

Sharing Cross Country with Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Community School District

Background:

Each year, a number of Iowa school districts share athletic programs. For example, we began this year sending our wrestlers to Clarion. Recently, we sent our baseball players to Eagle Grove for two seasons. This year was the first season both Clarion and Eagle Grove sent their soccer players to Belmond-Klemme for a combined soccer program.

For the coming fall season, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows does not have enough cross-country runners to compete as a team. They have maybe two upper-classmen and possibly two or three frosh for their boys team, and they have even fewer girls. They have asked if their runners can compete with us as members of the BK Bronco cross country team.

Our BK cross country program is not large, but it has more than enough members to compete as a team. Last season, we had 6 girls and 10 boys out for cross country. There were no senior girls, so all six girls may return. We had three senior boys last fall; we should expect seven or more in the coming season.

Clarion is expected to bring 3-5 kids total to our program in the fall. We will run in class 3A due to enrollment numbers from both schools.

If CGD were to join with us for cross country, we would have to count their high school enrollment along with ours for the purpose of classification. Last fall, we were at the top end of Class A with 179 students. Class AA began with Underwood with 188 students. Clarion's 241 students would boost our team to 420 and Class AAA. Last fall, Class AAA ranged from Clear Lake at 320 to Epworth, Western Dubuque at 721.

This is quite common across the state. For example,

- Grundy Center joined with Gladbrook-Reinbeck (283) to compete in Class AA.
- Central Lyon joined with George-Little Rock (286) to compete in Class AA.
- Danville joined with New London (278) to compete in Class AA.
- Starmont joined with West Central (Maynard) (213) to compete in Class AA.

In soccer, the three Wright County schools were classified AAA, and we competed well. We narrowly lost in the playoffs to AAA Humboldt who went to the state tournament. Humboldt competed well at state narrowly losing to state-finalist Norwalk 3- 2.

Sharing agreements such as this require board approval from both school boards.

Options and/or Alternatives:

Without this sharing agreement, our runners will compete as we have in recent years and our classification will remain in 1A.

Recommended Action:

I recommend the board move to approve a cross country sharing agreement with Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Community School District.