

THURSDAY TRACK: CLASS 2A STATE-QUALIFYING MEET

Contenders earn top seeds at state



Unity Christian senior Gracie Schoonhoven competes in the 400-meter hurdles at the Class 2A state-qualifying meet Thursday in Sheldon. She will be seeded second in the event at the state meet in Des Moines. Photo by Roy Tucker

Knights make strong run at girls title, Pioneers keep rolling on boys side

BY SCOTT BYERS
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SELDON—The forecast thunderstorms stayed away so the athletes were able to make some noise of their own during the Class 2A state-qualifying meet on Thursday in Sheldon.

Sioux Central won a three-team race to the end for the girls title, finishing 2.5 points ahead of Unity Christian and 6.5 up on West Lyon.

Okoboji continued its dominant season on the boys side in taking the title. Central Lyon carried through on its late-season surge and took second.

Unity girls come up big

Unity Christian fell just short of the girls title, but coach Jina Tinkenberg said she got just about everything she could have hoped for out of the group.

"The girls dug deep. They pulled out the times I knew they had in them," she said. "Our 4-by-800 and 4-by-400

dropped great season's bests that will put us in a nice position at the state meet. High jump in our district is extremely competitive, but great competition pushed the girls to some great marks. Aubrey De Groot hit a new PR again."

Unity Christian will be the fourth seed at state in the 800-meter relay, just behind Okoboji. The Pioneers won that race in Sheldon. Its 1,600

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FRIDAY GIRLS GOLF: CLASS 2A REGIONAL

Central Lyon adjusts to weather

Course dries out as day moves on

BY SCOTT BYERS
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LARCHWOOD—Central Lyon set the pace and West Lyon was not far behind at the Class 2A girls golf regional hosted by the Wildcats on Friday.

Central Lyon turned in a team total of 366.

"I was really pleased with the way the girls played and fought during a challenging day where the golf course really changed halfway through the round," said Central Lyon coach Ben Gerleman. "The rain and moisture really made the course play slow the first half of the round, then when it dried out it played much differently."

Amelia Schneidermann of Central Lyon was medalist with an 84.

"Amelia was great on a day where Jaina (Groen) and Mariah (Gerleman) left strokes on the course they don't normally lose," coach Gerleman said. "Our four, five and six girls played well and helped our team to the low score of the day."

West Lyon was six strokes back. Madison DeJong was the runner-up for the Wildcats with an 88.

Because the Wildcats advanced, a third team got to move to the regional final, which will be Wednesday at Landsmeer Golf Club in Orange City. Western Christian nipped Sheldon for that honor. The Wolfpack carded a 437, four shots better than the Orabs.

"There was a threat of some weather issues, and it rained in the morning, but it actually turned out to be a great day

See **GOLF** on page C2



West Lyon senior Madison DeJong uses her putter from just off the green Friday at Meadow Acres Golf Club in Larchwood. DeJong was the runner-up. Photo by Roy Tucker

THE N'WEST IOWA REVIEW

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

SAM WILBUR

SHE WON THE WAR EAGLE CONFERENCE MEET LAST WEEK WITH AN 18-HOLE SCORE OF 85

What brand of clubs is your favorite? Callaway.

Which feeling is better, sinking a long putt or blasting a long drive down the center of the fairway? Definitely sinking a long putt.

What quote or phrase do you hear the most from your coach? "Keep your head down."

Aside from your home course, which golf course is your favorite to play on? Definitely the Ridge in Sioux Center.

Who is your favorite golfer? Bryson DeChambeau.

If there was an Olympics for everyday activities, outside of sports, what would you have the best chance at medaling in? Photography.

If you could have any superpower, what would

you want? Teleportation, so I could go anywhere in the world easily.

Where is your favorite place to eat in N'West Iowa? JW's in Paulina.

What is your favorite app on your phone? TikTok.

If you were stuck on a desert island with a working TV and could only watch two movies the entire time you were there, what movies would you pick? "8 Seconds" and "Soul Surfer."

Outside of N'West Iowa, what city or town would be the best to live in? Washington D.C.

If you had your own action figure, what two accessories would it come with? A camera and a driver.

What is your favorite TV or streaming series? "Ginny and Georgia."

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SOUTH O'BRIEN | GIRLS GOLF | SENIOR

Coach Brady left his mark on Comet hoops

The final buzzer has sounded on the life of a N'West Iowa basketball icon.

