



P&D FILE PHOTO

Gayville-Volin's Kelia Barta gives directions to her teammates during a home game earlier this year. The Raiders earned their first-ever district title this past Friday, and face Freeman in the Region 5B final on Thursday in Yankton.

## GV Girls' Program Blazing New Trails

BY JEREMY HOECK

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GAYVILLE — Cinderella has apparently donned a navy blue and vegas gold dress of late.

### region 5B

Gayville-Volin (14-7) vs. Freeman (15-7) at the Summit Center. 7 p.m. Thursday

As Class B girls' basketball teams across South Dakota turn their attention to this week's region action, the lowest-seeded team still alive for a state tournament berth resides in Gayville.

The blue and gold-clad Raiders of Gayville-Volin, who won the District 10B crown last Friday night as the No. 4 seed, have already relished in their underdog role.

"It's pretty awesome," junior Kelia Barta said Monday. "We've been the underdogs for a long time, but now we're getting some attention."

Not only has the girls' program already captured the school's first-ever district title (GV lost in the 1980 district final), it will appear in the school's first region.

The Raiders (14-7) will face Freeman, the District 9B champion, on Thursday night at 7 p.m. at the Summit Center in Yankton. The winner advances to the state tournament March 13-15 in Huron.

By winning a district title, maybe Gayville-Volin has surpassed the 'underdog' mantra, joked head coach Matt Malloy.

"We've kind of been flying under the radar all season. But I don't know if that'll be the case anymore," Malloy, the first-year head coach, said Monday.

As does every team in the state, the Raiders set pre-season goals that listed off a district title, region crown and reaching the state tournament.

"I don't know if we believed all that until we beat Viborg-Hurley," Malloy said. "Halfway through that game, you could just tell. The girls started playing with more confidence."

Entering last week's district tournament seeded fourth out of five teams, Gayville-Volin beat Centerville 53-40 in the play-in game, upset top seed Viborg-Hurley 58-56 in the semifinals, and beat Alcester-Hudson 56-44 at the title game in Tea.

By doing so, the Raiders became the lowest-seeded team across the 16 Class B districts to win the crown — two No. 3 seeds won, four No. 2 seeds advanced to regions, and the rest were top seeds.

"I didn't think we'd put it together like this," senior Rachel Haas said Monday. "I wasn't really expecting anything like this, but I knew we'd be better."

Last season, the Raiders went 4-14 and lost in the first round of the district tournament.

Out went head coach Trey Krier (who now teaches and coaches in the Yankton School District), and up stepped Malloy to assume the reins of the program.

One of Malloy's first stylistic changes was to run. And run. And run.

The Gayville-Volin girls' cross country team was coming off a second place finish at the state meet (led by the 1-2 finish of freshman Laura Nelson and sophomore Genny Clark), and the Raiders volleyball team — with many of the same members — won 21 matches.

"I don't think we did enough running in the past," Malloy said. "A lot of the girls on this team were part of cross country success, and even the ones that weren't are still athletic."

"So I thought, 'Why not make it up tempo?' We're in great shape, let's run."

Part of that change to a faster pace is because of the roster makeup, Malloy added. Of the 13 varsity players, only one — freshman Traia Hubbard — stands over six feet, and the team's typical starting five goes 5-7 (Haas), 5-7 (Barta), 5-6 (Vanessa Ryken), 5-6 (Clark) and 5-6 (Nelson).

Still, the players have enjoyed running up and down the court in Malloy's system, Barta said.

"He knows what he's talking about," she joked.

"He's taught us a lot of new things we hadn't done before," she added. "We didn't push the ball as much before. But he definitely keeps us in shape during practice with all the running."

With as much as the Raiders run, they've been necessarily deep as well, Barta said.

"Most teams just have one big scorer, but we usually keep it pretty even between four or five of us," she said.

## Hageman The Rare Top Draft Prospect From Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The annual pro day workout at Minneapolis last weekend, Hageman solidified his case as a potential first-round pick.

At 6-foot-6 and 310 pounds with arm length of more than 34 inches, Hageman has pro size. His challenge will be developing the technique for and understanding the defensive tackle position. After switching from tight end after his redshirt season, Hageman had a lot to learn. He's still raw, as evidenced by his inconsistent on-field production, even as a senior.

"I feel like it was another day in the office," Hageman said.

With 19 of 32 NFL teams represented, Hageman took part in specific drills for defensive linemen. But after bench-pressing 225 pounds 32 times, third-most at his position, and posting a 35

1/2-inch vertical leap in Indianapolis last weekend, Hageman solidified his case as a potential first-round pick.

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With more than two months before the draft, now the goal has become staying in shape.

"I'm just going to barricade myself in my room and just play video games and work out," Hageman said. "Kind of stay out

of the public and focus on the main goal."

He'll be working out in Milwaukee with Houston star and former Wisconsin standout J.J. Watt for a bit, then back in Southern California where his agents are based, all the while carefully watching his diet.

