

Boys, girls sweep tri-meets

By Kevin Gordon

Eastwood's boys and girls track and field teams enjoyed their third straight meet filled with quality effort and even more improvement Tuesday night.

The hard work and growth helped the Eagles defeat Genoa and Swanton.

The boys won 13 of the 17 events and totaled 112 points to beat Northern Buckeye Conference rival Genoa with 59 points and Swanton with 4.

The girls scored 96 points, including eight first-place finishes, to finish ahead of Swanton with 47 and Genoa with 32.

Logan Wendt swept the hurdles for Eastwood in the boys meet, and Erik Fertig had the third-best discus throw in school history.

Wendt, a junior, won the 110 race in 15.70 and the 300 race in 44.10.

Fertig, a senior, threw 172-3 in the discus, but finished second. The winner was Genoa senior Noah Koch, who threw 173-8. Fertig is the Division II defending state champion in the discus, while Koch was 10th at state last season.

Fertig's throw was a personal record by almost six feet. His previous best of 166-9 came May 4 last season at the Oak Harbor Invitational. He already had the third-best throw in school history entering the meet before extending his mark against Genoa and Swanton.

Ahead of Fertig on Eastwood's all-time list are Justin Welch, who threw 202-0 in 2010; and Dave Andrews, who threw 176-5 in 1989.

Fertig also won the shot put, throwing 51-2½.

Tuesday's throws by Koch and Fertig are the two best distances in Division II this season. The two throws also are the fourth- and fifth-best distances in the state this season, regardless of division.

"He's been wanting that for a while, and he probably thinks there's more, and that's great," Eastwood Brian Sabo said of Fertig. "I'm very happy for him because he deserves that."

Eastwood's other individual winners were: senior Jack Arman, 100, 11.94; sophomore Jimmy Recknagel, 1,600, 5:16.79; sophomore David Russell, 800, 2:19.95; junior Lucas Coffman, 3,200, 10:53.66; and senior Riley Welker pole vault, 11-0.

The Eagles won all four relays.

The 4x800 team of Russell, Coffman, junior Lucas Pease and junior Montgomery Kramer won in 9:20.69.

The 4x200 team of freshman Ethan Kwiatkowski, junior Jacob Halko, senior Jack Chappuies and freshman Jake Limes won in 1:39.53.

The 4x100 team of senior Alex Boyer, Arman, Halko and sophomore Dylan Jump won in 47:42.

The 4x400 team of Arman, junior Christian Peters, Limes and Jump won in 3:47.36.

"You could see a lot of effort, and we had a lot of kids have PRs," Eastwood coach Brian Sabo said. "This was another meet of us getting better. We just have to make sure we're healthy. We're getting some (nagging injuries) here and there. We want to make sure we do the right things to make sure kids stay healthy."

The Eagles used 16 teams in the four relays — five in the 4x400, four each in the 4x800 and the 4x100, and three in the 4x200.

“I wanted some guys who are going to be running Friday to do some different things tonight,” said Sabo, whose team competes in the Whitmer Invitational Friday.

“We wanted to get more kids involved in the relays because they’re more fun, and we’re going to continue to do that. It’s chaotic during the meet, and it’s chaotic in practice trying to get all of the handoffs down, but it’s worth it.

“Kids love to run relays, and it’s more fun for them. When you see that many kids running relays, and pouring in effort and running really hard, it’s appreciated.”

In the girls meet, Eastwood’s individual winners were: junior Shelby Getz, 300 hurdles, 50.64; junior Jamie Schmeltz, 200, 27.99; freshman Mikayla Hoelter, high jump, 4-8; freshman Ava Kiefer, shot put, 35-1¼; and junior Hannah Limes, pole vault, 8-6.

The Eagles won two relays.

The 4x200 team of Getz, Schmeltz, senior Shaunna Jubenville and Hoelter won in 1:53.60.

The 4x400 team of Hoelter, freshmen Aubrey Haas and Felicia Cassaubon, and Schmeltz won in 3:35.37.

The Eagles had 12 PRs and one season best in the running events, and 11 PRs in the field events.

“It was a good meet for us,” Eastwood coach Nikki Sabo said. “Genoa and Swanton both have some good competition. They have good athletes, and it pushed us. This was another opportunity for our team to get better individually and as a team. When you go against good competition, it helps you improve.”

Six of Eastwood’s PRs came in the discus and the shot.

Kiefer had PRs in both throws, adding a fourth-place finish in the discus (90-1).

Junior Ashley Hodulik had a PR of 92-7 in the discus for second place, while senior Liz Arntson had a PR of 80-2.

Sophomore Hannah Friend (27-1¼) and junior Kelly Royal (26-7½) also had PRs in the shot.

“They keep building, and they keep improving,” Sabo said of the throwers. “That’s awesome. They feed off of each other’s energy, and that keeps resulting in PR after PR. I hope it continues because they have some pretty big throws going on right now.”