



Rooster Rush winners named

Pictured above are the 2024 Clark Rooster Rush winners. The Rooster Rush decorating contest is sponsored by the Clark Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber made their decision on October 21. The final result was based on the decoration details and items.

The top photo showcases the best decorated business display: Duenwald Transportation. The bottom photo is the residential display winner at Pam and Troy Grensberg's residence.

The Clark Area Chamber of Commerce also held a coloring contest for Clark Elementary School students to celebrate Rooster Rush. The colored pages are currently decorating Clark businesses. The students who won included: preschool - Beau Irlbeck, kindergarten - Akech Cronauer, first grade - Ava Wieseler, second grade - Stella Linneman, third grade - Everleigh Weber, fourth grade - Peyton Hardy and fifth grade - Mika Sell. The winning colored pages, including first through third place, can be seen in the windows of the Clark County Courier office.

Photos by Trudi Gaikowski



Fun times at the Fall Festival in Clark

Fun was had by all at the Fall Festival that was held in the Clark High School gym on Friday, October 18. The event ran from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and was hosted by the Clark FFA chapter with proceeds going to the Cyclone Family PTO. There were many carnival games for the kids to enjoy set up all around the gym. There were also three bouncy houses set up in the field house. A soup potluck and root beer floats were served as a free-will donation meal.

Photo byCarolynn Olson

State Cross Country Meet in Rapid City on Saturday, October 26

The State Cross Country Meet will be held in Rapid City October 26, 2024 at Hart Ranch Camping Resort. Race schedule listed below:
 Class B Girls: 12:00 p.m.
 Class A Girls: 12:30 p.m.
 Class AA Girls: 1:00 p.m.
 Class B Boys: 1:30 p.m.
 Class A Boys: 2:00 p.m.
 Class AA Boys: 2:30 p.m.
 Awards: Following the conclusion of the final race

Last year's team champions were: B Girls: Potter County; B Boys: Philip; A Girls: Sioux Falls Christian; A Boys: Hill City; AA Girls: Brandon Valley; AA Boys: Sioux Falls Lincoln.
 Full Championship meet information, can be found online via South Dakota Public Broadcasting (www.sdpb.org) or through the SDHSA website (www.sdhhsaa.com)

Florence-Henry qualifies four for state cross country meet

By Heather Jordan

WEBSTER—The Florence-Henry Falcons qualified four runners for the state meet at the Region 1A Cross Country meet held October 16 at the Webster Golf Course.

Falcons Sierra Keller, Emma Caulfield, Carson Vavruska and Austin Keller will advance to the 2024 State Cross Country Meet to be held in Rapid City on October 26.

Florence-Henry placed fourth in the team standings in the boys' varsity race 67 points behind Great Plains Lutheran, Deuel and Milbank. The Falcon girls' team placed fifth with 77 points.

According to head coach Stacey Busskohl, "I was thrilled to have a full boys' and girls' team running this year. I knew it would be a challenge to place third, but we had to try. I am proud of our fourth place team standing."

Carson Vavruska placed 12th

(19:42.55), while teammate Austin Keller finished in 14th place (19:48.60) to qualify for state, and they came into the race with a plan to succeed. "The boys were going to push each other through the race and place top 20 so they could go to state. Their strategy worked!" Coach Busskohl exclaimed.

With the elation of qualifying came the bittersweet moment of realizing that two Falcons placed 21st overall, missing the qualification standard by one place. Dawson Hlavacek battled Clark-Willow Lake's Will Hovde for most of the race and finished just out of the medals in a photo finish.

In the girls' varsity race, lightning struck twice as senior Griffyn Muller also found herself in 21st position at the finish line. "Griffyn ran a very competitive race, and I am very proud of her. She finished her six-year cross country career

positively. Griffyn started playing softball last spring, and the girls qualified for state last year, so I am sure she will be excited for softball again," added Coach Busskohl.

With a young and hungry nucleus of runners on her roster, Coach Busskohl looks forward to the 2025 campaign next fall. "With all of our young runners on the team, we are excited and can't wait to run as a stronger team next season looking at state as our goal."

