

Girls, boys sweep Genoa, Swanton



Photo Credit: Danielle DeFalco

By Kevin Gordon

LUCKEY — Eastwood High School's girls and boys track and field teams were all smiles following Tuesday's tri-meet against Genoa and Swanton.

The teams were happy with their sweep of the Comets and the Bulldogs, respectively.

But some of the Eagles' biggest smiles, high fives and fist bumps came immediately after each event when they athletes their performance resulted in a personal record or a season best.

Eastwood performed well for the third time in as many meets this season on a sun-drenched day at Freedom Field.

The girls won 15 of the 17 events and scored 123 points in beating Northern Buckeye Conference rival Genoa with 36 and Swanton with 16.

The boys won 12 events and totaled 106 points to defeat Genoa with 49 and Swanton with 20. Eastwood competes in the Whitmer Invitational Friday.

GIRLS RECAP

The Eagles had their usual team effort as they swept the five field events and won 10 of the 12 running events. Nine different Eagles accounted for the team's 11 first-place finishes in the individual events, and Eastwood won all four relays.

The top four finishers in the individual events, and the top two teams in each relay earned team points. Eastwood had seven second-place finishes, eight third-place efforts and six fourth-place finishes.

Eastwood had performed well in its first meet March 30 against Oak Harbor and Saturday in a third-place finish at the Liberty-Benton Relays.

"Another day of great effort and improvement," said Eastwood head coach Nikki Sabo, whose team had 31 personal records Tuesday. "We had tons of PRs or people trying events for the first time and they did really well. It just continues to help our confidence and our experience as we go from week to week."

Ava Kiefer moved into third-place on Eastwood's all-time list in the shot put with a throw of 38-0¼ — just three-quarters of inch behind Holly Coe, who threw 38-1 in 1999. The junior entered the season in fourth position with a throw of 37-2½ as a freshman. She passed Jessie Kohlhofer, who threw 37-4 in 2006.

Current Eastwood assistant coach Whitney Hartman Recker is the school-record holder, throwing 43-5¼ in 2004.

Sophomore Olivia Newsome just missed a Top 10 spot in winning the discus. She threw 115-1, just 13 inches shy of the all-time list. Her previous best was 113-6.

Sophomore Julia Sabo attempted a school record in the pole vault for their straight meet. She cleared 10-0 to finish first against Genoa and Swanton, but then missed all three of her attempts at 10-7. The Eagle record of 10-6 originally was set by Elise Wolff in 2014 and matched by Allison Abke in 2017. Sabo's career-best of 10-1 came Saturday at L-B.

Sabo won two other events Tuesday, finishing first in the 100 in 13.41 and the 200 in 28.31. Eastwood's other individual winners were: junior Aubrey Haas, 100 hurdles, 17.21; junior Mikayla Hoelter, 400, 1:05.25; freshman Riley Might, 300 hurdles, 53.83; freshman Haley Sponaugle, 3,200, 13:49.11; junior Maisy Stevenson, high jump, 4-10; and senior Paige Woodruff, long jump, 14-10½.



Photo Credit: Danielle DeFalco

The Eagles' winning relay teams were:

- 4x800, 11:13.72, team of freshman Avery Bowman, sophomore Talia Baum, junior Addie Young and freshman Cameron Sechkar.
- 4x200, 1:58.92, team of freshman Joelle Jared, Stevenson, freshman Kayla Buehler and Might.
- 4x100, 54.70, team of sophomore Claire Carpenter, freshman Lila Kiefer, Woodruff and senior Kayla Serres.

- 4x400, 4:36.89, team of sophomore Hannah Montag, senior Jamie Lahey, sophomore Kayden Firsdon, and freshman Amelia Ward.

The Eagles had athletes in different and new events during the meet, in an effort to gain more information on how each individual can best help the team at the end of the season. The NBC Championships are May 15 at Eastwood, and the Division II district is May 20 and 22 at Oak Harbor.

"That's something we try to do with our dual meets and tri meets, just to see what people can do," Sabo said. "We're looking to get more data because eventually you have to put all of the pieces together and what's going to best for the conference meet, the district meet and so on. You need these types of meets to help figure some of those things out."

BOYS RECAP

Like the girls, the boys a strong team effort in their victory. Eastwood won four field events, two relays and six individual running events. It also had nine second-place finishes, seven third-place efforts and five fourth-place finishes.

Eastwood had performed well in its first meet March 30 against Oak Harbor and Saturday when they won the Liberty-Benton Relays.

"We asked that they focus and really try to fix things from the first two meets," Eastwood head coach Brian Sabo said. "What that intent and their giving great effort, and you match it with



unbelievable weather, this is what can happen. We probably had 30 or even 40 PRs or season bests. I think every event had a PR or a season best. That's all you can ask for out of the guys." Sophomore Noah Smith, and juniors Jake Limes and Corey Jay each won two events for the Eagles.

Smith swept the hurdles, winning the 110 race in 17.76 and the 300 race in 41.94. Limes won the 100 in

11.90 and the 200 in 24.46. Jay won the 1,600 in 4:50.92 and the 3,200 in 10:49.47.

Eastwood's field event winners were: senior Mason Steele, discus, 128-6; sophomore Bryce Koprowski-Kistner, long jump, 20-1 $\frac{3}{4}$; senior Gage Might, shot put, 45- $\frac{1}{4}$; and sophomore Dalton Hesselbart, 13-0.

The 4x800 relay team of senior David Russell, junior Devin Good, freshman Caleb Souder and junior Xander Ramsey won in 8:47.40.

The 4x100 relay team of freshman Kaiden Sanchez, Smith, senior Zach Kwiatkowski and Limes won in 45.81.

"We just asked them to focus on the race we wanted them to run, and let's see what happens," Sabo said. "So many of those events had massive PRs or we did extremely well. I'm more proud of that, that they're extremely coachable. I really appreciate they're willing to try things and that they're coachable. The field events continued to improve as well."

Also like the girls, the Eagles moved their athletes around to learn more information for later in the season.

"We wanted to see some things," Sabo said.