

Boys win fifth straight regional title

By Kevin Gordon - May 28th, 2017

TIFFIN — Eastwood's boys track and field team won its fifth straight regional championship with a terrific performance Friday night.

The Eagles totaled 84 points at Frost-Kalnow Stadium, more than doubling the total of runnerup Montpelier. The Locomotives scored 41 points, while Bluffton was third with 38.

Eastwood has won back-to-back regional championships at Tiffin after winning three straight regional titles in Division II at Lexington High School.

The Eagles' 84 points were their most in a regional. Their previous best was 79 in 2008 at Lexington where they also scored 72½ points in 2009.

Eastwood qualified for the state meet in five events Friday.

The Eagles won the 800 and 400 relays, and were third in the 1,600 relay.

Two individuals qualified for state — Kenneth Cassaubon with a second-place finish in the 110 hurdles; and Dalton Andrews, with a fourth-place finish in the shot put.

The top four finishers in each event at the regional qualified for state.

Eastwood qualified for the regional in 15 events, and advanced to state in eight. The Eagles also scored in 11 of those 15 events by placing in the top eight.

"What do you say about winning the regional five straight years," Eastwood coach Brian Sabo said. "They've embraced the whole legacy thing, just going all-in for reach other. To see a lot of PRs, season-bests, Top 10 performances, there was a lot of emotion by the guys, the coaching staff, guys who didn't even compete who came to support us. Just a memorable night. We're very pleased.

"The more guys, the more events you get down to state, that's more people you get to spend another week with, hanging out with them. Hanging out with them, in more than a coach-athlete relationship is the best part of it. It's the practices. It's the van ride. It's the going out to eat. It's the down time. The sad part is it's also the end. This is the last time, especially the seniors. But having the extra week is the best part of all this."

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

Following is a wrapup of the meet:

110 hurdles

Cassaubon finished second with the best time of his career, a 15.17 clocking that was the eighth-fastest in school history.

The senior's previous best was 15.42.

Cassaubon is one of the best stories on the team. He didn't start hurdling until late in his sophomore season, but he quickly learned the event and has steadily improved during his last two seasons. Now, he's headed to his sport's showcase event.

"I knew we wanted to take somebody who had pretty good speed and with our hurdle coaches (Ethan Downey, Gary White), they could take a kid who had good speed, he could be pretty good," Sabo said. "Just to see a kid like that have success, who has been in back looking in a little bit, all the hard work coming to fruition and he's a state qualifier."

800 relay

The 800 relay team of junior Cooper Comes, seniors Ryan Reiter and Tyler Brenot, and junior Isaac Emahiser won in 1:29.93.

The time was the team's best of the season and the second-fastest in school history. The school record of 1:29.40 was set in 2008.

"Those guys believe in each other," Sabo said. "They really wanted it, and they've worked so hard after not making it after last year. That's the cool part. They ran an unbelievable time. We thought it could happen, and it did."

400 relay

Brenot, Emahiser, Reiter and senior Landon Zura won in a season-best time of 43.47, lowering their previous best of 43.50.

"That was impressive," Sabo said. "One of the goals we had, as coaches, was to get a guy like Landon Zura down to state. We weren't going to leave a guy like him or (Comes) hanging. Zura got hurt at the end of last year, and now he's going to state. Once that race was in, I knew everyone was competing at state. That was a big one."

The Eagles were seventh at state in the 400 relay last season. Emahiser, Reiter and Brenot returned after running in the state final last season.

800

Baughter finished sixth in 1:59.99, his best time of the season and the second-best of his career. He put himself in position to qualify for state with a fast start, but couldn't hang on.

"We always thought if he would get him to the 600-meter mark at 1:24, 1:25, 1:26, and he did; that's who we are," Ssabo said. "We were second and, if you can come down the stretch and beat us, whether it be him not feeling well or someone being better, that's what it is."

The senior was aiming for a return to state after he finished eighth last season.

His career-best was 1:57.6 at state last season and his previous best this season was 2:00.93.

200

Emahiser was seventh in 22.91, his best of the season. His previous best was 22.94, and it was just off his career best of 22.85 last season.

“Just to PR and make the finals is what he wanted to do, and he knew it was points for the team,” Sabo said. “He was pretty close to his PR.”

1,600 relay

Baughner, senior Jacob Montag, Reiter and Emahiser were third in 3:25.88.

The time was their best of the season, lowering their previous best of 3:27.10.

The team’s finish was even more impressive because Baughner ran the race only an hour after competing in the 800 where he gave it everything he had and seemingly had nothing left for the 1,600 relay.

He became sick after the 800, but still ran the 1,600 relay and gave it everything he had to help send the relay team back to state.

“We had Jacob Hahn ready to go in, but when your leader, captain for four years picks himself up and says I’m running, we’re going to roll with it,” Sabo said. “The goal was to qualify and be in the top four, and that would have been the movie, storybook ending. The guy gets better and we win, but we qualified for state, and that was the goal.”

Eastwood is the defending state champion in the event, with Baughner, Reiter and Emahiser returning from last season.

“His attitude reflected everything we are,” Sabo said. “That’s what I appreciated the most about him.”

Shot put

Andrews earned his trip to state on his next-to-last throw of the finals, a career-best distance of 55-11 by almost two feet.

The throwers receive three attempts during the preliminaries, with the top nine distances advancing to the finals. They receive three more throws in the finals in an attempt to improve their distance.

Andrews was sixth going into the finals and was still sixth before his throw of 55-11. His previous best of 54-2 came earlier this season.

“He really went after it and hit a big one, It really ignited the whole team, along with (Cassaubon in the hurdles),” Sabo said.

The junior is third on Eastwood’s all-time list in the event. Just ahead of Andrews is his dad, Dave, who threw 57-8 in 1989 for second place.

High jump

Brenot and freshman Jaden Rayford tied for 10th at 5-10. Rayford also finished sixth in the long jump Wednesday.

“I never would have thought Brenot would have sniffed a regional at the start of the year, but he’s really had a good year,” Sabo said. “A guy like Rayford, a freshman, he’s had two good days. He’s got that experience of the regional now and if he can work a little bit harder, he can come back and be better. To come down to the regional as a freshman in two events is pretty impressive.”