You won't find Brady Netten's name in the Boyden-Hull High School basketball record books. He never threw one pass in a Comet uniform, but no one ever had a bigger assist to the program than the 42-year-old from Boyden, who died May 4.

"He was a character," said former Boyden-Hull boys basketball coach Paul Walton. "He was a Boyden-Hull Comet through and through. That's what he was."

Netten, who had Down syndrome, started his affiliation with the team when Walton was the coach and Netten's older brother, Chad, started playing on the varsity. He had two younger brothers, Wade and Derrick, who also played for the Comets under Walton.

"Chad was probably a junior when Brady started to sit on the bench with us," Walton said. "He was just looking for a way to get down there. From that point on, he was Coach Brady. I didn't give him

any specific tasks. I just kind of let him do what he wanted to do."

Walton said the first time he asked Netten to sit with them during a game, Brady plopped down right beside the head coach.

"I told him, 'You can't sit there. That's where coach (Jeff) Meyn sits,'" Walton said. "Brady moved down one seat. A few years later, we hired a freshman coach. At his first varsity game, he goes to sit next to me and Brady goes right up to him and says, 'You can't sit there. That's where coach Meyn sits.'"

Meyn, a longtime assistant coach and athletic director for Boyden-Hull, said Netten quickly became well known throughout the Siouxland Conference.

See **BRADY** on page C5



SCOTT BYERS
SPORTS EDITOR

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SPORTS

Netten remembered for keeping coaches on toes

BRADY

Continued from page 1

"He lived a rich life. He impacted so many people," Meyn said in a speech at Netten's funeral on Monday. "People loved Brady."

Because of that Netten wound up going places where most people can't go, including to the opponent's locker room or right into their huddle during a timeout.

"He'd walk right over there and go listen to what the other coach was saying to his team," Walton said. "He never came back to us with that

information or what he thought they might be doing, but he'd go listen."

Walton and Meyn recalled a story where Netten followed the Sioux Center boys team, which was coached by Tom Estes then, into the locker room. The Warriors got into a circle, and Estes gave his instructions before they all put their hands in the center and gave a salute. As the circle was broken, Estes noticed Netten sitting right there in the middle of it. Netten looked at the coach and said, "We're going to kick your ass."

Boyden-Hull once was playing in the state tournament and found

there were not enough chairs on the Comets' sideline. Netten, being the resourceful type he was, walked to an area under the basket, grabbed a chair from there and brought it back so everyone would have a seat.

Walton remembered many times where Netten would draw up plays and show the coaches.

"He'd come up with these plays, draw them out and then tell me he had a play he was really sure was going to work good," the coach said. "I'd have to explain to him that we'd take a look at them, but we couldn't run them right away because you

have to practice them first."

Meyn said Netten would help the coaches communicate to the players.

"He was very observant. We'd be calling out a play, and he'd stand up and call out the same play," Meyn said. "There was one game where I was probably yelling at the officials a little too much. Sure enough, Brady gets right up and starts doing it to. I told him, 'If you do that again, I'm going to make you go sit over there.' We come out after halftime, and he's not there. We're wondering: Where is Brady? We spot him in the area I

had pointed to. Someone asked him why he was there, and he told them, 'Coach Meyn kicked me out.'

Every one of these stories made the former Boyden-Hull coaches smile, even during their time of loss. That was Brady's gift.

"People don't understand what an impact he had on our team and the impact he had on kids coming through the program," Meyn said.

"He had a good life, and he made the rest of our lives better," Walton said. "He was a character, but he was a great fella. He just had a gift for helping other people."

THURSDAY TRACK: CLASS 1A STATE-QUALIFYING MEET IN ARMSTRONG

Conley and Johnson show off skills, qualifying for blue oval in eight events

South O'Brien boys get fourth place as team

BY SCOTT BYERS
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ARMSTRONG—Willie Conley of South O'Brien and Isaiah Johnson of George-Little Rock each qualified for state in every event they attempted to highlight the efforts of the N'West Iowa athletes at the Class 1A state-qualifying meet Thursday at North Union.

The Wolverines wound up fourth in the boys team standings, the top effort of the N'West Iowa groups that included girls and boys teams from South O'Brien, George-Little Rock and Trinity Christian.

