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SPORTS

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Sadler steals the show

Mount Horeb star wins 800, reaches podium three times at state track meet

by DENNIS SEMRAU
Sports Reporter

It was a memorable journey that led Mount Horeb junior Abby Sadler to the promised land of track and field last weekend.

And the effort was well worth it.

Sadler placed third in the 1,600-meter run before winning her first individual title in the 800 on Friday during the WIAA Division 1 state meet at the Veteran's Memorial Field Complex in La Crosse. Sadler's journey was completed with one more trip to the podium with the Vikings' 3,200-meter relay with a sixth-place finish on Saturday.

Sadler's big weekend helped the Vikings tie for 10th place in the Division 1 girls team standings with Bay Port with 20 points. DeForest won the meet with 46 points.

"It was amazing," Sadler said of her three trips to the awards' podium. "I was super excited to be up there. It's really been



Mount Horeb's Abby Sadler won the 800-meter run and reached the podium three times at the WIAA Division 1 state track and field meet last weekend. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

my dream all winter. I was injured at the end of cross country and worked the entire winter to get back to being able to race. It was awesome."

The Friday evening Division 1 session, which included preliminaries and five finals events, was extended due to multiple

weather-related delays. And then there was another half-hour delay when the stadium lights went dark at 11 p.m.

"There have been a lot of weird things that have happened up at that meet over the years, and that ranks right up there," Mount Horeb coach Brian

McIntyre said. "When the lights went out, it was kind of frustrating at that point. It was funny for a minute and then it got old after a half-an-hour."

But the craziness couldn't take away from Sadler's performance.

"I ran at state cross country, but I had tendinitis in

my right Achilles," said Sadler, who became the Vikings' first state champion since Nadia Williams in 2015 when she won the 100- and 200-meter dashes. "I ran two post-season races, the Footlocker and one in Canada, and didn't do great in either one."

"I finally realized it was my Achilles, so I spent my entire winter doing swimming workouts. I took off from running for a month and swam every day and worked out in the gym, I did anything I could do to rehab it."

Her diligence certainly paid off.

Sadler's victory in the 800 came after a late kick down the homestretch denied her a gold medal in the 1,600 where she finished third in a time of 4 minutes, 52.20 seconds. Muskego's Ella Anschutz won the race in 4:50.27.

But the best was yet to come when Sadler won the 800 in 2:11.64, just ahead of Cedarburg's Charlize-Trinity McKenzie (2:13.56).

"I knew she would be right there," McIntyre said of Sadler's strong finish in the 800. "(Trinity McKenzie) from Cedarburg had run a 2:09 this year. She was going to be in it. But I was pretty confident that Abby would be right in it to win it."

Sadler said she ran a conservative race in the 1,600 but just went all out in the 800.

"My goal was to sit on (Trinity McKenzie) from

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A brutal ending

Mount Horeb's softball team loses big lead in sectionals

by DANIEL LINS
Sports Reporter

Talk about the one that got away.

The No. 1 seeded Mount Horeb softball team held a 12-0 lead after two innings over second-seeded West Salem in a WIAA Division 2 sectional semifinal on May 30. But the visiting Panthers responded with an epic rally and downed the Vikings, 15-14, in 10 innings.

Mount Horeb finished the year 17-9. West Salem (18-8) advanced to the sectional

final, where it dropped a 6-4 decision to Beloit Turner on June 1.

"This year's team set a ton of records, including school wins and hits," Mount Horeb manager Jeramie Holman said. "I am very thankful I have had the opportunity to coach these girls."

Behind sophomore starting pitcher Jayse Holman, the Vikings were trying to win their ninth game in the past 10 outings. They were also looking to snap West Salem's 10-game winning

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Morgan Monroe and Mount Horeb's softball team fell to West Salem in the sectional semifinals on May 30. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Vikings nipped in regional finals

Mount Horeb drops 10-inning heartbreaker to Reedsburg

by DANIEL LINS
Sports Reporter

REEDSBURG — If ever there was a case of déjà vu, this was it.

And that wasn't a good thing for Mount Horeb's baseball team.

The Vikings dropped a 6-5 decision to Reedsburg on May 19 in a battle for the Badger Conference title.

When the teams met again on May 31 in a WIAA Division 2 regional final, it was another one-run affair. And much to the Vikings' chagrin, the Beavers prevailed again.

Reedsburg struck for a run in the bottom of the eighth and edged the Vikings, 2-1. Mount Horeb finished the season 13-13, while the Beavers improved to 18-3 and advanced to the sectional semifinals.

Despite the loss, senior pitcher Ethan Tranel — who threw a gem against Reedsburg — will always be grateful for what Mount Horeb baseball has done for him.

"The family feeling that Mount Horeb baseball leaves you with can not compare to anything," Tranel said. "We are all like brothers, and I will never forget the feeling."

