



P&D FILE PHOTO

Ethan-Parkston's Wes Dvorak flies over the final hurdle during the 110-meter hurdles at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays earlier this season. Dvorak is one of the top-rated athletes in three of the four events he will compete in at the South Dakota State Class A Track and Field Championships on Friday and Saturday. Class A teams will compete in Spearfish on Friday and Rapid City on Saturday.

Cavaliers, Area Teams Look To Build On '14 Success

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

While state championships might not be in the cards for area Class A teams, plenty of individuals and relays will have an opportunity to leave with a top finish.

The South Dakota State Class A Track & Field Championships begins Friday at Lyle Hare Stadium in Spearfish and will conclude Saturday at O'Harra Stadium in Rapid City.

Sioux Falls Christian is the defending girls' champion, while Bon Homme earned fifth place last year. And Custer is the returning boys' champion, with Bon Homme taking ninth last year.

Here is a look at the area Class B teams and athletes, in alphabetical order.

Beresford

The Beresford girls will compete in the 400, 800 and medley relays. Ashlynn Atwood and Cait Savey were able to qualify for the 3200-meter run.

For the boys' team, Joseph Kirkebak will compete in the high jump and triple jump, while Alec Atwood qualified in the 1600-meter run and 3200-meter run.

Bon Homme

Based on their sprinting strengths, the Cavalier boys' and girls' teams should be able to at least repeat their performances from a year ago at the state meet.

On the boys' side, Bon Homme has three relays ranked in the top-6, while



P&D FILE PHOTO

Dakota Valley's Marisa Schulz, front, gets off the line in the girls' 400-meter dash at the First Dakota Relays track and field meet earlier this season. She will compete in the 1600 and 3200 at the state meet.

Brendan Bares also qualified in the 200-meter dash. The Cavaliers have the fourth-best time in both the 800 relay and 1600 relay, and the sixth-best time in the 400 relay.

Devin Millen is ranked seventh in the triple jump and will also compete in the high jump, while Chase Kortan is seeded eighth in the long jump,

and Alex Caba will compete in the pole vault.

Head coach Byron Pudwill said he was pleased with his senior class.

"The seniors were a good group," he said. "They were a lot of fun to coach. We had more senior boys than girls this year."

Pudwill used an expression

to describe his team as they are preparing for the state track meet.

"The hay is in the barn," he said. "We are working on technical stuff and we will rest up and be ready to head to the state meet."

On the girls' side, Mckeely Merkwan has the second-best mark in the pole vault and Anna Heusinkveld is sixth in the 100-meter dash. Bon Homme's 1600 relay is seeded fifth and its 800 relay is seeded seventh.

Also qualified for the Cavaliers are Morgan McAllister in the pole vault, Sierra Mesman in the 400-meter dash, Morgan Rothschild in the 300-meter hurdles and Rachel Sestak in the pole vault.

"Morgan McAllister should do well in the pole vault and Morgan Rothschild should open some eyes in the 300 hurdles," Pudwill said.

Pudwill said he has a goal in mind for both of his teams.

"We'd like to get a plaque. In order to do that, we have to finish in the top four," he said.

Dakota Valley

The Dakota Valley girls seek pay-off for their hard work over the course of the season. Sara Bohan will compete in the 100-meter hurdles, in which she placed seventh a year ago, 300-meter hurdles, and the long jump. Oliva Ohm and Anna Rasmussen were both able to qualify in the triple jump, and Marisa Schulz was able to qualify in the 1600-meter run and 3200-meter run. Dakota Valley also qualified

its 1600 relay and medley relays groups that placed fourth a year ago.

"We just want the girls to perform their absolute best," coach Ramsey Fitzsimmons said. "We are not looking for specific places, but would love to get the highest possible place."

On the boys' side for the Panthers, Brady Dam qualified in the 100-meter dash and William Murray will compete in the pole vault.

Elk Point-Jefferson

Josie Heeren will run in three events, the 400-meter dash, 800-meter run, and 1600-meter run, while Callie Davis will also run in the 400.

For the boys, Hunter Paulsen will compete in the 800-meter run, 1600-meter run, and 3200-meter run. Dakota Valley's boys' and girls' medley relay quartets also qualified.

Ethan-Parkston

Ethan-Parkston's small team has chance to score plenty of points. Wes Dvorak is competing in four events, the 110 hurdles, 300 hurdles, long jump, and triple jump, and goes to the meet ranked number one in three of those events. Camden Myers and Jake DeLange will compete in the high jump and Myers has the top qualifying jump.

On the girls' side for the Trojans, Patience Nesheim will compete in the 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash and 800-meter run, as well as the medley relay, while Darbi Gustafson goes into the shot put with the

top mark.

"With only three boys and seven girls going there's not a ton of kids going," coach Shawn Spurrell said. We are not a huge team but we have a lot of opportunity for points.

"We will look to go out and have fun, and look to exceed expectations."

