

S.D. BOYS

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Freeman Academy

HEAD COACH: Suzanne Koerner (4th year)
ASSISTANT: Craig Miller
VITALS: Class B, Region 6B, Tri-Valley Conference

LAST YEAR: The Bobcats lost Aaron Tschetter, who was an anchor in the sprints and hurdles, and Richard Friesen, who was a strong middle distance runner.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Andre Eisenbeis (Sr.), Will Chao (Sr.), Chris Miller (So.), Ben Brockmueller (So.)

ALSO RETURNING: Caleb Epp (Sr.), Joe Chao (Sr.), Matthew Graber (So.)

NEWCOMERS: Caleb Glader (Jr.), James Dejarnette (So.), Gabriel Eisenbeis (Fr.), Cole Hofer (Fr.)

ASSESSMENT: The boys' team lost two strong runners from last season and will have to rely on a younger team. It might take a while for talent to develop.

"Our focus with the boys is to keep improving and setting new personal bests," Koerner said.

Gayville-Volin

HEAD COACH: Larry Buffington (3rd year)
ASSISTANTS: Tom Rice, Jeremiah Dibley

VITALS: Class B, Region 4, Tri-Valley Conference

LAST YEAR: The Raiders finished fourth as a team in conference, while Parker Erickson defended his 400 and 800 meter run titles at the state meet. Trever Jensen finished second to Andes Central's Cody Snyder in the shot put.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Kaleb Christopherson (Sr.), Tyler Kasuske (Sr.), Jace Bennett (Sr.), Luke Buffington (Jr.), John Guy (Jr.), Zach Engen (So.), Jack Huether (Fr.), Alec Barta (8th)

ALSO RETURNING: Zane Jensen (So.), Cole Rupp (So.), DJ Hawthorne (So.)

NEWCOMERS: Austin Johnson (So.), C.J. Dolphay (Jr.), Tanner Joachimsen (Fr.), Brandon Van Osdal (8th), Ryan Adams (8th)

ASSESSMENT: Gayville-Volin takes a tough hit with Erickson and Jensen out of the lineup, but they have some quality returners to make up the difference. It will be important for the other returners and newcomers to set up and contribute early.

"The varsity needs to set a good example of working hard, getting better and having fun," Buffington said. "We will be developing our young athletes."



VIBORG-HURLEY: Sophomore Trevor Jacobsen, shown here competing for Viborg in 2010, is one of the many athletes that have made the Viborg-Hurley Cougars a successful co-op in its first season. After state runner-up finishes in football and boys' basketball, the Cougars will look to continue that success on the track.



TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR: Senior Tyler Payer was a three-event state qualifier for the Nighthawks, claiming second in the long jump and sixth in the high jump in Class B.

Irene-Wakonda

HEAD COACH: Brent Mutchelknaus (25th year)
ASSISTANTS: Mike King, Landra Knodel, Bridget Sees
VITALS: Class B, Region 4, Tri-Valley Conference

LAST YEAR: The team finished first in the conference and in regions. Matt Brue and state qualifiers Justin Polley and Tate Schroeder graduated from the team.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Greg Peterson (Sr.), Chad Peterson (Sr.), Scott Davis (Jr.), Sam Kiger (Jr.), Cash Murphy (Jr.), Luke Schroeder (Jr.), Dillon Buchanan (So.), Lucas Gustad (So.), Trevor Hansen (So.), Chris Heirigs (So.), Dustin Livingston (So.), Jake Vollmer (So.), Garret Anderson (Fr.), Jack Johnson (8th)

NEWCOMERS: Brian Huth (Jr.), Kevin Hinseth (Fr.), Jed Murphy (Fr.)

ASSESSMENT: The team is full of experience and has very strong distance runners and depth in the field events.

"The Eagles enjoyed a successful year in 2010," Mutchelknaus said. "With most of the team back, 2011 looks very promising."

Marion

HEAD COACH: Jerry Kippes (26th year)
ASSISTANTS: Dustin Wolforth, Brian Snyders
VITALS: Class B, Region 4B, Cornbelt Conference

LAST YEAR: The boys finished third in the conference. They will be competing without Brad Tunge this season.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Shane Becker (Sr.), Steven Schoenwald (Sr.), Brady Viet (Jr.), Shaun Becker (So.), Andrew Gassi (So.)

ASSESSMENT: What the team lacks this season is depth. While they have many returning competitors that will provide the backbone for the team, they will need to stay consistent not only through the regular season, but finish strong at state as well.

"Brady (Viet) had a good year last year," Kippes said. "He should

improve and be one of the better sprinters in the area."

Menno

HEAD COACH: Ken Bruckner (19th year)
ASSISTANTS: Cindee Evenson, Megan Smidt, Ryan Liebl
VITALS: Class B, Region 6, Cornbelt Conference

LAST YEAR: Menno ended last season with a fourth place finish in the conference, while sending four athletes to the state meet. Tyler Handel placed second in the pole vault, while Robert Schoenfish, Ben Fischer and Macon Oplinger all qualified for the meet.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Tyler Handel (Sr.), Kory Henrichs (Sr.), Robert Schoenfish (Sr.), Ben Fischer (Jr.), Dylan Lehr Johnson (8th)

ALSO RETURNING: Dylan Mehlhaf (Jr.)

