



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
**Yankton's Annie Kruse celebrates after breaking the five-minute barrier in the 1600-meter run at the Last Chance Meet on Thursday at Williams Field. Kruse moved into 10th in South Dakota prep history in the event with the clocking of 4:59.5.**

## Seniors Shine For YHS In Finale

Seniors accounted for four of Yankton's five victories as Yankton finished the regular season at its home last-chance meet on Thursday at Williams Field.

On the girls' side, senior Annie Kruse broke the five-minute mark in the 1600, clocking a 4:59.5 to win that event. The clocking ranks in the top-10 all-time in the state of South Dakota.

Also in that 1600, Savannah Woods (5:16.8) finished second.

Also for the Gazelles, senior Hailey Luken won the 100-meter hurdles in 15.0 seconds. She also placed second in the 100 (12.8).

On the boys' side, senior J.J. Hejna won one event and tied for first in another. He won the triple jump at 42-9 1/4, and tied Roosevelt's David Mulbah in the high jump at 6-7. Junior Brady Hale gave Yankton a 1-2 finish in the triple jump, posting a mark of 41-10.

The lone underclassman to win for Yankton was Charlie Stephenson, who claimed the 110-meter hurdles (15.8). He also finished second in the 300 hurdles (41.3).

The meet included the four Sioux Falls schools, Brandon Valley and Harrisburg.

Several Yankton athletes will compete in the South Dakota State Class AA Track and Field Meet, May 30-31 in Sioux Falls. The May 30 events will be held on the Sioux Falls O'Gorman campus.

## Platte-Geddes Boys Second At 6B Meet KWL, CS Win Team Titles

BONESTEEL — The Kimball-White Lake girls and Corsica-Stickney boys claimed top honors in the Region 6B Track and Field Meet, held Thursday in Bonesteel.

Corsica-Stickney scored 176 points for an 80-point win over runner-up Platte-Geddes in the boys' race. The Jaguars won three relays, got a hurdles sweep from Lee Lauck (15.67 in 110, 43.69 in 300) and a victory in the 400 from Eli Van Roekel (54.40).

For Platte-Geddes, Kole Heller won the 100 (11.12), Carter Dykstra won the long jump (20-1) and Parker Boyden won the pole vault (9-9). The Black Panthers also won the medley relay (3:49.73).

Andes Central got wins from Aaron Swanson in the high jump (5-10) and Joey Evans in the triple jump (39-5). Avon's Brandon Kocmich won the 200 (22.71). Tripp-Delmont-Armour won the 3200 relay (8:40.33).

In the girls' division, KWL beat host Burke-South Central 109-95 for top honors. Avon was fourth with 82 points.

Ivy Haines was the lone champion for Kimball-White Lake, winning the 300 hurdles (51.33) and triple jump (31-11 1/4). Allison Sebern won the 400 (59.87) and 800 (2:33.56) for Burke-South Central.

Platte-Geddes had four victories, the 400 (52.69), 800 (1:51.10) and 1600 (4:20.89) relays, and Payton Porter in the pole vault (7-0). Andes Central got two wins, Erica Kitchenmaster in the 100 (12.78) and Payton Johanneson in the high jump (5-3). Avon's Clara Beck won the long jump (15-1).

# Nebraska State Meet Begins Today

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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OMAHA, Neb. — A total of 12 area teams, six each in Class C and D, will hope their regular season and district performances are enough to set them up for strong finishes at the Nebraska State Track Meet.

The 2-day meet begins today (Friday) and concludes Saturday at Omaha's Burke Stadium.

Class D competition begins at 9 a.m. today, with Class C competition beginning at 3:30 p.m. Action in all classes will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Here is a look at area teams competing. Teams are listed by class and in alphabetical order.

**Class C**

**Creighton**

The Bulldogs qualified three girls and three boys athletes, including one each in the pole vault.

Senior Jake Ripp qualified in a six-way tie for third place in the pole vault, at 13-

feet-6. His girls' teammate Emily Boyle, a fellow senior, qualified for the vault at 8-4.

