



// Sophomore **Elsie Thoreson** sprints to the finish line during her 4x2. Her relay team also included junior **Metsje Miller** and seniors **Annika Pingel** and **Emily Vos**. "I was really happy with my results at the Drake Relays. It is such a fun experience to get to run and compete against other runners," said **Thoreson**.

## Conference Champs

The Lady Dutch became conference champs for the 3rd year in a row when they beat Dallas Center Grimes 3-0. Their regular season record was 11-2. According to junior **Josie Lickteig**, one of the team's strengths is the ability to work together well.

"We have great team chemistry because we have all been playing together for a long time," said **Lickteig**. "We know what we need to do to win the game, and everybody does their part."



// Junior **Lexi Brown** plays defense against the Newton Cardinals. This was the team's third year as conference champs. "It's a great feeling to come out of the regular season as conference champions. It was fun to see our hard work as a team pay off," said **Brown**.

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# Running on the Blue Oval



Many athletes from different areas and divisions competed at the Drake Relays. The Drake Relays is a private track and field event that was held on April 26, 27, and 28 in Des Moines.

The Pella boys' track and field team had three events that qualified for the Drake Relays. As for the Lady Dutch, they had seven events that qualified.

Junior **Gabe Thomas** and his Shuttle Hurdle Relay team received some exciting news during race day. They got fifth in preliminaries and missed finals by one spot. As they were about to leave to go home, they received information revealing they had made it to the finals because another team was disqualified.

"When we heard the news, we were all excited. We ended up running and getting 4th out of the 16 teams that qualified. The three teams that beat us were 4A schools. I also got to meet Devon Allen. He is an Olympic hurdler, and it was pretty cool meeting him," said **Thomas**.

Junior **Metsje Miller** was pretty happy with the results she received from her events she participated in. She participated in the 4x100, 4x200, and the Sprint Medley. The 4x100 acquired 11th place, 4x200 got 7th place, and the Sprint Medley came in 12th place overall.

"I was happy with the results that myself and teammates received. We had some changes in the line up due to an injury, but that didn't stop us from running our hardest! My favorite part about the Drake Relays is running in the events, but I also find it fun to watch all the other top athletes compete at either the high school, college, and pro levels," said **Miller**.

It was freshman **Kody Huisman** and senior **Erica Halstead's** first time participating in the Drake Relays. **Huisman** placed 22nd overall with 140-9.

"Throughout the season I continuously competed against others, when knowingly I should've been competing with myself. Competing with others makes you bitter, but competing with yourself makes you better. I had this in my mind all the way up to the Drake Relays," said **Huisman**.

As for **Halstead**, she participated in 4x4 Relay team. They got 14th out of 24 teams.

"It was my first time running, and it was amazing to realize that I was running with some of the best runners in Iowa!" said **Halstead**. "I was very excited about how the relay finished because we were ranked 21st coming in, and then we dropped four seconds and moved up to 14th."

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// (Left to Right): Senior **Brenna Hildebrand**, Speech Director **Suzanne Jones**, senior **Ethan Vance**, junior **Kaleb Nguyen**, senior **Natalie Henry**, Governor Kim Reynolds, junior **Jacob Schemm**, senior **Grace Larson**, and junior **Luigi Lopez**

## Fine Arts Signing

The Pella High Speech students had the honor of meeting Governor Kim Reynolds on May 8. The group was chosen to represent speech programs around Iowa.

"It was super cool to explore the capitol, and the governor was super nice! The proclamation is very exciting because I love speech team, and I don't think it gets enough recognition," said junior **Jacob Schemm**, future Vice President of the Speech team.

The Fine Arts proclamation was signed declaring March Fine Arts Month.

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