

AREA CALENDAR

Friday, May 28
BASEBALL, AMATEUR Scotland at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.); Irene at Freeman (7:30 p.m.). KYVT-3
TRACK, COLLEGE OUTDOOR NAIA Championships at Marion, Ind.
TRACK, PREP S.D. State Class AA Meet at Brandon; S.D. State Class A Meet at Lennox; S.D. State Class A Meet at Sioux Falls
Saturday, May 29
SOFTBALL, GIRLS Summer Slam Tour at Vermillion (Yankton Yellow Jackets)
TRACK, COLLEGE OUTDOOR NAIA Championships at Marion, Ind.
TRACK, PREP S.D. State Meet at Sioux Falls
Sunday, May 30
BASEBALL, AMATEUR Freeman at Wyolet (7:30 p.m.); Irene at Scotland (7:30 p.m.); Lesterville at Labor (7:30 p.m.). Yankton at Menno (7:30 p.m.)
SOFTBALL, GIRLS Summer Slam Tour at Sioux Falls (Yankton Yellow Jackets)
Monday, May 31
BASEBALL, HS CLUB S.D. State Class A Tour at Sioux Falls (Yankton Yellow Jackets); O'Gorman, 20 minutes after Game 1, KYVT-AM, KYVT-AM; S.D. State Class B Tour at Lennox

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The AL

Wednesday's Games
 Chicago White Sox 5, Cleveland Indians 4
 Kansas City 5, Texas 2
 Seattle 5, Detroit 4
 N.Y. Yankees 1, Minnesota 0, comp. of susp. game
 Oakland 6, Baltimore 1
 L.A. Angels 6, Toronto 5
 Boston 11, Tampa Bay 3
 N.Y. Yankees 3, Minnesota 2
Thursday's Games
 Oakland 7, Baltimore 5
 Tampa Bay 5, Chicago White Sox 1
 Kansas City 4, Boston 3
 Minnesota 8, N.Y. Yankees 2
Friday's Games
 Cleveland (Carmona 4-2) at N.Y. Yankees (P.Hughes 5-1), 6:05 p.m.
 Oakland (Sheets 2-3) at Detroit (Wills 1-2), 6:05 p.m.
 Baltimore (Milwood 0-4) at Toronto (Marcum 4-1), 6:07 p.m.
 Chicago White Sox (F.Garcia 3-3) at Tampa Bay (Price 7-1), 6:10 p.m.
 Kansas City (Davies 3-3) at Boston (Wakefield 1-2), 6:10 p.m.
 Texas (C.Lewis 4-2) at Minnesota (Slowey 5-3), 7:10 p.m.
 Seattle (C.Lee 2-2) at L.A. Angels (Kazmir 3-4), 9:05 p.m.

Saturday's Games
 Cleveland at N.Y. Yankees, 12:05 p.m.
 Baltimore at Toronto, 12:07 p.m.
 Seattle at L.A. Angels, 3:05 p.m.
 Texas at Minnesota, 3:10 p.m.
 Oakland at Detroit, 6:05 p.m.
 Chicago White Sox at Tampa Bay, 6:10 p.m.
 Kansas City at Boston, 6:10 p.m.
The NL
Wednesday's Games
 Atlanta 7, Florida 3
 N.Y. Mets 5, Philadelphia 0
 Cincinnati 4, Pittsburgh 0
 L.A. Dodgers 8, Chicago Cubs 5
 Houston 5, Milwaukee 4
 Colorado 7, Arizona 3
 San Diego 2, St. Louis 1, 13 p.m. innings
Thursday's Games
 Cincinnati 8, Pittsburgh 2
 Washington 7, San Francisco 3
 Milwaukee 4, Houston 3, 10 p.m. innings
 Chicago Cubs 1, L.A. Dodgers 0
 Colorado 8, Arizona 2
 San Francisco 5, Washington 4
 St. Louis 8, San Diego 3
 Cincinnati 8, Pittsburgh 2
 Atlanta at Florida, 7:10 p.m.
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.