Tranel did all he could to ensure the Vikings' season wouldn't end against Reedsburg. Tranel went the distance, allowing just four hits, striking out four and throwing strikes on 58 of 91 pitches.

"I feel like I pitched a great overall game tonight," Tranel said. "A couple of missed locations on my pitches proved to make the difference in the game."

Mount Horeb staked Tranel to an early lead when it plated its lone run of the game in the top of the first inning. Colin Larson drove in Tranel with two outs in the frame, which electrified the Mount Horeb faithful who made the trek to Reedsburg.

The Vikings maintained that 1-0 lead until the bottom of the fourth inning. There, Reedsburg's Edison Alonso continued his offensive dominance against Mount Horeb and blasted his third home run in his last two games against the Vikings over the center field wall.

Each of Alonso's home

runs against Mount Horeb have come when Tranel was pitching. The two played travel baseball together growing up, and Alonso made sure he showed how well he knew Tranel's game.

Mount Horeb, which had just six hits on the night, tried rallying in the seventh.

Declan Dahm singled and Josh Manchester walked with one out off reliever Mark Othmer. However, Josh Kuntz flew out to left field, and Dahm was thrown out trying to scurry back to second base, keeping the game tied at 1-1 heading into the bottom of the seventh inning.

There, Tranel continued his stellar performance on the mound for the Vikings, retiring Reedsburg in order to send the game to extra innings.

Mount Horeb went quietly in the eighth, then needed another stellar frame from Tranel and its defense to keep the game going. That didn't happen.

Reedsburg's Othmer was hit by a Tranel fastball, then Winston Alonso tripled to right field. Othmer, however, was thrown out trying to score with nobody out.

The Beavers still had a runner on third with one out, which prompted Mount Horeb to bring in an extra infielder to try to prevent a run from scoring. Reedsburg's Alek Southworth was then hit by another Tranel fastball, which put runners on the corners, still with only one out.

The Vikings elected to intentionally walk Alonso, who had already homered,



Mount Horeb's Ethan Tranel (9) threw a gem in the Vikings' 2-1, eight inning loss to Reedsburg on May 31. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

to load the bases with one out.

Reedsburg's Carsen Brandt then emerged as the hero when he roped a fastball to left field that scored Alonso and ended the Vikings' season in an excruciating way.

Senior catcher Gunnar Polman took the loss hard, but believes better days await the Vikings.

"The Mount Horeb baseball team community is

always a family," Polman said. "Every year we are always really tight. This freshman class is very tight as well, so these next coming years, we are going to be a hell of a ball team."

Polman also said he is extremely proud of what the Vikings baseball team has accomplished this season.

"Our growth this year

has been something special," he said. "Every single player on this team has amazed me."

Manchester said the loss for the Vikings does nothing but motivate the team to return even better next season.

"This game just adds fuel to the fire," Manchester said. "The returning guys, as well as myself,

are striving to never have this feeling again, and I am confident we will be back better than ever."

Polman also said the teams of the future are a force to be reckoned with.

"We will come back better than ever," he said. "I have no doubts Mount Horeb baseball will continue to do amazing things."

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Tyler Buechner (left) and Josh Manchester (above) helped lead Mount Horeb's baseball team past River Valley in the second round of the playoffs on May 30. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mount Horeb rolls in regional semis

by DAN LARSON
Sports Reporter

Wake-up call. Punch to the gut. Shot across the bow.

Call it what you will, River Valley delivered the message.

Mount Horeb's baseball team hosted the Blackhawks in a WIAA Division 2 regional semifinal on May 30 — and River Valley raced to a 2-0 lead after the top of the first inning. But Mount Horeb answered, scoring three right away in the bottom half.

And that was more than enough for freshman pitcher Josh Manchester, who was brilliant the rest of the way, working into the seventh inning and allowing only two hits and two walks after the first to lead the fourth-seeded Vikings to a 6-2 victory over the 12th-seeded Blackhawks at Mount Horeb High School.

"They just wanted to get up there and hit. They wanted to respond," Mount Horeb coach Ryan Finley said of the team's attitude leaving the field after falling behind from the get-go. "Early on in the year that would have been a concern because we're pretty young and when we did fall behind we'd hang our heads a little bit, but the last three weeks that hasn't been the approach at all.

"They came in fired up and wanted to respond, and

they did just that. So it was a great answer for us."

The Vikings (13-12) wasted no time coming up with that answer, either.

Manchester led off the first with a walk and after No. 3 batter Tyler Buechner drew a two-out walk to put runners at first and second, Colin Larson delivered, belting a two-run double to left to tie the game.

"I saw it coming in slow, curveball, and smashed it," Larson said.

Talon Stoenner then slapped an RBI single to left, giving Mount Horeb what ended up being the winning run.

"I was just expecting fastball. I was going to try spitting on any curveball or off-speed," Stoenner said of his approach in that at-bat.

