

Boys impressive again in winning fourth straight district title

By Kevin Gordon - May 21st, 2017

GIBSONBURG — Eastwood's boys track and field team dominated again Saturday.

The Eagles won nine events and scored 174 points to win the Division III district championship at Gibsonburg High School.

Eastwood qualified for the regional in 15 of the 17 events, the exceptions being the 1,600 and the 3,200. The top four finishers in each event qualified for next week's regional at Frost-Kalnow Stadium in Tiffin.

"What a great day, even slightly beyond what I expected," Eastwood coach Brian Sabo said. "We had a lot of quality performances today."

The Eagles won seven events Saturday, none more dramatic than Dalton Andrews' victory in the discus.

Andrews' winning throw of 157-3 came on the junior's last attempt of the finals to beat defending state champion Matt Lamb of Sandusky St. Mary by three inches. Andrews was second after the prelims.

The athletes receive three throws during the semifinals with the top nine distances advancing to the finals where they earn three more throws to better their distance. The nine athletes in the finals throw in the reverse order of standing going into the finals.

Just as exciting as Andrews' win was sophomore teammate Erik Fertig's fourth-place finish in the same event. Fertig threw 150-4 on his last attempt in the finals to earn the final regional berth. He was third entering the finals and later fell to fifth during the finals.

"That's who we are," Sabo said. "We give effort. We're willing to take a risk, even it means failure. (Andrews and Fertig) took a chance to get a big throw in at the end, and they did."

The Eagles also scored in every event but the 3,200 to total their most points ever in a district meet. Their previous best was 152 in 2007 when they competed in Division II at Oak Harbor High School.

Woodmore was second in the Gibsonburg district with 56 points, while Toledo Christian was third with 53.

Eastwood's other individual champions Saturday were: senior Kenneth Cassaubon, 110 hurdles, 15.68; and senior Logan Baugher in the 800, 2:01.52.

The Eagles also won the 800, 400 and 1,600 relays.

- 800 relay, junior Cooper Comes, senior Ryan Reiter, senior Tyler Brenot, junior Isaac Emahiser, 1:31.42.
- 400 relay, Zura, Emahiser, Reiter and Brenot, 43.88.
- 1,600 relay, Baugher, Reiter, senior Jacob Montag and Emahiser, 3:27.10.

On Thursday, Montag cleared 14-0 to win the pole vault; freshman Jaden Rayford went 20-2¼ to win the long jump; and the 3,200 relay team of Boyer, Bierley, Baugher and Chappuies won in 8:30.17.

Even though the Eagles didn't advance to the regional in the 1,600 and 3,200, Sabo said they still ran three personal-record times in those events.

"We don't worry about other schools," said Brenot, who also was second in the pole vault and the high jump on Thursday. "We just give effort and see what we can do in every event."

The Eagles usually are sparked by their field events at the start of each meet, but the discus was the only field event Saturday, and it began well after the running events had started. That had 110 hurdlers Cassaubon and freshman Logan Wendt batting in the leadoff position. The two responded by taking the top two places in their event. Wendt was second in 16.19, .51 behind Cassaubon. Wendt also qualified for the finals of the 300 hurdles with a fourth-place finish.

"That ignited us and gave us a lot of energy and emotion," Sabo said. "You could see all of the hugs, and now we're going. It just ignited the team and everyone feeds off of that."

The Eagles scored 73 points in the five finals Thursday and added 101 in the 12 events Saturday. Their next goal is a regional championship. Eastwood's 174 points were the most of the four district champions heading to Tiffin.

"We have to make sure we're healthy, fix anything that needs to be fixed and move onto the next week," Sabo said. "We're set up well for next week. You're trying to score as many points as you can because you want to win the regional, but you're trying to get as many guys as you can to state. If you're trying to get as many guys as you can to state, then it gives you a pretty good chance to maybe win the regional."

Prior to Saturday's meet, Baugher received the Fred Dafler Award from the district officials association. The award is based on sportsmanship. An athlete's accomplishments on the track are not considered.

"Logan is one of the most selfless human beings I've ever met," Sabo said. "Not a moment goes by that when I ask his opinion, he's always about whatever the team needs, whatever you want me to do. He has great character, and he's a great reflection of our senior class."

Dafler is a former associate commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and a member of the OHSAA's Officials Hall of Fame.

DISTRICT TRACK AND FIELD

DIVISION III

AT GIBSONBURG HIGH SCHOOL

SATURDAY

BOYS

TEAM STANDINGS

TOP FIVE TEAMS

1) Eastwood, 174; 2) Woodmore, 56; 3) Toledo Christian, 53; 4) Elmwood, 50½; 5) Fremont St. Joseph, 42½.

EASTWOOD FINISHES

(Top four finishers qualified for next week's regional in Tiffin)

Discus — 1) Dalton Andrews, 157-3; 4) Erik Fertig, 150-4.

100 hurdles — 1) Kenneth Cassaubon, 15.68; 2) Logan Wendt, 16.19.

100 — 4) Landon Zura, 11.33.

800 relay — 1) Cooper Comes, Ryan Reiter, Tyler Brenot and Isaac Emahiser, 1:31.42.

1,600 — 6) Luke Coffman, 4:44.37; 12) Josh Bierley, 4:58.20.

400 relay — 1) Zura, Emahiser, Reiter and Brenot, 43.88.

400 — 4) Alex Boyer, 52.76.

300 hurdles — 4) Wendt, 43.00; 6) Ceyleon Damron, 43.76.

800 — 1) Logan Baugher, 2:01.52.

200 — 3) Emahiser, 23.02; 8) Nate McCauley-Benner, 23.96.

3,200 — 9) Bierley, 10:38.81; 14) Avery Geisbuhler, 10:54.38.

1,600 relay — 1) Baugher, Reiter, Jacob Montag and Emahiser, 3:27.10.