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Cross country, volleyball teams open their seasons this week

The first official events of the season for the Jackson County Central fall sports teams come this week.

The first is a race Friday, with the next a match Saturday.

Cross country team opens season Friday morning

The cross country team opens its season Friday morning with the Early

Bird Invite in Fairmont. The meet, which takes place at the Fairmont High School, is run by grade level. It's also just a 4,000-meter race for varsity boys and girls as opposed to the 5,000-meter courses they normally run.

Volleyball starts Saturday with BSC Showcase

The volleyball team is right behind, opening its

season Saturday at the Big South Conference Showcase in Marshall. JCC takes on St. Peter at 1 p.m.

Other conference matchups during the showcase are Pipestone against New Ulm; Redwood Valley vs. St. James; Fairmont against Windom; and Blue Earth Area against Worthington. Marshall wraps up the event by taking on Mankato West in the lone

Opening events for JCC varsity sports teams this fall

Sport	First event	First home event
Cross country	Aug. 26 at Fairmont	Sept. 20 at Loon Lake
Volleyball	Aug. 27 at St. Peter (in Marshall)	Sept. 1 vs. Spirit Lake
Football	Sept. 1 at Maple River	Sept. 16 vs. BEA

matchup not featuring two BSC teams.

The JCC volleyball team then plays at Heron Lake-Okabena Tuesday night and has its home opener

Thursday, Aug. 26 against Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Football team opens on the road next week

The JCC football team

has a four-team scrimmage Saturday at Maple River, then opens its season Aug. 26 at Maple River. The home opener is Week 3 (Sept. 16) against BEA.



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON
Kristin Hanson watches as her putt rolls toward the hole during a dominant performance for her second career women's club championship Saturday at the Jackson Golf Club.

Hanson wins her second career club championship by 15 strokes

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

Kristin Hanson won her first women's club championship three years ago at the Jackson Golf Club.

The second proved elusive for a few years until a dominant performance Saturday.

Hanson shot an 18-hole score of 84 to win the title by 15 strokes.

"I wanted it so bad," Hanson said of a second club championship. "For the last three years — ever since I won — I wanted the double."

Hanson said her game has been good all year, which gave her a lot of confidence going into the tournament.

"I have been playing the best golf game I have this year out of the last five years," she said. "I was super confident and I wanted it."

Hanson opened the tournament with a score of 44 that included two pars and seven bogeys.

That put her two strokes ahead of Kelly Benson's 46 and four ahead of Cindi Polz's 48 midway through the tournament.

A birdie on the 10th hole started a hot round for Hanson, who dominated while the rest of the field fell out of contention.

"On my second round, I birdied hole one," Hanson said. "I put it like 2 feet from the pin and got a three. That got me to be six or seven ahead. That's where I was just like, 'I can breathe.'"

A double-bogey and bogey followed before Hanson finished strong. She birdied the par-5 fourth hole to start a stretch in

which she played the final six holes at just 1-over par. "I was very relaxed off of hole four on my second round," she said. "I kind of knew I was going to take it then. I just played nice and easy."

Hanson led the tournament by 10 strokes with three holes to play, but didn't know her lead was quite that big until the 18th and final hole.

"It's so much easier to play when you don't have much stress on your back," she said. "Once I got 10 ahead, my partner asked if I wanted to know what I was at and I was like, 'No; I don't even want to know

See HANSON on B3

"IT WAS A RELIEF TO KNOW I FINALLY WON. I HAVE BEEN WANTING IT FOR SO LONG, BUT HAVEN'T BEEN PLAYING THE GREATEST GOLF. THIS YEAR I SAID, 'THIS IS MY YEAR' AND I WAS CONFIDENT AND I GOT IT."

Kristin Hanson



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON
Austin Olson celebrates after making a putt on the final hole to win his first career men's club championship at the Jackson Golf Club.