It was a much-needed bounceback inning for the Vikings, who in getting by River Valley (6-16) advanced to face top-seeded Reedsburg (17-3) in the regional finals on May 31.

"You definitely can build off each other's energy," Stoenner, the Vikings' No. 6 batter who finished 2-for-4 with 3 RBIs, said of what helped fuel his team's outburst in the bottom of the first.

Still, it was early. There was a lot of row yet to be hoed.

Manchester, who struck out seven across 6 1/3 innings, struck out the first two batters he faced in the top of the second. Then

after a two-out double by Treyton White, Manchester got a groundout to retire the side.

The right-handed hurler worked around another two-out hit in the top of third, a single by Chayse Gilbertson, without any damage to keep the score at 3-2.

And then Mount Horeb added a couple insurance runs.

Ethan Tranel — who went 1-for-2 and scored two runs — reached on an error and Tyler Buechner drew a walk to begin the bottom of third. Both advanced on a wild pitch with one out, then Stoenner came through with another single, this time plating a pair to make it 5-2.

"We struggled early on in the season with getting rallies going," said Buechner, who drew three walks in the contest and came around to score after two of them. "There were a couple times we had bases loaded with no outs and we'd end up with two strikeouts and a groundout.

"So the biggest thing is just to keep pounding the ball and moving runners in any way. Any way on. The only guy we can say can really, truly go for the fences is Tranel. So the biggest thing is base hits or any way on."

Meanwhile, Manchester continued to roll.

He worked 1-2-3 innings in the fourth and fifth and

gave up only a two-out walk in the sixth. He allowed a lead-off walk in the seventh, then struck out White looking before getting pulled because he reached 100 pitches.

"He mixes speed and he pitches, and that's rare for a freshman — a lot of freshmen just get up there and throw, but he's actually thinking and pitching and locating and doing all those great things already," Finley said. "It's impressive."

Manchester wasn't rattled by his rocky first inning, a frame in which he allowed a leadoff single to Griffin Sprecher, a one-out RBI double to Trey Schulte and a one-out RBI single to Gilbertson.

"I had about 10 seconds to be mad at myself but I had to move on," he said, pointing out that he couldn't dwell on it because he was first to bat in the bottom half of the inning. "I knew my curveball was going to work, I just missed my spots a few times in the first inning.

"I didn't miss too many times after that. I thought I settled in real nice."

Manchester, who helped his own cause by going 1-or-3 with a walk and a run scored — that coming after he singled to lead off the fourth and touched home on Buechner's RBI groundout that made it 6-2 — certainly did settle in.

"My two-seam and slider," he said when asked

what his go-to pitches were in this outing. "I like to start it off with an off-speed and then that kind of gets them guessing, and then it goes from there. Those two pitches were really working for me today."

Buechner wasn't at all surprised that Manchester righted the ship, not at this point in the season after seeing his demeanor on the mound for the last two months.

"Just keeping his head straight and being a bulldog up there. Just staying mentally there," the senior right fielder said of how Manchester weathers adversity.

And speaking of adversity, Manchester said facing some in the top of the first might not be such a bad thing in the end.

"Down 2-0, you're going to yourself, 'We've got to score right here otherwise it's going to be a close game,'" Manchester said. "We knew we had to bounce back right away."

The Vikings did so the right way, too. They didn't press.

"We've seen it a lot this year, teams scoring first, and it's just a matter of having discipline up at the plate and doing what we can — doing our job and controlling what we can control," Buechner said.

"It was a good Valley team so they kept us off-balance a little bit," added Finley, "but I liked our approach at the plate."

After winning 11-0 in five innings over Richland Center in the regional quarterfinals — a game in which Manchester allowed three hits and a walk while striking out seven in a mercy-rule shortened complete game shutout — and this win over River Valley, the test got appreciably more difficult in the regional title game.

But Finley has liked what he's seen from his team to start the playoffs and is excited for the challenge.

"The last two games I see really good defense and we're throwing strikes — that was questionable midway through the year; we were struggling with that. And we've got guys putting the ball in play up and down the line-up," Finley said. "And those three things are paying dividends.

"I think we've improved since the last time we played Reedsburg, so I'm looking forward to that."

MOUNT HOREB 6, RIVER VALLEY 2

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Pitchers (ip-h-r-er-k-bb) -- RV: Daniel Yanke (L; 3-3-5-3-4-5), Quincy Blakley (1-2-1-1-0-0), Trey Schulte (2-0-0-0-2-4); **MH:** Josh Manchester (W; 6.1-5-2-2-7-2), Hayden Anderson (0.2-0-0-0-0-0).

