

Eastwood boys finish second, girls place fifth at Whitmer

By Kevin Gordon - April 9th, 2017

Eastwood's boys finished second and the girls placed fifth Saturday in the Whitmer Invitational.

The Eagle boys totaled 144 points to finish as the runnerup to Whitmer with 164 in the eight-meet meet. Bedford was third with 113.

Eastwood won four events.

Kenneth Cassaubon won the 110 hurdles in 15.66.

The 1,600 relay team of Alex Boyer, Jacob Montag, Nate McCauley-Benner, and Jacob Hahn won 3:32.31.

The long jump relay team of Ryan Reiter, Jaden Rayford and Robert Hilt won with a distance of 61-0. Reiter was first individually at 21-10, and Rayford was second at 20.5.

The discus relay team of Erik Fertig, Dalton Andrews and Jason Ernsthansen had a combined distance of 402-4½. Fertig was first individually at 145-4.

"I'm happy," Eagle coach Brian Sabo said, adding the team had many personal bests during the meet. "We're asking some young and really new people to battle with them, and they did. We ran state- and regional-caliber times on April 8. I'm very happy with the progression of this team."

The Eagles were competing for just the second time this season and the first time since a March 28 dual meet against Clay and McComb. Eastwood was scheduled to take part in the Liberty-Benton Relays March 31, but the meet was canceled because of inclement weather.

Eastwood was the only Division III school in the seven-team meet at Whitmer. The other six schools all were Division I. The Eagles also had a 'B' team compete in the meet, scoring three points.

"This meet gives us a barometer to know where we're at, and it exposes some weaknesses, some failures and weaknesses to fix," Sabo said. "There's nothing wrong with that. We embrace that. We're pretty solid.

"It doesn't let you fear any competition down the road," Sabo added. "When you go against the schools we did today and you get to some Division II or III meets or the

district or the regional, they don't fear competition. That's the part I love about coming to meets like this. There were so many guys who stepped up today."

Finishing second for the Eagles were:

- Landon Zura, 100, 11.40.
- Logan Baugher, 800, 2:00.93.
- 400 relay, Cooper Comes, Isaac Emahiser, Ryan Reiter and Tyler Brenot, 44.01.
- 400 throwers relay, Andrews, Fertig, Ernsthausen and Tyler Tudor, 51.44.
- 3,200 relay, Jack Chappuies, Billy Barker, Baugher and Josh Bierley, 8:42.81.
- 800 sprint medley relay, Brenot, Zura, Hahn and Nate McCauley-Benner, 1:40.51.
- 440 shuttle hurdles relay, Cassaubon, Logan Wendt, Ceyleon Damron and Baugher, 1:03.52.
- High jump relay, Brenot, Reiter and Rayford, 16-11. Brenot was first individually at 5-11.
- Pole vault relay, Montag, Lucas Jackson and Brenot, 35-6. Montag was second individually at 13-6.
- Triple jump relay, Josh McCauley, Clayten Vongphachanh and D.J. Rolf, 107-9¼. McCauley was second individually at 38-10.
- Shot put relay, Andrews, Fertig and Tudor, 128-4½. Andrews was second individually at 49-9½.

In the girls meet, Eastwood totaled 83 points. Notre Dame won with 139, edging runnerup Whitmer by six points.

Eastwood won the pole vault relay where Jessica Lang and Allison Abke, and Hannah Limes combined to clear 27-0 to break the school record of 26-0 set in 2015.

Lang and Abke went 9-6, and Limes cleared 8-0. Lang and Abke were part of a three-way tie for second individually.

The Eagles' 400 relay team of Leah Tressel, Jamie Schmeltz, Nichole Swartz and Jessica Lang was second in 51.55, the 10th-fastest time in school history.

"I'm very happy," Eastwood coach Nikki Sabo said. "Whenever you go against competition like that, it opens your eyes to improvement we have to do. They stepped up to the competition today. They were confident. They went after it. We had tons of PRs. I was pleased, especially for the second meet of the year."

The Eagles' triple jump relay team of Shaunna Jubenville, Abke and Shelby Getz set the school record with a fourth-place distance of 85-8½. The previous record of 84-7¾ was set in 1992.

Eastwood's Hannah Sponaugle finished second in two events, the 1,600 in 5:34.41 and the 3,200 in 11:54.75. She also ran the 800, but didn't place.

“(Sponaule) raced like crazy. She had good competition in all three races,” Sabo said. “She attacks each race and goes after it, and had great times in all three for this time of the year.”

Like the Eastwood boys, the girls were competing for just the second time and the first time since the March 28 dual meet against Clay and McComb, and the other six schools were Division I. The Eagles are in Division II.

“It helps us, especially for districts and regionals later in the year,” Sabo said of the competition at Whitmer. “You go to regionals, and you realize you went against people this fast back in April. We’ve seen that before. We get great competition here.”