



By Jan Schultz

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CCS Coach Al Zuege said his four team members would have had to “step it up” to medal at the state track meet last Friday and Saturday in Omaha.

But, that didn’t happen, so the Lady Longhorns came home without a medal this year.

“We did about where we’ve been performing this season” he said, but that wasn’t good enough in Omaha.

None of the four—Kristen Jussel, Valeria Cervantes, Jodi Koellner and Paige Spady—were able to reach their personal bests last week either.

Jussel, competing in the 100 meter high hurdles, ran a 17.11 in the prelims Friday morning, where she finished seventh. She did not qualify for the finals on Saturday.

Valeria Cervantes threw 35’ 1.5” in the shot put, and did not get into the finals. She placed 16th out of 22 throwers in Class C on Friday.

Jodi Koellner was 24th out of 25 in the discus with a toss of 96’7” on Saturday.

Paige Spady, running in the 3200 Friday, was 17th out of 24. Her time was 12:53.74.

One positive is that all four of the state qualifiers, three of whom also qualified last year, will be back next season.

Coach Zuege said his team scored a lot of points in the 2013 season.

“But, we just didn’t have the outstanding performances last week to score at the state level,” he said.

Kearney Catholic took the girls’ team state championship by a wide margin.

Here are Chase County’s marks/times and the first place effort in those events.

- Discus—24th, Jodi Koellner, CC, 96’7”. Winning mark—Alexandra Meyer, Superior, 149’4”.

- Shot put—16th, Valeria Cervantes, CC, 35’1.5”. Winning mark—Samantha Liermann, Wisner-Pilger, 45’3”.

- 100 meter hurdles (prelims)—7th, Kristen Jussel, CC, 17.11, Heat #3. Winning time—Kalyn Brannagan, Kearney Catholic, 14.65.

- 3200 meter run—17th, Paige Spady, CC, 12:53.74. Winning time—Marissa DeWispelare, Aquinas Catholic, 11:29.77.

Looking to next year

The team had three seniors, all who will be missed next year, Zuege said, but it also means there will be a strong nucleus returning.

He said the team showed a lot of improvement this season, especially among the sophomores and juniors who'll be back next year.

Added to that will be a "bunch of good incoming ninth graders," who will likely help in the scoring columns, Zuege added.

The girls' team numbers should also be up next year.

The three seniors, all of whom competed all four years of high school, were Morgan Fisher, Bethany Sorensen and Maddison Vaverek.