Leading hitters -- RV: Chayse Gilbertson 2x3, RBI; Griffin Sprecher 1x4; Trey Schulte 1x3, 2B, RBI; Treyton White 1x3, 2B; **MH:** Talon Stoenner 2x4, 3 RBIs; Josh Manchester 1x3; Ethan Tranel 1x2; Colin Larson 1x3, 2B.

Wittmann falls just short of state

Mount Horeb's golf standout misses state by one stroke

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Ethan Wittmann did everything he could.

Four birdies. Six pars. And big shot after big shot.

But when you're playing in arguably the state's toughest sectional, you need to be good and lucky — and Wittmann was just one of the two.

Wittmann, a senior standout inside Mount Horeb's boys golf program, shot a sizzling 4-over-par, 76, at the Waunakee Sectional on May 30.

The top three individuals from non-qualifying teams advanced to this week's state tournament. Unfortunately for Wittmann, despite his brilliant round, he missed qualifying for state by one shot.

"Ethan's performance (at sectionals) was phenomenal," Mount Horeb coach Nolan Krentz said. "We play in arguably the most competitive sectional in the state which made Ethan's performance even more remarkable as he finished ahead of a number of the best players in the state."

Waunakee won its own sectional with a 310, while Holmen and Middleton tied for second with a 317. Holmen then edged the Cardinals in a playoff and earned the second and final state berth.

The top three individuals from non-qualifying teams were Onalaska's Colin Comeau (73), Madison West's Finn Jackson (74) and Middleton's Dain Johnson (75). That left Wittmann one shot away from earning a state berth.

"This was Ethan's second appearance at sectionals and he certainly looked more comfortable this year than last year in finishing with his best score ever in relation to par," Krentz said.

Wittmann certainly had a round to remember.

Wittmann carded a 2-over-par, 38, on the front nine thanks to consecutive birdies on No. 6 and 7. He also made pars at No. 2, 4 and 8, hit six greens in regulation and sat in seventh place individually at the turn.

"Ethan was able to make long putts for birdie on hole 6 and for par on hole 8, which were key in shooting such a good score

on the front nine," Krentz said. "After nine holes, he put himself in great position to advance to state with a good back nine."

Wittmann hit only three greens in regulation on the back nine, but did a remarkable job scrambling and carded another 38.

Wittmann birdied both No. 10 and 14 and made pars at No. 11, 12, and 18. He also capped his career in style by getting up and down for par from 80 yards out at No. 18.

"He made another long putt for birdie on the 14th hole and despite finding trouble of the tee on a few holes on the back nine, was able to get himself back in position and finish with no worse than a bogey each time," Krentz said.

Wittmann finished sixth overall out of 47 golfers and saved his best performance for last — even if it fell narrowly short.

"Ethan had a terrific senior season earning our team's medalist honors for the third consecutive season, as well as second-team all-conference in the Badger West," Krentz said. "He always represented our program well on and off the course, and we wish him the best in the future."

Mount Horeb's Jack Vesperman also qualified for sectionals, but struggled and shot a 91.

"(Sectionals) were definitely a learning experience for Jack," Krentz said. "While it wasn't his best performance of the season, the experience Jack gained playing on this stage will help him moving forward. Look no further than Ethan improving from a 90 last year at sectionals to a 76 this year and Jack is certainly capable of doing the same next year."

Vesperman shot a 47 on his front nine, parring No. 3, 5 and 8 along the way.

"Jack got off to a bit of a rough start as he made double-bogey on hole one and triple-bogey on hole two," Krentz said. "After that, he settled down and was able to par the difficult par-four third hole after hitting the green in regulation and made two more pars on holes 5 and 8."

Vesperman improved to a 44 on the back nine thanks to a birdie at the par-five 11th hole and pars at No. 12 and 15.

"Jack was our most im-



Ethan Wittmann (top) and Jack Vesperman (above) both competed at the WIAA Division 1 Waunakee Sectional on May 30. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

proved player this season, lowering his nine-hole scoring average by 3.2 strokes from last season and earning second-team all-conference honors along the way. I know he will be motivated to continue working on his game this offseason to make it back to sectionals or even farther next year.

"Hopefully, we can have our entire team competing, as well, which will definitely be one of our goals heading into next season. We will need all of our returning players to put in a lot of time and effort on the course this summer and fall, but I am confident that we can make it happen."

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Soccer Vikings edged in regionals

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

One more play.
One more goal.

In many ways, that was the story of the 2023 season for Mount Horeb's girls soccer team.

The Vikings fielded a scrappy, competitive side. In the end, though, they often were one play away from greatness.

That was the case once again in Mount Horeb's 3-2 loss to Westosha Central in a WIAA Division 2 regional semifinal on May 30. The ninth-seeded and visiting Vikings raced to a 2-0 lead, only to see eighth-seeded Falcons rally back and force overtime.

In the extra session, Westosha Central scored just 57 seconds before the teams were headed to penalty kicks and ended Mount Horeb's season.

