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Andover's Agnew wraps up career with her fourth high jump title

BY JEFFREY LUTZ

The Wichita Eagle

After Jaylyn Agnew won her third state high jump championship for Andover last spring, she told her dad, Jay, "I might as well go for four." It's good that the Agnews had that

It's good that the Agnews had that conversation on record, because that's one of the last times Jaylyn talked about the possibility of four state championships. The pressure of trying for such an accomplishment and the fact that she had already stated the goal made more talk unnecessary.

"It's like the elephant in the room," Andover coach Mike Lee said. "You know that it's there, but you're not discussing it. Everyone knows it's there."

Agnew kicked the elephant out on Saturday, winning her fourth title by clearing 5 feet, 6 inches. She became the third athlete to win four high jump titles and the first since Elkhart's Kristi Rinehart won her fourth in 1996

Agnew also finished off a four-year undefeated streak in the event that saw her threaten the state record early in her career. She won with a 5-10 jump in 2012, matching that with an in-season jump the following year. She's tied for the fifth-best jump in Kansas history.

Saturday, Agnew cleared 5-6 on her second try to best Valley Center's Madison Runnion, the only other jumper that got to 5-4. Agnew, who has signed to play basketball at Creighton, was already a four-time champion when she missed on three tries at 5-8.

"The pressure — I've won the last three, so I was like, I don't know what I'd do if I lost the last one," said Agnew, who ran on Andover's 400-meter relay team, which finished second on Saturday.

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Heights' anchor Dynesha Williams, right, takes the baton from Rianne Richard as they win the 6A 4x100 relay.

Jaylyn Agnew

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