'This was No. 1'

Olson sinks putt on final hole for first career club championship

by DAN CONDON
Sports Editor

Austin Olson found himself facing a moment he had imagined nearly his entire life: One putt to win the men's club champion-

ship at the Jackson Golf Club.

Olson stared down a 7-foot par putt on the 36th and final hole Sunday, needing to make it for the victory.

"You play through it as a kid when you're doing putting practice," he said after sinking the dramatic putt for his first career club championship. "I think I closed my eyes even before the ball went in. I knew I hit it exactly where I wanted to."

The putt capped an outstanding day for Olson, who shot even-par 74 Sunday to win despite trailing by six strokes after Saturday's 18 holes.

Olson finished with a 36-hole score of 154, putting him one stroke ahead of Jerrod Hansen and two ahead of Sterling Bargfrede. Bargfrede shot the second-lowest round Sunday, firing a 1-over-par 75 to make a run at the championship despite starting

See OLSON on B3

Macedo dominates to win AGCO Jackson Nationals



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB KOCAK
Carson Macedo (center) celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the 44th annual AGCO Jackson Nationals Saturday night at the Jackson Motorplex. Jacob Allan (left) finished second and David Gravel placed third.

Champion gets revenge for his runner-up finish earlier Saturday

Carson Macedo was not going to be denied Saturday night during the 44th annual AGCO Jackson Nationals hosted by the Jackson Motorplex.

Macedo was leading the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series preliminary feature earlier in the day, but a last-lap pass dropped him to a runner-up result. Approximately seven hours later, he left no doubt, leading the final 19 laps of the 35-lap feature to garner the \$25,000 top prize. The margin of victory was 2.757 seconds and only four drivers finished within 10 seconds of Macedo.

"Man, it stung earlier, but that felt good," Macedo said after scoring his second career World of Outlaws victory at the Jackson Motorplex. "A little bit of redemption on the one that counts. This one pays a little bit more money. We're pretty happy about that."

Macedo methodically moved forward from his eighth starting position, advancing to third place on Lap 8 and into second place on Lap 9. He then tracked down polesitter Jacob Allen in traffic.

The duo swapped the lead twice on Lap 16 with Allen officially staying in front as they crossed the

line, but Macedo took the top spot for good on the ensuing lap. Allen stayed close and pulled even with Macedo on Lap 20 before Macedo pulled away during the final dozen laps.

"I knew once I charged that hard on Brad (Sweet) and was able to get by him and then very quickly get by (James) McFadden that I was really good," Macedo said. "I paced Jacob. I thought he was extremely good as well. I kept seeing him to my inside. I was just trying to make smart decisions. I was trying to make smart decisions in the first race earlier today, too, and

See NATIONALS on B4

Inside...

B4 Logan Schuchart made a last-lap pass to win Saturday's preliminary feature.

Watching another ace on the golf course

For the second time in my life, and in as many years, I have been able to watch a feat that still eludes me: A hole-in-one.

Both times I have watched the hole-in-one from start to finish. Both times it happened on the par-3 third hole at North Valley. And, both times I have been able to watch a golfer, shortly before the ace, hit a shot that almost went in, rolling a foot past the hole.

The first time, last year during the club tournament, I watched as Marvin Smith hit a near ace, his ball rolling just past the hole. When the next foursome teed off, I watched Scott Flatebo outdo Marvin with an ace. Both balls had a similar flight pattern and roll. But Scott's went in.

Last Wednesday, I was the one with the near ace as my ball rolled over the edge of the cup and came to rest a foot past the hole. Mere minutes later, I watched as Steve Dewall outshot my shot with his fifth career hole-in-one. His ball bounced once, hit the pin and fell into the hole.

It would have been a really neat feat if both Steve and I scored an ace. Two Steves each having a hole-in-one on the same hole while playing together? One of a kind. Golf immortality.

We almost reached golf immortality in yet another way. As Brady Hall's shot was flying toward the same green, a squirrel decided to practice some dodgeball and ran across the green.

