

Linn-Mar girls, boys take 2nd at state

Written by Jim Ecker

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DES MOINES - Linn-Mar High School became the track capital of Iowa Saturday.

In a rare show of strength across the board, the Linn-Mar girls and boys both finished second at the Class 4A state track meet at Drake Stadium in Des Moines.

The Linn-Mar girls made a strong run for the title but had to settle for runner-up honors behind Pleasant Valley, 99-90, as the Spartans set a meet record for points.

The Linn-Mar boys, competing without injured stars Daniel Murphy and Austin Flieder, shot out of the pack to finish in second place behind Waukee, 83-53.

"We peaked at the right time," said Linn-Mar boys coach Ken Hopkins. "This is where we shine."

The Linn-Mar boys won the state meet in 2013 and placed second last year for an impressive three-year run.

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The Linn-Mar girls thought they could win the state title if they scored 90 points, but Pleasant Valley was a little stronger.

"I feel pretty good about it," said Linn-Mar girls coach Nathan Hopp. "It obviously hurts a little to come up short. But you can't be too bummed out about scoring 90 points at the state meet."

Linn-Mar junior Stephanie Jenks enjoyed another special day at the state tournament. She set a meet record in the 1500 in 4:27.76 and captured the 800.

Jenks has won eight state titles during her career, making her the all-time state champion for Metro girls from Cedar Rapids and Marion. She passed LaNeisha Waller, who won seven state titles for Washington from 2001-2004.

"That's pretty exciting," Jenks remarked after being informed of the milestone.

Jenks has won three state titles in the 3000, three titles in the 1500 and two titles in the 800.

"Stephanie is a great athlete," said Hopp. "She's added to her luster. She's added to her legend as Stephanie Jenks."

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Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Star) — Linn-Mar girls' and boys' basketball teams took home second place at the state tournament in Lincoln, Neb. on Saturday. The girls' team, coached by Shelly Hurliman of Sioux City East, defeated the top-seeded team from Lincoln, Neb. in the championship game. The boys' team, coached by Jim Ecker, defeated the top-seeded team from Lincoln, Neb. in the championship game.