Girls push the limit

The George-Little Rock girls had three events qualify for the state meet, which will be held May 18-20 in Des Moines. Senior Roya Amirhamzeh was a part of all three of those. She finished third in the 400-meter dash. She was the third leg of a 3,200 relay that included Lexi Landis, Lindsey Haken and Hannah Anderson. She anchored a 1,600 relay team that included Haken, Taryn Odens and Anderson.

"We had quite a bit of options on the girls side. We thought the 4-by-1 would be close. We had to have been either the first or second one out," said George-Little Rock coach Mitch Lupkes. "Our 4-by-8 ran their fastest time of the year by far and as it turned out they needed to. Our best coming in was around a 10:42, which was right at what it took to get there last year. We ran a 10:33 and we were the last ones in."

Lupkes said with a smaller roster, the Mustangs did slow down toward the end.

"We ran some fast times, but a lot of our girls were in other events and eventually the wear and tear was starting to show," he said.

South O'Brien was the highest team

finisher among the N'West Iowa girls at eighth, but coach Mark Fuhrman said they needed to squeeze out just a little more.

"In most things we were a couple of seconds out," he said. "It was one of those deals where we were either going to sneak in or be on the outside looking in, and we ended up on the outside. Our distance medley ran their best time, so you can't fault that. A lot of our sprint relays were just out."

Maddie Johnson will represent the Wolverines at state in the shot. She placed fourth at the qualifier with a throw of 35 feet, 5.75 inches.

"It wasn't her best, so we were a little concerned, but she did get in," Fuhrman said. "We'll hope to improve on that when we get down there."

Trinity Christian's best finish was a runner-up medal for Alicia Moss in the long jump.

"She had her personal best," said Trinity Christian coach Shawna Hoksbergen. "It was a good meet. It was nice weather and good conditions to run. We had a lot of good races."

Stars shine for boys

South O'Brien will send athletes to state in five events on the boys side.

Conley took first place in the high jump and the 400 hurdles. He was on a shuttle hurdle relay team that placed second and a sprint medley team that was fourth. Boston Riedemann, who was also on the shuttle team, made it to Des Moines in the 110 hurdles.

"I was very pleased with our performance as a whole. The kids did a great job of competing," said South O'Brien coach Brant Goodchild. "Our relays were a team effort with all of them running the best they have all year. Our kids knew we had to run our best to have a shot at the state track meet."

Johnson came up a little short in his personal dual with Bryer Proch-

niak of North Union, but still put up some blazing times for the Mustangs. Prochniak ran the fastest state-qualifying times in the state in the 100 and 200 dashes. Johnson was third statewide in those two events. Johnson ran the second best qualifying time in the state in the 400 dash behind Theo Moseman of Lawton-Bronson.

Johnson anchored a 400 relay team that will be headed to Des Moines.

"The kid from North Union has proved himself to be one of the top sprinters in the state and they've been going nose to nose. We got him in our heat at Drake. He got us here," Lupkes said. "There is a little rivalry brewing there since they have seen each other three or four times. Isaiah qualified in four events. That's what studs do."

Lane Kruger, Jack Krull and Brandon Van Briesen joined him on the relay team. Evan Kruger won the discus for the Mustangs to punch his state ticket.

"Kruger was a state-qualifier last year. He got into a little slump, but he got out of it with a pretty good throw here," Lupkes said. "It says a lot about him and the work he's put in."

Trinity Christian senior Dustin Hoksbergen qualified in the high jump and the 400 dash.

"We are really excited about that. It went the way we wanted to," coach Hoksbergen said. "He has gone 6-2 before so his jump could have been better, but he had very few misses. His time in the 400 was good. He was able to lower it some and has put himself in a good spot."