Vermillion

Following a runner-up finish at the Region 4A meet, the Tanager girls head to state with an opportunity to score some points.

Maddie Lavin has the state's third-best times in both the 1600-meter run and 3200-meter run, while Vermillion's medley relay is seeded third.

Head coach Lenni Billberg said her team is competing at the right time.

"We are peaking at the right time," she said. "Our kids hit it hard on Monday and Tuesday and now we are ready to compete at state."

On the boys' side, Jon Rosales qualified in the 200-meter dash and 400-meter dash, while Logan Peterson qualified in the 800-meter run. Vermillion will also run in the 1600 relay, 3200 relay and medley relay.

Billberg said her teams are focusing on making sure they can compete on that final day.

"Once you get into the finals, anything can happen," she said. "Who's got more guts? Everyone will bring their best."

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Class B

FROM PAGE 7

Centerville

Centerville returns its fifth-place discus thrower from a year ago, Christian Gruschin, and eighth-place finisher from the pole vault, Tyrell Martz, in the search for points at the state meet.

"We're hoping that Christian will do well in the discus," coach Dan Evans said. "He's got one of the top throws on the season for the class."

"Tyrell should be able to place in the pole vault again, while we hope that youngster Levi Gruschin can also place in the event," Evans added. "Nick Wixon as a senior should be able to medal in the 3200."

Freeman

The Freeman boys' track team will be led by sprinter Brennan Schmidt, who looks for a repeat title in the 400-meter dash, and will also be running the 100 and 200 meter dashes - the University of South Dakota recruit is tied for the top mark or owns the top time in all three events. Freeman also has a chance for their 1600-meter relay quartet to repeat in first at the meet, while also qualifying for the 400 relay, 800 relay and medley relay.

"Brennan Schmidt has a good chance to repeat," coach Rory Hermesen said. "Things should shape up well for us this weekend."

Leading the way for the

girls' team is Cailey Roth who is ranked third in the 1600-meter run and second in the 800-meter run, and Shelby Jensen is ranked second in the long jump. The girls' sprint medley team is ranked first, while the 1600 and 3200 relay quartets will look to improve on second-place finishes at state a year ago.

"Our sprint medley team has a good chance to win, they have been first or second in every meet this year," Hermesen said.

"Overall for both boys and girls we would like to be top four and get on the platform, and we think that is pretty reasonable."

Freeman Academy

Hannah Yoder and Clara Koerner look to lead inexperienced Freeman Academy at the state meet. Yoder will be running in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, and the medley relay, while Koerner will run in the 800, 1600, and 3200 meter runs.

"All of our events have a chance at doing well, but it is a lot of first times running at the state level," coach Suzanne Koerner said. "We just want them to do what they know they can do."

"Hopefully Hannah and Clara can place in all of their events."

Gayville-Volin

The Gayville-Volin girls will look to score points in a variety of events. The 3200-meter relay team goes into state meet ranked first, while Laura

Nelson runs in the 1600 and 3200 meter runs which she finished in second in each a year ago. Traia Hubbard will be throwing shot put and discus, while Genevieve Clark will be running the 400-meter dash and 800-meter run, and eighth grader Ashley Emmick will be competing in the high jump.

"We're hoping for points out of 3200 (relay) with the top ranked time and think we could get points out other events," coach Jeremiah Dibley said. "We don't have a goal, but we'd like to be near the top."

"We will run everyone hard and fresh."

C.J. Lee will be in the 110-meter hurdles and the pole vault for the boys' team. Grant Rice will throw in discus.

Irene-Wakonda

Lauren Sokolowski looks to lead the way for the Irene-Wakonda girls' track team. Sokolowski is searching for her fourth 100-meter hurdles championship, and will also run in the 300 hurdles. With several returning athletes to a state-runner up team from a year ago, Irene-Wakonda also has Andrea Sokolowski who is ranked third in the high jump and 400 relay and 800 relay teams each ranked in the top four.

"Lauren Sokolowski has been strong all spring and has been top rated and hoping for a repeat," coach Brent Mutchelknaus said. "If the relay teams do what they are capable of there is a chance for top four."

"It will be tough to duplicate the last year's runner up

with Class B looking as strong as it is now."

For the Irene-Wakonda boys, it is about getting experience for the young team. Levi Zavala is ranked seventh in the shot put, while Gabe King is ranked fourth in triple jump before the state meet, to go along with Matt Nelson in the 300 hurdles, Cody Oien in pole vault, and a couple of young relay teams.

"Levi has a chance to move up a couple spots in shot, and Gabe has a possibility to win in triple jump if they do what they are capable of," Mutchelknaus said. "The relay teams are just excited to be at state, if they run their best races they could be a long shot to win."

"We would like the younger kids to go and get experience for next year."

