

Ophoff 2nd in 110 hurdles at Drake

Written by Jim Ecker

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DES MOINES - Mitch Bredeson, Will Griffin, Nick Corbett and Robert Hogg came to the 103rd Annual Drake Relays Friday to set a record.

They got something else. Something better.

The Cedar Rapids Washington quartet captured the high school sprint medley in 3 minutes, 30.16 seconds to lead all Metro performers on a cold, raw day in Des Moines.

"We tried to get the school record," Griffin explained after the medley. "We didn't quite get it, but Drake is probably good enough."

Griffin made that "good enough" remark with a big smile.

Bredeson began the medley with a 200 meter leg out of the blocks. He passed the baton to Griffin for another strong 200, then Griffin handed to Corbett for a swift 400. Hogg got the stick from Corbett with a 15-meter lead and kicked into high gear, running his 800-meter leg in an impressive 1:53.1 to leave no doubt.

Waukee finished a distant second in 3:32.47.

"I'm so happy. It's a dream come true," said Corbett. "It's something I'll have the rest of my life."

Metro teams fared well in the sprint medley with Prairie fifth, Jefferson sixth, Linn-Mar ninth and Marion 10th. The J-Hawks finished in a tie for sixth with West Des Moines Valley, with both teams clocked in exactly 3:34.284.

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Hogg's anchor leg of 1:53.1 was more than two seconds better than his personal record for an 800 split in any relay, but he may have paid a price for running so fast Friday morning. He was among the favorites in the open 800-meter run Friday afternoon but finished seventh in that event in 1:59.05.

It appeared the open 800 might be a strong event for Metro runners with four premier half-milers in the field, but Neil Flattery of Fort Dodge St. Edmond ran away with the race in 1:55.18, a Drake Relays record. Timauntay Jones of Cedar Rapids Jefferson, seeded second, finished fourth in 1:57.18, Hogg was seventh in 1:59.05, Jacob Aune of Prairie placed 11th in 2:00.00 and Jabez Walker of Linn-Mar ran 15th in 2:04.45.

Linn-Mar senior Brandon Ophoff lost his battle with Tyler Donels of Southeast Polk in the 110 meter high hurdles. Ophoff was seeded No. 1 coming into the Drake Relays, but Donels was the defending champion and won the race in 14.41 seconds. Ophoff placed second in 14.55 seconds.

"I have to hand it to him. He's an extremely good athlete," said Ophoff. "I'm happy with my performance today. Very happy."

Cedar Rapids Washington senior Brooke Foreman, the defending Class 4A state champion in the 400 hurdles, failed to qualify for the finals in the 100 meter hurdles Friday.

Xavier senior Alec Clasen, among the state leaders in the high jump again this year, struggled Friday and tied for ninth at 6-foot-1. Clasen has cleared 6-foot-6 this year and jumped 6-foot-8 last year.

Griffin ran well in the preliminaries of the 100 meter dash and had the second-fastest qualifying time of 10.94, but he faded in the finals and finished eighth in 11.14 seconds. Cedar Falls star James Harrington won the race in 10.61, setting a Drake Relays record.

Cedar Rapids Jefferson, the defending state champions in the girls 4x200 relay, finished eighth in their specialty Friday in 1:44.90 with the same four girls who won the state title in 2011.

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[Friday's complete prep results](#)