Friday's Games

St. Louis (Carpenter 5-1) at Chicago Cubs (R.Wells 3-2), 1:20 p.m.
 Houston (W.Rodriguez 2-6) at Cincinnati (LeCure 0-0), 6:10 p.m.
 Philadelphia (K.Kendrick 2-2) at Florida (Voldstad 3-5), 6:10 p.m.
 Pittsburgh (Duke 3-4) at Atlanta (D.Lowe 6-4), 6:35 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets (J.Santana 4-2) at Milwaukee (Gallardo 4-2), 7:10 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers (Monasterios 1-0) at Colorado (Francis 1-0), 8:10 p.m.
 Washington (Lannan 1-2) at San Diego (Richard 4-2), 9:05 p.m.
Saturday's Games
 St. Louis at Chicago Cubs, 3:10 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee, 6:10 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Florida, 6:10 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Atlanta, 6:10 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers at Colorado, 7:10 p.m.
 Washington at San Diego, 7:35 p.m.
 Arizona at San Francisco, 8:05 p.m.

NHL Finals

Saturday, May 29
 Philadelphia at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Monday, May 31
 Philadelphia at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, June 2
 Chicago at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Friday, June 4
 Chicago at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

NBA Playoffs

CONFERENCE FINALS
Tuesday, May 25
 Phoenix 113, Boston 92, Boston leads series 3-2
Wednesday, May 26
 Phoenix 103, Phoenix 101, Los Angeles leads series 3-2
Thursday, May 27
 Phoenix 103, Phoenix 101, Los Angeles leads series 3-2
Friday, May 28
 Phoenix 103, Phoenix 101, Los Angeles leads series 3-2
Saturday, May 29
 L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 30
 Phoenix at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, May 31
 x-Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 8 p.m.

The WNBA

Thursday's Games

Connecticut 105, Minnesota 79
 Chicago 84, Seattle 75
Friday's Games
 New York at San Antonio, 7 p.m.
 Atlanta at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
 Washington at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.
Saturday's Games
 Chicago at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
 Indiana at Tulsa, 7 p.m.

ML Soccer

Thursday's Game
 Chicago 1, FC Dallas 1, tie
Saturday's Games
 Los Angeles at Columbus, 6:30 p.m.
 Chivas USA at D.C. United, 6:30 p.m.
 New York at New England, 7 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
 Seattle FC at Colorado, 8 p.m.
 Kansas City at Real Salt Lake, 8 p.m.
 Toronto FC at San Jose, 9 p.m.
Wednesday, June 2
 Houston at New York, 6:30 p.m.
 Columbus at San Jose, 9 p.m.

National League
 COLORADO ROCKIES — Recalled RHP Matt Daley from Colorado Springs (PCL). Optioned LHP Greg Smith to Colorado Springs.
 FLORIDA MARLINS — Recalled up RHP Jay Bueente and LHP Taylor Tanter from New Orleans (PCL). Selected the contract of INF Mike Lamb from New Orleans. Optioned RHP Burke Badenhop to New Orleans. Placed LHP Remyel Pinto on the 15-day DL.
 LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Designated RHP Ramon Ortiz for assignment. Purchased the contract of RHP Justin Miller from Albuquerque (PCL).
 SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Recalled RHP Wakis Joaquin from Fresno (PCL). Optioned INF Matt Downs to be optioned to Fresno.
 ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Placed RHP Kyle Lohse on the 15-day DL, retroactive to May 23. Purchased the contract of RHP Fernando Salas from Memphis (PCL).

National Football League

BUFFALO BILLS — Signed O.E. Wang.
 DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed S Gerald Sensabaugh to a one-year contract tender.
 NEW YORK JETS — Waived K Clint Stites.
 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Waived DT DeMarcus Granger.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
 DETROIT RED WINGS — Signed D Brendan Smith to a three-year contract.
 NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Signed D Travis Hamonic to a three-year contract.
 PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Signed RW Nick Petersen to a three-year contract.
COLLEGE
 BIG WEST CONFERENCE — Announced retirement of John Dangleis as coordinator of men's basketball officiating. Named Bill McCabe coordinator of men's basketball officiating.

