

Gorman makes 'presidential' run to title

Written by Jim Ecker

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Reagan Gorman lived up to her first name Thursday and made a presidential run at the Class 4A district country meet at Seminole Valley Park.

Gorman, a talented freshman at Cedar Rapids Washington, was partially named after Ronald Reagan because her parents are fans of the former president.

"Yup. That's exactly it," she said.

Gorman's first name is pronounced Ree-gan, not Ray-gan like the president, but her parents confirmed it's a true story. Joe Gorman, her father, said he's "Celtic Irish" and that Reagan (or Regan) is a good Celtic Irish name, so naming her Reagan was partly because of Pres. Reagan and partly because of his ancestry.

Gorman's mother, Mitsue, is originally from Japan, and the Gormans have given all of their children good Irish names.

In any case, Reagan Gorman did just like Pres. Reagan did in 1980 -- she ran to the head of the pack of contenders and got herself elected the champion of the Class 4A race.

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"Awesome," she said. "I was not expecting it."

Gorman, who beat Hannah Fusselman of Kennedy by 5.37 seconds, collapsed to her knees after finishing the race and needed assistance for a few minutes, including her mother's comforting right shoulder.

"I was just tired in general," she said. "The last straightaway got me, but other than that I was good."



Gorman placed second at the Mississippi Valley Conference Super Meet in Waterloo and now has a district title in her young pocket. The next event will be the state meet in Fort Dodge on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Gorman has already set a goal for the state meet. "Top 10," she remarked.

Muscatine nipped Iowa City West for the title, 49-55. Dubuque Hempstead placed third and will join Muscatine and Iowa City West at the state meet.

The top 15 individuals also qualified for the Class 4A state meet. That includes Fusselman, the runner-up from Kennedy, along with Meredith Koenigsfeld of Jefferson (sixth), Sarah Hanna of Jefferson (ninth) and Sarah Altemeier of Washington (14th).

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Jefferson finished fourth in the team standings, Washington was fifth, Prairie sixth and Kennedy seventh out of nine teams.

TEAM STANDINGS

1. Muscatine 49, 2. Iowa City West 55, 3. Hempstead 92, 4. Jefferson 110, 5. Washington 137, 6. Prairie 145, 7. Kennedy 164, 8. Ottumwa 205, 9. Burlington 280.

TOP 10 INDIVIDUALS

1. Reagan Gorman, Washington 18:58.22
2. Hannah Fusselman, Kennedy 19:03.59
3. Bailey Nock, Iowa City West 19:05.76
4. Tia Saunders, Iowa City West 19:10.05
5. Brina Kraft, Muscatine 19:16.89
6. Meredith Koenigsfeld, Jefferson 19:19.52
7. Kristan Brown, Hempstead 19:21.62

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8. Regan France, Muscatine 19:24.96

9. Sarah Hanna, Jefferson 19:28.93

10. Kylie Latham, Ottumwa 19:30.27

JEFFERSON - 6. Meredith Koenigsfeld 19:19.52, 9. Sarah Hannah 19:28.93, 26. Megan Ely 20:42.67, 31. Adriana Hargrove 20:56.00, 38. Caleigh Meyer 21:28.29.

WASHINGTON - 1. Reagan Gorman 18:58.22, 14. Sarah Altemeier 19:44.37, 36. Serena Eck 21:13.06, 39. Anne Visser 21:31.41, 47. Mekela Spence 22:31.14.

PRAIRIE - 23. Cayla Renwick 20:23.44, 25. Alissa Neubauer 20:33.76, 29. Victoria Enyart 20:48.26, 33. Avery Henderson 21:01.49, 35. Eady Forrest 21:06.95.

KENNEDY- 2. Hannah Fusselman 19:03.59, 34. Ali Meyer 21:04.30, 41. Hannah Ratzer 21:44.61, 42. Courtney Wampole 22:01.51, 45. Emily Manders 22:22.61.