

Getz, Schmeltz advance to individual finals

By Kevin Gordon

LEXINGTON — Shelby Getz and Jamie Schmeltz enhanced their already impressive résumés Thursday.

The Eastwood High School juniors qualified for the finals of their individual events — Getz in the 100 hurdles and the 300 hurdles, and Schmeltz in the 100 — during the Division II regional track and field meet at Lexington High School.

Getz and Schmeltz will compete for a regional championship and a berth in the state meet during Saturday's finals.

Getz runs the 100 hurdles at 12:30 p.m., followed by Schmeltz in the 100 at 12:40 p.m. and Getz in the 300 hurdles at 1:45 p.m.

The top four finishers at each of the four regionals advance to state, along with the next two fastest times overall, regardless of region. The state meet is May 31-June 1 at Ohio State University's Jesse Stadium.

Getz ran the fifth-fastest time of the eight finalists in both hurdles. She had a time of 15.77 in the 100 race and 47.13 in the 300 race.

"I'm thankful I'm in the finals, but I didn't do as well as I wanted to, in terms of time," Getz said.

Getz was coming off personal-record times in both events at last week's district finals at Oak Harbor, 15.73 in the 100 race and 46.90 in the 300 race. She's second all-time at Eastwood in the 100 race and third in the 300 race.

"Getting to the finals was my first goal, and I did that," Getz said. "Now, I want to run even better in the finals."

Galion junior Kerrigan Myers, who was sixth in the state last season, was the fastest qualifier in the 100 hurdles with a time of 14.24. She broke the meet record of 14.26 set by Columbus Eastmoor Academy's Cheyanne Carter in 2015.

The fastest qualifier in the 300 hurdles was Columbus South senior Kadai Greene-Tucker, who had a time of 45.41.

Based on times run during the district finals, Getz entered the regional seeded third in the 300 hurdles and fourth in the 100 hurdles among the 16 qualifiers.

"That's huge," Eagle coach Nikki Sabo said of Getz qualifying for the finals. "She had good, solid times in both. She's right in the thick of things in both. She's a fighter, and she'll give it everything she has on Saturday. It'll be fun to watch."

She was a regional qualifier in the 300 hurdles last season, but didn't make the finals with the ninth-fastest time during the semifinals.

"That gave me confidence," Getz said. "I knew I belonged here this year, and I knew what to expect."

Schmeltz ran the seventh-fastest semifinal time in the 100, a 12.94 clocking, to advance. Columbus Beechcroft junior Makiya Montgomery was the fastest qualifier in 11.89.

"I'm definitely excited to be in the finals," Schmeltz said. "I felt pretty strong, but I still feel like I can shave a little more time off and, hopefully, place high on Saturday."

I'm really looking forward to the finals, and getting out and competing with those girls."

Schmeltz is the Eastwood record-holder in the 100. She's broken the record twice this season, most recently May 11 at the Northern Buckeye Conference meet with a time of 12.71.

"Getting to the finals was the goal, and she did that," Sabo said. "She wants to fix a few little things for Saturday. She's right there, too, and has a shot to make it out. She'll bring great effort and this will put her in the thick of it. It'll be fun to watch Jamie compete."

Schmeltz is a returning regional qualifier. She was eighth in the 200 last season, but she missed the finals of the 100 by running the ninth-fastest semifinal time.

"Last year gave me a great perspective on the competition and what to expect because I've been here before," Schmeltz said. "I know what to expect and how the competition is."

The Eagles' 4x400 relay team of Schmeltz, Getz and freshmen Maisy Stevenson and Mikayla Hoelter had a solid run during the semifinals, even though it didn't advance to the finals.

The team had a time of 4:15.59, just off its season best of 4:14.86 during the district finals. They had the ninth-fastest time during the regional semifinals, missing a berth in the finals by 2.72 seconds.

"They ran well. That's one of the better 4x4s we've had in a long time," Sabo said. With all four returning for next season, they'll start next season just 5.28 seconds shy of Eastwood's Top 10 list.

"They got great experience," Sabo said. "They know what to expect and what they have to do to move to that next level next year. It's a great opportunity for them. I am proud of how they competed and that they went for it."

Thursday's complete results are available at:

<https://www.baumspage.com/rtrack/2012/6/2019/Day%201%20Results.pdf>

Saturday's lane assignments are available at:

<https://www.baumspage.com/rtrack/2012/6/2019/Finals%20Program.pdf>

Saturdays' schedule is available at:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/Track-Field/RegTrackSchedule.pdf>