

## **Day 2 boys district recap: Fertig wins discus; Hahn, 4x400 relay qualify for regionals**

By Kevin Gordon

OAK HARBOR — Eastwood's boys competed hard and gave quality effort during Friday's Division II district track and field meet at Oak Harbor High School.

The Eagles were rewarded for their hard work and determination.

Erik Fertig won the discus, Jacob Hahn finished third in the 400, and the 4x400 relay team of Alex Boyer, Jacob Hahn, Nate McCauley-Benner and Isaac Emahiser finished fourth to qualify for next week's regional meet.

The top four finishers in each event at the district qualified for the regional at Lexington High School.

Eastwood advanced to the regional in two other events during Wednesday's first day of the district — Fertig finished second in the shot put; and the 4x800 relay team of Billy Barker, Boyer, Jack Chappuies and Daniel Trombly finished fourth.

The Eagles finished fifth in the 17-team district with 51 points.

Perkins won with 117 points, followed by Shelby with 77, Oak Harbor with 62, and Oak Harbor with 55½.

Eastwood returned to Division II this season after spending the last two seasons in Division III.

The Eagles had six personal records in the meet, and were within striking distance of a PR in a number of other events.

"We just fought," Eastwood coach Brian Sabo said. "We had a total PR mindset, and it showed. These kids really, really, really went hard.

"Even though we were banged up, we gave it everything we had. We had a ton of PRs against good competition. We always talk about going hard, and we did that. I was very happy with today."

Fertig threw 162-10 to win the discus by more than six feet. His best this season is 166-9, the second-best throw in the state in Division II this season.

The winning throw came during the finals after he threw 159-1 on his second toss of the preliminaries. He started the preliminaries with a throw of 153-5 and added a throw of 158-3 on his final attempt of the preliminaries.

"I was happy with my consistency," Fertig said. "I'm not happy with where I'm at right now, but I have another week to improve my mark and get ready for regionals. And you can't be unhappy with a district championship."

Fertig's first throw of 153-5 enabled him to go after longer throws on his final four attempts, even at the risk of fouling. Just four of the 32 competitors posted a throw of at least 150 feet coming into the meet.

"Getting the first throw in takes a load off your shoulders," Fertig said. "It lets you relax and let loose on the rest of them. I knew 153 would be enough to make the finals and maybe even make it out (to the regional)."

Athletes receive three throws during the preliminaries, with the top nine distances advancing to the finals. The athletes then receive three more throws in the finals in an attempt to improve their distance.

Fertig had to wait approximately an hour for the finals to start after throwing in the first of four flights during the preliminaries.

“Some guys like the break, but I like I to stay as close as I can to the finals with my preliminary throws,” Fertig said. “I feel more fresh. I feel better. I had to warm up pretty hard before finals, but it all worked out.”

Fertig also received the Fred Dafler Sportsmanship Award from the Northwest District track and field officials association during Friday’s meet. Dafler is a former commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Also in the discus, Eastwood’s Austin Kieper had a monster PR for a seventh-place finish. The sophomore threw 142-3, improving his previous best of 120-7 earlier this season.

Hahn had a time of 52.38 for third place in the 400. The senior’s time was just 1.24 seconds behind the winner and just off his PR of 51.78.

“Hahn ran a strong race. He just gives effort,” Sabo said.

The 4x400 relay team of Boyer, Hahn, McCauley-Benner and Isaac Emahiser had a time of 3:37.13, its best of the season. The previous best was 3:27.37.

Emahiser is a senior, while Boyer is a junior and McCauley-Benner is a sophomore. Emahiser was questionable for the 4x400 relay at the start of the day with a sore leg, but he still ran and was limping after the race. He ran a gutsy anchor leg, edging Huron for the final regional spot by just 1.11 seconds.

The 4x400 is the final event of the meet, and Emahiser ran on the 4x100 relay team earlier in the meet.

“They’re what we’re all about,” Sabo said of the 4x400 team. “They just put out effort, held on, ran for the next guy, just battled and then Isaac (Emahiser) fighting to make sure we got in. That’s who we are.”

The Eagles placed in two other relays by finishing in the top eight.

The 4x200 team of McCauley-Benner, Boyer, junior Jack Arman and Hahn was fifth in 1:33.25, just off its previous best of 1:33.03.

The 4x100 team of senior Cooper Comes, Emahiser, senior Clayten Vongphachanh and Arman was sixth in 44.46, just off its previous best of 44.14.

Chappuies had a PR in the 800 where he finished sixth in 2:04.05. His previous best was 2:05.75.

Sophomore Lucas Coffman and Trombly, a senior, had PRs in the 3,200.

Coffman was eighth in 10:19.49, the fourth-fastest time in school history. His previous best was 10:26.64. Trombly was 10<sup>th</sup> in 10:37.18, beating his previous best of 10:43.19.

Coffman also was ninth in the 1,600 with a time of 4:42.84, just off his PR of 4:42.34 during Wednesday’s preliminaries. Also in the 1,600, sophomore Lucas Pease was 16<sup>th</sup> in 5:05.63.

In the high jump, sophomore Jaden Rayford and senior Robert Hilt didn’t clear the opening height.

The Eagles had a young team this season after being hit hard by graduation the last two seasons. But Eastwood also had a strong senior class that provided quality leadership to help the team win a conference championship and turn in a solid performance during the district meet.

“I hope the young group takes what the seniors taught them about competing and carries that to next week and brings that back next year,” Sabo said. “How do you know until flat out you put out effort, and realize I’m right there, I can do this, or, wow, what I can do next year, if I focus a little bit more, give a little bit more effort? “A lot of these kids are back, and they’re saying they’re going to be back here and get to the regional next year. That’s what the seniors did. They grew the legacy, left the jersey in a better place. I’m really proud of (the seniors).”

For complete results of the meet, visit

<http://www.baumspage.com/tf/nw/2012/oakharbor/2018/2018%20Results.htm>