Transactions

BASEBALL
FOOTBALL

CLASS B

From Page 8A

Class B with a distance of 52 feet, six inches, and is the defending runner-up.
 The person Jensen is behind in the shot put is the defending champion Andes Central's Cody Snyder.
 "I think they are the odds on favorite to finish one-two again," Buffington said.
 Jensen didn't throw the shot at the region meet because he was helping his teammate Caleb Christopherson would finish in the top two to make it to state, which he did.
 "If he would've thrown, Caleb wouldn't have made it to state," Buffington said.
 Jensen is also qualified in the discus (120-3).
 "I was happy to get him qualified in the discus because his technique is one that he can hit 140 feet," Buffington said. "He is the dark horse, and has a chance. Anything is possible."
 The Raiders will also run the medley relay at state, but they qualified the event with Erickson as a part of it, and he won't be running on it at the state meet.
 "Without Parker, we are 20 seconds off our qualifying time," Buffington said. "Our goal is to get some experience and set a seasonal best time with that group."

Hurley
 Hurley will have one athlete and one relay team competing at the state meet this weekend. Freshman Tyler Gerdes has the fourth best distance going into the triple jump at 42 feet, 3.25 inches.
 Hurley's head coach Bill Hansen said "performance is especially impressive considering how long he has been jumping."
 "He's only been jumping for three weeks, and the first jump he ever did, he qualified for state," he said. "He's still learning, and if things go well, he can do very well."
 Gerdes will also be competing in the long jump and sits in ninth with a distance of 20 feet, four inches.
 "The big thing will be for him to get his steps down," Hansen said. "He's a competitive athlete and hopefully that makes up for his lack of experience."
 Hurley will also run in the medley relay at the state meet.
 The Bulldogs go in with a time of 3:55.50, but just like Gerdes, the team hasn't been running together for very long.
 "The kids we have have only run the medley three times, so we could pop a good one," Hansen said. "This is their first time at the state track meet, and I think it will be a good experience for them."

Irene-Wakonda
 The Eagles are coming off a Region 4B team title and will have nine athletes at the state meet, including a relay team.
 Out of the nine athletes who will be at the state meet for Irene-Wakonda, only two of them are seniors.
 One of the seniors, Tate Schroeder, will look to reach the medal stand for the second year in a row in the pole vault.
 Last year, Schroeder finished fourth and is tied for the seventh best height (11-3) this year.
 "Tate showed his best vault at state last year, and I am hoping he can do that again," Irene-Wakonda head coach Brent Mutcheknaus said. "11-3 is his best mark this year, but I think he is capable of going higher."
 Schroeder will be joined by freshman Dustin Livingston, who has jumped the same height as Tate, and sophomore Luke Schroeder in the event with his best height of 11-9.
 "Hopefully all of them go in and have their best efforts and come out with a place on the stand," Mutcheknaus said.
 The Eagles' other senior at the state meet is Justin Polley, who will compete in the 100-meter dash and has a time of 11.30.
 Mutcheknaus said even though Polley is out of the top eight right now, if he shaves his time down just by a fraction of a second, he could place.
 "Justin has been bringing his time down, and you never know what happens at the state meet," he said. "The competition helps and he just needs to get off to a great start."
 Freshman Jake Vollmer will go into the state meet qualified in both the 1600 (5:07.20) and the 3200-meter run (10:32.20).
 "Jake came on quite a bit at the end of the year, his best times have been a product of running with really good competition," Mutcheknaus said. "He has had a similar situation at the state track meet."
 Sophomore Cash Murphy will join Vollmer in the 3200 with a time of 11:11.90.
 Also competing in an individual event for the Eagles is sophomore Scott Davis in the shot put (41-2).
 The Eagles' relay at the state meet will be the 3200-meter relay.
 Mutcheknaus said even though the relay team probably won't place, the experience the team will gain will be valuable for later years.
 "The relay has one junior, one sophomore and two freshmen, so they have two or three more years of competition," Mutcheknaus said. "Even though they might not have the top times, it will be a springboard for them to show what they have to do to be one of the top teams in the coming years."

