

2025 Drake Relays presented by Xstream powered by Mediacom

Friday April 24, 2025

Friday Weather

8 a.m. – Cloudy, 54 degrees, north wind 9 mph, gusts to 15 mph

Noon - Cloudy, 57 degrees, north wind 12 mph, gusts to 20 mph

6 p.m. - Cloudy, 56 degrees, north wind 12 mph, gusts to 21 mph

FRIDAY ATTENDANCE

Day Session - 8,355

Night Session - 7,724

Total to Date - 22,920

DRAKE RELAYS RECORDS

TWO-DAY TOTAL: 11

FRIDAY: 7

WOMEN - 1

—3000 steeplechase - 9:28.98, Sophie Novak, USA (Old record: 9:31.03, Annie Rodenfels, Boston Athletic Association, 2024).

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL - 3

—1600 Medley Relay - 3:25.35, Dowling Catholic. (Old record: 3:25.94, Cedar Rapids Prairie, 2016)

—4x200 Relay - 1:26.55, Ankeny Centennial (Old record: 1:27.51, Cedar Rapids Jefferson, 2018)

—800 - 1:51.76, Quentin Naumann, Western Dubuque **TIES** record set by Ryan Schweizer, Dowling Catholic, 2016

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL - 2

—100 Hurdles - 13.82, Emma Havighurst, West Des Moines Valley (Old record: 14.19, Sydney Winger, Waukee, prelims, 2018)

—400 - 55.45, Reese Brownlee, Clear Lake **TIES** record set by Anjelena Carder, Waukee, 2024

MIDDLE SCHOOL - 1

Boys Sprint Medley Relay - 3:47.08 Des Moines Christian (Old mark: 3:49.70, Pella Middle School, 2019)

WORLD LEADING MARKS

FRIDAY

Men

4x800 Relay - 7:21.88, Iowa, ranks No. 1 on world list

Women

3000 Steeplechase - 9:30.41, Elise Thorner, New Balance, ranks No. 6 on world list...9:34.48, Angelina Ellis ranks No. 7 on world list...9:37.87 Janette Schraft ranks No. 12 on the world list 9:38.84, Aneta Konieczek ranks No. 14 and India's Ms Ankita at 9:30.00 (No. 15).

COLLEGIATE LEADING MARKS

FRIDAY

Men's 4x800 relay - 7:21.88, Iowa ranks No. 1 on collegiate list

Women's 4x200 Relay - 1:34.45, Kentucky ranks No. 2 on collegiate list

Men's 4x1600 relay - 16:38.06, Iowa State ranks No. 1 on collegiate list

Women's 4x1600 relay - 19:04.83, Oregon State ranks No. 1 on collegiate list....19:04.88, Notre Dame ranks No. 2 on collegiate list.

Women's college sprint medley – 4:00.86, Minnesota State ranks No. 1 in NCAA Division II

Men's college sprint medley - 3:25.42, Loras ranks No.1 in NCAA Division III...3:23.14 by Minnesota State ranks No. 1 in NCAA Division II

FRIDAY NOTES

Invitational Divisions

Women's Steeplechase Delivers On Promise

The WACT women's steeplechase looked to be one of the premier events this weekend and it delivered on that promise, producing a Relays record and adding five runners to the top 15 on the world list. Sophie Novak, a former Notre Dame standout who came in ranked third in the world, won in 9:28.48 to break the meet record. Novak passed Elise Thorner with 200 meters to go and easily broke the old record of 9:31.03 that Annie Rodenfels set last year. Thorner finished second in 9:30.41, which put her at No. 6 on the world list. Angelina Ellis took third in 9:34.48, No. 7 in the world, and former Iowa State runner Janette Schraft, who won 11 state high school titles on the Blue Oval, climbed into 12th on the world list with her fourth-place time of 9:37.87. Two-time Polish national champion Aneta Konieczek finished fifth in 9:38.84 (No. 14) and was followed by India's Ms Ankita at 9:30.00 (No. 15).