NEWCOMERS: Tyler Cwach (Sr.), Ty Spencer (So.), Tyrell Bertsch (Fr.), Matthew Preszler (Fr.), Devin Mehlhaf (Fr.), Tyler Stansbury (Fr.), Mitch Mehlhaf (8th), Chris Johnson (8th)

ASSESSMENT: The Wolves have a solid group of returning letterwinners, but to create depth for the season some of the newcomers are going to have to import roles.

"If we reach our potential, we could have several people qualify for state," Bruckner said. "We don't have the overall depth to win meets."

"We do have as much quality as we have had in several years."

Parker

HEAD COACH: Roger Deutsch (25th year)
ASSISTANT: Derrek Sattler
VITALS: Class B, Region 4, Big East Conference

LAST YEAR: The Pheasants landed six spots in the state meet as Duane Jongeling placed fifth in the 3200 meter run. Parker lost two seniors last season in Lee Berens and Derek Christensen, who were both state qualifiers.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Mark Olson (Sr.), Josh Pauley (Sr.), Cedric Hay (Jr.), Matt Mielke (Jr.), Seth Olson (Jr.), Duane

Jongeling (So.), Blake Reynolds (So.), Jordan Wetering (So.)

ALSO RETURNING: Trevor Miller (Jr.), Steven Carr (So.)

NEWCOMERS: Devin Walters (Sr.), Taran Marsh (Sr.), Karter Lingen (So.), Tristen Erickson (Fr.), Eric Hundstad (Fr.), Michael Olson (Fr.), Ryan Olson (Fr.), Hesston Steinfurth (Fr.), Tristan Tupy (Fr.), Jacob Williams (Fr.), Adam Harms (Fr.), Cody Bussell (8th)

ASSESSMENT: The Pheasants has the strength and now the sense of depth to make a strong run in the Region 4 Meet. Parker will have to rely on the returning letterwinners and other returners for the bulk of the leadership this season.

"With 22 men out for track this year, it should make us more competitive because we will have one another fighting for spots in the relays and open events," Deutsch said. "We bring back a lot of experience in all of the running events and a couple in the field events."

Platte-Geddes

HEAD COACH: Regan Holleman (1st year)
ASSISTANTS: Jessica Lucas, Christa Peterson

VITALS: Class A, Region 7
LAST YEAR: The Platte-Geddes Black Panthers will have a new coach at the helm in Regan Holleman. The Black Panthers finished in first place in their conference last season.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Jordan Kellogg (Sr.), Trey Alberta (Jr.), Darren Daum (Jr.), Brandon Meyerink (Jr.), Keagan Ringling (Jr.), Cody Wagner (Jr.), Matthew Randall (So.)

NEWCOMERS: Jon Hoeksema (Jr.), Dillon Werkmeister (Jr.)

ASSESSMENT: Platte-Geddes will have to rely on its senior and juniors for guidance this spring. The Black Panthers should be able to make another strong run at their conference title.

"We are a very talented and motivated team," Holleman said. "We have lots of athletes returning from last year and it's going to be fun to see what we can get done this year."

Scotland

HEAD COACH: Gary Pepper (35th year)
ASSISTANT: Mary Ellen Luikens, Ryan Bruns

VITALS: Class B, Region 6B, Little Missouri Valley, Southeast South Dakota and Great Plains Conferences

LAST YEAR: The Highlanders had one state qualifier, Spencer Bloch. The squad was unscathed by graduation.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Spencer Bloch, Zack Conrad, Lance Geiman, Jesse Pechous, Jacob Weidenbach, Ryan Auch, Tim Sternhagen, Jared Kloucek

TOP PROSPECTS: Conner Grosz, Kenny McCain, Kyle Gall, Leiv Geiman, Garrett Kotalik, Josh Cass, Tim Bodden

ASSESSMENT: With a state qualifier in the throws returning, Scotland looks to be strong again in those events. Coach Pepper also expects the team to have strong hurdlers and sprinters.

The key, though, will be getting the younger talent to come into their own.

"Our success will depend on the development of the new members of our team," Pepper said.

The Highlanders will celebrate the new season with a new track, and will host their first competition there April 5.

Tripp-Delmont-Armour

HEAD COACH: Ron Weber (3rd year)
ASSISTANT: Barb Dozark
VITALS: Class B, Region 6

LAST YEAR: The Nighthawks saw a strong junior campaign from Tyler Payer as he qualified for the high jump, long jump and triple jump. Payer took home a second place medal in the long jump and a six place medal in the high jump.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Tyler Payer (Sr.), Reece Weber (Jr.), Zach Kriz (Jr.), Chris Cap (Jr.), Trevor Payer (So.), Adam Lau (Fr.)

ALSO RETURNING: Drake Johnston (Jr.), Drake DuPlessis (Jr.), Shane Kuster (Fr.), David Gregerson (Fr.), Jacob Reeves (Fr.)

ASSESSMENT: TDA has a strong group of returning letterwinners and other returning stagers. This should make for a strong season of Nighthawk track and field.

"We have a good group of individuals that will be competitive," Weber said.

Viborg-Hurley

HEAD COACH: John Nyhaug
ASSISTANTS: Connie Nyhaug, Tania Peterson

VITALS: Class A, Region 4, Tri-Valley Conference

LAST YEAR: This will be the Cougars' first year co-op together in

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IRENE-WAKONDA: Junior Sam Kiger, left, reaches back to take the baton from sophomore Dustin Livingston during the boys' 800-meter relay at a meet in the 2010 season. The pair are among the returning letterwinners for an Eagles squad that won the Tri-Valley Conference and Region 4B in 2010.

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