When Brady's ball missed the squirrel by mere inches, the squirrel decided to skip the rest of practice and hightailed it out of there.

It would have been the first time in history a group of golfers scored an ace, a birdie and a squirrel on the same hole.

While I have never had a hole-in-one, I have had

multiple near misses. My most memorable near-miss was when I was playing with a very young Daniel and came within a putter head of an ace on hole No. 5. Daniel's tee shot put him about 20 feet from the hole.

Daniel, being Daniel, drained his birdie putt. He was as happy as a lark getting his birdie. I was thinking it was a lark I only had a birdie and not the coveted hole-in-one. I was happy for him, bummed for me.

My favorite near-miss, if a near-miss could be considered a favorite, happened on hole No. 6 a couple of years ago. As usual, when playing alone, I was playing two balls.

The first ball rolled by the hole right of the pin and the other rolled by the hole on the left side, both coming to rest an inch from each other and a foot-and-a-half past the hole.

My one regret was that I had not played a third ball and split the difference. It would have been a great time to score an ace; I was the only one on the course.

I am too cheap to hit one on league day. Tradition has it if you hit a hole-in-one, you are to buy a beverage for all of the other golfers. To me, the other golfers should be buying the acer the beverage.

Either way, I am too cheap to buy everyone a drink, and if others bought me one, I would probably get sick of drinking Diet Mt. Dew. I would sure hate to get sick of drinking Diet Dew.

I used to love coconut. Until I ate a whole bag in one sitting. Now I do not like coconut. I will eat it; I just do not like it. I can live without coconut; I do not know if I can without Diet Dew.

While it was a year between watching the first ace and the second,

it was less than an hour between watching a 300 in bowling and a second 300. But then, both 300s were rolled by the same man in the same singles tournament.

When he rolled a high 200 in his third game, I realized I was not going the win that tournament. As if I did not have a pretty good idea of my impossible success after the first perfect game. Or the second. Or as I pulled into the parking lot.

Even though I have not had either a hole-in-one or a 300 and so I am not an expert witness, I believe it is harder to roll a 300 than score an ace. With the 300, the bowler has to be perfect 12 times in a row. In golf, you only have to be perfect once.

Even though I am the acme of human civilization and the most perfect symbol of perfection there has ever been, I have not had a perfect tee shot on the links or a dozen perfect rolls on the lanes.

Soon you will be able to watch our Jackson County Central Middle School athletes strive for sporting perfection. The volleyball team kicks off its season on Sept. 6 against Heron Lake-Okabena and the football team sees its first action on Sept. 8 when the Huskies scrimmage Redwood Valley.

And now, for the second time in as many weeks, I close Wide Write. Until next week, get ready to watch and cheer on our athletes. Go, Huskies!



WIDE WRITE

Stephen A. Condon

Olson adds to list of highlights

One of the best things about living in small towns is getting to know a lot of people.

One of the best things about working for a newspaper in a small town is getting to tell the stories of their triumphs.

Even better than telling their stories is getting to see them play out.

I still remember watching Luke Norland win his semifinal match at the state tournament his senior year, knowing the winner of that match was most likely going to win the state title.

For Norland, that was the case and a huge accomplishment for which he had worked really hard.

I remember seeing the Jackson County Central boys' basketball team finally make it to state with an overtime win in its first ever trip to the section finals.

And seeing the JCC volleyball team end a long drought by making it to state last year with a friend of mine as the head coach.

And then seeing the JCC wrestling team win state with another friend as a head coach.

Add another memorable moment to the list from this past weekend.

Watching Austin Olson win the men's club championship at the Jackson Golf Club Sunday was something I'll probably remember forever.

More than him becoming a champion is the reaction afterward.

It was set up like a dream: A putt to win the club championship on the course you grew up on.

So when Olson sank the 7-footer, there was pure joy.



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON
Austin Olson is embraced by his parents and brother after winning the men's club championship Sunday at the Jackson Golf Club.

From himself.

From his parents.

From his brother.

