

**S.D. State Cross Country**

# Gayville-Volin Eyes Another Run At Class B Title

**BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK**  
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This season the Gayville-Volin girls have run under the mantra, “Run happy.”

Today (Saturday), they’re also looking to run thankful and fast.

Gayville-Volin, runner-up to Ipswich in each of the past three seasons, will look another strong finish as it takes to Sioux Falls’ Yankton Trails Park for the South Dakota State Cross Country Championships.

The Raiders are a unique squad, sporting two former state champions (Genevieve Clark in 2012, Laura Nelson in 2013), three who also compete in volleyball (Clark, Megan Hirsch and Elianna Clark) and no freshmen or middle schoolers. Gayville-Volin is the only full squad (five runners) without a runner from grades 7-9 (Sully Buttes has four runners, all in grades 10-12), and the Raiders are one of two Class B girls’ teams with three varsity volleyball players in their state meet lineup. (Northwestern has three varsity, one JV player among its five.)

“Most teams have a volleyball player or two,” said Gayville-Volin head coach Larry Buffington. “The girls take a lot of pride in that. They work hard and enjoy being a part of both teams.”

The number of upperclassmen for a girls’ team is rare. In all three classes combined, there is only one other girls’ program that will not have a runner from grades 7-9 competing at state: Sioux Falls Washington. There are 10 full boys’ teams without a runner in grades 7-9, as well as two other scoring teams.

“There are more seventh and eighth graders in the state field than there are grades 10-12,” Buffington noted. In Class B, there are 51 middle schoolers and 47 in grades 10-12, including just 12 seniors.

One of those seniors is Genny Clark, who won state as a freshman and has helped put the Raiders on the awards stand the past three seasons.

“Genny has left a legacy in our program,” Buffington said. “Not only has she done a good job of leading the program, she has helped build it.”

As the Raiders enter the meet, they will look to continue to enjoy the process.

“Not only do we want to run happy at state, we want to run thankful,” Buffington said. “They deserve what comes their way because they earned it.”

Ipswich will be going for a sixth straight girls’ title, which would be



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
**The Gayville-Volin girls pose with the Region 2B championship plaque after winning the team title last week at the Howard Golf Course.**

a Class B record. Should the Raiders finish second again, that would also be a Class B record.

The Class B girls’ race, which will be 5,000 meters for the first time, is set for 1 p.m. The Class B boys’ race is set for 2:30 p.m., a change from the schedule in previous seasons. The Class B boys will follow the Class AA girls’ race this year after having followed the Class A girls’ race in previous years.

Here is a look at other area programs in the Class B meet, with teams sporting scoring squads in the field listed first.

### Freeman

The Freeman Flyers, third a year ago, will try to repeat that strong finish despite a younger squad. Senior Rebecca Eberts, 25th at state a year ago, leads the way for the Flyers, who also boast two freshmen and two eighth graders.

“We’re pretty young,” said Flyers head coach Rory Hermesen. “But Rebecca placed for us last year and has a lot of competitions under her belt. Hannah (Eberts) did well last year, and those two have helped us along.”

Hannah Eberts and Sarah Wipf are the freshmen on the squad. Eighth graders are Emmarie Edwards and Isabel Saylor.

Hermesen said the team will be ready for the flat and fast state meet course.

“It’s a little different course, more of a track atmosphere,” he said. “We’ve had a great week of practice, and we’re really looking forward to the meet.”

“We’ll run the best we can and see what happens. I like where we’re at.”

The Flyers will also take one boy to state, sophomore Dalton Bodewitz.

## Yankton

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veteran lineup, with four seniors and a junior to lead the way.

“It’s nice to have a group of seniors,” Coach Dannenbring said. “They’ve been here before. They are usually

physically stronger. Having older boys, they tend to have the strength to run a hard, fast race.”

Junior Andrew Peitz and senior Gabe Dannenbring come into state after all-ESD performances. Freshman Nathan Zimmerman, sophomore Brady Jaquith and senior Sam Gusso were also in the top 26, giving the Bucks just a 50-second gap between first

and fifth runners. Seniors Jordan Lucht and Lincoln Megard round out the state meet roster.

“That gives us an advantage at state,” Gabe Dannenbring said. “At state if you have a pack, it is to your advantage.”

While part of the advantage of “pack” running is that opponents have difficulty putting their runners be-

tween yours, another part is mental.

“They can draw off their teammates’ energy to stay together,” Coach Dannenbring said. “They can press forward as a group at the end of the race.”

For Gabe Dannenbring and the rest of the Bucks, the goal is simple: go out holding hardware.

“We’re hoping to see a

fourth place finish,” he said. “With our guys and girls, if we can win a combined state championship, that is the ultimate goal.”

“And it’s pretty realistic.” The Class AA boys’ race is set for 3:30 p.m.

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## Neb. XC

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the rest of the way.