Teammates Sierra Keller and Emma Caulfield qualified for the state meet placing 18th and 19th respectively and look forward to the challenge of the post season race in Rapid City this coming Saturday. "They are very excited to run at state," added Coach Busskohl. "They plan to push each other and finish with their best times of the season."

Boys' Varsity

Team scores: 1, Great Plains Lutheran 28; 2, Deuel 29; 3, Milbank 30, 4, Florence-Henry 67, 5, Clark-Willow Lake 109

Florence-Henry results: 12, Carson Vavruska 19:42.55; 14, Austin Keller 19:48.60, 21, Dawson Hlavacek 20:00.47, 29, Adrian Flisrand 21:09.74; 34, Zach Schroeder 21:47.97; 43, Derek Flisrand 22:40.88.

Girls' Varsity

Team scores: 1, Clark/Willow Lake 25; 2, Milbank 37; 3, Deuel 45; 4, Aberdeen Roncalli 74; 5, Florence-Henry 77.

Florence-Henry results: 18, Sierra Keller 22:37.75; 19, Emma Caulfield 22:43.82; 21, Griffyn Muller 23:03.12; 34, Brooke Hlavacek 24:29.25; 41, Jorja Nelsen 25:49.26; 42, AJ Linder 25:59.27.

JV Girls: 21, Brooke Meland 17:34.50.



The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones advanced seven cross country runners to the state meet that will be in Rapid City on Saturday, Oct. 26. The runners advancing are pictured, from left to right: Kamryn Nesheim, Emma Bochek, Jennifer Bevers, Cadence Bochek, Hadley Gjerde, Faith Roehrich and Will Hovde.

Photos by Valerie Roehrich

Cyclones win Northeast Conference XC championship

▲ Seven Cyclones advance to state meet

By Heather Jordan

The Clark-Willow Lake girls and Great Plains Lutheran boys claimed Region 1A cross country titles October 16 at the Webster Golf Course.

The Clark-Willow Lake girls won the meet scoring 25 points with Milbank (37) in second and Deuel (45) in third place. The Great Plains Lutheran boys scored 28 points just one point ahead of Deuel (29) and Milbank (30). The Clark-Willow Lake boys' team placed fifth with 109 points.

With a berth to qualify for the 2024 South Dakota State Cross Country meet on the line, the races were as wild as the blustery weather. With just one week in between the Northeast Conference and Region 1A races on the exact same course, it was almost as if mother nature shook a snow globe to mix up both the race conditions and the final placings.

In the girls' varsity race, Clark-Willow Lake's Kamryn Nesheim, who won the Northeast Conference title just one week ago, placed third after a photo finish with Aberdeen Roncalli's Addison Cassidy. Nesheim and Cassidy battled for the final 50 meters of the race in a dead-on sprint with Cassidy clipping Nesheim at the line for the runner-up title in the blink of an eye. Deuel's Jaycee Horigan won the championship title in 20:29, ahead of Aberdeen Roncalli's Addison Cassidy (20:42.00) and Clark-Willow Lake's Kamryn Nesheim (20:42.41).

The entire race day was a battle. It was man vs. man as far as competitors were concerned, but also man vs. nature as the weather provided winds that gusted to 40 mph for the duration of the event. According to head coach Tammie Paulson, "The first mile was tight with Kamryn and Jaycee. Faith (Roehrich) stayed right there for a quarter mile or so, and then Jaycee took a good lead on

Kamryn in the second mile. Addison snuck up on her at the end."

Jennifer Bevers placed sixth (20:57.58), Emma Bochek placed ninth (21:19.75), Roehrich placed 11th (21:27.86), Cadence Bochek claimed 14th (21:52.88), and Hadley Gjerde placed 26th (24:04.47) to bring home the girls' third region title in three attempts.

The Cyclone girls' team advanced to the state meet winning the Region 1A title completing a three-peat of titles including victories in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Momentum has been building at Clark-Willow Lake, and the team's success continues to emerge as they prepare for the upcoming state meet in Rapid City.

"We have been blessed with great runners that have a determination to win," added Coach Paulson. "Those two characteristics combined make for a great team. We are hoping for a great week of practice, good fuel and hydration, and we are headed into the state meet with confidence and determination."

