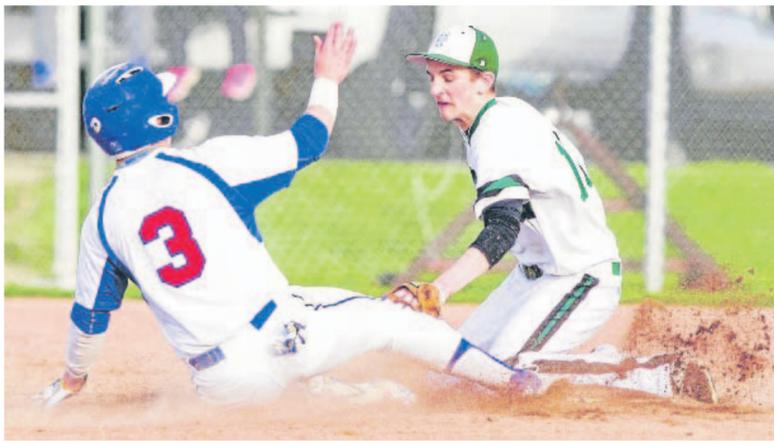


PREP SPORTS



LARRY ILES — FOR THE STATE JOURNAL

Madison Memorial's Tyler Austin, right, tries to slap a tag on Janesville Craig's Noah Berghammer during Friday's Big Eight Conference baseball game at Mansfield Stadium. Craig, the state's top-ranked team, took a 6-2 victory over the Spartans.

Middleton nets 2-0 start

STATE JOURNAL STAFF

The Middleton boys tennis team pulled out a pair of narrow victories during Friday's opening rounds of the two-day Spartan Invitational, hosted by Madison Memorial.

The Cardinals took 4-3 victories over Mequon Homestead and Madison Memorial for a 2-0 start.

Sun Prairie beat Madison Memorial 4-3 but lost a 5-2 decision to Homestead.

BASEBALL

Janesville Craig 6, Madison Memorial 2

Jacob Campbell hit a two-run homer in the third inning as the Cougars took an early lead to defeat the host Spartans.

Verona 3, Madison East 2 (11)

Tristan Largent delivered the game-winning hit in the bottom of the 11th inning to wrap up a 2-for-5 performance and lead the Wildcats past the visiting Purgolders.

Middleton 11, Madison La Follette 0

Pitcher Brady Schmitt allowed two hits and struck out five to lead the Cardinals to a shutout of the host Lancers.

Liam Belleveau went 3-for-4 with five RBIs to lead Middleton.

Oregon 10, Fort Atkinson 5

Eric Modaff went 3-for-5 with two doubles and two RBIs and the visiting Panthers used a four-run fourth inning to pull away from the Blackhawks.

Sun Prairie 6, Oconomowoc 4

Alex Oakley went 2-for-3 with two RBIs and allowed one earned run in three innings as the Cardinals (9-1) defeated the host Raccoons (7-2).

Watertown 8, Stoughton 3

Pitcher Jack Walsh allowed two runs and struck out nine in six innings to earn the Goslings a victory over the host Vikings.

SOFTBALL

Madison East 3, DeForest 1

Jada White went 2-for-3 with a triple and scored the Purgolders' final run as East (3-4) handed the visiting Norskies (11-1) their first loss of the season.

Verona 14, Sun Prairie 8

Tatum Geier went 5-for-5 with three RBIs and scored two runs as the Wildcats

(4-2, 4-1 Big Eight Conference) beat the Cardinals (5-2, 4-2).

Middleton 8, Janesville Parker 3

Katrina Anderson went 3-for-3 and Makenzie Kopp allowed five hits and no earned runs over seven innings as the host Cardinals (5-1, 5-1 Big Eight) topped the Vikings (2-7, 1-5).

Jeni Malphy had two hits for Parker.

Sauk Prairie 8, Portage 5

Kayla Breunig pitched a complete game, striking out 12, and went 3-for-4 as the host Eagles (5-3, 3-2 Badger North) beat the Warriors (8-4, 3-3).

