

## S.D. BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

# Haggerty, Bobcats Look To Build On Program's Best-Ever State Finish

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND  
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**FREEMAN** – Senior Ryan Haggerty will lead the Freeman Academy boys' cross country team after finishing 10th individually at state a year ago.

And with most of that roster back this fall, hopes are high in Freeman.

"We have essentially the same group of guys as we did last year," coach Suzanne Koerner said. "They want to improve and have put in quite a few miles over the summer to keep the training going."

The top four runners from a year ago, Haggerty, junior Dane Allison, freshman Thaniel Schroeder, and sophomore Brennan Haggerty, all return to improve upon last season where they finished third as a team in the State Meet. These four work well as a team together and run as a pack consistently according to Koerner. It's this depth that will be one of the team's strengths going into the season.

"It is hard for me to know who will finish on top on a given day in a given meet," Koerner said. "They are all fairly matched and push each other."

"When one guy has an off day, another will have a good day, they have each other's back."

Haggerty also enjoys competing with his fellow teammates and spoke highly of his coach.

"Out of the other three guys, I think it's Thaniel that pushes me the most either in practice or in meets," Haggerty said. "Our coach is great at helping us along emotionally and spiritually, which really helps us out." Haggerty has goals of



Ryan Haggerty • Freeman Academy

placing again in the State Meet.

"Typically I am strong at the end of the season, but I would like to be more consistent in the early meets," Haggerty said. "I would like

to place again and that is pretty doable."

Freeman Academy will compete against stronger competition by racing in meets against Class A schools, instead of just Class

B schools, to help push the team to get better. They will also be competing in the Nike Heartland Preview in Sioux Falls on Sept. 12 that will bring competition from Class AA schools as well as

bigger schools from outside of the state.

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**Alcester-Hudson**  
COACH: LeeAnn Haisch  
VITALS: Class B, Region 2, Tri-Valley Conference  
LAST YEAR: Marcus Ireland and Ashton Liston graduated from the Cubs' 2014 squad.  
RETURNING: Brayden Pulscher (Fr., state qualifier)  
NEWCOMERS: Khristian Beeck (8<sup>th</sup>)

**Avon**  
COACH: Beth Dykstra  
VITALS: Class B, Region 3  
LAST YEAR: Avon had one runner qualify for state, Brant Blaha, who graduated.  
NEWCOMERS: Brenden Voigt (8<sup>th</sup>)

**Beresford**  
COACH: Matt Coy (7<sup>th</sup> year)  
ASSISTANT: Dawn Coggins (3<sup>rd</sup> year)  
VITALS: Class A, Region 3, Dakota XII Conference  
RETURNERS: Alec Atwood (Fr., 22<sup>nd</sup> state meet); Jake Limmer (So., 50<sup>th</sup> state meet); Tim Peterson (Jr.); Cole Homandberg (Jr.); Riley Twedt (Jr.); Dakota Galt (Jr.)  
NEWCOMERS: Kellyn March (8<sup>th</sup>); Noah Hinrichs (Fr.); Trystan Olbertson (So.)

**Bon Homme**  
COACH: Janet Wagner  
ASSISTANT: Drew Koch  
VITALS: Class A, Region 3, Southeast South Dakota Conference  
LAST YEAR: The Cavaliers lost three runners from last year's squad, including Cole Cahoy and Kyle Klinnert to graduation.  
RETURNING: Nathaniel Klinnert (So.), Anton Hejna (So.)  
NEWCOMERS: Nathan Hall, Facmda Ramos (Jr., exchange student)

