

Meyer places third in girls high jump

By Kevin Gordon - June 2nd, 2017

COLUMBUS — Katelyn Meyer returned to the awards stand at the state high school track and field meet Friday.

The Eastwood junior cleared a school-record tying 5-7 to finish third in the Division II high jump at Ohio State University's Jesse Owens Stadium.

Meyer broke or tied the school third for the third time this season.

The record entering the season was 5-6 set by Cathy Smithey in 1978.

Meyer originally broke the record with a jump of 5-6½ during a dual meet April 11 and stretched the record to 5-7 four days later at the Napoleon Invitational. After clearing 5-7 Friday, she missed all three of her attempts at 5-8.

The top eight finishers in each event at state earn All-Ohio recognition and are recognized on the awards stand.

Last season, Meyer was All-Ohio in all three of her individual events. She was third in the long jump (17-11¼), tied for fifth in the high jump (5-4) and eighth in the 100 hurdles (15.35).

Also Friday, Meyer equaled her school record in the 100 hurdles with a 15.35 time, but wasn't one of the nine finalists.

"I'm really proud and really happy with what I accomplished with my coach in the high jump," Meyer said, referring to assistant coach Jack Corken. "I've improved a lot since last year, and that improvement paid off today."

"I thought I could make 5-7 again coming into the meet, and I did," Meyer added. "The attempts at 5-8 were all good. The competition was really good, and it's a lot more fun when the competition is good."

Akron Manchester senior Alyssa Matheny finished first and Cambridge junior Lily Litz was second. Both cleared 5-8, but Matheny won on misses.

Meyer passed on the opening height of 4-10, made her first attempt at 5-0 and 5-2, and then cleared 5-4 on her second attempt. She made 5-5 and 5-6 on her first attempt, and 5-7 on her second attempt.

Meyer finished third after missing all three of her tries at 5-8. Her best coming into the season was 5-5.

"It was a great day; very exciting for both of us," Corken said. "She had a great day. She always has a little mess up at 5-4, but she came back strong. She's so coachable and listens to what you tell her. Once we fixed that, she kept on going."

"You can't complain about tying the school record and having your best jump of the year," Eastwood head coach Nikki Sabo said.

"She had a good day overall. She had great attempts at 5-8. You can tell she's like, 'I can do it. It's in there, that I can hit 5-8.' That's a great motivator for next year."

Meyer didn't advance to the finals of the 100 hurdles, even though she matched her school record of 15.35. She initially ran the time last season and ran it again last week during the regional meet at Lexington High School.

"I'm happy I was able to run my best, but I'm disappointed I couldn't get any lower and make the finals," Meyer said. "Hopefully, it'll be better next year."

A time of 15.07 was needed to earn one of the nine spots in the finals.

"It was two really good heats," Sabo said of the hurdles semifinals. "There were 16 awesome hurdlers. The bar was raised big time. How can you be upset with a PR (personal record)?"

Meyer competes Saturday in the long jump. Her best this season is a school-record 18-4½. Joining Meyer in the long jump is sophomore teammate Shaunna Jubenville, whose best is 16-11.

Eastwood's 800 and 400 relays both ran good times, even though they didn't advance to the finals.

The 800 team of freshman Jamie Schmeltz, juniors Nichole Swartz and Abby Schroeder and senior Leah Tressel had a time of 1:45.97, the 14th-fastest of the 16 state qualifiers. A time of 1:45.30 was needed to make the finals.

Eastwood's best time this season was 1:45.63 at the regional last week. The time was the second-fastest in school history.

In the 400 relay, Schmeltz, Schroeder, Tressel and Meyer were timed in 50.31, just off their season-best time of 49.90 during last week's regional. The regional time also was the second-fastest time in Eastwood history.

The relays are run back-to-back, only 20 minutes apart.

"The relays are tough," Sabo said. "I'm very proud of them. To recover from a 200 and then go into the fastest 100 you need to run, that's a really tough task. I'm very proud of their effort, and their stepping up to the line again and going after it."