From his closest

friends.

From the fans.

When Olson's tournament-winning putt dropped, he gave a huge fist pump, then threw his ball — "I blacked out," he said later.

But then came the best part.

He made a beeline to his dad and the two embraced in a huge hug. Then his mom came running over and joined in. Then his brother joined in and the four of them shared plenty of tears of joy after seeing Austin accomplish a huge goal.

I got to play with Austin during the first nine holes Sunday and he played one of the best rounds I've ever witnessed. He opened with two straight birdies, then nearly chipped in for birdie on the third hole before making birdie on each of the next two to sit at 4-under after five holes. He later chipped in for birdie on the seventh and finished with a 3-under-par 34 to move into the final four.

He continued to play

well and provided a memorable finish Sunday afternoon.

Plenty of people were pulling for Olson Sunday, and for good reason. Sure, there were a whole lot of other likeable players competing for the title, so seeing just about anyone win would've made most of the folks satisfied.

But there's something about seeing someone win his or her first title, just like Tommy Evans did last year.

Add in the fact Olson has led the junior golf program at the course the last few years, he's from town, he played golf for JCC and he's a good guy and there's no shortage of reasons the crowd was excited to see him win.

And then celebrate with his family.



FROM WAY DOWNTOWN
Dan Condon



EVANS, HOLM WIN CLUB TITLES

One year ago, Aug. 26, 2021

Tommy Evans won his first men's club championship at the Jackson Golf Club and Elyse Holm repeated as women's club champion. Evans, Brent Chozen and Dustin Pohlman were all tied with four holes to play, but Evans took a one-shot lead over Pohlman and two-stroke advantage over Chozen into the final hole. Evans made par on the final hole to win with a 36-hole score of 157. Pohlman finished second (158) and Chozen and Mike Wierson tied for third (160). Holm trailed by two strokes midway through the women's 18-hole tournament, but eagled the 10th hole from 100 yards out and added a birdie on the 17th hole to aid her victory. Holm finished with an 85 to finish two strokes ahead of Kelly Benson.

CHRISTOFFER OPENS SEASON WITH A WIN

Five years ago, Aug. 31, 2017

Jessica Christoffer opened the season by winning the Early Bird Invite in Fairmont. Running on a 4,00-meter course, Christoffer won the senior race with a time of 16 minutes, eight seconds. That time turned out to be the best by any girl, topping Makenna Thurston of LCWM by two seconds. Kayla Endreson had JCC's second-best time as she finished seventh in the freshman race (20:17). Molly Boyum was 11th in the senior race (20:26) and Aba Turner was 14th in the junior race (21:08).

HANSEN RALLIES TO WIN CLUB TOURNEY AT EMERALD VALLEY

10 years ago, Aug. 30, 2012

Ben Hansen played the final eight holes of the Emerald Valley club tournament at 1-under par to earn a comeback win for his first career club championship. Hansen trailed defending champion Dustin Pohlman by three strokes with eight holes left, but pulled even with four holes left, went up by two strokes with a par on hole seven, then led by five with another par on eight. He made a tap-in par on the final hole for a 36-hole total of 147 that gave him a five-stroke lead. Brady Hall ended up finishing second (152) and Mark Elmer was third (153). Amy Voss won the women's championship, shooting a nine-hole score of 42 to beat Carol Wilson by two strokes.

BULLS STILL ALIVE AT STATE

25 years ago, Aug. 28, 1997 – Jackson County Pilot

The Jackson Bulls won a record-setting 26th game of the season and did it in dramatic fashion with a 7-5 win over Watkins at the state tournament. Watkins scored four runs in the second and one in the third, but Jackson answered with four in the fourth, one in the fifth and two in the seventh. Jason DeWall hit a run-scoring single to get the Bulls on the board, then Matt Foster hit a bases-clearing double later in the inning. Wade Wacker singled and scored on a Kip Wachal double to tie the game. In the seventh, Wachal hit a two-out double and scored on a single by Pat Frank, who then scored on a single by Jon Wilson. Cory Hainy pitched the first three innings before Lincoln Wacker struck out eight and allowed just two hits in six scoreless innings of relief.