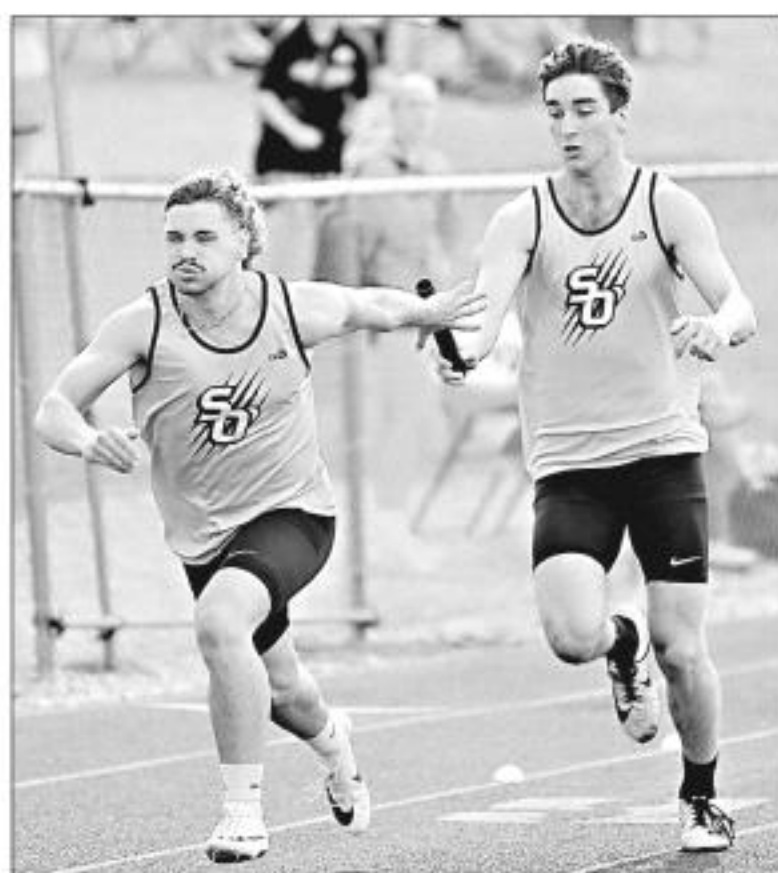
Class 1A state-qualifying meet

Girls team results

1. Alta-Aurelia 119; 2. Newell-Fonda 107; 3. Algona Garigan 100; 4. Fort Dodge St. Edmund 77; 5. West Bend-Mallard 65; 6. North Union 50; 7. West Hancock 41; 8. South O'Brien 40; 9. North Iowa 47; 10. George-Little Rock 32; 11. Graceland-Terrill/Ruthven-Ayrshire 32; 12. Trinity Christian 10; 13. Harris-Lake Park 14; 14. Storm Lake St. Mary's 7.

N'West Iowa results

Discus - 7. Lindsey Haken (G-LR) 88-10.
Shot - 4. Maddie Johnson (SOS) 35-5.75.
Long jump - 2. Alicia Moss (TC) 14-5; 6. Neesah



South O'Brien junior Cole Tjossem takes the baton from senior Jacob Van Lith in the sprint medley on Thursday in Armstrong. The Wolverines got fourth as a team at the Class 1A state-qualifying meet. Photo by Rylan Howe

Fuecht (G-LR) 12-9.5; 7. Maddy Friedrichsen (SOS) 12-9.25.

Sprint medley - 4. South O'Brien 1:58.42.

3,200 relay - 5. George-Little Rock (Lexi Landis, Lindsey Haken, Roya Amirhamzeh, Hannah Anderson) 10:33.30; 7. South O'Brien 11:49.77.

100 - 5. Taryn Odens (G-LR) 13.51.

Distance medley - 3. South O'Brien 4:54.11.

400 - 3. Roya Amirhamzeh (G-LR) 1:02.49; 5. Makiah De Jager (TC) 1:05.44; 8. Shelby Andringa (TC) 1:10.41.

800 relay - 4. South O'Brien 1:52.85; 6. George-Little Rock 2:01.09.

100 hurdles - 7. Marissa Ebel (SOS) 18.24.

800 - 6. Makiah De Jager (TC) 2:38.31; 7. Takara Conley (SOS) 2:42.78.

400 hurdles - 4. Teja Conley (SOS) 1:13.26.

1,500 - 7. Lexi Landis (G-LR) 5:36.77; 8. Takara Conley (SOS) 5:43.34.

400 relay - 4. South O'Brien 53.13; 5. George-Little Rock 53.24.

1,600 relay - 3. George-Little Rock (Lindsey Haken, Taryn Odens, Hannah Anderson, Roya Amirhamzeh) 4:23.27.

Boys team results

1. Fort Dodge St. Edmund 103; 2. Newell-Fonda 98; 3. West Hancock 90; 4. South O'Brien 74; 5. Algona Garigan 67; 6. Alta-Aurelia 60; 7. George-Little Rock 40; 8. North Union 47; 9. North Iowa 43; 10. Harris-Lake Park 25; 11. West Bend-Mallard 24; 12. Graceland-Terrill/Ruthven-Ayrshire 21; 13. Storm Lake St. Mary's 20; 14. Trinity Christian 14.

