

## Prairie runs away with district title

Written by Jim Ecker

Thursday, 22 October 2015 19:59

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For awhile Thursday afternoon, it looked like the Cedar Rapids Prairie boys cross country team was holding an intrasquad scrimmage at Seminole Valley Park with all those orange checkerboard jerseys at the front of the pack.

It pretty much ended that way, too.

Tysen VanDraska led a 1-2-3 finish by the Prairie Hawks as they ran away with top honors at the Class 4A district meet.

"That was the goal," said VanDraska, who covered the 5K layout in a swift 15 minutes, 39.34 seconds. "We came out and executed it as best we could. And it worked out."

Cam Steffens placed second and Jake Moore finished third for the Hawks. Chris Oehlert took sixth place and Colton LaGrange placed 10th as Prairie finished with 22 points.

Dubuque Hempstead placed a distant second with 69 points and Iowa City West was third with 74. The top three teams advance to the state meet in Fort Dodge Oct. 31.

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Samuel Eck of Washington finished eighth and also qualified for the state meet.

VanDraska thinks his team is peaking at just the right time to make a run for the state title.

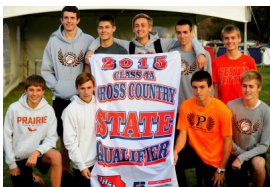
"Most definitely," he said. "We've got guys who are all cutting down times. We're just doing great. And I think we're going to be ready next week.

"It's going to take perfection," VanDraska said. "And at this point I think we can be perfect on that day."

VanDraska is ranked No. 2 in Class 4A and Ryan Schweizer of Dowling is ranked No. 1. They could end up battling for top individual honors in Fort Dodge.

Schweizer finished second at the 2014 state meet and VanDraska was seventh.

"He's a great runner," VanDraska said. "I knew he'd be at the top all year. So I've been training with him in mind and I'm going to go for it all.



"I'm a kicker and so is he," VanDraska said. "It's doing everything I can to have the edge on him right at the end of the line."

## TEAM STANDINGS

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1. Prairie 22, 2. Hempstead 69, 3. Iowa City West 74, 4. Washington 108, 5. Muscatine 119, 6. Burlington 172, 7. Jefferson 190, 8. Kennedy 212, 9. Ottumwa 240.

### **TOP 10 INDIVIDUALS**

1. Tysen VanDraska, Prairie 15:39.34

2. Cam Steffens, Prairie 15:52.90

3. Jake Moore, Prairie 15:57.74

4. Patrick Karanja, IC West 15:59.47

5. Cole Schroeder, Burlington 16:03.59

6. Chris Oehlert, Prairie 16:04.47

7. Kolby Greiner, IC West 16:10.98

8. Samuel Eck, Washington 16:12.75

9. Alex Bautista, Muscatine 16:14.55

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10. Colton LaGrange, Prairie 16:15.96

PRAIRIE - 1. Tysen VanDraska 15:39.34, 2. Cam Steffens 15:52.90, 3. Jake Moore 15:57.74, 6. Chris Oehlert 16:04.47, 10. Colton LaGrange 16:15.96.

WASHINGTON - 8. Samuel Eck 16:12.75, 22. Finbar Berry 16:41.06, 25. Paul Schneidermann 16:53.39, 26. Patrick Gorman 16:56.00, 27. Khory Nobles 16:57.12.

JEFFERSON - 32. Sri Sheshashai 17:14.85, 35. barrett Wise 17:19.51, 38. Mac Karr 17:21.83, 39. Robert Larson 17:23.94, 46. Nathan Prochnow 17:49.30.

KENNEDY - 34. Derek Girling 17:17.74, 40. Jackson Foley 17:31.51, 41. Jacob Ciabatti 17:32.00, 47. Jackson Middlekauff 17:49.66, 50. Riley Patton 17:58.85.