Marion
 Senior Brad Tunge will look to make his last state track meet a memorable one.
 The South Dakota State recruit has the top time in both the 100 and 200-meter run and finished fourth and seventh in both events respectively.
 "Tunge did add a new event to his repertoire — the 400-meter run, which has the fifth best time in at 51.30."

Marion head coach Jerry Kipges said Tunge is three-thirds of a second off the school record in the 200 and about six-sixths of a second off the record in the 400.
 Sophomore Briatey Viedt will join Tunge in both the 200 and the 400, and he is tied for the eighth best time in the 200 (23.10).
 "The 200 has become his favorite race," Kipges said. "We started running him in the 200 later in the year, and he popped a good one in the region meet, and might have a time under 23 in him."
 Freshman Shaun Becker will lead the Bears in the field events.
 Becker goes in with the fourth best distance in the long jump at 20 feet, 9.5 inches.
 "Shaun could move up in the long jump," Kipges said. "He just stretched at regions and had a jump of over 21 feet. He has been consistent all year long as well."
 Shayne Becker will compete in the high jump (5-9) for Marion.
 "Shayne has jumped 5-10, and then started going and it didn't work for him," Kipges said. "He's hit 6-0 in practice, so he's capable."
 Marion qualified both the 800 and the 1600-meter relays, but both times are with Tunge on the team, and he won't run the relays at the state meet.
 "Brad helped us get the relays in," Kipges said. "The teams probably won't place, but it will be an experience for them."

Menno
 The Wolves send four athletes to the state meet, and three of them will compete in the pole vault.
 Junior Tyler Handel look to continue his excellence in the pole vault. As a freshman, Handel was the runner-up and he followed that performance up by winning the event last year.
 This year, Handel goes into the state meet with the third best height at 12 feet, six inches.
 "Tyler's been hurt, but hopefully he's ready to reach his peak right now," Menno head coach Ken Bruckner said.
 Handel will also compete in the 200-meter dash.
 "We don't know what to expect in the 200 since he's only ran it at regions," Bruckner said. "He's a long shot, but he has gotten better each time."
 Junior Robert Schoenfish followed Handel with a top eight height in the pole vault (11-11.3).
 Last year, Schoenfish just missed the medal stand with a ninth place finish.
 "Things didn't go too well for him at the beginning of the year, but he is jumping well again," Bruckner said.
 Menno's third pole vaulter is Ben Fischer (10-6).
 "Ben is getting better every meet and hopefully reach his target area and place," Bruckner said.
 Menno's fourth competitor will be senior Macon Oplinger, who has the seventh best distance in the triple jump (41-3.5).
 Bruckner said Oplinger is looking to break out of a rut at the state meet.
 "It's been a rough last couple of weeks, but hopefully everything will come back together this weekend," he said. "There are five to six jumpers that could go from second to eighth, so hopefully he can get a high medal out of it."

Parker
 Senior Derek Christensen got his wish — to run in the state track meet.
 Christensen will run on the Pheasants' 3200-meter relay team, which is an incredible feat considering he has cystic fibrosis, which is a disease that causes thick, sticky mucus to build up in the lungs and digestive tract.
 "Derek is a good senior and a good leader," Parker head coach Roger Deutsch said. "His goal was to get to the state meet, and at Centerville when they got in the relay, Derek thanked all of his teammates for helping him get there."
 The 3200 relay team goes in with a time of 9:04.60, and they are looking to get their time down by a quarter of a minute yet.
 "The guys said they would like to run about 8:45, and I think they can," Deutsch said. "I told them to go out and set some goals with their splits. If they make their goal, then that's all we can ask."
 The Pheasants also will run in the medley relay (3:52.30).
 "That's one where we are probably a long shot, but they long shots have come through before," Deutsch said. "Our goal is to run the best we have all year long, and that's what we want to do."
 Freshman Duane Jorgeling will represent Parker in the distance events.
 Jorgeling goes into the 3200-meter relay with the sixth best time at 10:27.10, and Deutsch said he doesn't think Jorgeling has run the best time.
 "He stays with the pack usually and doesn't go real hard, and come Friday night, he will go hard and I think he can come out in the top five," he said. "I think he will rise to the occasion because of the quality of competition."
 Jorgeling will also run in the 1600-meter run, but doesn't have a top time in that event at 4:55.30.
 However, Deutsch said he thinks Jorgeling can come back with some extra medal around his neck.
 "His goal is to get in the top eight and I also don't think he has run his best time in the mile; it will be fun to watch him on Saturday," he said. "Duane has put in a lot of miles and runs his own on the weekend to help make him a really good distance runner."