Back in August, the Cyclones were striving to take home some hardware from state placing in the top six teams. Now, CWL is primed and ready to run with the best in the state, and Coach Paulson believes that her team can compete. "We are going into State with the same goal. We have an awesome, tough, determined six, and depending on the day, the girls are more than capable of accomplishing this goal. It will all depend on the day."

In the boys' varsity race, junior Will Hovde qualified by a millimeter! Hovde and his Cyclone teammates battled both the wind and a sturdy pack of runners all aiming for the same goal: qualify for state by placing in the top 20.

According to Coach Paulson, "Will's race was neck and neck the entire time.

There was a group of five, and they stuck together the entire race." Speaking of wild conditions, this race featured a disqualification by a Sisseton runner who made some cuts on the course and a mishap with the placings as the top 20 filtered into the finish chute. "The 19th place runner got lost in the mix at the finish line and wasn't recorded in the top 20. Will had to go verify that the runner did in fact come in in front of him." Honesty is the best policy, and Hovde represented himself, his team and his school the right way.

As Hovde enters his first state cross country meet, expectations remain high. "At State, I am hoping for Will to have a great run and push himself to see where he can place," added Coach Paulson. "The State A boys' race is a dang tough race. We are just so proud of Will for working as hard as he did to be our lone boy placer."

For the Cyclones boys' team, it was Oh, so close. Eighth grader Ayden Peterson got a taste of high-level running placing 22nd overall (20:30.52). "Ayden was in about 26th place for most of the race, and in the last quarter mile, he gave everything he had to make his way up to 22nd position. It was just a little bit too late," recalled Coach Paulson. "He is excited to get in some summer miles and come back strong next season."

Team mainstays Alex Reil and Aksel Gjerde placed 38th and 39th, while Logan Seefeldt crossed the finish line in 47th. As the 2024 campaign closed, a bright future looms on the horizon for a successful 2025 campaign. To qualify as a team, Coach Paulson had the following advice: "Logan needs miles and some strength building over the summer. Aksel has the endurance, and needs to work on his speed throughout the track season and summer. Both have potential to helps us once again

qualify a boys' team."

"It has truly once again been an awesome season," reflected Coach Paulson. "As a cross-country coach, I know the will it takes for these runners to go out and compete at our seven meets. The sport doesn't have the crowds and the support at each competition like other sports. I can't say enough how much I respect and admire each of my runners and what they do every single time the gun goes off."

Boys' Varsity

Team scores: 1, Great Plains Lutheran 28; 2, Deuel 29; 3, Milbank 30, 4, Florence-Henry 67, 5, Clark-Willow Lake 109

Clark-Willow Lake results: 20, Will Hovde 20:00.15; 22, Ayden Peterson 20:30.52, 38, Alex Reil 22:14.41, 19, Aksel Gjerde 22:16.81, 47, Logan Seefeldt 23:23.54.

Girls' Varsity

Team scores: 1, Clark-Willow Lake 25; 2, Milbank 37; 3, Deuel 45; 4, Aberdeen Roncalli 74; 5, Florence-Henry 77.

Clark-Willow Lake results: 3, Kamryn Nesheim 20:42.41; 6, Jennifer Bevers 20:57.58; 9, Emma Bochek 21:19.75; 11, Faith Roehrich 21:27.86; 14, Cadence Bochek 21:52.88, 26, Hadley Gjerde 24:04.47.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
October 15.....	55	29	0
October 16.....	53	36	0
October 17.....	62	39	0
October 18.....	70	43	0
October 19.....	67	47	0.06
October 20.....	62	47	0
October 21.....	75	55	0
2024 precipitation to date	18.63"		
2023 precipitation to date	17.81"		

If your non-profit has a project needing funds, apply for a grant by contacting any board member.

Members: Gayle Wookey, Tom LaBrie, Chad Fjelland, Susan Fjelland, Diane Varilek, Greg Furness, David Warkentien, Nicole Nelson and student members Raigan Flatten, Lauren Luvaas, Lincoln Reidburn and Yelaine Ramirez Gonzalez.