The Vikings finished the year 11-7, while the Falcons improved to 8-6-2 before losing to Oregon in the regional finals on June 3.

"Our girls played hard against a good team, but we needed to make one more play," Mount Horeb coach Mark Newman said. "Giving the two goal lead back so quickly really changed the whole dynamic of the game."

The Vikings played a terrific first half and led, 1-0, at the break.

Mount Horeb's goal came in the 20th minute when Rowan Severson attacked on the left wing and played a low cross into the penalty area. Mikayla Holler used some clever movement in the box to pull back, then dart in front of the defender and flick the ball over the goal line.

"We played a good first half," Newman said. "Westosha is a really good team that had missed defenders during the year, but finished really strong as they got healthy.

"We were able to play direct against them and get behind their defense on the flanks and play balls into the box or earn corner kicks. Most of Westosha's attack in the first half ended in longer range shots sent well over the bar, though they did get more of the play as the half wore on."

Mount Horeb stretched its lead to 2-0 when Olivia Schrank blasted in a deflection from a corner kick at the 43:33 mark.

The Vikings had all of the momentum, but let it slip away as Westosha Central scored just 17 seconds later and closed



Olivia Droessler (16) and Mount Horeb's girls soccer team fell to Westosha Central in the first round of the playoffs last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langfeld

within 2-1.

"We lost focus and let the game turn on the restart when Westosha was easily able to get in behind our defense on their left side and play a ball into an attacker with entirely too much space," Newman said. "The resulting goal ... really changed the game."

The Vikings clung to their 2-1 lead late into the game and appeared poised to exit with a win. But in the 78th minute, the Falcons notched the game-winning goal.

Westosha goalkeeper Lola Minic came forward and the Vikings lost her in the traffic in front of the goal. Minic's header

evened things, 2-2, and eventually forced overtime.

"We tired some and didn't do a good job winning balls or completing passes," Newman said. "So much of the rest of the game was played in our defensive half.

"(Goalie) Ally Frischmann played really well and made several big saves to maintain the lead. One of the best came with less than three minutes to go, but the resulting corner kick produced the equalizer."

The Vikings and Falcons couldn't score in the first 10-minute overtime. And it appeared the second overtime would be the same.

But with just 57 seconds left, the Falcons notched the game-winning goal.

"We fought hard in the overtime and looked to be taking Westosha to a tournament shootout for a second year in a row, until Westosha was able to find a little space and score with less than a minute remaining," Newman said.

The disappointing result ended a season in which Mount Horeb made strides

from last year's 8-8-1 campaign. And Newman believes his team could make major gains in 2024.

"We return three double-digit goal scorers and nine of the 11 starters from our tournament game," Newman said. "We have several key seniors to replace, particularly Ally Frischmann in goal and Maddie Conrad who played multiple positions in attack, but that is true every year.

"We look to have more girls entering the program and develop depth and options. Two large factors that will have an effect for 2024 are the conference realignment and possible change in divisional placement. Mount Horeb was the smallest school in Division 2 girls soccer again this year."

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the start and make a move whenever I felt good," Sadler said. "About 350 meters in, I could hear her breathing harder than me. I could see her tiring, so I decided to take it. I passed her with about 400 (meters) to go and kicked for 400, and it worked out."

Amazingly, that wasn't the best 800 Sadler would run at the meet.

"I actually beat my time in the 800 with my time in the relay split," said Sadler, who ran a 2:10.36. "I PR'd in the 800 and then PR'd again with my 800 in the four-by-eight. My 1,600 was also a school record. Next year, I will go after the 800 record."

Sadler, who lived outside Toronto, Canada, for the past three years before returning to her hometown last summer, took her place in the 1,600 in stride.

"My goal was to win it. I didn't quite get there, but I went out at a really slow pace, a pedestrian pace," Sadler said. "Just having that early kick really got me, but it was the best race I could have asked for."

Sadler said the weather delays actually provided her extra rest time, which aided her performance in the 800.

"It was an insane day with all of the delays," said Sadler, who passed the time playing Euchre with her teammates and Mount Horeb distance runner Joe Stoddard. "I started warming up for my 1,600 but seven minutes into my warmup jog, there was a lightning strike and I had to stop."

"I was super pumped for the 1,600 and then the delay happened. It was fun playing Euchre, but I had to pump myself back up for the 1,600 when it happened. My 800 also got delayed which actually helped me out. It helped, too, when the lights went out. I got an extra half an hour to rest up."

The Vikings' girls 3,200-meter relay of senior Megan Van Orsdel, junior Emmy Bennin, sophomore Katherine Straka opened the meet on Saturday with a sixth-place finish in a time of 9:34.23. Mequon Homestead won the race in 9:27.97.

"It was amazing," Sadler said. "It was so much better being up on the podium with my team than by myself. The delight in that was 10 times. It was awesome."