Scotland
 Junior Spencer Bloch will represent the Highlanders at the state meet.
 Bloch will compete in the discus and his season best throw is 138 feet, eight inches.
 His throw might rank outside the top eight, but Scotland head coach Gary Pepper said he thinks Bloch can pop a good throw at the state meet.
 "He is coming along quite well from last year, and he has the ability to get one good

throw in," he said.
Tripp-Delmont-Armour
 The Nightawks will only have one competitor at the state meet, but will be represented in three events.
 Junior Tyler Payer will compete in the high jump, the long jump and the triple jump.
 "Tyler is only negative for Tyler is that all of his events are on the same day on Friday," TDA head coach Ron Weber said.
 Last year, Payer finished fourth in the long jump and is the fifth best distance going into the state meet at 207.25 feet.
 "The long jump is his better event, and he has been pretty consistent at 20 to 21 feet this year," Weber said.
 Payer hit a height of 6-1 at the region meet, which gives him the fourth best height in Class B so far.
 "Hopefully he's got things working well with his steps and he could possibly go higher," Weber said.
 Payer doesn't have a top eight distance in the triple jump at 41-25.20 feet, but he isn't too far off.
 "He just needs to pop one in the triple jump, which can happen," Weber said. "He can easily go over 40 anytime."

Viborg
 Vikings' head coach John Nyhaug is hoping the tough competition will serve freshman Trevor Jacobsen well at the state meet.
 Jacobsen will run in the 100-meter dash and has a time of 11.10 in the event, and has run against two of the top runners — Gayville-Volm's Parker Erickson and Marion's Brad Tunge — all year long.
 "I think running against those two for a good portion of the year will help him not be intimidated at the state meet," Nyhaug said. "He knows he will have to run well to qualify for Saturday, and I like his chances."
 Viborg's other event at the state meet will be the medley relay, which the Vikings have qualified for state the last four years.
 "We weren't able to qualify by time during the year, but I think anytime, especially in the medley, some people are running their best 800 meters," Nyhaug said. "We know all four runners are going to have to run really well to qualify for Saturday."

Girls
Alcester-Hudson
 The Cubs will once again try and flex their distance muscles at the state meet.
 Freshman Jessica Wegh made it to the state meet and is ranked sixth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:27.50. She is also qualified in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:02.60.
 "She's a real gamer, and won't let the pack run away from her," Alcester-Hudson head coach Lee Ann Haich said. "In my estimation, she could be anywhere from third through six, but I'll be one of the first times she'll run with a full field at that level."
 The Cubs' top other eight event is the 3200-meter relay as they have a time of 10:20.30, which ranks sixth.
 "We haven't really hit our peak yet, and that bodes pretty well for the weekend," Haich said the 3200 relay. "We're not really sure what to expect. Hopefully we slide into our time."
 The other relay Alcester-Hudson has at the state meet is the medley relay (4:45.40).
 Eighth-grader Katelyn Homandberg qualified in the 3200-meter run (12:29.20) for the Cubs.
 Sophomore Britanni Liston rounds out the events for Alcester-Hudson as she will compete in the high jump (4-8).
 "She's quite a novice for her age, and her jump of 4-8 came in regions," Haich said. "She's had more in her all year long, we're just not sure how much more. Hopefully she can really spring a good one."

