

Nighthawks battle elements at State Track Meet

Cold temperatures, steady rain and challenging conditions greeted athletes at the North Dakota State Track and Field Meet on Friday, but members of the Hettinger-Scranton Nighthawks refused to let the weather dampen their effort as they competed against the state's best Class B athletes.

Despite battling wet conditions throughout the running events, the

Nighthawks showed determination and resilience on the state's biggest stage, with several athletes turning in strong performances and earning valuable experience against elite competition.

Sophomore Jaeda Jensen represented Hettinger-Scranton in the girls 400-meter dash, posting a time of 1:01.59 in the preliminary round. Jensen finished

13th overall in a talented field and narrowly missed advancing to the finals, but capped off an impressive season by qualifying for the state meet and competing well despite the difficult weather.

Jensen also teamed with Kortney Schauer, Addy Glines and Delayah Nagel in the girls 4x800-meter relay. The quartet crossed the finish line in 10:54.04,

placing 21st in the state. The relay squad battled through the cold rain while maintaining their pace and representing the Nighthawks with determination throughout the eight-lap race.

The top finish for Hettinger-Scranton came in the field events, where sophomore Acalia Olson competed in the girls javelin. Olson launched a throw of 113 feet, 5 inches to secure

ninth place, narrowly missing a spot on the medal stand while earning one of the best finishes of the meet for the Nighthawks.

While the conditions were far from ideal and no Nighthawk athletes reached the podium, simply qualifying for the state meet marked a significant accomplishment. Competing against North Dakota's best athletes provided

valuable experience and served as a fitting reward for months of hard work, dedication and commitment throughout the season.

The Nighthawks' state qualifiers demonstrated perseverance in the face of challenging weather and represented their school and community with pride, bringing another successful track and field season to a close.



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