

Hodulik's school record results in fourth-place finish



By Kevin Gordon

GENEVA — Ashley Hodulik envisioned throwing a big personal record at her sport's showcase event.

Once the Eastwood High School junior shook off a head cold late in the week, she delivered. Twice. Hodulik extended her school record in the weight throw twice en route to a fourth-place finish in the Division II-III state indoor track and field championships at the SPIRE Institute.

Hodulik had a distance of 41-11 during the finals after a throw of 40-8½ during the preliminaries. She originally broke the school record Jan. 13 with a throw of 40-3½ during a meet at the University

of Findlay

"I'm really happy, being my first indoor season," said Hodulik, who joined the program for the first time last spring. "Fourth place, a big PR (personal record) ... what a great day."

Hodulik threw 40-8½ on her first throw of the prelims and then increased her record on her first throw of the finals.

The 23 state qualifiers were divided into flights of 12 and 11 for the prelims. They received three throws each during the prelims, with the top nine distances advancing to the finals where they received three more throws in an attempt to improve their distance.

"A nice reward for the work she's put in," Eastwood coach Nikki Sabo said.

Hodulik threw 37-4½ and 34-3 in her first two meets in December this season before hitting the 40-foot mark at the University of Findlay. In her final three meets prior to state, her best throws were in the 38- and 39-foot range.

"I was working through some technique stuff because throwing is very technical, and I'm a young thrower," Hodulik said. "You can't PR every meet. I was feeling good coming into today, and I felt a big PR coming. I was really happy to PR today."

Eastwood's weight throw record entering the season was 39-2¼ set by Jena Jacoby in 2012.

Hodulik had an almost 21-inch career best, even though she said she developed the head cold on Wednesday and left school early on Thursday because of it. Even though she still wasn't 100 percent Saturday, she had sufficiently recovered to compete at state.

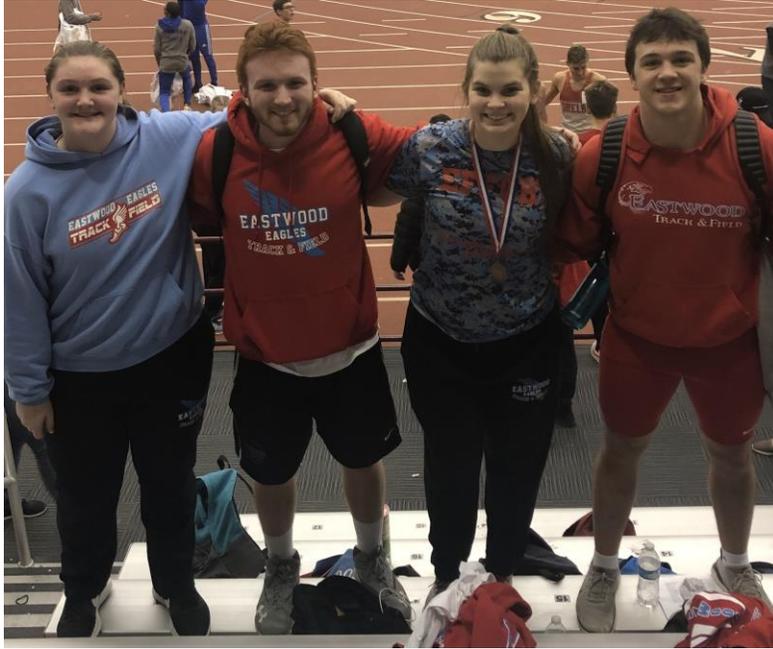


Photo Credit: Lucas Friess Ava Kiefer, Austin Kieper, Ashley Hodulik, and Erik Fertig

“Sometimes in the field events, when you have a nice jump or a nice throw, the coaches start nitpicking little details, so you start thinking about it, and you don’t jump as high or throw as far,” Sabo said. “But then when it all comes together, you get PRs, and that’s what happened today.” Waverly senior Kaila Barr won the weight throw with a distance of 53-2, while Van Wert senior Jill Gemmer was second at 44- $\frac{1}{4}$ and Leipsic sophomore Elia

Rigel was third at 42-10.

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

Hodulik is looking forward to throwing during the outdoor season which starts with practice Monday.

“Lots of reps and lots of confidence,” Hodulik said when asked what she gained from the indoor season. “This is a good way to end the indoor season and go into the outdoor season.”

Jubenville finishes ninth

Eastwood’s Shaunna Jubenville finished ninth in the triple jump. The senior had her best jump of the season, an effort of 31-8. Her previous best was 30-3 $\frac{3}{4}$.

“I feel good about the finish,” Jubenville said, “It was my best of the season. To compete at state is cool, an awesome experience, to know you’re competing against great competition.”

The jump of 31-8 came on her final attempt of the finals. She jumped 31-7 on her second attempt of the prelims and on her first attempt in the finals.

“She had her best jump of the season,” Sabo said. “She really went after it, and kept going after it.

I’m proud of what she accomplished.

Like Hodulik, Jubenville is looking forward to the outdoor season. Jubenville was a state outdoor qualifier in the long jump as a sophomore in 2017, but she was slowed by shin splints last season.

“I feel good,” Jubenville said. “I want to redeem myself after last season. I had a great sophomore year, and I’d like to come back with a great senior year. The indoor

season me has given me a lot of confidence and I feel like everything will fall into place in both events with a lot of hard work.”

Kiefer, Cassaubon compete

Two Eastwood freshmen, Ava Kiefer and Felicia Cassaubon, competed in the state meet.

Kiefer was 17th in the weight throw with a distance of 36-3¾, while Cassaubon was 24th in the long jump with a distance of 13-10.

“To get this experience, they both performed well,” Sabo said. “They embraced the challenge and weren’t overwhelmed by the meet. They were excited to be here, and it will definitely help them in the future.”

Indoor season wrapup

Sabo said the indoor season was a good start for the Eagles, who have a young team this season with just five athletes returning who competed in the majority of the team’s big meets last season.

“It was one of the better indoor seasons we had in terms of numbers of people competing in meets,” Sabo said. “A ton of freshmen tried it for the first time. I feel good going into the outdoor season. The basketball team did so well, and we have a lot of kids from that team. That experience, those big games, same with the soccer team. The success the other teams have had had just feeds off itself, and we can use it during the outdoor season.”

Complete results are available at: <https://lightningtiming.com/>