Andes Central
 Freshman Kelly Winkler has the fourth-best distance in the triple jump (34-4) going into the state meet.
 "She will be joined by junior Brieanne Johnson in the triple jump (31-8.5) and she will also be in the high jump (4-10).
 Freshman Sierra Stavos has the same height in the high jump (4-10).
Centerville
 Centerville will once again be lead by a Steadman going into the state meet, but this time there will be two of them.
 Junior Becca Steadman is qualified for three events, the 800, 1600 and 3200-meter run, but her sophomore sister Nicole is looking to score points in the 3200-meter run.
 Nicole Steadman has the sixth best time in the 3200 with a time of 12:21.50.
 "Nicole is very excited for the fact that she is able to bring one of the best times to the state meet," Centerville head coach Carrie Rydstrom said. "She is looking to improve her time and maybe take a better place than she is down for right now."
 Nicole Steadman will join Becca in the 1600, but it's Becca who has the better time in the 1600 and finished fifth in the event last year.
 Her time coming into the 1600 is 5:36.10, which is good for the fifth best time.
 "I'm hoping she will do better in the mile, and it will be interesting to see her compete in the event again this year because of her competitiveness," Rydstrom said.
 Becca Steadman doesn't have a top eight time in the 3200 or the 800, but last year she finished second in the 800 despite not having a top time.
 "She likes the competition and that pulls her to do better than she thinks she can do," Rydstrom said. Even with her times in the 800 and 3200, it will be interesting to see her compete in the event again this year because of her competitiveness, Rydstrom said.
 "They compete vigorously throughout the year to improve their time, but they are their biggest fans and their biggest supporters."

Rydstrom said.
 Freshman Kieran O'Malley will compete in two events — the high jump (4-10) and the long jump (15-2.5).
 Rydstrom said O'Malley's experience from last year's state meet will prove vital for her this year.
 "Having the experience helps because she is familiar with it," Rydstrom said. "I think she is going to do better in the high jump, and I think she can pull out a 16 in the long jump."
 Centerville also qualified Rydstrom's favorite relay in the state meet with the medley relay. The Tomnadeses have a time of 4:35.20 in the event.
 "It's a race we like to put in the state meet because it takes the sprints and the long distance, and they feel they can be competitive in that," Rydstrom said. "The girls are excited, and they are ready to go out and run."

Freeman
 With the athletes the Flyers qualified for the state meet, it's realistic to see Freeman in the top five when the dust settles Saturday.
 Freeman head coach Rory Hermesen said the goal for the team is to score 40 points.
 "We feel good with how things are set up for us," he said. "Our main objective is to get events through to the second day and see where we are on the second day. It's a wide open field."
 Last year, 40 points would equal a fifth place finish.
 Hermesen said one of the biggest keys to scoring a number of points will be how the Flyers' four relays perform on the first day.
 Freeman has four relays qualified — 400, 800, 1600 and the medley relay — and all four relays rank in the top eight.
 "If we can get all of our relays to the second day, that will be big for us," Hermesen said.
 Hermesen will have to make an adjustment to either the 400, 800 or medley relay because senior Taylor Walters won't be able to throw 111 feet.
 "The last two weeks, she has really brought her time down," Mutcheknaus said. "Her technique has been improving, and she has shaved a second off her time, which is phenomenal."
 Sokolowski is also qualified in the 300-meter hurdles (51.00).
 "We will try and get by with someone else, and it will affect whatever relay it is a bit," Hermesen said. "But I feel we will have good substitutes and will still be strong."
 Walter still has a chance to score important points for the Flyers in the 100 (12.40) and the 200 (26.30) since she has the third best time in both events.
 Hermesen is very optimistic with how Walters can run in both events considering she put up her best times at the region meet.
 "She's run just awesome and very well right now," Bruckner said. "Her main objective is to feel confident, and I think she's got a good chance."
 Freeman will look to another senior for key points as Hillary Paulson has the third best time in the 100-meter run (15.10) and the eighth best time in the 300-meter hurdles (49.10).
 "Hillary has been really consistent all year long, and we feel good about that," Hermesen said.
 Senior Brooke Rinehart finished seventh in the shot put last year and comes into the event with the fourth best throw (36-9), which would be valuable points for Freeman.
 "She has the experience, and we like her chances of getting in the five and doing some damage there," Hermesen said.
 With all the senior leadership Freeman has, a seventh-grader could be the key to how Freeman finishes in the team standings.
 Friesen will run in the medley relay and his seventh-grader Cayley Roth, who is second in the 800 (2:26.20) and fifth in the 1600-meter run (5:30.10).
 "She has run very well, and has gotten stronger as the year has gone on," Hermesen said. "The better the competition, the better she has run."