Brian McIntyre said the relay answered the call with a season-best performance.

"Our fastest time before that was 9:40 at sectionals," he said. "They knocked off another six seconds."

Sophomore Marley McIntyre, the coach's daughter, then capped off a great weekend with an eighth-place finish in the 200 in a personal-best time of 25.66, just 0.35 off a spot on the podium.

"I was joking with Marley. I said you know you never even raced on Friday," Brian McIntyre said. "It was a one-day meet. You ran both your prelim and final races on Saturday."

Marley McIntyre punched her ticket for the finals with a 10th-place overall finish in 26.02 in the prelims, which were actually contested after midnight.

"In the prelims, ninth was 26:01, she was 26:02 and 11th was 26:04 so it came down to the 100th of a second," Brian McIntyre said. "Her 25.66 in the finals was a (personal best). You have to be happy when you run a PR, but she's still pretty hungry."

"Going in the goal was to make the finals, and if you make the finals, anything can happen. To score a point was pretty big for her."

Marley McIntyre, who is now a two-time state participant in both gymnastics and track and field, agreed.

"A lot of unexpected things happened. Girls who were seeded a lot higher didn't make it. It felt like it was anybody's game," said McIntyre, who was seeded 17th. "I'll remember how tired I was, but also I thought making finals was out of the picture."

"Last year I was happy to be there. This year I wanted more."

Stoddard takes sixth in the 3,200

In the boys competition, senior Joe Stoddard wrapped up his high school career with a sixth-place finish in the 3,200-meter run in a time of 9:11.64.

He was just more than a second ahead of Stevens Point junior Aloysius Franzen (9:12.68) for the final spot on the podium.

"This is such a story and such a race to go out on because it's one we'll never forget," Stoddard said.

However, Stoddard said the weather conditions were "nearly perfect" by the time he approached the starting line after midnight.

"The time he raced wasn't the most ideal," Brian McIntyre said. "But it was the same for everybody. Everybody had to

deal with the same thing.

"Joe is a pretty tactical racer. He knows the position to be in and when to move. He is a very instinctual racer. Once they shoot the gun, the runners have to do a lot of that themselves. It's not really the coaches at that point."

Stoddard, who won the Division 2 state cross country title last fall, placed eighth in the 3,200 at the Division 2 state meet as a sophomore.

But Stoddard was determined to earn a top-six finish and a spot on the podium this time.

"By the eighth lap, I was pretty tired," he said. "I didn't have quite as much left in the tank. But I had just enough to get on that sixth-place spot on the podium."

Stoddard said achieving that goal was the perfect ending to his high school career.

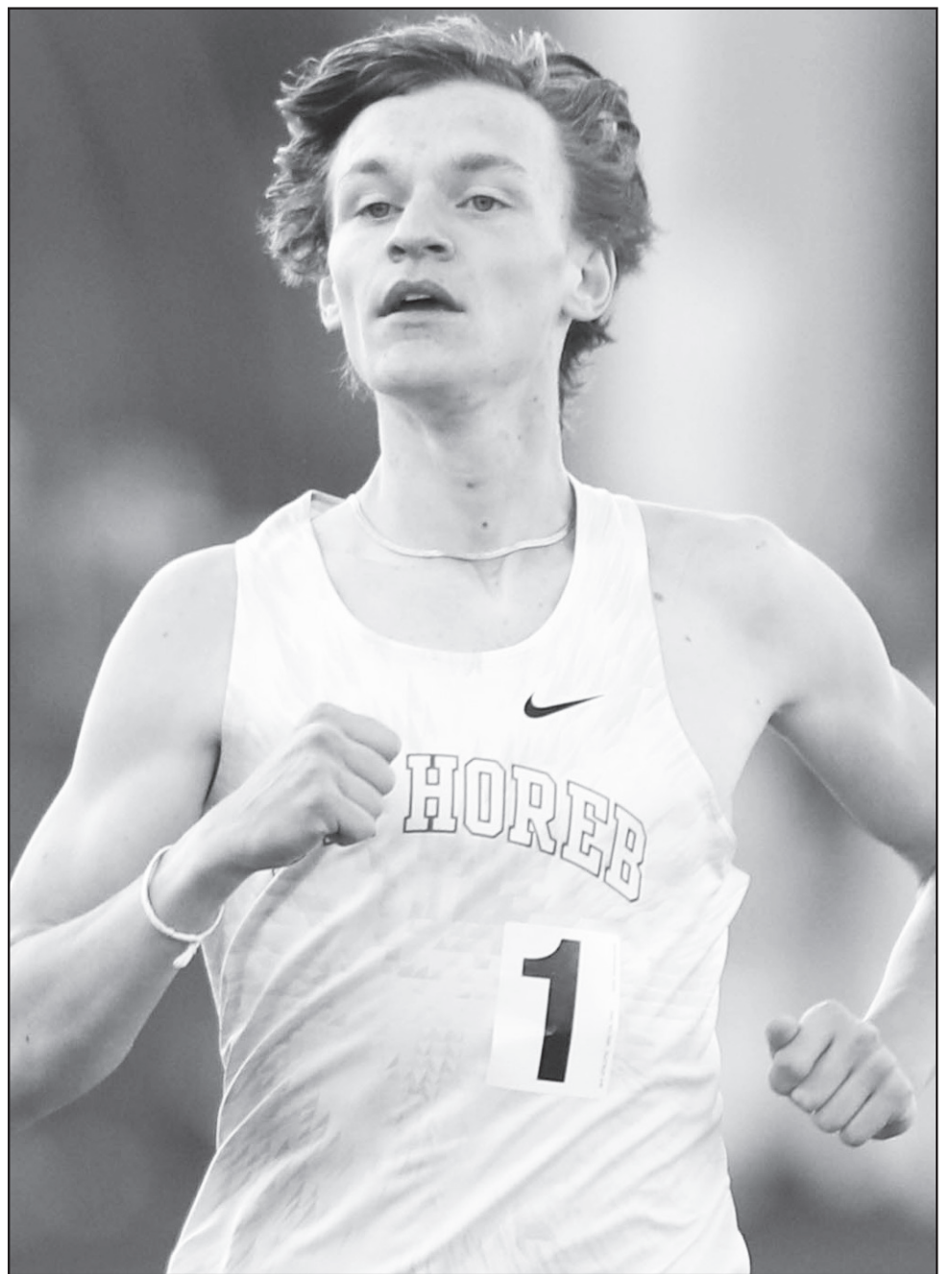
"It's hard for me to finish a race and say I did everything completely right," said Stoddard, who will compete in cross country and track and field at Eastern Illinois beginning this fall. "It's like there's always the next thing you could have done."

