

Junior high athletes from across the state compete here

Written by Greg Viergutz

Thursday, 16 May 2013 14:00 - Last Updated Thursday, 16 May 2013 14:03



Gothenburg and Brady athletes were among the 574 participants in the Nebraska Junior High Championships track and field meet Saturday in Gothenburg.

Collin Hahn of Gothenburg was the lone event winner among area athletes. He placed first in the 1600 run. He also posted a second place finish in the 800.

The meet was the fourth annual event hosted by the Cindermates, a local organization that was formed to support the sport of track and field and now also assists other sports at Gothenburg Public School.

The numbers associated with the meet are impressive. The participants came from 104 Nebraska schools. Upwards of 140 volunteers were involved in the meet's operation, according to Cindermates president Wade Geiken. This year's paid attendance is expected to exceed last year's 1,700.

A short-term goal of Cindermates is to purchase performance boards for field events, Geiken said. A long-term goal is a video board.

Invitations are issued to youths with the top 24 individual performances and the top 16 relays in the various events based on information submitted on the athletic.net website. Additional qualifying spots open up when those in the top echelon cannot attend.

The first meet four years ago drew 380 participants. The organization hopes the participation level grows to about 600 youths.

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Morrill, with just two athletes, earned the boys team championship with 42 points. Seward was the girls team title winner with 36.

For full results, go to <http://gothenburg.k12.ne.us/>. Scroll to bottom of the page and click on Nebraska Championship Meet on the left side.