Menno

The Menno girls qualified Tara Spencer in the high jump and Ashton Vaith in the 100 hurdles. The boys qualified Jackson Diede in long jump, Austin Handel in shot put, and Caleb Preszler in discus.

Parker

Parker's Zack Anderson looks to repeat as Class B champion in the high jump, as well as place in the long jump and the triple jump, while Kordell Buyck looks to improve upon an eighth place finish last year in the 110 hurdles.

"Zack was the winner last year in the high jump, and we are excited about all of his jumps this year," Parker coach

Phil Bjornberg said. "He has a chance to score a lot of points for us."

For the Parker girls, they look to win the 800 relay for the second year in a row, and sprinter Brittany Olson would like to improve on fifth and seventh place finishes in the 200 and 400 meter dashes, respectively.

"Class B is so tough for the girls this year, but we think we have an outside shot at the top four," Bjornberg said. "We would like to finish top eight on both sides, that's our goal coming in."

Platte Geddes

The Platte-Geddes girls were able to have a qualifying team in all five relays, and Hallie Hallock will throw in the shot put and discus.

For the boy, Carter Dykstra will compete in the long jump, which he finished in third last year, and the triple jump. Zach Pettit will run the 1600 and 3200. The team also qualified for the 1600, 3200, and medley relays.

Scotland

Scotland goes into state battling injuries. Pole vaulter Blake Konstanz has been battling a knee injury but is ranked near the top of Class B in the vault. Last year's girls discus champion, Carley Skorepa, is also returning from an injury and will compete in the shot put and discus. Dan Stibral will throw shot and disc for the boys' team and comes into state ranked in the top

three of each event.

"In 40 years of coaching I have never seen this many injuries in a season," coach Gary Pepper said. "I'm pleased with how things came out after districts."

"We will look to do the best we can and we are happy we made it in 10 events."

Tripp-Delmont-Armour

The Tripp-Delmont-Armour girls will run the 1600-meter relay and the boys will compete in the medley relay.

Viborg-Hurley

Sophomore Logan Hansen has a chance to win the 800-meter run at state meet as he goes in with the top ranked time, to improve upon a sixth-place finish from a year ago. The Viborg-Hurley team has qualified for three relays on both the boys' and girls' sides.

"We look forward to the opportunity and the kids have a good chance at getting medals," coach Bill Hansen said. "We just need to get by the first day and go from there."

"Top ten finishes on each side would be nice."

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Baseball: Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic Begins Friday

The 14th annual Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic will be held May 29-31 at Yankton's Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field, Vermillion's Prentis Park and Crofton's Memorial Park.

Pool play runs Friday and Saturday, with championship day set for Sunday in Yankton. Semifinals will be played at 11 a.m., and 1:15 p.m., with the

championship scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

Here is the pool play schedule:

FRIDAY
YANKTON: S.F. West vs. Yankton, 10:30 a.m.; S.F. West vs. S. Sioux City, 12:45 p.m.; S. Sioux City vs. Mitchell, 3 p.m.; Mitchell vs. Blair, 5:15 p.m.; Blair vs. Yankton, 7:30 p.m.
VERMILLION: S.F. East vs. Vermillion, 10:30 a.m.; Norfolk vs. S.F. East, 12:45 p.m.; Brandon Valley vs. Norfolk, 3 p.m.; Omaha Central vs. Brandon Valley, Omaha Central vs. Vermillion, 7:30 p.m.
CROFTON: Harrisburg vs. Crofton, 10:30 a.m.; Harrisburg vs. S.F. Post 307, 12:45 p.m.; S.F. Post 307

vs. Creighton, 3 p.m.; Creighton vs. Lennox, 5:15 p.m.; Lennox vs. Crofton, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
YANKTON: S. Sioux City vs. Yankton, 9:30 a.m.; S. Sioux City vs. Blair, 11:45 a.m.; Blair vs. S.F. West, 2 p.m.; S.F. West vs. Mitchell, 4:45 p.m.; Mitchell vs. Yankton, 6:30 p.m.
VERMILLION: Norfolk vs. Vermillion, 9:30 a.m.; Norfolk vs. Omaha Central, 11:45 a.m.; Omaha Central vs. S.F. East, 2 p.m.; Brandon Valley vs. S.F. East, 4:45 p.m.; Brandon Valley vs. Vermillion, 6:30 p.m.
CROFTON: Creighton vs. Crofton, 9:30 a.m.; Creighton vs. Harrisburg, 11:45 a.m.; Harrisburg vs. Lennox, 2 p.m.; Lennox vs. S.F. Post 307, 4:45 p.m.; S.F. Post 307 vs. Crofton, 6:30 p.m.

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MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Thursday, May 28
7:40 am Yankton Conv/Vis Bureau (Stephanie Moser)
8:20 am Yankton Chamber (Carmen Schramm)

Friday, May 29
7:40 am Crohn's Walk (Dave Brown)
7:50 am Yankton Parks & Rec (Tracey Grotenhuis)