



**By Jan Rahn**

*Managing Editor*

Training for the season's opener in Kansas next week, the Perkins County harriers are confident of a strong showing with four returning state qualifiers on the girls' side and three seniors providing leadership for the boys.

Coach Paula Wurst, who is assisted by husband, Lance, said the boys have a lot of experience.

They have come into the season in excellent shape, providing strong senior leadership, said Wurst. Returning letterwinners are seniors Brendon Barry, Mark Hanson and Jake Sexson, juniors Robert Engel and Dalton McCormick.

Rounding out the boys' team are junior Brady Mailand, freshmen Coy Aerni and Dylan Barry.

Last year, the girls finished 10th at state—four of the girls return from that team.

Jessi Hoffert is the lone returning senior letterwinner. She joins returning letterwinner Courtney Lyon, a junior, and sophomore letterwinners Mariah Curtis and Kendra Hoffert.

"Newcomers Melissa Price and Emily Kemling should add depth to this already talented group," said Wurst.

**First Meet**

The cross country team travels to Goodland on Thursday, Aug. 30 to compete in their first meet of the season.

