

## Boys' depth pays off in Napoleon Invitational championship



Jake Limes

### By Kevin Gordon

NAPOLEON — Eastwood High School's boys track and field team was impressive again Saturday.

The Eagles were so good, they won the Napoleon Invitational by a healthy 26-point margin without winning any of the 12 running events.

But Eastwood capitalized on its depth on the track — complemented by an excellent performance in the five field events — to total 151 points in the eight-team field. Wauseon was second with 125, while Archbold was third with 86 and Bowling Green was fourth with 81.

The Eagles won three of the five field events, and scored in 16 of the 17 events overall. They totaled 11 personal records and two season-bests during the meet.

"We knew we had to come out and compete hard because there were a bunch of good teams here," said Eagle senior Jake Limes, who was named the male runner of the meet.

Limes had four second-place finishes, finishing as the runner-up in the 100 and the 200, and running a leg on the runner-up 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Eastwood has won all three of its invitationals this

season. The Eagles also were first in the Liberty-Benton Relays and the Gold W Invitational at Whitmer, and they're 4-0 in dual meets this season.

"We had a great day," Eastwood head coach Brian Sabo said.

"Competing as hard as we did against teams like this will help us get ready for the league meet," Limes said.

The Eagles had a total of seven second-place finishes and three third-place finishes in the running events.

Eastwood had at least two placers in five running events and in four field events, including three events with three placers. Schools were allowed to enter up to three individuals in the 13 non-relay events. Schools could enter one team in each relay.

The top eight finishers in each event scored team points.

"We had lot of big areas today, points that people don't see on the track," Sabo said.

"When you win by that many, there are a lot of seconds, thirds and so on, and the field events scored big points. There's a lot of events that people don't see."

Limes was second in the 100 in 11.63 and the 200 in 23.91. With preliminaries in the 100 and the 200, He had a total of six races.

"They gave me a hefty load, but everyone had that," Limes said. "I felt good coming out of the blocks in both. I wanted to get out strong in the prelims, and then slowed up to get through to the finals to compensate for the other races. I felt like I ran well in every race."

The 4x100 team of junior Noah Smith, Limes, sophomore Kaiden Sanchez and junior Bryce Koprowski-Kistner finished second in 46.32. The 4x400 team of Smith, senior Xander Ramsey, freshman Dayquan Oliver and senior Devin Good was second in 3:45.81.

Limes had two PRs. His preliminary time in the 200 of 23.82 beat his previous best of 23.86 earlier this season. He also had a PR during the preliminaries of the 100 with an 11.57 time, beating his previous best of 11.67.

“(Limes) had a big day,” Sabo said. “He came in the mentality he wanted to win those races. I appreciate that mentality.”

### Field events dominate

The Eagles’ always-reliable field eventers had another strong day, highlighted by the three first-place finishes. Eastwood scored 54 points in the field events.

Senior Jacob Meyer cleared 6-0 to win the high jump, junior Dalton Hesselbart cleared 13-0 to win the pole vault and senior Emmet Getz threw 133-4 to win the discus.



*Xander Ramsey*

### More seconds and thirds

Smith finished second in both hurdle races, posting a time of 15.75 in the 110 race and 42.99 in the 300 race.

“Like (Limes), he came in with the mentality he wanted to win those races, and I appreciate that,” Sabo said of Smith. “I know he’s mad with four seconds, but he had a great day and that’s okay. That’s the competitor in him. He runs hard and goes after it. He wants to win.”

Good was second in the 800 with a time of 2:10.56, edging Ramsey in a sprint to the finish down the front-stretch. Ramsey was third with a time of 2:14.49.

“They ran hard,” Sabo said of Good and Ramsey. “(With 200 to go), they said we’re going to run hard and place well, or you’re going to beat us. Those guys were the mentality of who we are.”

Also finishing third for the Eagles were: senior Nate Heskett, shot put, 44-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; the 4x800 team of Good, freshman Hayden Hoelter, Ramsey and senior Cory Jay, 8:43.01; and the 4x200 team of sophomores Caleb Souder and Noah Haar, freshman Andre Lewis

and Oliver, 1:36.24.

The 4x800 time was a season-best, with Good and Jay running PR splits. Haar and Lewis had PR splits during the 4x200 relay.

### Even more contributors

Finishing fourth were:

- 100, Sanchez, 11.84 (matched a pr).
- 300 hurdles, freshman Jesse Poiry, 45.47.

- Pole vault, Hoelter, 11-0.

Finishing fifth were:

- 3,200, Jay, 10:52.37 (sb).
- 300 hurdles, Lewis, 45.51.
- High jump, Oliver, 5-6.

Finishing sixth were:

- 400, Haar, 55.26.
- High jump, Lewis, 5-6 (pr).
- Shot put, Getz, 41-2¼ (pr).

Finishing eighth were:

- 110 hurdles, Poiry, 17.30 (pr).
- 400, Souder, 56.36.
- Pole vault, sophomore Eli Good, 9-6.
- Long jump, Oliver, 18-2½.
- Discus, sophomore Elden Slack, 107-2.

### **Looking ahead**

The Eagles have less than a month before competing in the Northern Buckeye Conference meet May 14 at Memorial Stadium in Fostoria.

“We’re a really solid team, but we can be an even better team,” Sabo said. “We’re close, but it’s our job, as coaches, to get them there. The kids gave great effort. That’s our foundation. The team spirit is definitely there.”

“Our job is to recover, do some smart things training-wise and keep bringing the team along,” Sabo added. “The mistakes we’re making are very fixable. That’s what I think is awesome. We’re going to get there. We don’t want to take winning for granted, but we want to take it to another level. There were some gritty performances today. Guys ran multiple races who didn’t run that many races that year. They did that for the team, and I appreciate that.”

### **On the horizon**

Eastwood visits Fostoria in an NBC dual meet Tuesday. The meet is at Memorial Stadium, not Fostoria High School. The stadium’s address is 530 Stadium Drive, Fostoria, 44830. The Eagles then host the Eastwood Relays Friday.

### **Napoleon Invitational results**

<https://www.baumspage.com/track/trevent.php?peventid=664&table=C>