

Jacob Hahn provides foundation for boys success



By Kevin Gordon

One of Jacob Hahn's major goals this season is to qualify for the state high school track and field meet.

For now, though, the Eastwood senior will concentrate on working hard every day. The sprinter believes the hard work and steady improvement will enable the Eagles' 4x400 relay team to advance to their sport's showcase event.

"We want to make it to state and place (finish in the top eight) for sure," Hahn said of the 4x400 relay team. "I want the team to do something very special this year. We have a lot good guys

Photo Credit: Tammy Schmeltz who are working hard, running hard and giving it everything they have."

The Eagles are familiar faces at the state meet in the 4x400 relay. They've qualified for state in the event in each of the last five seasons and seven times in the last nine seasons.

Eastwood won state championships in 2014 in Division II and 2016 in Division III, and was second in Division III last season. The only returnee from last season's state runnerup team is senior Isaac Emahiser.

The team's best time this season is 3:36.66, run last Friday in the Eastwood Relays. Once the weather improves and becomes consistently good, Eastwood believes its time will drop significantly.

Joining Boyer and Emahiser in the 4x400 at the Eastwood Relays were junior Alex Boyer and sophomore Nate McCauley-Benner.

"The weather hasn't been great, but we're trying our best in practice and doing what we can in practice," Hahn said. "We'll get through it, and we'll run faster times when the weather warms up."

The 4x400 relay is Eastwood's signature event. The Eagles like the event because it's the last race of the meet, and a good time in the 4x400 often means they leave the meet with a positive feeling.

Eastwood also likes the 4x400 relay because a 400 is a great test of endurance and speed at the end of a long meet.

"It's a special event here," said Hahn, who has run the 4x400 since he was a seventh grader. "It's everyone's goal to be on the 4x400 team."

The tradition of the 4x400 at Eastwood began under former head coach Gary White, who retired after the 2011 season. But White has since returned as an assistant coach for the Eagles.

At one point during his head coaching tenure, White gave the 4x400 runners specially designed baseball hats. The hats were highly coveted by the team.

"The 4x4 is lot of fun," Hahn said. "The team has so much energy during that race and gets all of us pumped up just to run it. Everyone supports it, and it gets a little wild. Everyone starts yelling. People want to be a part of it."

Hahn's other events are the 400, the 4x100 relay and the 4x200 relay, but the team's lineup for the Northern Buckeye Conference meet May 12 and the district meet May 16 hasn't been decided.

The 400, the 4x100 and the 4x200 are run approximately 45 minutes apart.

"He's always been there in so many different pieces for us," Sabo said. "I would really would love to see him and the 4x400 make it down to state again. We'll see what the best fit is."

Regardless of what events Hahn is in, the Eagles are guaranteed he'll run hard and give maximum effort.

In the NBC meet last season, Hahn was second in the 400 by just .16 and helped the Eagles win the 4x400 relay. He filled in on the relay team for Jacob Montag, who missed the conference meet with a hand injury. Montag returned for the district, regional and state meets.

"He's a great kid," Sabo said of Hahn. "He pours in effort. The foundation of our team is effort and I think of Jacob Hahn when it comes to effort. It doesn't matter what event he's in. He might break stride sometimes because I'm pushing so hard and that's who he is."

"He always says, 'Yes, I can do that,' whenever you ask him to do something, no matter what event it is," Sabo added. "That's what you get from him every single time. He's an ideal kid to coach."

The track season will finish Hahn's successful athletic career. He'll earn 13 letters — four each in track, wrestling and soccer, and one in football.

The 138-pounder finished second in the NBC and sectional wrestling tournaments, and sixth in the district tournament as a senior. In soccer, the forward was a first-team All-NBC selection last fall.

In football last fall, he kicked extra points and field goals for the Eagles. Eastwood finished 14-1 overall and 7-0 in the NBC, advancing to the state championship game in Division V.

"I love all sports, but wrestling is my favorite because I've been doing it since I was 4-years-old," Hahn said. "I love the competition and just being in sports with all of my friends. Sports have given me a lot of great experiences."

Hahn, who has a 3.0 grade-point average, still is working on his future plans. He's leaning towards working with his dad for the R.J. Corman Railroad Group.