HUSKIES KICK OFF NEW ERA

25 years ago, Aug. 28, 1997 – Lakefield Standard

A new era dawns as the Jackson County Central Huskies hit the gridiron for their first ever game against Blue Earth Area. The Bucs finished 7-2 a year ago and beat Jackson 40-6 in the season opener last year. JCC will have a new-look team as Jackson and Lakefield join forces. The Huskies have size — they average about 235 pounds across the offensive line — and good depth. Brig Wachal will start at quarterback, with his favorite target likely Ryan Dunlavey, who led the Southwest Conference in receiving a year ago.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday, August 25
AGCO Jackson Nationals

Friday, August 26
CC at Fairmont

Saturday, August 27
VB vs. St. Peter - BSC
Showcase at Marshall

Sunday, August 28
No events

Monday, August 29
No events

Tuesday, August 30
VB at HL-O

Wednesday, August 31
No events

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August 20, 3:11 p.m.

Kristin Hanson shot 84 to win her second women's club championship at the Jackson Golf Club by 15 strokes.

Follow for more updates



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

FAST CARS

Cora Condon (from left), Lane Wood (first place) and Brycen Mitchell (second place) show off their medals after finishing in the top three of the wooden car derby during the Jackson Days celebration last Thursday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHEN CONDON

HANDFUL OF ACES

Steve DeWall shows off his ball after recording the fifth hole-in-one of his career last Wednesday while golfing in men's league at North Valley Golf Course in Lakefield. DeWall aced the par-three third hole from 100 yards with a pitching wedge. The shot bounced once, hit the flag and fell in. Witnessing the ace were Stephen Condon, Jim Resch and Brady Hall.



PHOTO BY KEVIN HOLM

Austin Olson lines up his putt as fellow golfers Mike Wierson (left), Jerrod Hansen (second from left) and Brent Chozen — as well as a host of fans — watch during the Final Four of the Jackson Golf Club's men's club championship Sunday.

OLSON: Dramatic finish for first career win

Continued from B1

the day in the President Flight.

Nine-time champion Brent Chozen shot 157 to finish fourth and Mike Wierson came in fifth (159).

Olson starts hot on Sunday morning

Olson shot an 80 on Saturday on the strength of three straight birdies. He ended his first round with a birdie to shoot a 41, then birdied the first two holes of the second round en route to a 39.

He sat six strokes behind Hansen's 74 and was two back of defending champion Tommy Evans and Dustin Pohlman. Chozen was one shot ahead of Olson, who finished Saturday tied with Wierson and Ty Schwarting.

"I was six back," Olson said. "I knew I could put up a good number today because I was low yesterday but limped my way in."

Olson started his round Sunday with back-to-back birdies, first rolling in a 3-footer on the first hole and then using his putter from just off the green on the second hole.

"The birdie-birdie start calmed the nerves, if anything," Olson said. "I just knew I had to play perfect golf today."

Olson had a tap-in for par on the third hole after nearly chipping in, then birdied the fourth and fifth holes to move to 4-under-par through five holes.

After a bogey, Olson chipped in for a birdie on the seventh hole, then finished with a par and a bogey.

Olson fired the lowest nine-hole round of the tournament, shooting 3-under-par 34. He knew it would get him in contention — he didn't know it put him in the lead with just nine

holes left.

"I knew if I got off to a really good start on the front nine, I'd give myself a chance," Olson said. "I never thought I'd go into the back nine two up."

Hansen shot 42 on the front nine to sit two strokes back of Olson, with Wierson, Chozen and Evans all four strokes back.

Final-hole victory

Olson made par on the 10th hole and had a four-stroke lead over the field when Hansen double-bogeyed. After a bogey and par, Olson maintained his four-stroke lead over the field.

