

## TRACK AND FIELD

## Local athletes fill up spots at Section 6A meet

By Eric Morken

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Osakis, Minnewaska and West Central Area will be well represented at the Section 6A meet on June 10 in Fergus Falls after many athletes qualified through the subsection 21 meet in Wheaton on June 3.

The top-five individuals from each event and top-two relays at subsections qualify for the section meet where athletes will compete for a spot at state. The next two best relay times from all three subsections also qualify for sections, and Osakis got the girls' 4x100 (Addison Wildman, Hailey Walker, Makenzie Lien, Tessa Stanek, 53.16) and 4x800 (Bella Weisser, Lauren Anderson, Hatti Schmidtbauer, Lexi Spychalla, 10:54.04) teams in through that route.

"We are happy to get a couple relays qualified," Osakis head coach Lee VanNyhuis said. "Putting together strong relays has always been something we try to do. We knew that it would be tough with Minnewaska and Morris (girls), but the girls ran season-bests in the 4x100 and 4x800 when it counted."

In team standings, the Minnewaska girls won the subsection 21 meet



Contributed photo

Osakis' Ben Paulson (left), Tessa Stanek and Stewart Jones hold up their MVP plaques from the Prairie Conference championship meet on May 26. All three athletes went on to qualify for the Section 6A meet in multiple events during the subsection 21 meet on June 3 in Wheaton.

with 200 points, while Osakis was second (108) and WCA was fourth (62). Sauk Centre won the boys title with 145 points. Morris Area was second (141.5), Osakis third (77) and Minnewaska fourth (76).

"The meet was kind of like a snapshot of the season," VanNyhuis said. "A lot of inconsistencies and unknowns. But just like the rest of the year, the kids who showed up worked hard

and gave it their all. We had to shift around pretty much every single relay before the meet to try to make things work with what we had. The athletes that were asked to step in did a tremendous job. We try to prepare all of our kids for those types of situations, but doing it in a big meet with little experience was good to see."

The Osakis girls qualified many individuals in

multiple events. Stanek, a junior, had top-five finishes in the 100 dash (third, 13.57), 200 dash (second, 27.18) and long jump (third, personal-record 16-feet).

Bella Weisser (800 run, third, 2:32.39), Addison Wildman (300 hurdles, third, 50.16), Mara VanNyhuis (300 hurdles, fourth, 52.24; discuss, third, 90-09), Alexis Johanson (high jump, 4-08), Kaylee Thompson (high jump, 4-08), Eva Van Acker (pole vault, second, 7-00), Kiley Kranz (discuss, second, 113-00; shot put, first, 37-00), Madison Douvier (shot put, second, 31-09) and Makenzie Lien (shot put, third, 31-05.75) had section-qualifying performances.

Senior sprinter Duncan Vandergon qualified in both the 100 (third, 12.06) and 200 (fourth, 24.20) dashes for the boys. Stewart Jones added qualifying finishes in the triple jump (third, 41-00.5) and 110-meter hurdles (16.61).

"Stewart fouled all three of his jumps in prelims by an inch or less in the long jump, but he rallied and ran well in the 110 hurdles and jumped really well in the triple," VanNyhuis said. "Duncan has been nursing his hamstring for the past few

weeks. He took a conservative approach to the 100 and 200 with the goal of just moving on. Glad to see him be able to compete when we weren't really sure of things up until race time."

Jarron Kurth (800 run, third, 2:11.15), Zackery Bruder (3200 run, fifth, 11:20.36), Kale Drevlow (pole vault, third, 8-00), Isaac Ruegger (pole vault, 8-00), Ben Paulson (discuss, first, 142-09; shot put, third, 45-10) and Isaac Hetland (discuss, third, 125-01; shot put, fourth, 42-03.50) also qualified for the Osakis boys.

## Lakers continue impressive season

The Minnewaska girls were fresh off finishing second in Class A in the virtual true team state meet, and the Lakers showed that depth once again at subsections with section-qualifying finishes up and down the lineup.

MINNEWASKA GIRLS SECTION QUALIFIERS - 100 DASH - Emily Kaiser - second, 13.17; Masie Jordan - fifth, 13.89; 200 DASH - Kaiser - first, 26.92; Mya Lindeman - third, 27.79; 400 DASH - McKenzie Luettmer - first, 1:02.36; Kristen Glover - second, 1:02.72; Teagan Stark - fourth, 1:04.84; 800 RUN - Olivia Danielson - second, 2:24.87; Makena Thoen - fourth, 2:32.88; 1600 RUN - Lauryn Ankeny - fourth, 6:01.58; Sydney Chevalier - fifth, 6:11.92; 3200 RUN - Kiearra Wilmes - second, 12:52.03; Sydney Hagen - fourth, 13:39.62; Elsey Hagen - fifth, 13:58.98; 100 HURDLES - Ava Chevalier - second, 17.28; Emma Kovarik - fourth, 17.72; 300 HURDLES - Emma Kovarik - second, 49.47; Ava Chevalier - fifth, 52.46; 4x100 RELAY - Masie Jordan, Mya Lindeman, A. Chevalier, Kaiser - first, 52.07; 4x200 RELAY - Lindeman, Jordan, E. Kovarik, Alannah Christensen - second, 1:55.34;