University-College Divisions

Disappointment For Iowa Sprinter

One of the top sprinters in the country won't be competing for a Relays title in the men's university-college 100. Iowa's Kalen Walker, who has the fifth-fastest time in the collegiate ranks this spring, was knocked out of the race when he false-started in the preliminaries. Walker has run a 10.06 and was considered a threat to break the Relays record of 10.11, set in 1983 by Alabama's Calvin Smith. Samuel Blaskowski of Wisconsin-LaCrosse was the fastest qualifier in 10.19. Blaskowski, the NCAA Division III record holder, has the nation's seventh-fastest time this spring at 10.09.

Easier By The Dozen For The Cyclones

The Iowa State men have a long history of success in the university-college 4x1600 relay and the Cyclones made it an even dozen titles with a runaway victory in 16:38.06. That's top collegiate time this year. The Cyclones are now tied with Illinois for the most Relays championships in the event, though the Illinians have not won it since 1982. Iowa State's lead was so comfortable that anchor runner Devan Kipyego could turn and wave to the crowd as he neared the finish line. It was an all-Iowa top three as Drake finished second in 16:58.69 and Iowa Central Community College was third in 16:59.78. Iowa State holds the Relays record in the event, running 16:09.45 in 1981.

Memorable Debut For Oregon State Women

Oregon State freshman Ainsley Herron sprinted past Notre Dame's Gretchen Farley in the final stretch to give the Beavers a victory in the women's 4x1600 relay. This is the first year the Oregon State women have competed in the Relays and the program came away with a memorable victory, finishing in 19:04.83 to edge Notre Dame, the defending champion, by five-hundredths of a second. Notre Dame led from the start and Ainsley stayed on Farley's heels in the final carry until making her move coming out of the final turn. It looked for a moment that Farley might regain the lead but Herron held on. Oregon State's time is the best in the collegiate ranks this spring.

Oregon Women Return With a Flourish

Oregon ran away from the field to win the women's university 4x800 relay, giving the Ducks their second title of the evening session and their first wins at Drake in 26 years. The Ducks set the pace early and increased their lead with each carry, finishing in 8:30.12 to post the third-fastest time in the world this year. The victory came 50 minutes after Oregon sophomore Juliet Cherubet won the 1500 in 4:13.11. This is the first time Oregon has brought a full team to the Relays since 1999 and the Ducks are making the most of their opportunity. Iowa State ran a good race for second in the relay, finishing in 8:40.86.

Iowa Wins Cy-Hawk Duel With Sizzling Performance

The men's university 4x800 relay turned into a Cy-Hawk showdown, with Iowa outrunning perennial contender Iowa State for the title – and posting the No. 1 time in the world so far this year. The Hawkeyes finished in 7:21.88 for their third Relays victory in the event, the two others coming in 1929 and 2017. No one in the world has run faster this year. Iowa State was seeking its second straight title in the event, its sixth in the last seven Relays and 15th overall. The Cyclones settled for second in 7:23.10.

Two runners from Iowa high schools ran the opening legs for the Hawkeyes – Derek Leicht of Dubuque Hempstead and James Fingalsen of Mason City. Ryan Schreiner and Terrick Johnson followed to take the quartet to its victory.

Hometown Champ In Women's 800

Thirty years after Gina DeWitt became the first Drake runner to win the women's university-college 800, the Bulldogs' Emilie Meyer repeated the feat. Meyer, the Missouri Valley Conference indoor 800 champion this year, outdueled Oregon's Ella Nelson to win the race in 2:03.85 – less than nine-tenths of a second off the meet record. Nelson got second in 2:04.50.

Another Title For Tyus

Nebraska's Tyus Wilson emerged from a championship showdown in the men's university-college high jump with his second straight Drake Relays title. Wilson, the reigning NCAA indoor champion, cleared 7-3 (2.21m) to beat the defending Division II outdoor champ, Jaivon Harrison of Grand Valley State. Harrison also cleared 7-3, but Wilson won on fewer misses. Harrison also won the D-II indoor title last year and was second this year.

The Streak Goes On For Bradley

A Bradley duo continued the Braves' success in the men's university-college 1500. Sophomore Jaxson Copeland won the race in 1:49.02, with freshman teammate Jamie Phillips right behind in 1:49.29. It's the third straight year a Bradley runner has won the race after Jack Crull won in 2023 and 2024. Crull will run in the invitational 1500 on Saturday. Copeland was the runner-up in the mile at the Missouri Valley Conference indoor meet this year and finished fifth in the Drake 1500 last year. Phillips was the MVC indoor 800 champion.

