

Meyer qualifies for state high jump;
Eagles have 'awesome' first day at regional

By Kevin Gordon - May 26th, 2017

LEXINGTON — Eastwood's girls track and field team had a regional to remember Thursday night.

And the meet still has one day remaining.

Katelyn Meyer finished third in the high jump to qualify for the Division II state meet. But Meyer, a junior who also qualified for the finals of the 100 hurdles, was just the start of a terrific day for the Eagles.

Eastwood also qualified for the finals in three other events at Lexington High School.

Sophomore Shaunna Jubenville advanced in the 300 hurdles, and the 800 and 400 relay teams also qualified.

The 800 relay team consisted of freshman Jamie Schmeltz, juniors Nichole Swartz and Abby Schroeder, and senior Leah Tressel. Schmeltz, Schroeder, Tressel and Meyer ran the 400 relay.

The two relay teams and Jubenville had career-best performances that also ranked in the Top 10 in Eastwood history.

The regional concludes Saturday. The field events start at 11:30 a.m., followed by the running finals at 12:30 p.m. The top four finishers in each event at the regional qualify for the state meet.

The state meet is June 2-3 at Ohio State University's Jesse Owens Stadium.

"What an awesome day," Eastwood coach Nikki Sabo said. "This is one of the best first days at the regional we've had in a long time. To get almost every single event to the finals is huge for their confidence. They're excited, and they're determined.

"They set some lofty goals at the beginning of the year, and they're starting to see some of them come to fruition. It's just fun to watch."

Eastwood's day was even more impressive because most of the meet was contested in a rain that was sometimes heavy.

But the rain didn't faze the Eagles, who performed well in adverse conditions for the second meet in a row. Eastwood scored 110 points in rainy, windy and cold conditions last week to finish third in the Oak Harbor district meet.

"Three PRs in the rain, how great is that?" Sabo said. "The rain doesn't bother them. They've dealt with it before. They're here for a reason, and they just go out and compete."

Meyer cleared 5-3 in the high jump to advance.

"I'm really excited to be going back to state," said Meyer, who finished in a tie for fifth in the state meet last season. "It's a relief after getting there last year because I had been there once, and I wanted to get back there."

Meyer was short of her best of 5-7 earlier this season, but the regional was held in the challenging weather conditions. On Saturday, she'll attempt to qualify for state in the long jump where she finished third last season.

"It wasn't my best, but I'm going to state, and that was my goal," Meyer said. "Now, I'm looking forward to next week. My goal at state is to PR (personal record) and do my best, and wherever that places me is fine."

In the 100 hurdles, Meyer had the fifth-best time of the eight finalists with a 16.02 clocking. She also was a state qualifier in that event last season, finishing eighth.

The 800 relay team had a time of 1:47.18, the fifth-fastest of the eight finalists and the seventh-fastest in Eastwood history. The team's previous best this season was 1:48.51.

The 400 team had a time of 50.18, the fastest of the eight finalists and the second-fastest in Eastwood history. Eastwood's previous best this season was 50.45 by Schmeltz, Schroeder, Swartz and Tressel.

The school record of 49.90 was set last season by Tressel, Schroeder, Swartz and Meyer.

The 400 relay also qualified for state last season, but didn't advance to the finals. Tressel, Schroeder, Swartz and Meyer ran on that team.

"The handoffs were good," Sabo said of the relays. "There are still some little adjustments they can make here and there, but they've got to come back Saturday and do it again. If they do, things will be good."

The two relays were part of a big day for Schmeltz, who was a three-event regional qualifier in her first season. She ran the 200 later in the day, posting a time of 27.13 which didn't qualify for the finals. Her time was the ninth-fastest in the semifinals and just .15 shy of the finals.

Jubenville had a time of 47.89 to qualify for the 300 hurdles final. It was the third-fastest of the eight finalists and the fourth-fastest in school history. Her previous best of 49.15 came earlier this season. She'll join Meyer in the long jump on Saturday.

"(Jubenville) ran really well," Sabo said. "She went out hard and really went after it."

Eastwood will compete in three other events Saturday.

Senior Hannah Sponaugle will run the 1,600 and the 3,200, while junior Jessica Lang will compete in the pole vault.

REGIONAL TRACK AND FIELD

DIVISION II

GIRLS

THURSDAY

AT LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

TEAM STANDINGS

1) Oak Harbor, 13; 2) Galion, 12; 3) tie, Ontario, Wooster Triway, Liberty-Benton, 10; 8) tie, Eastwood, River Valley, 8.

FINALS

(The top four in each event qualify for the state meet June 2-3 at Ohio State University's Jesse Owens Stadium)

High jump — 3) Katelyn Meyer, 5-3.

SEMIFINALS

(The top two finishers in each heat and the next four fastest times, regardless of heat, qualified for the finals; Eastwood's finals qualifiers denoted with a 'q')

100 hurdles — 5) q-Meyer, 16.02.

800 relay — 5) q-Jamie Schmeltz, Nichole Swartz, Abby Schroeder and Leah Tressel, 1:47.18.

400 relay — 1) q-Schmeltz, Schroeder, Tressel and Meyer, 50.18.

300 hurdles — 3) q-Shaunna Jubenville, 47.89.

200 — 9) Schmeltz, 27.13.