4x400 RELAY - Danielson, Thoen, Glover, Luettmer - first, 4:13; 4x800 RELAY - Luettmer, Danielson, Thoen, Glover - first, 10:20.81; HIGH JUMP - A. Chevalier - first, 4-10; POLE VAULT - Kendra Wilmes - 1-second, 7-00; Phemie Oeltjen - fourth, 7-00; LONG JUMP - Kaiser - second, 16-02; TRIPLE JUMP - Kovarik - second, 32-11.5; Glover - third, 31-11; Luettmer - fifth, 31-03.5; DISCUS - Metaya Jergenson - first, 117-02; SHOT PUT - Jergenson - fourth, 31-00

MINNEWASKA BOYS SECTION QUALIFIERS - 100 DASH - DeShon Boyd - fourth, 12.14; 4x100 RELAY - Jacob Lien, Isaac Meyer, Gage Rogers, Boyd - second, 46.23; 4x200 RELAY - Noah Danielson, Rogers, Colby Sorenson, Boyd - first, 1:36.73; 4x400 RELAY - Danielson, Ike Koenig, Sorenson, Maeson Tank - first, 3:40.83; 4x800 RELAY - Danielson, Connor Nestor, Koenig, Tank - first, 9:07.24; HIGH JUMP - Peyton Johnsrud - first, 6-06; Danielson - third, 5-08; LONG JUMP - Connor Johnsrud - third, 19-11; TRIPLE JUMP - Connor Johnsrud - first, 43-08

## Distance runners lead Knights

Junior Lexi Bright continued her big season as she won the 800 (2:24.54) and 1600 (5:59.71) runs, while also qualifying for sections in the long jump (fourth, 15-09.5).

It was part of a big day for the WCA distance runners as Taylor Bennett won the 3200 and Terina Blascyk was second in the 1600. For the boys, Kyle Schill won the 800 run and was second in the 1600, while Alex Salwasser and Shad Swanson had top-three finishes in the 3200.

WEST CENTRAL AREA GIRLS SECTION QUALIFIERS - 800 RUN - Lexi Bright - first, 2:24.54; 1600 RUN - Bright - first, 5:59.71; Terina Blascyk - second, 6:00.43; 3200 RUN - Taylor Bennett - first, 12:37.66; HIGH JUMP - Brynn Fernholz - second, 4-08; LONG JUMP - Bright - fourth, 15-09.5

WCA BOYS SECTION QUALIFIERS - 800 RUN - Kyle Schill - first, 2:05.96; 1600 RUN - Schill - second, 4:50.43; 3200 RUN - Alex Salwasser - second, 10:20.99; Shad Swanson - third, 11:11.03; DISCUS - Tyler Stone - fifth, 121-01

## SOFTBALL

## Osakis puts together third win of 6-2A playoffs

By Eric Morken

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The Osakis softball team (15-7) has showcased a talented offense for much of this season, and the bats have been on display



Dirkes

over the last two games.

One day after putting up 12 runs in a win over Pillager in an elimination game, the Silverstreaks kept their season alive again with a 15-11 win against Holdingford (16-7) this past Friday. Osakis will play Albany (18-5) at on June 8 back in Waite Park on Traut Field.

Osakis had 13 hits

against Holdingford. The Silverstreaks got run-scoring hits from Grace Oeltjen, Laynee Hartshorn and Hayleigh Niehoff early in the game. Tia Dykema also tripled in two runs ahead of a Hartshorn walk with the bases loaded to help Osakis respond to a three-run rally in the middle innings from

Holdingford.

Maggie Dirkes added a home run in the sixth inning. Dirkes went 3-for-4 from the plate overall. Kennedy George and Dykema also had multiple hits.

Niehoff got the win from the circle despite Holdingford collecting 14 hits.

Osakis' matchup with

Albany was the third time these two teams have met this season. The Huskies won a 5-3 game on May 14 and a 6-3 game in the playoffs on June 3.

The winner of Tuesday's game will face the loser of top-seeded Pierz and second-seeded Annandale that same day. The winner of that game advances to the

championship round on June 10 back at Miller Field needing to win twice against the team that advances through the winner's bracket in order to win the section championship.