N'West Iowa results

High jump - 1. Willie Conley (SOS) 6-2; 3. Dustin Hoksbergen (TC) 6-0; 7. Brody Van Beek (SOS) 5-4.

Discus - 1. Evan Kruger (G-LR) 132-6.

Shot - 6. Josh Grade (SOS) 42-5.75.

Long jump - 2. Jacob Van Lith (SOS) 19-7; 7. Damian Villarreal (SOS) 17-7.

Sprint medley - 4. South O'Brien (Jacob Van Lith, Cole Tjossem, Hudson Oolman, Willie Conley) 1:37.28.

3,200 relay - 8. George-Little Rock 9:32.38.

Shuttle hurdle - 2. South O'Brien (Grant Wagner, Brennan Billick, Willie Conley, Boston Riedemann) 1:04.54.

100 - 2. Isaiah Johnson (G-LR) 10.83; 4. Cole Tjossem (SOS) 11.63.

Distance medley - 4. George-Little Rock 3:50.90; 6. South O'Brien 4:09.32.

400 - 1. Isaiah Johnson (G-LR) 50.40; 3. Dustin Hoksbergen (TC) 52.13.

800 relay - 8. South O'Brien 1:41.09.

110 hurdles - 2. Boston Riedemann (SOS) 15.84; 4. Grant Wagner (SOS) 17:01.

200 - 2. Isaiah Johnson (G-LR) 22.37; 8. Hudson Oolman (SOS) 24.28.

400 hurdles - 1. Willie Conley (SOS) 57.07; 7. Dustin Hoksbergen (TC) 1:01.05.

400 relay - 3. George-Little Rock (Lane Kruger, Jack Krull, Brandon Van Briesen, Isaiah Johnson) 45.18; 6. South O'Brien 46.87.

1,600 relay - 8. George-Little Rock 3:51.55.

THURSDAY TRACK: CLASS 1A STATE-QUALIFYING MEET IN LAWTON

Gehlen Catholic boys jump past competition in team win

Jays place eighth in girls standings

BY SCOTT BYERS
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LAWTON—The Gehlen Catholic boys track and field team added the Class 1A state-qualifying meet in Lawton to its series of conquests this season Thursday while the girls squad saw a couple of its veteran leaders extend their seasons for one more meet.

The Gehlen Catholic boys won the meet by 50 team points. The Jays will be sending athletes to state in 12 events.

Seniors Miyah Whitehead and Sophie Ruden will represent the girls team at the state meet, which is May 18-20 in Des Moines.

Chase is on

Gehlen Catholic qualified for state in 12 boys events, two more than the Jays ever had before in coach Jeremy Schindler's tenure. The coach said that was helped by the level of competition.

"It was the best district meet I've ever been a part of. In every event, if you won it you earned it," he said. "Lawton-Bronson was probably the cream of the crop in the sprints. We were chasing them all night. We ended up with a lot of second and thirds on the night. Ending it with a win in the 4-by-4 was fun. That's my favorite race."

Schindler said with the amount of success the Jays



Gehlen Catholic junior Jaxten Kramer leaps over the bar in the high jump at the Class 1A state-qualifying meet on Thursday in Lawton. The Jays finished first as a team. Photo by Allen Hamil

have seen this year, the qualifying meet was just another step.

"I've got a great group of kids. If we're ever going to do something, this is going to be the year," he said. "We're looking to go down and bring back a lot of hardware. We're capable of that in many individual events and relays. We need to go down and perform our best and then we'll see where the team stuff falls."

That task was made a little tougher Thursday when the wind picked up.

"It hurt the sprinters. For Keaten Bonderson, he might not get a great lane at state.

That doesn't matter too much in the 100, but in the 200 we have work to do," Schindler said. "The good thing is some of the kids that had better times than him, he has beaten them. I've seen him do it this year."

The coach was excited to see the approach of his team throughout the meet.

"Just the intensity and attention to detail was very good," he said. "I was happy with the number we got in. We got edged out for getting a second long jumper in, but for the most part we got in where I thought we would. It was an awesome job by our team. But

now the intensity has to go up again two or three fold. At state you are competing against the best of the best."

Bonderson won the 100- and 200-meter dash. Cole McCarty won the 110 hurdles. The Jays also won the 1,600 relay.

