

## Boys finish second, girls place sixth in Whitmer Invitational



*Photo Credit: Tammy Schmeltz, Junior Logan Wendt*

By Kevin Gordon

TOLEDO — Eastwood's boys and girls track and field teams responded well to outstanding competition Friday night. The Eagles competed well and had posted plenty of season-bests and personal records.

The boys finished second and the girls were sixth in the Whitmer Invitational.

The boys won the 4x100 throwers relay and the discus relay, and finished second in five other events en route to 165 points.

Whitmer won the team championship with 115 points, while St. Francis and Tiffin Columbian tied for third with 93.

Clay, Springfield, St. John's and Bedford also competed in the eight-team meet.

The girls, with Shelby Getz winning the 300 hurdles, scored 58 points to finish one point behind fifth-place Bedford. Anthony

Wayne won the meet with 143 points, followed by Whitmer 132, Clay 112 and

Columbian 103.

Springfield and St. Ursula also competed.

### Boys

The throwers relay team of Gage Might, Austin Kieper, Joel Mauricio and Erik Fertig won in 50.45.

The discus team of Fertig, Kieper and Might had a combined distance of 416-11. Fertig was first individually with a distance of 161-5, while Kieper was third at 139-4.

The Eagles finished in the top four in 17 of the 22 events. The top six finishers in each event scored team points on a 10-8-6-4-2-1 basis.

"Even on paper, I thought we had a chance to do well and it came down to having to perform," Eagle coach Brian Sabo said. "Then the races happened, and there was really strong competition. We really, really went after it. We didn't back down. They weren't nervous.

"They came in and performed for each other, the team and the program. We did a lot of things very well. We had a lot of PRs, and some guys were really consistent with were we had been."

Eastwood was the smallest school in the meet, based on enrollment.

Sabo also praised the efforts of Jacob Limes, Dylan Jump and Nate McCauley-Benner, who filled in as substitutes. Limes competed in four events, instead of the original two. Jump and McCauley-Benner both ran one extra race.

“We grew as a team tonight, and the competition helped us improve,” Sabo said. “We come to this meet because of the competition. We want to run against Whitmer, St. Francis, and St. John’s. We definitely belong here. I’m excited about this group. They pour in a lot of effort.”

In addition to its two wins, Eastwood had five seconds, six thirds and four fourths. The Eagles’ second-place finishes in the running events were: Alex Boyer, 800, 2:04.71; and the 4x110 shuttle hurdles relay team of Ceyleon Damron, Christian Peters, McCauley-Benner and Logan Wendt, 1:06.67;

Eastwood was second in the high jump, the pole vault and the shot put.

The high jump team of Emmet Getz, Wendt and Peters had a combined height of 16-3. Getz and Wendt tied for fourth individually at 5-6, while Peters tied for ninth at 5-3.

The pole vault team of Riley Welker, Quinn Booth and Donovan Cochrane had a combined height of 33-6. Welker tied for fourth individually at 12-0, while Booth tied for eighth at 11-0, and Cochrane was eighth at 10-6.

The shot put team of Fertig, Hunter McClish and Mason Steele was second with a combined distance of 126-½. Fertig finished first individually with a distance of 51-0, while McClish was 10<sup>th</sup> at 40-½.

Finishing third for Eastwood were: Lucas Coffman, 3,200, 10:35.70; Wendt, 110 hurdles, 15.98; and Peters, 300 hurdles, 43.55.

The Eagles were third in three relays.

The 4x200 team of Boyer, Jack Arman, and Dylan Jump had a time of 1:35.93.

The 4x400 team Boyer, Jacob Halko, Jacob Limes and Jack Chappuies had a time of 3:39.97.

The 4x800 team of David Russell, Boyer, Chappuies and Lucas Pease had a time of 8:39.01.

Coffman was fourth in the 1,600 in 5:04.38.

The Eagles’ 800 sprint medley relay team (100-100-200-400) of Limes, Damron, Jacob and McCauley-Benner was fourth in 1:42.95.

The long jump team of Damron, Trey Tuttamore and Connor Oberhouse was fourth with a combined distance of 53-½. Damron was fifth individually at 20-2.

The triple jump team of Limes, Oberhouse and Tuttamore was fourth with a combine distance of 106-2. Limes was fifth individually at 36-8, while Oberhouse was ninth at 35-7.

## **Girls**

Eastwood finished in the top four in eight events.

“They gave great effort, and we had a ton of PRs,” Eagle coach Nikki Sabo said. “They might have been a little frustrated with getting fifth or sixth or seventh place, but their times and distances are much better than they were at this point last year.



*Photo Credit: Tammy Schmeltz, Freshman Mikayla Hoelter*

“That’s a tribute to their hard work in the preseason and the working they’re doing now. They rose to the level of competition. The competition is the reason we love coming to this meet. We know we’re going to get tested and we’re going to get better as a team and as individuals.”

The Eagles, again, had a mix of contributions from their veterans and freshmen.

“The freshmen aren’t freshmen anymore,” Sabo said. “They are going out and competing hard and gaining the trust of their teammates. I appreciate the veteran athletes who have taken them under their wing and said, ‘Let’s go.’ The veterans are performing well, and they’re more confident than they were the last couple years.”

Getz posted a time of 48.37 to win the 300 hurdles by a comfortable margin of 1.80 seconds. The junior, who was a regional qualifier last season, took the lead out of the blocks and never gave up first place.

“We wanted her to get out really strong and be out front over that first hurdle,” said Eagle assistant coach Ethan Downey, who works with the hurdlers. “That’s what she did, and she finished with a lot left. She ran very well.”

Getz’s PR of 47.71 last season is the fourth-fastest time in school history. Her first 48-second time last season didn’t happen until the Division II district

preliminaries on May 15 at Oak Harbor.

“For her to run that time at this point of the year is pretty exciting,” Downey said. “She realizes if she puts herself out there and she’ll still have something left, and as the season goes on and the weather gets warmer, her time is going to continue to drop. I’m really excited to see what she runs the rest of the season.”

The pole vault team of Hannah Limes, Reegan Sheets and Staci Bienko finished tied for second with a combined height of 21-0. All three cleared 7-0 to finish tied for seventh individually.

The discus team of Ava Kiefer, Ashley Hodulik and Molly Baumgartner was third with a combined distance of 267-4. Kiefer was seventh individually at 91-3, while Hodulik was eighth at 90-3 and Baumgartner was 10<sup>th</sup> at 85-10.

The Eagles had five fourth-place finishes, including Jamie Schmeltz in the 100 (13.36) and the 200 (27.27).

“She ran two really good races,” Sabo said. “She was battling with some of the best sprinters in the area.

The 4x100 relay team of Getz, Schmeltz, Brianne Kwiatkowski and Felicia Cassaubon was fourth in 53.02.

The long jump team of Cassaubon, Shaunna Jubenville and Mikayla Hoelter finished fourth with a combined distance of 44-2. Cassaubon was seventh individually at 15-3.

The high jump team of Hoelter, Maisy Stevenson and Megan Graham finished fourth with a combined height of 13-5. Hoelter and Stevenson both jumped 4-7 to tie for seventh individually.

Also in the field events, Shauna Jubenville second (32-½) and Paige Woodruff was ninth in the triple jump (29-2); and Kiefer was fourth in the shot put, 34-6.

Sabo also praised the performances of freshman Aubrey Haas and Woodruff, a sophomore.

Haas finished fifth in the 800 with a time of 2:38.65, beating her previous best of 2:45.75. She was running the race for just the second time. Woodruff's distance in the triple jump was a PR by four feet.