

CLASS 2A STATE QUALIFIER

# Seven bids locked in

Several on bubble for at-large berths

BY JUSTIN ITES | ites@iafalls.com

The Iowa Falls-Alden boys track team departed Dike with seven automatic bids to the State Track and Field Championships, but there is a strong possibility that by the end of the day on Friday, that number may increase.

Competing at Thursday's State Qualifier, the Cadets powered to a second-place finish in the team standings, tallying 113 points to finish in the runner-up spot to Grundy Center (129).

Junior Jaden Damiano has put himself in position to repeat history, as he won both the 110 and 400 hurdle events. Last spring, Damiano won state titles in both of those races and has another chance to achieve the feat next week in Des Moines. He added a 100 meter title (14.43) as well.

At the start of the meet, IF-A scored its first automatic berth, when Kacen Boyer conquered the long jump field with a best measurement of 21'4.50".

Andrew Bicknese secured a 200 meter race ticket to the blue oval with a first-place effort time of 22.85.

The Cadets have two automatic bids in the relays, as the 4x200 and sprint medley finished first and second respectively. The 4x200 group of Boyer, Aidan Richards, Quinton Jaeger and Bicknese clocked a 1:32.72, while the sprint med (Richards, Andon Barrick, Bicknese and Nathan Schmitz) took silver in 1:36.04.

IF-A has several events on the bubble to receive at-large bids. Schmitz was third in the 400 meters (51.93), while the 4x100 (Boyer, Richards, Schmitz, Jaeger) and 4x400 (Damiano, Boyer, Schmitz, Bicknese) also earned bronze finishes. Those two relays clocked times of 44.82 and 3:28.86 respectively.

Kaden Steffen broke a school record with a 49'3" toss in the shot put. That put him fifth in the field on Thursday, but on the bubble for an at-large bid. ■



Nathan Schmitz runs the anchor leg of the sprint medley at Thursday's State Qualifier in Dike. The Cadets recorded seven automatic State bids.



Kacen Boyer followed up his NCC title with a win in the long jump. The Cadets finished second in the team standings.

## Class 2A State Qualifier

Thursday at Dike

**Team Scoring:** 1. Grundy Center 129; 2. Iowa Falls-Alden 113; 3. Aplington-Parkersburg 104; 4. Dike-New Hartford 71.50; 5. Roland-Story 70; 6. South Hardin 58.5; 7. Columbus Catholic 52; 8. Union 46; 9. East Marshall 32; 10. Hudson 23; 11. Manson Northwest-Webster 21; 11. West Marshall 21.

### IF-A Results (top 3)

**Long Jump:** 1. Kacen Boyer 21'4.50".  
**4x200:** 1. (Boyer, Aidan Richards, Quinton Jaeger, Andrew Bicknese) 1:32.72.

**100 meters:** 1. Jaden Damiano 11.27.  
**400 meters:** 3. Nathan Schmitz 51.93.  
**Sprint Med:** 2. (Richards, Andon Barrick, Bicknese, Schmitz) 1:36.04.  
**110 hurdles:** 1. Damiano 14.43.  
**200 meters:** 1. Bicknese 22.85.  
**400 hurdles:** 1. Damiano 54.75.  
**4x100:** 3. (Boyer, Richards, Schmitz, Jaeger) 44.82.  
**4x400:** 3. (Damiano, Boyer, Schmitz, Bicknese) 3:28.86.  
**Note:** the top 2 finishers in each event receive automatic bids to State.

CLASS 2A STATE QUALIFIER

# Veteran duo combine for four automatic berths

Dagel and Miller lead IF-A girls at Dike

BY JUSTIN ITES | ites@iafalls.com

The familiar names that have helped carry the points load for the Iowa Falls-Alden girls track program during the past 3-4 years answered the bell again at Thursday's Class 2A State Qualifier Meet in Dike.

Sprinter Jazz Dagel and distance runner Teah Miller delivered in multiple events, as the duo combined for four automatic berths into next week's State Track and Field Championships.

Dagel will return to Des Moines in both the 100 and 200 meters, as she won both events. The Cadet senior crossed the finish line in 12.74, to win the 100, and followed that with a 26.59 time to take the tape in the 200.

Miller did not win any golds, but grabbed the second automatic qualifier spot in both the 3000 and 800 meter events. She finished the 3000 in 10:50.41 to finish behind Manson Northwest-Webster's Alyssa Richman (10:41.64).

Later in the meet, Miller clocked a 2:24.47 and narrow-



Cadet Teah Miller left Dike with a pair of automatic bids to the State Meet. She was second in both the 800 and 3000 meter races.



Jazz Dagel sprinted to first-place finishes in both the 100 and 200 meters. She will compete for State titles next week.

ly lost 800 meter gold to Grundy Center freshman Grace Storjohann (2:24.01).

Miller will have to wait to find out if she can add the 1500 to her State schedule. She wrapped up a third place effort in that event (5:11.64).

The Cadets added a third-place effort in the sprint medley, where the foursome of Dagel, Kenley Chaplin, Angel Sharar and Abby Harding combined for a 1:55.34 finish. The relay was more than two seconds

## Class 2A State Qualifier

Thursday at Dike

**Team Scoring:** 1. Union 116; 2. Aplington-Parkersburg 104; 3. Dike-New Hartford 80; 4. Grundy Center 75; 5. Roland-Story 71; 6. Iowa Falls-Alden 66; 7. Manson Northwest-Webster 57; 8. West Marshall 45; 9. Columbus Catholic 39; 10. South Hardin 36; 11. Hudson 34; 12. East Marshall 18.

### IF-A Results (top 3)

**100 meters:** 1. Jazz Dagel 12.74.  
**3000 Meters:** 2. Teah Miller 10:50.41.  
**Sprint Med:** 3. (Dagel, Kenley Chaplin, Angel Sharar, Abby Harding) 1:55.34.  
**800 meters:** 2. Miller 2:24.47.  
**200 meters:** 1. Dagel 26.59.  
**1500:** 3. Miller 5:11.64.  
**Note:** top 2 finishers in each event automatically qualify for State.

behind Dike-NH's second place finish. Roland-Story won the sprint med in a time of 1:52.23.

The Iowa Girls High School Athletic Association was expected to announce at-large bids during the day on Friday. ■

CLASS 2A STATE QUALIFIER

# Tigers secure at least four events

SH hopeful for five more State events

BY MARISSA VANWINGEN | mvanwingen@iafalls.com

When it is all said and done, there weren't many surprises from the Class 2A State Qualifier in Dike.

The South Hardin events that were supposed to make it did and others that were on the bubble were still waiting for at large bids. Between the Tiger boys and girls, there were four automatic qualifiers and five that were waiting to hear.

SH opened with a win in the high jump. Sophomore Traven Wheeler broke a school record and made his Des Moines debut earlier this spring at the Drake Relays. He won the high jump as the only athlete to clear 6'2" and became the first automatic qualifier of the night.

He will be joined by teammate Chizzy Richmond. Richmond is also not making his Drake Stadium debut. He was one fourth of the 4x200 that made it last spring. This time, he is running in multiple opens.

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South Hardin's Traven Wheeler celebrates clearing 6'2" and winning the boys high jump at the Class 2A State Qualifier in Dike. He will jump in Des Moines on Friday.

MARISSA VANWINGEN / TIMES CITIZEN