After Haley Arens crossed the finish line, she got to turn around and watch her teammates come in: Krista Zavadil (21:19.9) 16th, Kyla Dendinger (21:34.7) 19th, Samantha Altwine (21:39.9) 21st, Keely Hagge (24:09.1) 100th and Jessica Lange (24:13.8) 103rd. Only one team, Stanton, put two runners in ahead of Altwine, the Lady Warriors’ final scoring runner.

“I turned around and got to see them finish, give each other hugs,” Haley Arens said. “They know what we’ve done, what we’ve been through.”

Also near the finish line were several runners that contributed to previous state titles for Crofton.

“Seeing all the alumni come back, you can see the pride they have in the program,” Coach Arens said. “When they win, it’s not just for this year’s group. They win for all the girls who ran before.”

Also in the Class D girls’ race, Randolph freshman Addison Villwok placed 97th in 24:06.8.

In the Class D boys’ race, Crofton finished sixth overall with 111 points. Malcolm beat Yutan for the boys’ title, each finishing with 81 points.

“We knew it would be tough,” Coach Arens said. “There were a lot of teams that were running similar to us.

“They ran a great race, a strong race. They have nothing to be sad about.”

The top area finisher in the Class D boys’ race was Laurel-Concord-Coleridge senior Aaron Haahr, who placed 13th in 17:40.2.

Crofton was led by junior Jake Neuhaufen, who finished 18th in 17:53.2. Freshman Tanner Arens (18:36.2) placed 48th, senior Brady Stucky (18:44.0) placed 59th and junior Justin Goeden (18:44.5) finished 60th to complete the scoring. Also for the Warriors, senior Mark Lange (19:38.0) finished 100th and freshman Tyler Janssen (19:43.1) finished 109th.

“When you see the finish and



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
**Hartington’s Karli McCain, 49, Anna Burbach, 47, and Allie Rosener, 51, try to get off the line during the Class C girls’ race in the Nebraska State Cross Country Meet on Friday at Kearney Country Club. Led by Rosener’s 20th place finish, Hartington placed seventh in the team standings.**

there are 30 kids in one group, you can move up or down very quickly,” Coach Arens said. “It was a very intense race for them.”

Creighton was 16th in the Class D boys’ team race, led by junior Garrison Hazen’s 21st place finish in 18:02.5. Zachary Hazen (19:34.7) was 97th, Colten Adams (20:44.2) was 134th, Connor Hazen (20:50.8) was 136th and Tegan McLean (21:33.2) was 142nd for the Bulldogs. Creighton’s first four runners are all juniors, McLean is a sophomore.

Also in the Class D boys’ race, Bloomfield senior Kyle Young was 81st in 19:13.1.

### Class C

Even if the Wildcats’ finish at the state meet was not exactly as Hartington head coach Mandy Hochstein would have dreamed it up, she can’t help but look at what the program accomplished on Friday without smiling.

“They definitely got noticed this

year,” she said. “They did very well. There are a lot of people proud of them right now.”

The Wildcat girls handled the pressure of being the program’s first-ever team to qualify for state in stride, putting together the same pack they had all season to finish sixth as a team.

“They all ran within 20, 30 seconds of their season best, and this is a tough course,” Hochstein said. “I am pleased with how they raced.”

Sophomore Allie Rosener led the ‘Cats, placing 20th in 21:29.1. Junior Anna Burbach (21:54.7) was 31st, sophomore Karli McCain (22:17.0) was 42nd, senior Addison Peitz (22:44.7) was 49th and junior Sydney Christensen (23:57.7) was 69th for Hartington.

“We are young,” Hochstein said. “It was the second time down for two of them, but we get them back next year.”

In the boys’ race, Hartington’s Brian Santiago survived a fall early in the race to not only improve on his

the season. Eighth grader Caden Tegethoffs rounds out the Platte-Geddes entry.

On the girls’ side, senior Reganne Engebretson leads the way. The Black Panthers also feature junior Grace Brink, freshman Katie Engebretson and seventh grader Kally Millar.

### Viborg-Hurley

Running for the Cougars is a junior achievement. Literally.

All five Viborg-Hurley runners – three boys and two girls – are members of the Class of 2017. While the Cougars just missed qualifying both teams, finishing fourth in the boys’ division and fifth in the girls’ division, coach Bill Hansen was happy with their efforts.

“Our goal was top three for both boys and girls, and we were close,” he said. “They gave everything they had. I’m proud of how hard they ran.”

With Logan Hansen, Logan Slack and Emil Flade each finishing in the top 20 at regions, the Cougar boys will count in the team rankings. And, while the Cougars have no room for error because all three will be scored, Coach Hansen feels they have a chance at a high finish.

“Logan Hansen should do fairly well. He’s been in the top part of the field throughout the year,” he said. “Emil, our foreign exchange student, ran just his third 5K at regions. He’s getting better and better each time out, and he could be key for us hopefully reaching the top five.”

The Cougar girls bring Jacia Christiansen and Kirsten Paelow to Sioux Falls. Christiansen has a solid resume, including a 16th place finish a year ago.