Freeman Academy
 The relays will be a major strength for the Bobcats at the state meet.
 Freeman Academy qualified in the 800, 3200 and the medley relay, and with the top time (4:29.60) in the medley.
 The Bobcats aren't slouching in the 3200 relay either with the third best time at 10:17.50.
 The 800 relay has the fifth best time (2:26.10) (51.00), but won't have one of the main runners in the event, sophomore Sara Friesen, because she is entered in four events.
 But Freeman Academy head coach Suzanne Koerner is still happy with how all of her relay teams have performed.
 "I'm fairly excited about all of our relays, especially the 3200 and the medley," she said. "The 800 won't be as strong, but we are still hoping to make it to the finals."
 Friesen will run in the medley relay and she is also qualified in the 100-meter dash with the fifth best time (12.70) and the high jump with the eighth best performance (5-0). She is also qualified in the long jump (15-4.5).
 "Sara will do well in the two events, but the long jump will be a bit of the long shot," Koerner said.
 Senior Lori Rensink finished seventh in the 300-meter hurdles last year and has the seventh best time in the event this year (49.10).
 "I still think we have yet to see her peak, so hopefully that will happen at the right time," Koerner said.
 Junior Lillie Koerner is fairly new to the mile, but that hasn't phased her as she has the third best time coming into the 1600 (5:29.10).
 "Lillie wants that one pretty back," Suzanne Koerner said. "I'm anxious to see what she can do in a tough field like that."
 Seventh-grader Clara Koerner qualified for another distance event, this one the 3200-meter run with a time of (13:17.90).
 Both sophomore Jaime Tschetter and freshman Caroline Schrag have a height of 4-10 in the high jump.
 Senior Alicia Hofer rounds out the qualifiers for Freeman Academy as she will compete in the pole vault with a height of 7-6 coming in.

Hurley
 Hurley will be represented by sophomore Haley Jorgensen, who will compete in the high