Olson birdied the 13th hole, but, two groups ahead, Bargfrede eagled the hole to move into second place just three strokes out of the lead. Hansen and Chozen also birdied the hole to remain four shots back.

Hansen then made a run to get back in it. He made par on the 14th hole to pick up a stroke, then birdied the next hole. Olson bogeyed the 15th and found himself just one ahead of Hansen and two in front of Bargfrede with three holes to play.

"I was four up after four on the back nine," Olson said. "I think the nerves even kicked into higher gear. I couldn't really chip and missed a couple putts."

Each of the top three bogeyed the par-3 16th hole, but Hansen pulled even with Olson when he birdied the par-5 17th hole and Olson made par. Bargfrede bogeyed the 17th hole but then birdied the final hole to finish his day as the leader in the clubhouse.

Olson and Hansen entered the last hole tied and two shots ahead of Bargfrede and Chozen.

Olson was just left of the fairway and had to hit a runner toward the green. His shot rolled off the back, leaving him with a difficult downhill chip. Hansen's tee shot was in the right rough and his second shot ended up right of the green.

Hansen chipped above the hole and Olson's delicate chip rolled about 7 feet from the hole — but in a spot he wanted.

"I hit the chip the right way that I wanted," he said. "I didn't want to be on the right side of the pin so I left it on the left side with a straight up putt. That's probably the straightest putt I had all day. I knew the line; I just had to hit it."

When Hansen's par putt just missed, Olson knew he had one putt for the win.

"I was kind of shaking putting the ball down on the marker," he said. "I just knew if I gave it the right stroke it would be perfect."

The putt was right on, falling into the center of the cup. Olson gave a big fist pump, then threw his ball in celebration.

"I blacked out," he said. "It's just unbelievable."

A celebration with his family — parents Tim and LeAnn and brother Carter — followed just off the green.

"Mom and Dad have been instrumental," he said. "Carter, I coached him his junior year when he went to state. They've been with me through the highs and lows so that was fun to get a little family hug in there."

'No. 1 by far'

Olson said winning the club championship on the course he grew up playing has been a lifelong dream.

"It's No. 1 by far," he said. "I'm still on Cloud 9 and I don't think I'll come

down for a while."

The victory meant Olson had one more thing to do Sunday night.

"During the COVID year, I made a list of goals I wanted for my life and this was No. 1," he said. "I'll be able to take a Sharpie to that when I get home."

Making the victory even more enjoyable, Olson said, was having 19 combined club championships along with him during the final round.

Chozen, the nine-time champion, was in the group and Brett Benson, the record holder with 10 titles, was caddying for Olson.

"I talked to Brent after the round and he shook my hand," Olson said. "I told him, 'If I wanted to get my first win, I'm glad it was with him.' I'm glad Brett was with. Those are 19 club tournaments combined. That's what I grew up with."

The win put an exclamation point on what Olson said has been his best summer of golf.

"My game this year has been probably the best I've ever played," he said. "My goal was just to make it to the Final Four and to win it is amazing."

Now that he's a club champion, Olson said feeling that rush is something he wants to experience every summer.

"It's an amazing feeling and it's something that I'll use for the coming years — wanting to get back to this position," he said. "Maybe not winning every year, but getting into the Final Four, getting that taste of competitive golf."

Bargfrede and Rubis among flight winners

Bargfrede won the President Flight with his 156. Tucker Polz finished sec-



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Jerrod Hansen eyes a putt during the men's club tournament Sunday at the Jackson Golf Club.

ond (163) and Carter Olson and Tannar Polz tied for third (165).

Wally Rubis shot 171 to win the Senator Flight. Kevin Nelson and Cade Hagen both shot 176 to tie for second place.

Cory Weets and Chris Perkins tied for first place in the 36-hole first flight with scores of 177. Weets shot 87 and 90 and Perkins shot 85 and 92. Todd Powers shot 181 to finish third.