Visit [www.echopress.com](http://www.echopress.com) for results of Osakis' run, or see the June 11 print issue of the Echo Press.

## GOLF

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the second day and shot a very respectable team score of 316."

Olson shot an 82 for Brainerd in the second round and finished in third place. Cora Larson and Hannah Boraas have been steady for Alexandria all season, so it was fitting that they stepped up and finished with medalist honors in a tight meet after both shot a 147.

Larson shot a 73 on day one and a 74 in round two. Boraas went the exact opposite with a 74 in the first round and a 73 in the second.

"It was a real roller coaster ride for coaches and spectators who were following the live scoring," Zupfer said. "Early in the second round Brainerd edged a little further ahead. Through five holes, we responded and had things tied with Brainerd. After about nine holes, we had about a 7-8 shot lead. Through 13 holes, the lead

was down to 2 shots. We were able to build an 8-shot lead with three holes to play, as Cora and Hannah each birdied the par-3 17th hole. Meanwhile, Aisling O'Connor and Lauren Rebrovich righted the ship and played their final four holes with nothing higher than a bogey on their scorecard."

Rebrovich finished sixth individually with a 161 (81, 80). O'Connor was Alexandria's fourth scorer with a 175 (86, 89) to finish 16th.

"Lauren played very steady both days," Zupfer said. "After a bogey-bogey start the second day, she parred seven of her next eight holes to secure her position individually. Aisling has hit a bit of a rough patch recently with her ball-striking. She battled hard and relied on her short game to post that all-important fourth score for us."

Rachel Bowen (104, 100 - 204) and Isabella Hagen (103, 101 - 204) both tied in 44th place.

"Isabella and Rachel had hoped to score a little lower, but gained valuable experience," Zupfer said. "Another full week of practice and two more days of competition will be valuable for them and all of their teammates."

SECTION 8-3A CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SCORES - Alexandria 314 - 316 = 630; Brainerd 310 - 324 = 634; Detroit Lakes 319 - 333 = 652; Becker 363 - 365 = 728; Sartell 374 - 372 = 746; Buffalo 378 - 381 = 759; Moorhead 374 - 389 = 763

## SOFTBALL

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It had been 13 days since Alexandria played in its last competitive softball game, so there was some rust to shake off.

"I think that factors into some of those hesitations," assistant coach Mitch Loch said of some early missed opportunities to score. "It puts a little bit of doubt in your brain when instead

of reacting and playing. The layoff was tough for us in some ways."

Despite Bemidji pitcher Taylor Waukazo stymieing the Alexandria bats for the better part of Thursday afternoon, the Cardinals got the start they wanted. Johnson drove in two runs with a two-out single into left field after a costly error at third base.

"It was great to come out right away and put up runs," Johnson said. "We had a couple of practices that were a lit-

tle iffy. We were throwing the ball around and giving runs away in practice, so it felt good to come out strong."

Alexandria starting pitcher Josie Steidl threw three perfect innings before the Bemidji bats came alive. Back-to-back doubles from Bolte and Jody Pemberton cut the lead in half. A sacrifice fly from Hannah Alexander tied the game 2-2.

The inning could've been worse if not for great catches from center

fielder Maddie Buboltz and second baseman Brooke Stender.

"This might have been the best game we played defensively this season," Loch said. "Along with the pitching, it's right up there with the best we've had all year. The other one was probably our win against Sartell too. We've been telling these girls that defense will win championships. We're proud of how they responded defensively."

The win set up Alexandria with the third game

against Sartell (17-2). In the final doubleheader of the regular season, the Cardinals split with the Sabres at home. This time, they hit the road Tuesday for a chance to earn a spot in the Section 8AAA title game on June 10.

"We're super excited," Johnson said. "We're eager to win just like we were when they came here. They know we can put up a fight and play right with them. It'll be a tough matchup."

That game came after

this issue of the Echo Press went to print. Visit [www.echopress.com](http://www.echopress.com) for immediate results from the game or see the June 11 print issue.

BEMIDJI 000 200 0 - 2 4 1  
ALEXANDRIA 200 000 1 - 3 9 0  
ALEXANDRIA HITTING- Brooke Stender 1-4, R; Jordan, O'Kane 2-1, R; Emma Magaard 1-3, R, BB, 2B; Emily Harris 0-1, 3BB; Kinzie Johnson 2-3, 3RBI, BB; Maddie Buboltz 0-2, BB; Maci Tilleskor 0-3; Aubrie Porter 2-3; Chloe Loch 1-3; ALEXANDRIA PITCHING- Joie Steidl- 4IP, 3H, 2R, 2ER, 4K; Emily Harris- W, 3IP, 0R, 0ER, 2K;  
BEMIDJI HITTING- Beth Belle 1-3, R, 2B; Jody Pemberton 1-3, R, 2B, RBI; Lexi Tatje 1-3, 2B; Hannah Alexander 0-3, RBI; Elizabeth Oster 1-3; Isabelle Neadeau 0-3; Taylor Waukazo 0-2 HBP; Jordan Hunsberger 0-2; BEMIDJI PITCHING- Waukazo- L, 5H, 2ER, 1ER, 5K, 6BB

## TRACK

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## Girls' depth wears down the field

The Alexandria girls had five wins on Thursday. Sisters Aleah and Jaelyn Miller both had impressive falls in cross country, and they have continued that in the spring. Aleah won the 1600 run, while Jaelyn took the CLC title in the 3200.

