

J-Hawks, Jenks win more gold medals

Written by Jim Ecker

Saturday, 24 May 2014 17:57 -



DES MOINES - Jasmine Blue runs fast for a reason.

"I hate getting second," she said with a sweet, determined smile. "I love first."

Blue had that loving feeling Saturday afternoon with a gutsy anchor to help Jefferson win the sprint medley at the Class 4A state track meet in Des Moines.

Ashley Norem of Urbandale made a spirited bid to pull ahead of Blue on the 400 leg of the medley, but Blue refused to concede.

"I felt her the whole time, but I knew I had to do it," said Blue. "I already knew how it was going to feel if I was going to get second."

And as she said before, "I hate second."

Maddie Ranschau, Abbie Ranschau, Lucy Schneekloth and Blue captured the medley in 1 minute, 45.94 seconds. Urbandale had to settle for second place in 1:45.99.

It looked like Norem might zoom past Blue on the home stretch, but Blue kept Norem on her outside shoulder for the final 50 meters.

"I get my courage from my teammates, my family, my coaches," said Blue, a sophomore. "We've been fighting for this. It's awesome."

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"I just really like to win," she said. "And I wanted to get it for Maddie. It's her last year and she deserves it. The whole team deserves it."

Abbie Ranschau, Schneekloth and Blue won gold medals in the 4x200 relay Friday, but Maddie Ranschau was not on that unit and had not won a gold medal at state before.

The J-Hawks surged on the final day of the three-day state meet and climbed all the way to fourth place in the team standings with 56 points.

Pleasant Valley won the title with 82.5 points, following by Urbandale (73.5) and Des Moines Roosevelt (68).

Stephanie Jenks won the 1500-meter run and placed second in the 800 Saturday to help the Linn-Mar Lions finish sixth in the standings with 49 points. Jenks took the 1500 in 4:31.10 and was clocked in 2:10.20 in the 800, finishing second behind Kaley Ciluffo of Pleasant Valley (2:08.56).

Jenks set an Iowa all-time best in the 3000 meter run Thursday, giving her two gold medals and a silver this year as a sophomore.

Jefferson placed second in the 4x100 relay in 48.22 seconds with Schneekloth, Abbie Ranschau, Morgan Meese and Blue. Roosevelt finished first in 48.00 seconds.

Maddie Ranschau finished second in the 100 hurdles in 15.00 seconds. The J-Hawks also placed second in the shuttle-hurdle relay in 1:04.65 with Abbie Ranschau, Sam Kitterman, Ellie Trosky and Maddie Ranschau.

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Linn-Mar took second in the 4x400 relay in 3:58.74 with Hanna Saville, Maddie Saville, Rachel Perry and Amber Decker sharing the baton.

Blue finished third in the 100 meter dash (12.53) and Schneekloth was third in the 200 (25.17).

Kadejah Sanders of Washington placed fifth in the 100 meter dash (12.67) and Amarri Waller of Kennedy was sixth (12.81).

Xavier's Molly Breitbach placed seventh in the Class 3A 100 meter dash (13.07). She joined Sydney Oakley, Allison Schwach and Taylor Skala on the 4x100 relay that finished seventh in 50.68 seconds.