Kevin Holm and Rick Reed tied for first place in

the Dick Kelly Flight with scores of 186. Holm shot 96 and 90, while Reed had a pair of 93s. Scott Dougherty shot 188 to place third.

In the Sunday flight, which used a net score, Mark Leach finished in first place. He shot 99, with a net total of 74.2.

Jordan Phibbs had the lowest gross score of 94 and finished second with a net score of 76. Kevin Mitchell placed third with a net score of 78.2 after firing a 96.



PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

Tara Boogerd chips onto the green early in the club tournament Saturday at the Jackson Golf Club. Boogerd finished second overall with an 18-hole score of 99.

HANSON: Wins title by 15 shots

Continued from B1

what I'm at.' Coming up nine, she told me I was 14 head so I knew it was over."

Hanson made par on the final hole to cap a round of 40 and tournament score of 84.

When the final putt hit the bottom of the cup, Hanson was thrilled to have her second club championship after seeing her friend, Elyse Holm, win the last two.

"It was a relief to know I finally won," she said. "I have been wanting it for

so long, but haven't been playing the greatest golf. This year I said, 'This is my year' and I was confident and I got it."

Hanson said her driver was on fire all day and she was pretty good on the green.

"My drives were spot on," she said. "I had the best drives. I think I hit eight out of nine fairways the second round. My putting was much better, too."

Benson, Polz and Tara Boogerd each finished

with 18-hole scores of 99. Boogerd, whose 47 was the second-best score on the back nine, officially earned second place and Polz claimed third.

Olson, Pigman win flights

LeAnn Olson shot an 18-hole score of 107 to win the first flight. Holm (109) finished second and Paula Bargfrede was third (111).

Amy Pigman was the second-flight winner, shooting 125.



Jan Fransen sends her putt toward the hole as Kelly Benson looks on.

NATIONALS: Macedo dominates to win AGCO Jackson Nationals

Continued from B1

sometimes it doesn't work out.

"They did an incredible job there with the track prep. I thought it was amazing. There was two lanes, very, very wide, top, bottom. You could go anywhere to pass lapped cars. Hats off to Tod Quiring and the whole track crew. They did a great job."

Allen's second-place showing marked his second podium of the day at Jackson Motorplex.

"I felt like the bottom on the start of the race was good down in one and two," he said after leading the first 16 laps. "It just seems like this track gets around the top in one and two. I just tried to get that pace going there. I felt my pace was really good, but I just lost the race. That's the way it goes."

David Gravel posted a third-place result thanks to a mid-race charge.

"I felt we had a pretty good car," he said. "Jacob moved up at the right time and really got me in dirty air and was able to have (McFadden) pass me. I hit the berm on the restart and lost two spots and fell back to fifth. I battled Brad for most of the race. I think at the end we had just as good of a car as anybody, but a little too late."

McFadden placed fourth and Spencer Bayston was fifth.

Allen set quick time during qualifying to kick off the competition before Tim Kaeding, McFadden, Noah Gass and Brian Brown each won a heat race. Allen captured the King of the Hill with Sheldon Haudenschild winning the Last Chance Showdown. Haudenschild was also the Hard Charger Award winner after maneuvering from 21st to 10th in the main event.

Brandt also wins

Macedo wasn't the only driver to deliver a dominating victory on Saturday evening.

Scott Brandt led all but the opening lap of the 20-lap PIRTEK Upper Midwest Renegades Sprint Car Series feature.

Jake Kouba rallied from seventh into the runner-up position within the first six laps. He focused on the top groove while Brandt hugged the bottom lane, maintaining a lead of approximately one-and-a-half seconds before Kouba made up ground in the closing laps to finish second by only 0.948 seconds.

Jon Lewerer, who led the first lap of the race, rounded out the podium. Johnny Parsons III finished fourth and Mike Mueller ended fifth.

Brandt and Kouba were the heat race winners.



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

A nearly-full grandstands, parking lot and pit area surround the track as drivers prepare for the final feature of the AGCO Jackson Nationals Saturday night at the Jackson Motorplex.

