

500 athletes expected for state jr. high meet

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The Gothenburg High School track and field area will be a flurry of activity Saturday at the fifth annual Nebraska Junior High Championship.

Hosted by the Cindermates, the meet is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m.

The top 24 seventh- and eighth-grade boys and girls in each individual event plus the top 16 relays have been invited to compete based on results posted by coaches on www.athletic.net, a track and field record keeping Internet site.

Over 200 schools tried to qualify athletes for the meet with 108 schools being successful. Over 500 kids will participate. Currently there are 43 youths coming to the meet that are ranked in the top 10 in the nation in their events.

Field events begin at 11 a.m. They include high jump, pole vault, long jump, triple jump, shot and discus.

Running events are set to start at noon. Preliminary races will be run in the 100-meter dash and 100-meter hurdles. All other races will be final heats run against time.

Running events include: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 100 hurdles, 200 hurdles, 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay and 4x800 relay.

Entries have been finalized and include several area athletes.

Medals will be presented to the top six in each event.

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Additionally, an outstanding male and outstanding female athlete award will be presented.

Team scores will be kept and plaques for runner-up and team championships will be presented.

Gothenburg's junior high girls won the team title in 2010 and 2011. Last year's champions were the Seward girls and Morrill boys.

For additional information, visit the school website at www.nebraskachampionshipmeet.com.