Brandon Valley 4:26.55, RC Stevens 4:28.48, Sturgis 4:34.40, Lincoln 4:42.45.

1,800 relay — Watertown (Kalle Cox, Leslie Brost, Tai Hemiller, Brittany Page) 4:01.82, Washington 4:07.15, Yankton 4:08.62, Spearfish 4:08.84, RC Stevens 4:12.53, RC Central 4:13.76, Aberdeen 4:15.91.

High jump — Mary Wirth (Lincoln) 5-4, Stephanie Uher (Mitchell) 5-2, Caitlin Templeton (RC Central) 5-2, Courtney Higgins (Brookings) 5-0, Emily Stuck (Yankton) 5-0, Lexi Jares (Aberdeen Central) 5-0, Ashlee Hohme (Lincoln) 5-0, Abby Winkles (Watertown) 5-0, Caitlin Hof (Yankton) 5-0.

Triple jump — Hannah Lehmann (RC Stevens) 35-6, Leslie Brost (Watertown) 35-6, Myriame Bartscher (Washington) 35-5, Ashlee Johnson (Yankton) 35-4.5, Sarah Weidler (O'Gorman) 35-3.25, Erin Furhmann (RC Central) 34-8.25, Steph Faluch (Pierre) 34-7.5, Kayla Hueher (RC Stevens) 34-7.5.

3,200 relay — Yankton 9:29.41, O'Gorman 9:34.11, Washington 9:35.53, RC Stevens 9:37.82, Roosevelt 9:42.19, Sturgis 9:44.68, Douglas 9:56.19, Watertown 9:58.49.

3,200 — Megan Hilson (Yankton) 11:14.52, Madeline Takahashi (Sturgis) 11:19.43, Bailey Breems (Roosevelt) 11:20.30, Courtney Neubert (Aberdeen Central) 11:21.64, Seanna Kautz (Roosevelt) 11:23.47, Mariah Hofer (Yankton) 11:27.24, Annie Pfeifle (RC Stevens) 11:37.11, Megan Brown (Roosevelt) 11:40.30.

Long jump — Jasmine King (RC Central) 18-10.75 (all-time state meet record, old mark 18-10.25 by Donsha Adams, Washington, 2003), Abby Vandenberg (O'Gorman) 17-8.25, Ashlee Johnson (Yankton) 17-6.25, Myriame Bartscher (Washington) 17-6.25, Abby Albers (Spearfish) 17-3.75, Ashley Odegaard (Brookings) 17-3.75, Holly Suss (Brandon Valley) 17-3, Sarah Weidler (O'Gorman) 16-11.

800 — Krista Creager (Yankton) 2:17.39, Chandler Nielsen (O'Gorman) 2:17.49, Erin Hargens (Roosevelt) 2:21.25, Christina Schaler (Douglas) 2:21.59, Bailey Eich (Douglas) 2:22.94, Tai Hemiller (Watertown) 2:22.92, Taryn Sahli (RC Stevens) 2:23.32, Sami Smith (Washington) 2:23.56.

Discus — Brooke Garner (RC Stevens) 139-8, Jane Swenson (Brandon Valley) 138-1, Drew Miller (Pierre) 132-1, Kelly Herrmann (RC Stevens) 126-2, Rochelle Flynn (RC Central) 125-8, Christine Broders (Yankton) 121-4, Kae Januschka (O'Gorman) 118-4, Polly Gill (Pierre) 112-3.

King's triumph a family affair

Last year, as his daughter ran wild at the South Dakota high school state track meet in Sioux Falls, Master Sgt. Jeff King sat at a U.S. Air Force base in Qatar, starting at a computer screen.

There are limited times we can be on the Internet, so I would log on and keep refreshing the screen over and over, trying to get some information," King says. "I wasn't the best situation."

Maybe that's why he was one of the few people not griping about this year's weather at chilly Howard Wood Field, where wicket winds couldn't keep Rapid City Central sophomore Jasmine King from putting her stamp on history.

The King family stood on the track moments after Jasmine, a two-time Class AA girls MVP, nailed another sweep of sprint events (100, 200 and 400 meters).

Saturday to help the Cobblers finish third in team points behind Rapid City Stevens and Yankton.

Counting Friday's long jump, where she set an all-time record with a leap of 18 feet, 10½ inches, King has now claimed eight individual state titles — with two years to go.

"It was nice to have my dad here," said the beaming Cobler, also joined by her mother, Camille, and 19-year-old sister, Jhane — not to mention grandparents from North Carolina and aunts and uncles from North Carolina and New Jersey.

But Rapid City Central coach Dave Dolan, who taught her in middle school, quickly saw that he had something special.

"We contemplated bringing her up (to varsity track) as a seventh grader," he says. "But we decided it was best to wait another year."

King took second in the 200 and 400 and fourth in the 100 as an eighth grader at the 2006 state meet in Rapid City, setting the stage for her breakout effort the next year.

After becoming the first Class AA girl to win four individual events in 2007, she set her sights higher.

"In between her freshman and sophomore years, she really hit the heights," said Dolan, adding that King has a 4.0 grade-point average. "I mean, she's gotten a lot stronger. She's a pretty solid individual."

And, for now at least, she plans to stay put.

Since her father has more than two years until retirement, King expects to graduate from Rapid City Central and continue her assault on the record books.

If such outrageous success from an out-of-state athlete rubs some folks the wrong way, Jasmine has yet to notice.

"All the girls and other people here are pretty nice," says King, who plans to run at the USAF/Tri-State Junior Olympics on June 14 in Aberdeen.

"Everybody's really respectful. I don't know what they say when I'm not around, but to my face they're really nice."



STU WHITNEY



GIRLS — Jasmine King, R.C. Central: Set a state record in long jump Friday and won 100, 200 and 400 Saturday.