Back On Top In The Shot

Minnesota's Isaiah Schafer returned to the victory stand in the men's university-college men's shot after a one-year absence. Schafer threw 62-11 ¼ (19.18m) to earn his second Relays title in the event. He also won in 2023 but did not compete at Drake last year. He actually hit his winning mark twice – on his second and fourth attempts. Nebraska's Maxwell Otterdahl finished second at 60-6 (18.44m).

Mercy, Mercy Me

Iowa Western's Mercy Honesty came into the meet as a three-time national junior college champion and now she owns a Drake Relays title. Honesty went 42-10 $\frac{3}{4}$ (13.07m) to win the women's university-college triple jump. She was leading after four rounds and secured the title with her best jump of the day on her next attempt. Journey Amundson of Saint Louis finished second at 41-7 $\frac{3}{4}$ (12.69m). Honesty is the national juco leader in the event a 43- $\frac{1}{4}$ (13.11), a mark she posted at the national indoor championships.

It's Francois By A Whisker

The university-college 400 produced one of the nation's top times in the junior college ranks while featuring a tight finish. Iowa Western's Michael Francois edged Kansas State's Tavon Underwood to win in 46.44. That matches the No. 2 time among the nation's juco runners this year. Underwood also was timed at 46.44. Carrying those times out to another digit, Francois came out six-thousandths of a second ahead (46.433 to 46.439).

Keeping Those Streaks Alive

Minnesota State continued its domination of the college sprint medley relay in both the men's and women's divisions. The men won for the fourth straight year in 3:23.14, which is No. 1 among NCAA Division II teams this year. The women made it three in a row by running 4:00.86. That also is the top time in Division II. Loras finished second in the men's race with the No. 1 time in Division III this year, running 3:25.42.

High School Divisions

A Quick Entry Into The Record Book

It took all of eight minutes to get the first noteworthy performance of the day. In the fourth heat of the girls 100-meter hurdles preliminaries, West Des Moines Valley's Emma Havighurst sped to an all-time best in the event. Her time of 13.82 seconds bumped Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union Hall of Famer Alex Gochenour of Logan-Magnolia off the top of the list. Gochenour had held that spot since 2010 with her time of 13.9. Havighurst's time was faster than the Relays record of 14.19, but the favoring wind was too strong to allow it as a record.

Havighurst matched her prelims time in the finals and in that race, the wind was legal so it goes down as the Relays record. Waukee's Sydney Winger set the old mark in 2018. Indianola's Josie McGraw was second in 13.98, which is No. 5 on the all-time list. Dowling Catholic's Annie Smith moved to No. 11 with her third-place time of 14.22.

Prairie Ace Follows Suit In Boys Race

Not to be outdone, Cedar Rapids Prairie's Quinton Alexander improved his all-time best in the boys 110 hurdles. Alexander won his preliminary heat in 13.55 seconds, slightly faster than the 13.64 he ran on his home track 11 days ago. Again, the favoring wind was too strong to allow his time to stand as a Relays record. That record is 13.84 set last year by Jaden Damiano of Iowa Falls-Alden.

The final later in the morning went a different way. Alexander clipped the penultimate hurdle and finished fourth in a race won by Treynor's Brady Wallace in 13.80. Spirit Lake's Cooper Winkel was second in 13.98, Knoxville's Koby Higginbotham took third in 14.15 and Alexander finished in 14.18.

Record Run For Dowling Catholic Boys

With Owen Wolfe running a swift anchor, Dowling Catholic of West Des Moines sped to a Relays record in the boys medley relay. Wolfe turned the final 800 meters in 1:50.76 to bring the Maroons home in 3:25.35, moving them to No. 6 on the state's all-time list. Norwalk was second in 3:28.22 and Iowa City West, the champion the two previous years, was third in 3:29.49.