On the girls' side, junior Rebecca Eggerling will compete in the triple jump (33-2.5) and junior Emily Sorensen will run in the 400-meter dash (1:02.7).

Also for the boys, senior Jacob Morrill will close his career by running in the 100 (11.6), while sophomore Brook Baller qualified in the 200 (23.6).

**Crofton**

The Warriors and Lady Warriors will have a combined 10 athletes at the state meet, and the girls are especially primed for a strong team finish, according to head coach Rod Hegge.

Crofton's girls finished third in Class C a year ago, and based on returning points, they could again be in the running for a high finish.

"We scored 60 last year and we ended up third, so it just depends," Hegge said. "The district, that's a tough gauge to go by. There are always an influx of freshman and you don't know how they'll react."

Crofton also has a pair of standout freshmen who qualified for state. Monica Arens will compete in the discus (114-3), while Kelsey Sanger will compete in the 800 (2:28.5) and both relays.

Junior Allison Arens qualified in the 1600-meter run (6:05.9) and 3200 (13:12.2), while junior Quinn Wragge will

run in the 400 (1:02.3) and 800 (2:26.5). In the throws, junior Maria Wortmann is ranked fourth in the discus (127-3) and fifth in the shot put (41-2.5).

The 1600 relay quartet of Wragge, Sanger, Allison Arens and Wortmann come in ranked fourth, while the 3200 relay group of Sanger, Monica Arens, senior Alex Allen and Wragge have the potential for something special, their coach said.

"I really look forward to seeing what that group can do," Hegge said. "Their actual district time wasn't the greatest, but the weather wasn't conducive to a great time. We've run a 10:05 before, so hopefully we can get off on the right track."

On the boys' side, the Warriors will have four athletes in Omaha, with three of them competing in two events.

Senior Alex Janssen qualified in the 1600 (4:45.4) and 3200 (10:10.1), while senior Eric Kleinschmit qualified in the 110 hurdles (16.4) and triple jump (40-7), and senior Evan Woodman will compete in the 300 hurdles (42.9) and pole vault (12-0).

All three were at state a year ago, and will be joined this weekend by junior Tyler Koch who qualified in the shot put (41-11).

"They understand the arena, so it's nice to have a crew like that," Hegge said. "Sometimes you have to back them off a little bit, because you don't want them to get worn out before driving down there. They're pretty excited."

**Hartington Cedar Catholic**

Junior sprinter Alli Walter has a solid chance to not only medal in both of her events, but could leave Omaha with two top-3 finishes for the Trojans.

Walter has the second-best time in the 100-meter dash (12.3) and is seeded fifth in the 200 (26.0) — six-tenths of a second behind first.

"She went down there last year and scored some points for us, so it was her experience that will really help her out the most," Cedar Catholic coach Chad Cattau said. "Not only for herself; she can be that calming presence, but most of the other kids are new to going down there."

"We're looking for her to do some good things."

Walter's teammate on the girls' side, sophomore Carly Becker, will compete in the long jump (15-6.25) and triple jump (32-10.5).

The Cedar Catholic boys will have six athletes in Omaha, including one relay.

Junior James Kaiser will compete in the long jump (21-0), while junior Andrew Schieffer qualified in the triple jump (40-2.5) and junior Jared Wiebelhaus will run in the 110 hurdles (17.0).

The Trojans also qualified their 3200 relay, with the quartet of junior Luke Burbach, Kaiser, sophomore Noah Noecker

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## Flying High



JEREMY HOECK/P&D  
**Freeman's Brennan Schmidt, right, set a meet record in the boys' 400-meter dash at the Region 5B track meet, held Thursday in Menno. Schmidt clocked a 49.4.**

# Freeman Sweeps Region 5B

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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MENNO — If there was a turning point for the Freeman boys' track team, it came earlier this month at the prestigious Howard Wood Dakota Relays.

Not exactly the place, given the high-level competition, where you expect to get things straightened out. But the Flyers did exactly that.

Three weeks later, they carried that momentum into the Region 5B track meet in Menno and walked away with the team championship. So too did the Freeman girls, continuing a

solid month for the program.

