

Girls finish third in district; Meyer wins high jump, 100 hurdles

By Kevin Gordon - May 20th, 2017

Picture Jamie Schmeltz running the 200m - Photo by Tammy Schmeltz

OAK HARBOR — Eastwood's girls track and field team was impressive again Friday night.

The Eagles won three events and totaled 110 points to finish third in the Division II district meet at Oak Harbor High School.

Junior Katelyn Meyer won the high jump, the 100 hurdles and ran a leg on the winning 400 relay team. The relay also consisted of freshman Jamie Schmeltz, junior Abby Schroeder and senior Leah Tressel.

Also for the Eagles, senior Hannah Sponaugle was second in the 3,200 and third in the 1,600, Schmeltz was third in the 200, freshman Shaunna Jubenville was fourth in the 300 hurdles, and the 800 relay team of Schmeltz, Schroeder, junior Nichole Swartz and Tressel was second.

The Eagles qualified for the regional in 10 events, those events totaling eight different athletes. Meyer is a four-event regional qualifier after winning the long jump on Wednesday. Jubenville was second in the long jump. Also Wednesday, junior Jessica Lang qualified for the regional with a third-place finish in the pole vault.

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

Eastwood fared well Friday, even though it faced chilly, windy and rainy conditions. The rain started with a hard downpour during the 100 and the downpour didn't stop until the 3,200 late in the meet.

Oak Harbor won the district championship with 133½ points, beating runnerup Liberty-Benton by five.

The top three teams all won league titles this season — Eastwood, the Northern Buckeye Conference; Oak Harbor, the Sandusky Bay Conference; and Liberty-Benton, the Blanchard Valley Conference.

"They didn't complain. It almost became laughable because of the conditions, but what are you doing to do?" Eagle coach Nikki Sabo said. "Everyone is in the same situation. They didn't say a word about the weather. They went out and competed. I'm really pleased, very proud of them."

Eastwood has finished second or third in the district in four straight seasons, averaging 105½ points each season in that span. They were second in 2016 with 110 points and 2014 with 108. Eastwood was third in 2015 with 94.

This season, the Eagles scored in 13 of the 17 events. The top eight finishers in each event scored team points.

“We went out and did our best, and that’s all you can ask for,” Sponaule said.

Meyer cleared 5-4 to win the high jump and then won 100 hurdles moments later in 15.89, although she originally was placed second by meet officials. Lake junior Makenzie Briggs was the original winner in 15.89.

After the results were announced, the Eastwood coaching staff asked the officials to review a photo of the finish. The officials did, and placed Meyer first and Briggs second. The finishes of the district meets have photos that can be reviewed.

“I thought I was second, but it was really hard to tell because we were right next to each other,” Meyer said. “I was surprised when they changed it.”

Because of the weather, Meyer’s time was shy of her season-best of 15.59.

“We both came out strong, and it was a close finish,” Meyer said. “(Briggs) had a really good race, too. I knew the finish would be close. With the conditions, I didn’t run as well as I could, but it was good enough to win.”

Meyer won the high jump by one inch.

“It wasn’t my best, but I won,” said Meyer, whose best is a school record 5-7 earlier this season.

The 400 relay won in 51.68.

“Our relay team dealt with the weather, and we did what we needed to do,” Meyer said. “Everyone did well, and we had a great finish.”

Meyer was a four-event state qualifier last season, finishing third in the long jump, tied for fifth in the high jump and eighth in the 100 hurdles. She also helped the 400 relay qualify for state, although it didn’t make the finals. Tressel, Schroeder and Swartz also ran on that relay team.

Sponaule had a time of 5:31.59 in the 1,600 and 12:33.95 in the 3,200, while Schmeltz had a time of 27.21 in the 200, and Jubenville had a time of 50.59 in the 300 hurdles.

The 800 relay had a season-best time of 1:48.51, beating their previous best of 1:49.68.

“Tonight is a testament to the hard work they’ve done,” Sabo said. “They performed well.”

Eastwood has performed consistently well since losing to Lake at home in a dual meet April 11. The loss was the Eagles’ first in a conference dual since 1994.

The Eagles entered the district meet after scoring 154 points last Saturday to win the NBC, their 17th straight conference title.

“Everyone has been taking everything seriously since that loss, no matter what the weather is, no matter what the competition is,” said Sponaugle, one of the team’s captains. “There are no more excuses. Everyone just goes after it.

“People became a lot more focused, both in practices and in meets, and everyone did what they needed to do,” Sponaugle added. “And it shows in what we’ve accomplished.”

Prior to Friday’s meet, Tressel 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.

“She’s a true leader and displays a lot of sportsmanship, whether it’s to her own teammates, the competition she’s going against or the officials,” Sabo said of Tressel, who also is one of Eastwood’s captains. “She’s always very respectful and a neat person all the way around in school.”

Tressel has a 3.72 grade-point average. In the fall, she’ll attend the University of Toledo and major in nursing.

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 II

### AT OAK HARBOR

### FRIDAY

### GIRLS

### TEAM STANDINGS

1) Oak Harbor, 133½; 2) Liberty-Benton, 128½; 3) Eastwood, 110; 4) Bellevue, 83; 5) Lake, 71; 6) Rossford, 66; 7) Port Clinton, 36; 8) Genoa, 28; 9) Scott, 4; 10) Fostoria, 2.

### EASTWOOD FINISHES

(Top four finishers in each event qualified for next week’s regional in Lexington)

Shot put — 10) Cassandra Clay, 30-¼; 12) Mykala Simon, 27-6½.

High jump — 1) Katelyn Meyer, 5-4; 8) Marisa Launstein, 4-10.

100 hurdles — 1) Meyer, 15.89; 5) Shelby Getz, 16.95.

800 relay — 2) Jamie Schmeltz, Abby Schroeder, Nichole Swartz and Leah Tressel, 1:48.51.

1,600 — 1) Hannah Sponaugle, 5:31.59; 9) Maggie Cochrane, 6:09.27.

400 relay — 1) Schmeltz, Schroeder, Tressel and Meyer, 51.68.

300 hurdles — 4) Shaunna Jubenville, 50.59; 6) Getz, 51.93.

800 — 11) Cochrane, 2:50.65; 15) Rory Farmer, 3:07.66.

200 — 3) Schmeltz, 27.21; 7) Tressel, 28.44.

3,200 — 2) Sponaugle, 12:33.95; 12) Moira Cunningham, 14:39.29.

1,600 relay — 5) Schmeltz, Schroeder, Sponaugle and Tressel, 4:27.24.