Sophomore Elena Fugle-

tad is one of the many young talented athletes for this girls team as she was first in the 400 dash, third in the 100 dash and part of the second-place 4x100 relay team with Hailie Kent, Allie Randazzo and Lexi Cole. Myah Kremer added a first-place finish in the 800 run, and Kent won the triple jump.

Alexandria's depth wears down most programs in the CLC. The best example of that on Thursday came in the 400 dash where the Cardinals had three top-five finishers as

Miah Wessel (third, 1:03.11) and Marisa Rousu (fifth, 1:03.84) came in just behind Fuglestad's winning time of 1:00.66.

"Sharing the night and the championship is especially rewarding," Empting said of the boys and girls' taking titles. "Coaches getting the chance to work with both genders and seeing our kids do so well across all events is an amazing feeling as a coach. Seeing 80-plus Alexandria athletes and coaches all celebrating together

after the final results were announced after everything they have gone through the last 15 months was amazing, emotional, proudful. It was a good night."

ALEXANDRIA GIRLS TOP-SIX FINISHERS - 4x800 RELAY - Coeta Oldenkamp, Emma Reinke, Kamryn Croaiten, Emma Ecker - third, 9:59.44; 100 HURDLES - Lexi Cole - second, 16.50; 100 DASH - Elena Fuglestad - third, 13.13; 4x200 RELAY - Kaia Emter, Marisa Rousu, Jisella Haskamp, Miah Wessel - third, 1:49.57; 1600 RUN - Aleah Miller - first, 5:11.43; Taelor Dummer - fifth, 5:32.32; 4x100 RELAY - Hailie Kent, Fuglestad, Allie Randazzo, Cole - second, 51.02; 400 DASH - Fuglestad - first, 1:00.66; Miah Wessel - third, 1:03.11; Rousu - fifth, 1:03.84; 300 HURDLES - Cole - third, 48.15; Sophia Kornta - sixth, 49.93; 800 RUN - Myah Kremer - first, 2:23; Emma Ecker - sixth, 2:26.64; 200 DASH - Wessel - fifth, 27.53; 3200 RUN - Jaelyn Miller - first, 11:48.08; Brynn Kosters - sixth, 12:18.44; 4x400 RELAY - Randaz-

zo, Kremer, Rousu, Aleah Miller - second, 4:09.56; SHOT PUT - Amaria Sowada - fourth, 35-03; DISCUS - Sowada - second, 109-04; Sophia Vinje - third, 106-07; LONG JUMP - Hailie Kent - fourth, 16-09.75; TRIPLE JUMP - Kent - first, 36-09; Ella Steussy - second, 34-02; POLE VAULT - Cole - 1-second, 8-02  
ALEXANDRIA BOYS TOP-SIX FINISHERS - 4x800 RELAY - Cameron Hochsprung, Torrey Olson-Rodel, Hayden Peterson, Riley Wagner - fourth, 8:59.73; 100 DASH - Nolan Morical - first, 11.25; Jack Theisen - third, 11.42; 4x200 RELAY - Mason Teaser, Teagan Pfeffer, Nicholas Huss, Kelly Johnston - second, 1:34.87; 1600 RUN - Myles Sansted - first, 4:33.44; Bennett Wirth - sixth, 4:43.17; 4x100 RELAY - Will Heydt, Pfeffer, Huss, Christian Dumbia - fourth, 44.95; 400 DASH - Theisen - first, 50.62; Morical - second, 51.23; 300 HURDLES - Gavin Ashmore - sixth, 44.78; 800 RUN - Jacob Kleven - third, 2:00.41; 200 DASH - Morical - second, 22.51; Theisen - fourth, 22.97; 4x400 RELAY - Zachary Gundberg, Kleven, Sansted, Teaser - second, 3:34.15; SHOT PUT - Joseph Lanoux - sixth, 45-08; DISCUS - Zander Homelvig - fourth, 128-11; LONG JUMP - Pfeffer - fourth, 20-05.25; TRIPLE JUMP - Heydt - second, 42-07; POLE VAULT - Huss - third, 12-03