"I've been eating a lot of green food. That's not really my most favorite thing to do, but it's going to benefit me and work out in the long run," Hageman said.

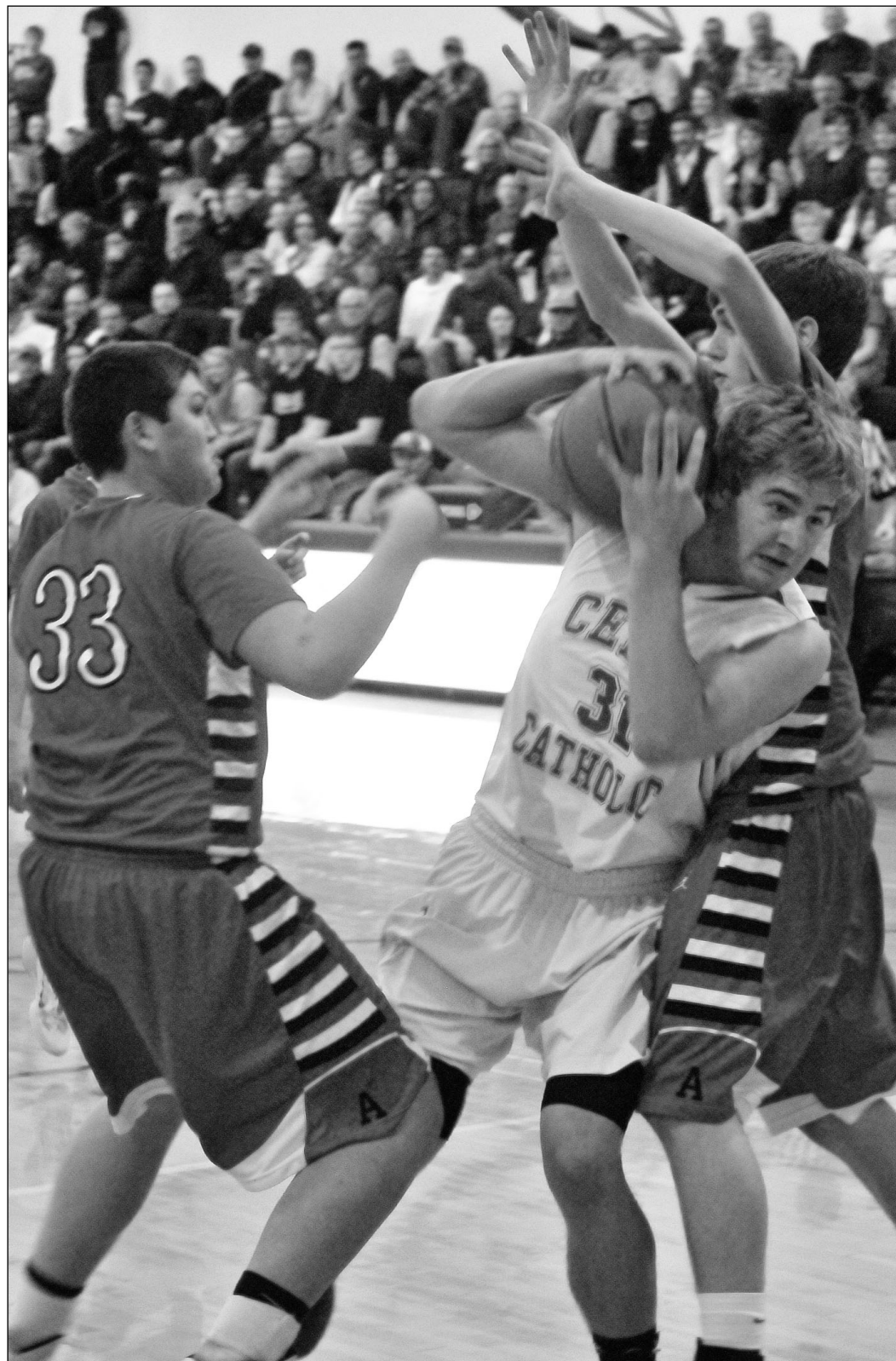
The last time a Gophers player was drafted in the first round was 2006, when running back Laurence Maroney went to New England. Prior to that was cornerback Willie Middlebrooks in 2001 by Denver. They're the only ones picked in the first or

second round since 1990. Tight end Matt Spaeth (2007, Pittsburgh) and wide receiver Eric Decker (2010, Denver) were the only third-rounders in that span.

Hageman, who played at Washburn High on the city's south side, is also in position to become the first product of the Minneapolis public schools to reach the NFL in several generations. Some, like Arizona star wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald, grew up in the state's largest city but attended a private school.

"I feel like a lot of my better games are still ahead of me," Hageman said. "I just have to be patient."

## Ainsworth Derails HCC



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Hartington Cedar Catholic's Grant Howell, center, tries to drive between a pair of Ainsworth defenders during their District C2-5 final Monday night in Battle Creek, Neb.