jump and has a mark of 4-10 coming into the state meet.
 Even though Jorgensen is a sophomore, this is her fourth appearance at the state meet.
 "Since she has qualified every year since the seventh grade, in a big situation, she shouldn't get rattled," Hurley head coach Bill Hansen said. "She's always one out of placing, so hopefully to get this year she can get past the boundary and into the top eight."
Irene-Wakonda
 The Eagles have a young team coming into the state meet with no seniors qualified in any events for Irene-Wakonda.
 But youth hasn't affected the Eagles too much because they are coming off a Region championship.
 Freshman Mackenzie Huber has one of the best marks coming into the state meet as she has the second best pole vault (8-9).
 "Mackenzie has vaulted consistently over eight feet," Irene-Wakonda head coach Brent Mutcheknaus said. "She has the potential to go over nine and will be sitting there with three or four other girls. Hopefully they compete and bring out the best in her."
 Eighth-grader Rainy Brewer-Nysven will join Huber in the pole vault (7-3).
 Sophomore Haley Hinseth has the fourth best distance in the discus at 127-4 feet, and Mutcheknaus said she has a good shot to finish as high as second.
 "There should be some pretty good competition for the second spot," he said. "She is sitting in a good spot in the discus."
 Hinseth is also qualified in the shot put (35-1.25).
 "She is sitting at ninth in the shot, and she threw her personal best at the region," Mutcheknaus said. "Hopefully she can get another personal best to place her in that event."
 Junior Elizabeth Nutley will compete in the discus as well with a throw of 111 feet.
 Seventh-grader Lauren Sokolowski has stormed onto the hurdles scene with a time of 16.20, good enough for five best.
 But until the last few weeks, Sokolowski wasn't even running under 17 seconds.
 "The last two weeks, she has really brought her time down," Mutcheknaus said. "Her technique has been improving, and she has shaved a second off her time, which is phenomenal."
 Sokolowski is also qualified in the 300-meter hurdles (51.00).
 Sophomore Lexy Schenk is qualified in two events, with her strongest one the triple jump (33-5) in which she has the eighth best distance.
 "Lexy has been consistent all year long, usually jumping in the 32's and got her personal best in regions," Mutcheknaus said. "She just started jumping last year and I am really pleased with the improvements she has made."
 Schenk's other event is the 125-80 and Mutcheknaus said Nielsen shaved a couple seconds off her time.
 The Eagles will have two entries in the 100-meter dash — sophomore Pearly Gaidels and eighth-grader Bailey Hinseth.
 "Pearly is 1:08 in the 100, and I think she could actually be a bit faster yet," Mutcheknaus said. "Bailey made it in the regions and took a half second off her best time. The state meet will be a good experience for her."
 Seventh-grader Chloe Nielsen qualified for the 3200-meter run with a time of 12:50.80 and Mutcheknaus said Nielsen shaved a couple seconds off her time.
 The Eagles did qualify one of their relays — the 400-meter relay with a time of 5:30.
 Mutcheknaus said the best thing the Eagles will get out of the state meet is the experience that a young team needs.
 "I am happy they are there and hopefully they do their best," he said. "Hopefully they all use this as a springboard for years to come."

Marion
 The Bears have had almost too much success in the relays.
 Marion qualified all five relays for the state meet, but because many of the same girls run in each relay, the Bears will pass on running the 3200-meter relay.
 "The 3200 is the loser, and it made sense to me, but we will see," Marion head coach Jerry Kipges said. "Hopefully not running the 3200 will help us in the other relays."
 Senior Cara Schardin, junior Brooke Glanzer and freshman Kylie Hughes and Ashley Rosenwald-Muller will compete in the 400 (52.20), 800 (1:46.80) and the 1600-meter relay (4:49.00) with the 1500 relay having the top time in Class B, the 800 having the second best time and the 400 with the fourth best time.
 With Hughes qualified in the 300-hurdles, she will be replaced in the medley relay by senior Allison Luke.
 The medley goes into the state meet with a time of 4:31.30, good enough for third.
 With Schardin participating on all four relays, she won't compete in the high jump.
 "Sara will do well in the two events, but the long jump will be a bit of the long shot," Koerner said.
 Senior Lori Rensink finished seventh in the 300-meter hurdles last year and has the seventh best time in the event this year (49.10).
 "I still think we have yet to see her peak, so hopefully that will happen at the right time," Koerner said.
 Junior Lillie Koerner is fairly new to the mile, but that hasn't phased her as she has the third best time coming into the 1600 (5:29.10).
 "Lillie wants that one pretty back," Suzanne Koerner said. "I'm anxious to see what she can do in a tough field like that."
 Seventh-grader Clara Koerner qualified for another distance event, this one the 3200-meter run with a time of (13:17.90).
 Both sophomore Jaime Tschetter and freshman Caroline Schrag have a height of 4-10 in the high jump.
 Senior Alicia Hofer rounds out the qualifiers for Freeman Academy as she will compete in the pole vault with a height of 7-6 coming in.

Menno
 The Wolves go into the state meet with one individual performer and one relay team.
 Sophomore Katelyn Kotalk finished third in the pole vault last year and has the fourth best vault coming into the meet at 8-9.
 "She's been jumping pretty well after she had a couple meets where it was bad weather,

and she got in funk," Menno head coach Ken Bruckner said. "She did well at regions and attempted 9-4.5 and just missed. Her best in practice has been right around 10 feet, so she has been close to popping one."
 Menno qualified the medley relay with a time of 4:32.00.
 Bruckner said he is hoping to get the relay into