Schuchart passes Macedo on last lap to earn preliminary triumph

Logan Schuchart executed a last-lap pass to secure a World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series victory at the Jackson Motorplex for the third straight season on Saturday afternoon.

Mother Nature hampered the two preliminary nights of the 44th annual AGCO Jackson Nationals, forcing Friday's race to be run in the middle of the day on Saturday. While track conditions are always a concern for day races, Schuchart and Carson Macedo put on a show in a thrilling 25-lap A Main.

Schuchart rocketed to the top spot on the opening lap and maintained the lead while utilizing the top groove despite five cautions during the first two

thirds of the race. Macedo found rubber at the bottom of the track to make the pass for the lead on Lap 17.

"As soon as I saw Carson to the inside of me on the restart I knew there was rubber down there," Schuchart said. "I just felt like I was a sitting duck. I felt, 'Here goes another one where you're leading and just have no idea where to go as the leader.' Rubber is one of them things it's good to be running about fourth or fifth sometimes. If you're the first one to feel it you're able to pass all those guys pretty darn quick."

Schuchart remained within striking distance throughout the final eight laps. As Macedo primarily hit his marks on the bottom

lane, Schuchart focused his effort toward the middle to top of the track.

"I just tried to run somewhere else on the race-track, really run it into one and two as hard as I could," he said. "I got to three and four a few times and went to the bottom. I knew I wasn't going to get anything on him there. Carson is too smart to mess up. I just raced aggressive the last couple of laps. I was able to get a run on him in one and two and kind of block my line in three and four."

Schuchart was on the rear bumper of Macedo as the white flag was waved. Macedo went to the bottom entering turn one while attempting to lap a driver. Schuchart sailed it in on

the top and was able to reclaim the lead before exiting the corners. He then dove low entering turn three to secure the position en route to his fourth career World of Outlaws win at the Jackson Motorplex.

"I'm just glad we were able to get one back," Schuchart said. "He drives a great race. It's nice to steal one back from them."

"We're going to get a different racetrack tonight. It's so much better when you show up to a track and you feel like you have good notes and a car that's underneath of you. I definitely feel like we have the car to beat and the driver has just got to do his job. We'll keep it up and try to go after this big one later on."

Macedo finished second — only 0.435 seconds behind Schuchart.

"I was running the bottom right in the rubber," he said. "I could hear Logan at times, but I felt like I was so locked down in the rubber that I was making pretty good laps down there. If I would have moved out of the rubber and got to the top and then he'd have drove by me in the rubber on the bottom I'd have been an idiot, too. I had a car to win. Out in open air there I kinda just had to pace because I was nervous dragging my left rear and using up tires and stuff like that. I feel like we were good enough; he just did a good enough job."

Jacob Allen rounded out the podium.

"I feel pretty good," Allen said. "Obviously starting on the pole you want to win, but if anyone else is going to win obviously I want it to be Logan. That looked exciting for Logan for sure. My car was great all day; just had a bad start and I ended up third."

Donny Schatz placed fourth and Sheldon Haudenschild finished fifth.

Macedo kicked off the program by establishing a new track record during qualifying as he and Brian Brown were quickest in their qualifying groups. Macedo, Giovanni Scelzi, Schuchart and Allen were the heat race winners. Allen captured the dash and Spencer Bayston won the Last Chance Showdown.



PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

SINK A PUTT, THEN CELEBRATE

Above: Jeff Voss (from right), Brian Post and Paul Rentschler celebrate after Voss sank a long putt during the Jackson Days golf tournament last Wednesday at the Jackson Golf Club. Right: Curt Endreson raises his arms in triumph after draining a long putt. Bottom left: Trey Diggs sends a putt toward the hole under the watchful eye of teammates Eric Kruger (center) and Tim Stai. Bottom right: Clayton Lewis chips onto the green as his son and playing partner, Cody Lewis, watches.