GIRLS SOCCER

Madison Edgewood 5, New Holstein 0

Rachel Thoma produced a goal and two assists as the Crusaders scored twice in the opening 12 minutes to defeat the Huskies in Port Washington.

Waukesha West 1, Waunakee 0

Alicia Levenhagen scored the lone goal in the 56th minute while goalkeeper Calli Delsman and the Wolverines defense shut out the Warriors.

PREP TRACK AND FIELD | SUN PRAIRIE INVITATIONAL

Big numbers add up to victory as Cardinals earn girls crown

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SUN PRAIRIE — The Sun Prairie girls track and field team has a program-high 260 athletes this season, 129 on the girls side.

The Cardinals' girls showed their strength, defending their meet title at the second annual Sun Prairie Invitational, which finished late Friday night.

Sun Prairie was first with 150 points; runner-up Oregon had 102 in the 12-team girls meet.

"It's nice to have such a great team atmosphere," Sun Prairie sophomore Maddie Thompson said. "We push each other to do the best we can. The team and the coaching staff are really great."

Thompson earned the 1,600-meter title in 5 minutes, 12.15 seconds. Teammate Katie Rose Blachowicz was second in 5:20.94.

Thompson, who led from start to finish, said she ran without a wristwatch at the suggestion of coach Paul Frank, so she could challenge herself.

"You focus and you're battling yourself, rather than battling for a time," said Thompson, who later finished second in the 3,200.

"You can see how far you can push yourself."

Natalie Pfann, who cleared 11 feet in the pole vault, and Michaela Nelson, the 800 winner in 2:23.27, also won events for Sun Prairie.

Oregon junior Alexis Jackson, a three-event winner at last year's WIAA Division 1 state meet, had a busy schedule on Friday.

She won the 100 hurdles in :15.35, finishing ahead of Jefferson junior Emily Hottinger (:16.26) and Sun Prairie junior Jada Schuh (:16.52).

She added a victory in the 300 hurdles (:47.39) and was the long jump winner (17 feet, 11 inches).

"I like staying busy all day," Jackson said. "I get to do most of my favorite events, so it's good."

Jackson is coming back from an injury to her left knee's meniscus and lateral collateral ligaments, which she said she suffered playing pickup basketball.

Jackson was cleared for track season. Despite occasional pain, she said: "I have a few problems with it. But it hasn't affected me. I don't think about it in competition."

Jefferson's Emily Stendel earned titles in the discus and shot put. Verona's Sie'anna Mitchell was the 400 winner and finished second behind Oregon sophomore Scarlet Egwuonwu in the 100.

In the 13-team boys meet, Brookfield East defended its meet title with 107 points, two more than Monona Grove.

Senior Jack Herkert sparked Verona, winning the 110 hurdles in :15.45.

"It felt good," Herkert said. "It felt better than

the prelims. I had a lot of competition. I could feel everyone on my right side coming up on me. That pushed me through the last few hurdles."

Herkert later won the high jump with a leap of 6-2. The Verona 800 relay team of Chudi Ifediora, Tim Soko, Herkert and Obi Ifediora claimed first in 1:31.26.

Ifediora was the 100 winner in :11.60 and the Verona 3,200 relay also picked up a first-place finish.

Madison La Follette junior Josh Freitag won the 1,600 in a personal-best time of 4:24.82.

Middleton sophomore Michael Madoch finished second in 4:25.10, Sun Prairie senior Justin Hodges was third in 4:26.25 and Monona Grove sophomore James Giftos placed fourth in 4:26.98.

Hodges led the first three laps, before Freitag kicked to victory. Freitag said he tried to sit behind Hodges, wanting to see what he had left in the final 400 meters.

"It was a good competition," Freitag said.

Oregon's Hudson Kugel claimed the 800 ahead of Madison La Follette's Finn Gessner.

Other boys winners included: Monona Grove junior Carter Aguilera in the discus and Sun Prairie senior Willy Nett in the pole vault.

• Results in Scoreboard. C7

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