Prince Joins Throwing Royalty

Clear Creek-Aman's Landon Prince put himself in an elite group with his victory in the boys discus, giving him a sweep of the throwing events. Prince threw 185- $\frac{1}{4}$ to win the event by more than 10 feet. That follows his victory in the shot put on Thursday and makes him the sixth thrower in Drake Relays history to double in the two events. Bishop Heelan's Carson McInerney was second at 174-3 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Morton Salts Away Third Shot Title

Charlee Morton of Hampton-Dumont-CAL became the second athlete to capture three straight titles in the girls shot put with her winning throw of 46-9 $\frac{1}{4}$. She was the runner-up in the discus on Thursday after winning that event the two previous years. Hall of Famer Danica Haight of Iowa City West was the first to three-repeat in the shot, doing so from 2005-07. Spirit Lake's Lauren Travis was second in Friday's competition at 45-6. Morton's mark puts her at No. 14 on the state's all-time list.

Pella Christian Rules In Girls Medley

In a race filled with larger schools, Pella Christian grabbed the white Relays Flag in the girls sprint medley relay. Meredith Van Wyk, running the 200 leg, gave the Eagles the lead and anchor Bailey Vos held off a charge by Clear Lake's Reese Brownlee to give her team the victory in 1:46.36. Brownlee, the long jump champion on Thursday, ran her 400 leg in 55.5 to give the Lions second place in 1:46.88. Vos ran a 47.02 anchor.

Jaguars Sprint To Meet Record

Ankeny Centennial picked up its first victory in the 4x200 relay and the Jaguars did it with a record run. Centennial finished in 1:26.55 to break the Relays record of 1:27.14 that Cedar Rapids Jefferson set in 2018. The Jaguars' time goes in at No. 7 on the state's all-time list. Second-place Newton also ran under the old record, finishing in 1:27.11.

Northwest Girls Repeat In 4x200

Waukee Northwest won the girls 4x200 relay for the second straight year with one of the best times in state history. The Wolves turned the two laps in 1:40.97, putting them at No. 8 on the state's all-time list. Pella Christian, which won the sprint medley earlier in the day, was second in 1:42.06 with three of the four members of the medley team.

Two Wins And Counting For Nauman

Western Dubuque's Quentin Nauman became the first double winner in the boys division with a record-tying victory in the 800. Nauman outran Des Moines Christian's Caleb Ten Pas in the final 50 meters to win in 1:51.76. That ties the meet record that Dowling Catholic's Ryan Schweizer set in 2016 and is No. 12 on the state's all-time list. Ten Pas finished second in 1:52.02. Nauman will try for victory No. 3 when he runs the 1600 on Saturday.

Kadence Counts Off A Victory

Nashua-Plainfield's Kadence Huck, a two-time Class 1A state champion in the girls 800, is now a Drake Relays champ in the event. Huck beat a strong field and was pulling away at the end as

she finished in 2:10.51, which is No. 19 on the state's all-time list. Pleasant Valley's Brace Boelyn was second in 2:11.73.

Put 'Em On The List

Along with celebrating their Relays titles, the two 100 winners put their names on the state's all-time lists in their respective divisions. Girls winner Kelly Grobstich of Davenport Assumption ran 11.82, which is No. 14 all-time. That time matches the Relays record but won't count because the favoring wind was too strong. Dowling Catholic's Luke Nevitt charged out of lane 2 to win the boys race in 10.57, which checks in at No. 7 on the all-time list. Runner-up Ben Frazier of Waterloo West finished in 10.61, which ties for 16th on the all-time list.

She Runs As Well As She Jumps

Clear Lake's Reese Brownlee earned her second girls championship of the weekend with a near-record run in the 400. Brownlee won in 55.45 to match the Relays record that Waukee's Angelina Carder set in 2024. That ties Brownlee with Carder for the No. 14 spot on the state's all-time list. Brownlee repeated her title in the long jump on Thursday.

That Was Close!

The boys 400 hardly could have been any closer, coming down to a difference of two-thousandths of a second. Johnston's Joshua Anglo got the victory with a time of 48.84, which Nathan Miller of Center Point-Urbana ran in the first section. Taking their times out another place, Anglo's came to 48.836 and Miller's 48.838.

Stafford Rolls To Third Straight Wheelchair Title

Mid-Prairie's Jayden Stafford rolled his way to a third straight title in the boys wheelchair 400. Stafford won the race with his fastest time ever, finishing in 1:02.90. Bedford's Eli Johnson was second in 1:06.61.