"We weren't running overly well by then, but all of a sudden, we picked it up," said junior boys' standout Brennan Schmidt, who was part of four first-place finishes Thursday.

"We had a great meet."

That weekend in Sioux Falls, the Freeman boys won two relays, took second in another and third in another — setting a meet record in the 800.

"They ran well enough that I think it got them enthused again about running track," Freeman head coach Rory Hermesen said. "And they've really taken off since then."

The Flyers did it against the

best competition in Class B, as well, which Schmidt said helped build the team's confidence.

"That was huge for us," he said. "We know Parker is always right behind us; it's always been that way. Beating them is awesome for us."

As it usually is between the Flyers and Pheasants, the boys' team race Thursday was tight. Freeman edged Parker 123-116.5 for first place, with Centerville taking third at 92.5.

In what was an appropriate finish, Freeman beat Parker in the meet's final race, the 1600 relay.

In the 1600 relay on Thurs-

day, the Flyers were running with a new piece to the puzzle. Senior Cole Waldhauser ran the second leg, giving the baton to junior Cody Roth before Schmidt carried Freeman home.

As Hermesen joked, "If you can get the baton to him in good shape, he'll do his thing."

Schmidt set a meet record of 49.4 in the 400-meter dash, and also ran a leg on three first-place relays for the Flyers — the 400, 800 and 1600.

On the girls' side, Freeman won just three events but fin-

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# Track: West Central Sweeps Region 5A Titles

## Cavalier Boys Finish Second In The Event

COLTON — West Central swept the team honors at the Region 5A track and field meet, edging Bon Homme by five points in the boys' division and beating Mount Vernon-Plankinton by 42 points in the girls' division on Thursday on the campus of Tri-Valley High School.

The West Central boys had five victories on the day, but outscored the Cavaliers 187-182 on the day. Tri-Valley finished a distant third at 123 points.

Jonah Rechtenbaugh had a hand in three of the victories for West Central, claiming the 200 (22.9) and helping the Trojans to victories in the 800 (1:32.1) and medley (3:49.4) relays. Riley Daniels won the 800 (2:05.7) and helped the Trojans to victory in the 3200 relay (8:31.9).

Bon Homme won seven events, with Scott Van Winkle having a hand in three: the 400 (50.2), pole vault (10-3) and as part of the 400 relay (43.8). Brendan Bares, who won the 100, anchored that 400 relay win. Dakota Bodden won the 110 hurdles (17.1), Tanner Van Winkle won the 300 hurdles (43.1) and Devin Millen won the triple jump

(38-11 1/4) for the Cavaliers.

Wagner's Nick Dion accounted for all 20 of the Red Raiders' points with victories in the 1600 (4:50.4) and 3200 (10:51.9). Ethan-Parkston scored a pair of victories in the field events, Camden Myers in the high jump (6-4) and Weslee Dvorak in the long jump (20-7).

The West Central girls won six events, including four relays. Hanna Wahl won the 3200 (12:25.7), and helped the Trojans to victory in the 3200 relay (10:02.4). Alyssa Anderson won the 800 (2:29.2). The Trojans also won the 400 (51.5), 800 (1:47.7) and medley (4:28.5) relays.

For Bon Homme, Caitlin

McLouth won the 100 hurdles (15.8) and triple jump (36-2). Anna Heusinkveld won the 100 (12.8) and helped the Cavaliers to victory in the 1600 relay (4:07.9). McKeely Merkwan won the pole vault (7-6) for the Lady Cavaliers.

Ethan-Parkston's Patience Nesheim was a double-winner in the sprints, claiming the 200 (27.9) and 400 (1:01.8).

The top two finishers in each event, as well as those reaching the in-season automatic qualifying standard, will compete in the South Dakota State Class A Track and Field Championships, May 30 in Madison and May 31 in Sioux Falls.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
**Bon Homme's Brendan Bares, center, pulls away from the field to win his heat in the boys' 100-meter dash at the Region 5A track and field meet on Thursday at Colton. Bares won the event.**