BY JEREMY HOECK

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BATTLE CREEK, Neb. — One point separated Hartington Cedar Catholic between another trip to the state tournament and a season-ending loss.

Talk about a tough pill to swallow.

Ainsworth, the top-seeded team in Class C2, survived a back-and-forth battle with Cedar Catholic, 66-65, in Monday night's District C2-5 final in Battle Creek.

"It sucks to lose these games, but it just happens like that sometimes," said junior James Kaiser, who scored 23 points for the Trojans (17-8).

Ainsworth (23-2), which hasn't been to state since 2007, is headed to Lincoln, while Cedar Catholic saw its string of five consecutive appearances come up short — the Trojans are not likely to receive a wild card.

"We talked about that. Last year we snuck in with a wild card and everything went our way. We won every close game," HCC head coach Matt Steffen said.

"This year, not so much." Along the way this season, the Trojans suffered six of their losses by 4, 1, 8, 1, 6 and 1 point.

A break here or there and Cedar Catholic might be talking about a trip to Lincoln, Kaiser said about losing close games.

"It seems like it, yeah," he said.

Those breaks, particularly late, benefited Ainsworth.

Cedar Catholic had a 65-62 late with 1:30 to play in the fourth quarter, but a pair of free throws by Ainsworth's Hunter Martin pushed the Bulldogs ahead 66-65 with 23.5 seconds left.

Kaiser missed a fallaway three-pointer with five seconds left, and the Trojans

## King Powers Irene-Wakonda Past Gayville-Volin

ALCESTER — Irene-Wakonda's Gabe King scored a game-high 30 points, leading the Eagles to a 67-47 victory over Gayville-Volin in the opening round of the District 10B Boys' Basketball Tournament on Monday in Alcester.

Adding to Irene-Wakonda's win was Kevin Hinseth with seven points, five rebounds, five assists and five steals.

For Gayville-Volin, Brandon VanOsdel netted 21 points.

Irene-Wakonda will play Viborg-Hurley Tuesday, and Gayville-Volin ended its season

with a record of 4-16.  
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (4-16) .....11 18 38 47  
IRENE-WAKONDA (9-11) .....38 35 47 67

### District 9B

Menno 54, Marion 40

FREEMAN — Menno shot down Marion Monday night in the first round of the District 9B tournament 54-40 in Freeman.

Dustin Lehr led Menno with 20 points. Chet Peterson added 15 points and Caleb Peterson grabbed nine rebounds.

For Marion, Jacon Wuertz snatched 10 rebounds.

Menno plays Freeman Tuesday in Freeman, and Marion ended its season with a record of 3-18.

MARION (3-18) .....12 24 28 40  
MENNO (10-11) .....15 25 34 54

Freeman Academy 53, Scotland 48

FREEMAN — Freeman Academy ended Scotland's season Monday night 53-48 in the District 9B tournament in Freeman.

Both Teagun Schroeder and Josh Stahl tallied 15 points for Freeman Academy.

For Scotland, Travis Skorepa totaled 12 points, and Seth Ireland added 11.

Freeman plays Parker tonight (Tuesday). Scotland ended its season at 5-16.

FREEMAN ACADEMY (7-13) .....8 21 37 53  
SCOTLAND (5-16) .....8 23 34 48

### District 12B

Colome 53, Avon 51

COLOME — In the first round of the Dis-

trict 12B boys basketball tournament, Colome beat out Avon in an epic battle 53-51 in Colome Monday night.

Reed Harter led Colome with 25 points. Holden Thieman added 12 points. Terrance Kinzer snatched nine rebounds, and Lane Fawcett grabbed eight.

For Avon, Logan Mudder cashed in 23 points and picked up 12 rebounds. Brandon Kocmich netted 17 and had 13 rebounds.

Colome plays Gregory Tuesday in Gregory, and Avon finished its season with a record of 8-13.

AVON (8-13) .....14 25 35 51  
COLOME (11-9) .....14 22 40 53

## Bowling: Yankton Boys Finish Fourth At State Tourney

YHS Finishes 3-2 In Event

BROOKINGS — The Yankton boys' bowling team finished fourth in the state high school bowling tournament, held Friday in Brookings.

The team entered their first-ever state tournament seeded tenth. After a 2-1 opening round loss to Washington (164-204, 204-189, 202-132) in the double-elimination event, Yankton swept West Central (136-119, 149-117) and Dell Rapids (145-126, 144-126), then beat Vermillion 2-1 (206-157, 131-233, 243-181) before falling to Brookings 2-0 (178-142, 171-144).

Yankton's lone female bowler, Dakota Mace, teamed with the Brandon Valley squad, which finished in third place.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Yankton boys' bowling team earned a fourth place finish in the state tournament on Friday. Team members include (front) Malan Moody, Aaron Felton, Henry Borgstrom, Tristen Brinkman, Dakota Mace, (back) coach Pat King, Austin Donat, Tyler Novak, Ian Russaw, Chandler Losing, Dylan Mace, Kevin White and coach Don Casey. Not pictured is coach Todd Kautz.