"But really I think I executed as well as I could of. My fitness prepared me as well as I could have. It really was the perfect ending. My top goal was 9:10 and to get on the podium in Division 1 is pretty special. So I was super happy with it."

June 2-3 WIAA Division 1 state meet BOYS

Team scores: 1, Hartland Arrowhead and Stevens Point, 47; 3, Kimberly, 42; 4, Oconomowoc and Kaukauna, 33; 6, La Crosse Central, 25; 7, Middleton, 22; 8, Eau Claire Memorial, 21; 9, Germantown and New Richmond, 20; 11, Hortonville, 19; 12, Mequon Homestead, Kenosha Bradford and Pewaukee, 18; 15, Green Bay Southwest, 17; 16, Neenah, Appleton West and Tomah, 16; 19, Waunakee and Schofield D.C. Everest, 14; 21, Wisconsin Lutheran and Hartford Union, 13; 23, Fond du Lac, Menomonee Falls, Mukwonago, Racine Park, Waterford Un-ion and West De Pere, 10; 29, Verona, 9; 30, De Pere, Green Bay Preble, Milwaukee King, Verona and Whitefish Bay, 8; 35, Janesville Parker, Menomonie, Onalaska, Waukesha North, Waukesha South and West Bend West, 6; 41, Lake Geneva Badger, Oak Creek and Superior, 5; 44, Brookfield East, Muskego, Oshkosh North and Ronald Reagan, 4; 48, Elkhorn Area, Mount Horeb and Racine Case, doctor Mendoza; 51, Cedarburg, Milton, Reedsburg, She-boygan North and Westosha Central, 2; 56, Glendale Nicolet, Pulaski, Sun Prairie East and Waukesha West, 1.

Top finisher/Mount Horeb result: 3,200: 1, ; 6, Joseph Stoddard, 9:11.64,



Mount Horeb's Joseph Stoddard finished in sixth place in the 3,200-meter run at the WIAA Division 1 state track and field meet. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

GIRLS

Team scores: 1, DeForest, 46; 2, Muskego, 41.5; 3, Hartland Arrowhead, 40; 4, Mequon Homestead and West De Pere, 35; 6, Whitefish Bay, 33; 7, Chippewa Falls, 31; 8, Waunakee and Middleton, 24; 10, Bay Port and Mount Horeb, 20; 12, Wauwatosa East, 19.5; 13, Schofield D. C. Everest, 19; 14, Glendale Nicolet, 18; 15, Mukwonago, 17.5; 16, Onalaska, 17; 17, Waukesha West and Milwaukee Lutheran, 16; 19, Verona Area, 14; 20, Kaukauna and Madison Memorial, 13; 22, Ashwaubenon and Kimberly, 12; 24, Slinger and Appleton North, 11; 26, Wauwatosa West, Holmen, and Menomonee Falls, 10; 29, Stevens Point, Marshfield and Watertown, 9; 32, Indian Trail Academy, Cedarburg, Oregon and Wisconsin Lutheran, 8; 36, Monona Grove, 6; 37, Lake Geneva Badger, 5; 38, Franklin, Green Bay Preble, Oshkosh West and Oconomowoc, 4; 42, Sun Prairie East and De Pere, 3.5; 44, Oak Creek, Janesville Parker, Eau Claire North and Madison La Follette, 3; 48, Sun Prairie

West and Sauk Prairie, 2; and 50, Shawano Community. Beaver Dam, Brookfield Central and Waukesha North, 1; 54, Fond du Lac 0.5.