Experience matters

Gehlen Catholic girls coach Travis Westhoff took a largely young group to the qualifier and the pressure of the situation was a factor.

"We found ourselves competing in a tough district this year. There were some nerves coming into the meet as we

were running against strong competition we don't normally see," he said. "That can be a tough challenge to overcome for a young team. However, there were some bright spots."

Whitehead is a three-time state qualifier in the discus after winning the meet with a toss of 113 feet, 6 inches. Ruden will run at state in the 400 hurdles for the third straight year after placing second in 1 minute, 11.06 seconds.

"I'm proud of the approach Miyah took in the discus. Even with some odd conditions thrown her way, she qualified for state for the third year in a row," Westhoff said. "I'm happy for both of those girls and happy with the work they have put in."

Westhoff said other highlights were Brynn Wendt in the 100 dash and the 3,200 relay team. Each placed fifth.

"There are a lot of things we can do to make ourselves better for next season, but I'm proud of the determination I saw from these girls and the willingness to adapt to any situation," the coach said. "That will serve us well going forward."

Class 1A state-qualifying meet

Girls team results

1. Woodbine 117; 2. Logan-Magnolia 100; 3. Lawton-Bronson 92; 4. West Monona 83; 5. River Valley 67; 6. Westwood 51; 7. Ransom St. Mary's 45; 8. Gehlen Catholic 42; 9. Boyer Valley 36; 9. Akon-Westfield 36; 11. MMCRU 26; 12. Seward Christian 25; 13. West Harrison 16; 14. Whiting 1.

Gehlen Catholic results

Discus - 1. Miyah Whitehead 113-6.

Shot - 2. Miyah Whitehead 34-0.5.

3,000 - 8. Addison Arena 12:15.58.

3,200 relay - 5. Gehlen Catholic 11:50.03.

100 - 5. Bryen West 14.13.

100 hurdles - 6. Sophie Ruden 18.12.

800 - 6. Haley Pohlen 2:45.37.

400 hurdles - 2. Sophie Ruden 1:11.06.

400 relay - 8. Gehlen Catholic 54.96.

Boys team results

1. Gehlen Catholic 142; 2. Lawton-Bronson 92; 3. Woodbine 81; 4. MMCRU 79; 5. West Monona 72; 6. Westwood 71; 7. Logan-Magnolia 67; 8. Boyer Valley 55; 9. Akon-Westfield 44; 10. West Harrison 22; 11. Seward Christian 13; 12. Ransom St. Mary's 2.

Gehlen Catholic results

High jump - 4. Jaxten Kramer 5-8.

Shot - 8. Evan Steeg 41-10.5.

Long jump - 3. Cole McCarty 20-0; 4. Connor Kraft 19-11.

Sprint medley - 2. Gehlen Catholic (Kale Pearson, Aiden Spangler, Chance Kalsen, Ryan Augustine) 1:36.44.

3,200 - 6. Bela Boehmelt 11:03.86; 8. Braden Weber 11:41.62.

3,200 relay - 3. Gehlen Catholic (Trevor Teel, Zach Harpenau, Eric Scheffler, Ryan Augustine) 8:37.24.

Shuttle hurdle - 3. Gehlen Catholic (Cole McCarty, Brandon Gengler, Ethan Nuebel, Jaxten Kramer) 1:31.75.

100 - 1. Keaten Bonderson 11.47; 3. Aiden Spangler 12.18.

Distance medley - 5. Gehlen Catholic 4:07.09.

400 - 2. Chance Kalsen 51.07; 7. Ashton Budden 54.87.

800 relay - 2. Gehlen Catholic (Kale Pearson, Aiden Spangler, Connor Kraft, Keaten Bonderson) 1:31.81.

110 hurdles - 1. Cole McCarty 15.89; 5. Ethan Nuebel 17.32.

800 - 2. Ryan Augustine 2:04.85; 4. Zac Harperau 2:10.73.

200 - 1. Keaten Bonderson 23.04; 3. Chance Kalsen 24.06.

400 hurdles - 8. Ethan Nuebel 1:01.51.

1,600 - 6. Trevor Teel 4:55.87.

400 relay - 3. Gehlen Catholic (Kale Pearson, Aiden Spangler, Connor Kraft, Cole McCarty) 45.49.

1,600 relay - 1. Gehlen Catholic (Chance Kalsen, Ryan Augustine, Ashton Budden, Keaten Bonderson) 3:28.99.