“Jacia’s placed every year since eighth grade,” Coach Hansen said. “She’s one where 5K has been to her benefit. The longer races have given her time to make up ground and run her race.”

### Alcester-Hudson

The Cubs will take one boy and one girl to Sioux Falls, freshmen Kendra Jensen and Brayden Pulscher. Jensen was 22nd in the girls’ race as an eighth grader.

### Irene-Wakonda

The Eagles will take two boys to state, junior Levi Van Beek and freshman Joe Sees.

### Marion

The Bears will take one boy to state, sophomore Darwin Arana Ortiz.

### Marty

The Braves have qualified one girl and one boy for state. Senior Oscar Bernie will run for the Marty boys. Eighth grader Kini Po Hart, who finished second in Region 3B, will compete for the Marty girls.

### Menno

The Wolves will take a pair of seventh graders to state, Morgan Edelman and Carly Herrboldt. Edelman was the Region 3B champion.

### Scotland

The Highlanders will take one boy and one girl to state, both juniors. Carlos Coco will compete for the Scotland boys, while Kchandra Furney will compete for the Scotland girls.

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## Vermillion Will Bring Full Squad To Class A Meet

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A young squad that turned a corner has the Vermillion Tanagers’ appearance in today’s (Saturday) South Dakota State Cross Country Meet into a full team event instead of a one-girl show.

Vermillion qualified its girls’ team with a third place showing in the Region 3A meet, led by meet medalist and 2013 state champion Maddie Lavin.

“They all started to figure things out,” said Vermillion head coach Kelly Fischbach. “Rachel (Brady) is healthy and a solid third runner. We also got Katie Kost and Madisen Martinez when the soccer season was over.”

Besides Kost, a senior, Lavin and Martinez, both sophomores, and Brady, a freshman, the Tanagers’ state meet roster boasts sophomore Melissa Mikkelsen and seventh grader Taryn Whisler. Lavin, who battled injuries last season, was 21st at state.

The Tanagers qualified out of a tough region, and that experience has Fischbach hopeful the Tanagers can finish well.

“Going in, our goal is to finish in the top half,” Fischbach said. “If we can put three in the top part of the field, we can realistically finish in the top half as a team.”

The Tanagers also send one boy to state, freshman Justin Sorensen. Sorensen was a state meet qualifier a season ago.

“Justin has consistently run in the low 18-minute range. He is a very smart runner, very focused,” Fischbach said. “He’s only going to get better and he knows what to expect.”

“He is very mature for being a freshman.”

The state meet is today at Yankton Trails Park in Sioux Falls. The Class A girls’ race is set for 1:30 p.m. The Class A boys’ race will begin at approximately 3 p.m.

Here is a look at other area Class A teams in the field. Teams with scoring squads (four or more runners in boys or girls) are listed first.

### Beresford

The Beresford girls, ninth in Class A a season ago, will look to build on that finish with a young but talented squad.

“Last year we weren’t too happy with ninth,” said Beresford head coach Matthew Coy. “It was a good experience for them. They have used it as motivation.”

Beresford won the Region 3A title on its home course, led by returning state placewinner Ashlynn Atwood (17th). She is one of three juniors on the squad, joined by Kendra Schaap and Caitlin Worth. Sophomore Cait Savey, freshman Grace Quartier and eighth grader Sabrina Sweet have also run well for the Watchdogs.

The Watchdogs have not been beaten in 2015, meaning they are aiming high at state.

“The girls have their sights set on the awards stand,” Coy said. “They’re not trying to find teams to pass, just going out and running their race.”

The Beresford boys just missed a state berth, and will send two boys, junior Jake Limmer and freshman Alec Atwood. Atwood was 22nd in the state as an eighth grader.

Jake’s making his third state meet trip, Alec his second,” Coy said. “Alec has a chance to be in the top 15. Jake can get in the top 40. They’re pumped for state.”

### Ethan-Parkston

A young Ethan-Parkston team will look to leave its mark on Yankton Trails Park today.

“I think we’ve been running well,” said head coach Jared Digmann. “The main thing will be showing up and doing what we can do.”

A.J. Zolnowsky is the lone senior for Ethan-Parkston, which placed 11th in the state meet a year ago. The squad also boasts junior Jonah Murtha, sophomores Erik Fuerniss, Tanner Hohn and Tucker Murtha, and eighth grader Cordell Murtha.

“We knew there were four good teams in the boys’ race (at regions),” Digmann said. “We’d been dealing with illness, but the guys were able to put it together.”

While defending champion Sioux Central and Region 3A champ Sioux Falls Christian have been dominant in many races this season, the rest of the field is a toss-up, according to Digmann.

“There are two solid teams. Everyone else is fighting for the rest,” he said. “Third through 11th, 12th, will come down to whoever has the best day.”

Ethan-Parkston will also send two girls to state, freshman Patience Nesheim and eighth grader Sydney Wickersham. Wickersham was 25th at state a year ago.

“Both have a shot at a state place,” Digmann said. “It depends on who has