

Schmeltz, Getz, Stevenson and Hoelter aim for finals first



Photos by: Tammy Schmeltz

By Kevin Gordon

Jamie Schmeltz, Shelby Getz, Maisy Stevenson and Mikayla Hoelter are taking it one step at a time this week. The Eastwood High School athletes are competing in the Division II regional track and field meet at Lexington High School this week.

And their first goal is to qualify for the finals in their events.

They advanced to the regional in four

events — Getz in the 100 hurdles and the 300 hurdles, Schmeltz in the 100,

and they'll be joined by Stevenson and Hoelter in the 4x400 relay.

The top four finishers in each event at the regional qualify for the state meet on May 31-June 1 at Ohio State University's Jesse Owens Stadium.

The state meet also includes two at-large qualifiers from both the running and throwing events. The at-large qualifiers will be the next two best times/distances in the regional, regardless of region.

The at-large qualifiers in the running events were added last season, and in the field events this season.

Based on times from last week's district finals, Getz ranks third in the 300 hurdles and fourth in the 100 hurdles among the 16 regional qualifiers. Schmeltz is seventh in the 100.

The semifinals are Thursday. The top two finishers in each heat and next four fastest times, regardless of heat, qualify for Saturday's final.

"They're both capable of making the finals," Eastwood coach Nikki Sabo said. "They will go out and compete. Goal one is always to make the finals. If that happens, then you do the best you can and place as high as you can.

"They're definitely in the thick of things for that to happen," Sabo added.

The relay team's goal also is to qualify for the finals. Eastwood's district finals time was the 11th-fastest of the regional qualifiers. The 4x400 semifinals also are Thursday, with the finals on Saturday. The top two finishers in each heat and the next four fastest times, regardless of heat, advance to the finals.

"If they all drop some time, they can get under 4:10, and that would be a huge goal time-wise," Sabo said.

The 4x400 team had a season best time of 4:14.86 at the Oak Harbor district to advance to the regional. Schmeltz and Getz are juniors, and Stevenson and Hoelter are freshmen.

"Our district is tough, so it prepares you for the regional," Sabo said. "If you do well in our district, you'll do well in our regional. The seedings don't mean anything. Everyone has to show up and compete."

Getz is returning to the regional after finishing ninth in the 300 hurdles last season. She ran a PR in both events in the district finals last week, 15.73 in the 100s and 46.90 in the 300s.



“She attacked the weight room, all the way through soccer season because the soccer team lifted,” Sabo said. “She took a little time off after soccer and was right back at it. It’s paid dividends at this point of the season.”

Like Getz, Schmeltz has run consistently well this season after recovering from an iron deficiency last season. She was a three-event regional qualifier last season, finishing eighth in the 200, 11th in the 100 and seventh in the 4x100 relay.

Schmeltz has broken the school record twice this season, most recently a 12.71 clocking during the Northern Buckeye Conference meet May 11. She had

a time of 12.99 in the district final.

“For her to be healthy has been huge,” Sabo said. “The iron deficiency makes a huge difference, especially in terms of oxygen levels and endurance, especially when you’re having to do multiple races in one day.

“Her work ethic in the weight room, throughout the summer and throughout basketball season, has made a difference, and she’s taking fitness class,” Sabo added. “Her overall strength and power are much improved from a year ago.”

In addition to Getz and Schmeltz being returning regional qualifiers, Stevenson and Hoelter are no strangers to a regional. They played in a regional semifinal for the school’s soccer team last fall, and Getz was a member of the team.

“Their personalities are the reason they’re in the order they’re in,” Sabo said. “Jamie will get out and put them in very good position. She’s an excellent leadoff runner. Shelby will have to cut in on her leg, and she won’t hesitate to get herself in a good position.

“I like how Maisy gets out hard every time. She just runs a solid leg for us.” Sabo added. “Mikayla, she’s all guts. She will battle all the way to the finish line,”

Although Schmeltz and Getz will do some block work on their starts, and Getz will hone her technique on the hurdles, most of practice this week will be devoted to rest and recovery.

Schmeltz competed in a total of 14 races, and Getz ran in 13 during the NBC and district meets in a seven-day span. Getz had one fewer race because the 300 hurdles in the NBC meet didn’t have a semifinal.

“This week is about making their legs feel as fresh as possible,” Sabo said. “We want them to be fresh and ready to go for Thursday.”

For complete information on the regional, including schedule, lane and flight assignments, and results, visit:

<https://www.baumspage.com/track/trevent.php?peventid=1124&table=C>