Top finishers/Mount Horeb results:

200: 1, Lola Kolawole, Whitefish Bay, :23.96; 8, Marley McIntyre, :25.66.

800: 1, Abigail Sadler, 2:11.64. **1,600:** 1, Ella Auschutz, Muskego, 4:50.27; 3, Abigail Sadler, 4:52.20.

3,200-meter relay: 1, Mequon Homestead, 9:27.97; 6, Mount Horeb (Katherine Straka, Megan Van Orsdel, Emmy Bennin, Sadler, 9:34.23.

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SOFTBALL

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streak, one that dated back to April 28.

The Vikings, aiming for a third straight trip to the sectional finals, got off to a perfect start, as well.

Mount Horeb plated nine runs in the bottom of the first inning, collecting seven hits in the frame. The Vikings also draw walks in four consecutive at bats off West Salem freshman starting pitcher Josie Brudos.

Gina Rhiner started the fun with an RBI single and Jayse Holman had a two-run double. Ellie Larson and Hallie Klein both walked with the bases loaded to make it 5-0, then Ruby Dahlk had a three-run double, and that quick it was 8-0.

Gina Rhiner then had an RBI single to score Dahlk and the Vikings appeared in firm control with a 9-0 lead after one inning.

“The team has been able to put up runs all season, and it only continued early on for us tonight,” Jeramie Holman said.

With all of the momentum on the Vikings’ side heading into the second inning, Jayse Holman added to it by retiring West Salem in order.

Mount Horeb added a pair of runs in the top of the second before an out was recorded, via a Taylor Mueller home run. Mueller’s blast also plated Jayse Holman, who opened the inning with a single to right field, and

the Vikings’ lead grew to 11-0.

Later in the inning, Ellie Larson scored on a wild pitch and Mount Horeb’s lead was a whopping 12-0 after two frames.

However, momentum began to change sides in the third as West Salem got on a roll offensively.

The Panthers scored four runs in the top of the third, courtesy of a Signe Roesler groundout that brought home Payton Sawyer, who drew a walk from Holman with one out. Josie Brudos later blasted a home run over the center field wall with two outs to bring the Panthers within 12-4.

West Salem plated three runs in the fourth, followed by four more in the top of the fifth and pulled within 12-11.

Meanwhile, the Vikings’ bats went quiet. And when West Salem plated a run in the sixth, it tied the game, 12-12, and eventually forced extra innings.

Mount Horeb had a chance to win it in the bottom of the seventh when it put two runners on with two outs. But Brudos — who settled in after a brutal first two innings — escaped the jam by getting Morgan Monroe to pop out.

West Salem took its first lead of the game when it struck for two runs in the top of the ninth.

The Vikings answered right back, though.

Larson opened the inning with a double and Hallie

Klein reached on an error. Dahlk then singled to center to score Larson, and a Gina Rhiner groundout later scored Dahlk and evened the game, 14-14.

West Salem scored four runs during the game due to errant Mount Horeb pitches, and the biggest mistake of the game happened with two outs in the top of the 10th inning.

After Jayse Holman struck out West Salem’s Megan Johnson, the throw back to Holman got away from her and the Vikings infielders. That allowed Sydney Laursen, who opened the inning with a triple, to score from third with two outs.

Two out production was the theme of the night for West Salem, as 12 of its 15 runs scored with two outs.

Despite the loss, senior Evelyn Dahlgren said she will always be thankful for what Mount Horeb softball has done for her.

“The support of your teammates and the coaches keeping me going is something I will always be grateful for,” Dahlgren said. “Being able to play with my best friends is a huge thing for me.”

Taylor Mueller, who finished with two RBI, two runs scored and a home run, had a similar mindset to Dahlgren.

“Being able to see my teammates day in and day out is something I will never forget,” Mueller said. “Most of us are close outside of softball, but softball gives



Hallie Klein and Mount Horeb’s girls softball team fell to West Salem in a sectional semifinal game on May 30. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

me a few months out of the year I can be with my closest friends almost nonstop.”

Jeramie Holman also said the future is very bright for Mount Horeb softball, as the

Vikings are only losing two seniors to graduation.

“All the team has to do is put in work in the off-season, and the results will definitely show when next

season gets underway,” Jeramie Holman said. “The sky is the limit, and the team can only get better from here.”

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