



### **By Jan Rahn**

#### *Managing Editor*

Senior three-time letter winners Seth Burge and Ashley Kemling will head their respective squads in this season's cross country racing.

"I always look to my seniors to lead," said Coach Paula Wurst. "Ashley and Seth have run each year and will provide excellent leadership."

The Perkins County teams travel south to Goodland, Kan. for their first competition on Thursday, Sept. 1.

Even teams of seven girls and seven boys under the direction of head coach Paula Wurst are ready to exhibit their athleticism as contenders on some tough courses.

Their schedule includes trips to Chase County, McCook, Ogallala and UNK, not to mention the stiff competition they'll face amongst the conference schools in the South Platte Valley Association (SPVA).

#### **Cross Country Girls**

Kemling finished third at districts last year, leading her team to state where she finished sixth overall. As a team the girls finished in 14th place.

The team lost one senior to graduation in the spring, but has gained two freshmen, Mariah Curtis and Kendra Hoffert. They join letter winner Jessi Hoffert and exchange student Anita Allgeier (juniors) and sophomores Becca Cornelius and Courtney Lyon.

"The girls team looks like they should be a competitive group," said Coach Wurst, who is joined by her husband, Lance Wurst as assistant coach.

#### **Boys Team**

Led by Burge, the boys look strong and seem to be competitive, said Wurst.

Seven boys are vying for six varsity spots which should improve the racing of the whole team, she said. All but one have past cross country experience.

Newcomer Austin Thelander joins fellow juniors and letter winners Brendon Barry, Mark Hanson and Jake Sexson, along with sophomores Robert Engel and Dalton McCormick, both letter winners.