



Senior Ashley Kemling places eighth individually.

By Shari Friedel

Tribune Staff

The Perkins County girls cross country team travelled to Kearney for the second time in the 2011 season, having qualified for the state meet as a team by capturing the runner-up title at districts the week before.

The girls finished in 10th place as a team with 149 points.

Six teammates from Perkins County took their place among the 125 runners at the starting line.

"The girls had an excellent showing at state," said Coach Paula Wurst. "I was very pleased with everyone's race."

Finishing within eight seconds of her career best, senior Ashley Kemling earned the eighth place medal.

"She literally ran to exhaustion, having nothing left at the end," said Wurst.

Mariah Curtis and Courtney Lyon ran well, staying calm despite the level of competition and pressure the state meet brings. Curtis' time was within two seconds of her previous time at UNK and Lyon's a course personal record.

Jessi Hoffert again suffered from lack of air and leg pain, but ran through it, showing "exceptional toughness," said Wurst.

Exchange student Nita Allgeier ran one of her fastest times of the season, although the number of competitors at a large race was new to her.

Freshman runner Kendra Hoffert didn't let the state competition overwhelm her, said Wurst, "She stayed focused and raced well."

"These girls should really be proud of this finish," said Wurst. "I am incredibly impressed with this team's toughness. This was a fantastic way to end our season!"

State Meet

