

Two Cowboys place at state track meet

Two Cowboys placed at the state Class 4A track and field championship this weekend at Cessna Stadium in Wichita, with one bringing home two medals.

Junior Bret Jarmin earned three points by placing fifth in the javelin with a throw of 173 feet 5 inches on his first attempt.

Senior Espirion "Speedy" Aguilar placed seventh in both the 800-meter dash and the 1,600-meter run, picking up one point for each. Aguilar ran the 800 in 2 minutes 2.14 seconds and the 1,600 in 4 minutes 44.44 seconds.

In his preliminary heats, senior Josef Felver ran the 100-meter dash in 11.56 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 23.47 seconds, but did not qualify for the final race in either event.

Senior Dan Melia ran his preliminary race for the 110-meter high hurdles in 15.52 seconds and missed qualifying for the final by one spot.

The Cowboys 4x100-meter relay team of Jarmin, Felver, and seniors Jared Doke and Lance Tedford finished in 45.15 in its preliminary heat but failed to qualify for the final.

For the Cowgirls, freshman Kaylee Billinger ran the 100-meter dash in 12.9 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 27.39 seconds, but did not qualify in either event. Freshman Emily Murray ran the 300-meter low hurdles in 50.03 but also did not advance. Freshman Dani Bedore finished 14th overall in the long jump with her best effort of 14 feet



10.5 inches, which came on her first attempt.

The Cowgirls 4x100-meter relay of Billinger, Murray, Bedore and junior Kara Angelos ran in 51.77 seconds and missed advancing to the finals by one spot.

The Crusaders of Buhler High

School matched their performance at the regional meet by winning both the boys and girls competition in, the state Class 4A meet and taking home the championship trophies. The Lady Eagles of Colby finished sixth.

Other top 10 girls teams from the

Northeast Kansas League competing at their respective state meets include the Lady Eagles of Hoxie, who finished second in Class 2A, and the girls team from St. Francis High School which finished ninth. The Lady Buffaloes of Atwood were ninth at the state Class 1A



Junior Bret Jarmin (left) threw the javelin 173 feet 5 inches and placed fifth at the state Class 4A track meet in Wichita Saturday. Jarmin was fifth at the state meet last year. Senior Dan Melia (above) had the ninth best time after the preliminary heats of the 110-meter high hurdles and missed qualifying for the final by one spot.

Photo by Shawn Jarmin

meet. First-place finishers include junior Crystal Follis of Hoxie in the 400-meter dash and Talisa Voorhies of St. Francis in the long jump. Hoxie's 4x100-meter and 4x400-meter girls relay team both won. Top 10 finishes for the league's boys team were Atwood, ninth in Class 1A, and Decatur Community

High School of Oberlin, which finished in a four-way tie for ninth in Class 2A.

First-place finishers for the boys include sophomore Teryn Grafel of Oberlin in the 100-meter high hurdles and senior Jeff Horinek of Atwood in the discus. Oakley's 4x400-meter relay team won the Class 3A competition.

Football-only conferences good idea, but need work

Only about half of the universities and colleges with athletic programs play intercollegiate football, this is why football-only conferences are formed.

These conferences provide a championship for their member teams to work for, improve their chances for post-season play and enhance the prestige of their football programs.

At NCAA Division I-AA, there are three of these conferences: the Gateway Football Conference, the Pioneer Football League and the Great West Football Conference. The Great West was formed in February with four of its six teams in their first or second year of transition from Division II to Division I. The Gateway is entering its 13th



greg stover

• greg's gripes

year as a football-only conference and is one of eight conferences whose champion gets an automatic spot in the post-season playoffs.

It has eight members, seven of which come from conferences that do not sponsor football. Five are members of the Missouri Valley Conference, one a member of the Mid-Continent Conference and one a member of the Horizon League. The other one is Western Kentucky

University, a member of the Sun Belt Conference, which sponsors football at the Division I-AA level.

Not much to gripe about with this conference; it has the right number of members, they all play an 11-game schedule and they participate in the playoffs. In fact, last season, four members went to the playoffs, with two reaching the quarterfinals.

About the only thing I would do with this conference is suggest Western Kentucky move to a conference that either plays football in Division I-AA or doesn't sponsor football at all. Or possibly the Hilltoppers could move up to Divi-

sion I-AA; they seem strong enough, having made the playoffs four years in a row and winning the national championship in 2002.

Pioneer has nine members, five of which belong to conferences that do not sponsor a football championship. That is fine with me, but the other four belong to conferences that play football at the Division I-AA level, so why go someplace else?

To have a real rivalry between schools, it should include as many sports, along with academic competition. These schools must have reasons, and I would like to find out

what they are. In the meantime, I'll gripe about it.

Austin Peay State University and Morehead State University belong to the Ohio Valley Conference, which plays Division I-AA football. If these two stay where they belong, the conference would have 11 teams, which I say is one too many. Still it would allow each team to play each conference opponent and have one non-conference game for variety.

Davidson College belongs to the Southern Conference, which has nine teams playing at Division I-AA. Sending Davidson back would

make 10, which is the most a conference should have.

The remaining team is the University of Dayton. It belongs to the Atlantic 10 Conference, which I already pointed out is a total mess.

Maybe I ask for too much by suggesting ways to better organize college football, but life gets dull if there is nothing to gripe about.

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Lady Outlaws face Cougars

The 2004 schedule for the Lady Outlaws 14-and-under softball team has been finished, with the team's next action set for 5 p.m. Wednesday at Centennial Park against the Colorado Cougars from Wray.

This Friday and Saturday, the team will play in the Hays Invita-

tional. The Lady Outlaws will compete at a tournament every weekend in June and will play one or two doubleheaders during the week. Next Thursday at 5 p.m., the girls will host the Colby Sweet Thunder.

The Kansas Amateur Softball Association Region 5 tournament will be July 10-11 in Hill City.

Teams that qualify will advance to the Class C State Championship July 16-18 in Topeka.

The Lady Outlaws started their season May 22 with the Goodland Invitational. The team went 1 for 3, including a 5-3 loss to Colorado and a 10-7 loss to Colby.

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