**Dakota Valley**  
COACH: Tiffany Wendling  
ASSISTANT: Phil Breed  
VITALS: Class A, Region 3, Dakota XII Conference  
LAST YEAR: One runner qualified for the state meet.  
RETURNING: Charlie Long (Sr., state qualifier); Jon Green (Jr.); Tyler Kennedy (So.); Henry Jensen (Fr.)  
NEWCOMERS: Bear Jensen (Sr.), Aidan Vick (So.), Chase Olsen (So.), Josh Midland (So.), Jared Messersmith (So.), Mitchell Kistner (Fr.), Hayden Jensen (Fr.), Miles Byington (Fr.), Michael DeWaal (8<sup>th</sup>), Jaden Kittler (8<sup>th</sup>), Joe Graves (8<sup>th</sup>), Nick Bradshaw (8<sup>th</sup>), Hannes Boecker (8<sup>th</sup>), Gunnar Gunderson (7<sup>th</sup>), Drew Steele (7<sup>th</sup>)

**Elk Point-Jefferson**  
COACH: Kelly Haberling (3<sup>rd</sup> year)  
VITALS: Class A, Region 3,



Alec Atwood • Beresford

Dakota XII Conference  
LAST YEAR: Hunter Paulsen won the Class A individual championship for the Huskies. He graduated and is now competing for the University of South Dakota.  
RETURNERS: Dylan Colt (Jr.), Christian Smith (Sr.), Drew Johnson (So.), Eric Nelson (So.), Jordan Niles (8<sup>th</sup>)  
NEWCOMERS: Casey Kneip (7<sup>th</sup>), Christian Welch (7<sup>th</sup>), Matthew Noteboom (So.)

**Ethan-Parkston**  
COACH: Jared Digmann  
ASSISTANT: Eric Aisenbrey  
VITALS: Class A, Region 3, Southeast South Dakota Conference  
RETURNING: Jonah Murtha (Jr., state qualifier), A.J. Zolnowsky (Sr., state qualifier), Tanner Hohn (So., state qualifier), Tucker Murtha (So., state qualifier), Erik Fuerniss (So., state qualifier)  
NEWCOMERS: Dylan Chmela (So.), Evan Weeman (Fr.), Zach Clauson (8<sup>th</sup>), Eric Gustafson (7<sup>th</sup>), Logan Hettiger (7<sup>th</sup>)

**Freeman**  
COACH: Rory Hermsen  
VITALS: Class B, Region 3, Cornbelt Conference



Jonah Murtha • Ethan-Parkston

RETURNING: James Bauer (Fr.); Bailey Sage (8<sup>th</sup>); Tryg Aanenson (8<sup>th</sup>); Kyle Lemme (8<sup>th</sup>)

**Freeman Academy**  
COACH: Suzanne Koerner  
VITALS: Class B, Region 3, Tri-Valley Conference  
LAST YEAR: The Bobcats, champions of the Tri-Valley Conference and Region 3B, finished third at the state meet.

RETURNING: Ryan Haggerty (Sr., state qualifier, 10<sup>th</sup>), Dane Allison (Jr., state qualifier, 24<sup>th</sup>), Brennan Haggerty (So., state qualifier, 29<sup>th</sup>), Thaniel Schroeder (Fr., state qualifier, 28<sup>th</sup>)  
NEWCOMERS: Stephen Waltner (So.), Luke Allison (Fr.), Titus Roesler (7<sup>th</sup>)

**Gayville-Volin**  
COACH: Larry Buffington  
ASSISTANTS: Gene Bornmann, Matt Malloy  
VITALS: Class B, Region 2, Tri-Valley Conference  
RETURNING: Parker Bailey (So.); Cade Rickford (So.); Colbey Rickford (So.); McKee Taven (So.)

**Irene-Wakonda**  
COACH: Jim Katrenak  
VITALS: Class B, Region 2B, Tri-Valley Conference  
RETURNING: Levi Van Beek (Jr., state qualifier); Joe Sees (Fr., state qualifier); Mike Sees (So.); Alfonso Erickson (So.); Kaden Mork (So.)  
NEWCOMERS: Zain Spangler (7<sup>th</sup>)

**Marion**  
COACH: Jerry Kippes  
VITALS: Class B, Region 3, Cornbelt Conference  
RETURNING: Greg Engbrecht (Sr.), Elias Fredriksen

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