

Linn-Mar leads parade to Drake Relays

Written by Jim Ecker

Sunday, 22 April 2012 00:11 -

The Linn-Mar Lions could have a special time at the Drake Relays in Des Moines this week.

The Lions are ranked No.1 in the state in four different prep events entering the prestigious meet at Drake University. Brandon Ophoff is ranked No. 1 in the 110 high hurdles and the 400 low hurdles, Josh Evans is ranked No. 1 in the 3200 meter run and the Lions have the fastest time in the 4x800 relay.

"We seem to be peaking at the right time," Linn-Mar Coach Ken Hopkins said Saturday. "We're really happy with where we're at right now."

The official entries for the Drake Relays were announced Saturday afternoon and the Lions qualified in 12 events to lead the parade of Metro athletes to Des Moines. Unlike the state meet, all the prep contestants will compete in one open division at Drake to see who's best.

The Washington Warriors qualified in 10 events in the boys competition and have the No. 1 time in the sprint medley. The Marion Indians qualified in nine events, followed in the Metro by Prairie (7 events), Xavier (5 events), Jefferson (5 events) and Kennedy (3 events).

The Prairie Hawks have the top time in the 4x400 relay and Timauntay Jones of Jefferson has the No.2 time in the 800 meter run.

The Washington girls track team qualified in seven events to lead the Metro. The Jefferson girls qualified in five events. Xavier, Kennedy and Linn-Mar all qualified in three events and Prairie qualified in one event in the girls competition.

Washington senior Brooke Foreman, the 2011 state champion in the Class 4A 400 meter hurdles, has qualified in the 100 hurdles and 400 hurdles. Jefferson, which won the Class 4A 4x200 relay at the state meet last year, will try to add a Drake Relays title in that event.

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The high school events at the Drake Relays will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

METRO BOYS QUALIFIERS

LINN-MAR (12 events): Josh Evans (1600, 3200), Chase Grabau (1600), Jabez Walker (800), Mike Keiser (110 high hurdles), Brandon Ophoff (110 high hurdles, 400 low hurdles), 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay, 4x800 relay, shuttle hurdle relay, sprint medley.

WASHINGTON (10 events): Will Griffin (100), Robert Hogg (800), Etienne Nzoyisaba (3200), Drake Hickok (110 high hurdles, 400 low hurdles), 4x100 relay, 4x200 relay, 4x400 relay, 4x800 relay, sprint medley.

MARION (9 events): Derrick Williams (100), Lukas Mees (1600, 3200), Taylor Rogers (110 high hurdles), 4x100 relay, 4x200 relay, 4x800 relay, shuttle hurdle relay, sprint medley.

PRAIRIE (7 events): Jacob Aune (800, 3200), Mitch Pritts (3200), 4x100 relay, 4x200 relay, 4x400 relay, sprint medley.

XAVIER (5 events): Nick Steingreaber (100), Alec Clasen (high jump), Craig Murtha (discus), 4x100 relay, 4x200 relay.

JEFFERSON (5 events): Nate Karlan (100), Timauntay Jones (800), 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay, sprint medley.

KENNEDY (3 events): Derek Jacobus (long jump), 4x100 relay, shuttle hurdle relay.

GIRLS METRO QUALIFIERS

WASHINGTON (7 events): Kadejah Sanders (100, Shannon Gorman (3000), Brooke Foreman (100 hurdles, 400 hurdles), 4x100 relay, 4x200 relay, 4x400 relay.

JEFFERSON (5 events): Malya Rattliffe (100), Summer Carber (100 hurdles), Emma Edelen (discus), 4x100 relay, 4x200 relay.

XAVIER (3 events): Molly Breitbach (100), Alex Bartz (high jump), 4x100 relay.

KENNEDY (3 events): Kathia Wampole (800), 4x400 relay, sprint medley.

LINN-MAR (3 events): 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay, shuttle hurdle relay.

PRAIRIE (1 event): 4x100 relay.