

Boys' fast start leads to championship at Napoleon



By Kevin Gordon

NAPOLEON — Eastwood High School's boys and track and field team had an early start time for Saturday's Napoleon Invitational.

The Eagles made sure their 6:45 a.m. departure from the high school was worthwhile.

They won three events and capitalized on their latest depth-filled performance to easily win the seven-team meet with 146 points. Archbold was second with 121 points, followed by Wauseon 103, Bowling Green 89, Defiance 87, Celina 66 and Napoleon 46.

The Eagles' winners were sophomore Dalton Hesselbart, pole vault, 13-0; sophomore Bryce Koprowski-Kistner, long jump, 20-9¾; and the 4x100 relay team of seniors Zach Kwiatkowski, and Ryder Boice, Koprowski-Kistner and senior Jake Limes, 45.72.

In addition to its three victories, Eastwood had four second-place finishes and six third-place performances. Not including relay splits, the Eagles posted 17 personal records and one season-best during the meet. Five more Eagles matched their PR.

"They brought it today, and I'm so appreciative of that," said Sabo

The field events started at 9 a.m., followed by the preliminaries of the 110 hurdles, the 100 and the 200 at 10:30 a.m. and the running finals at noon.

"It was one event after another," Sabo said. "We had quite a few PRs, and we just keep getting better."

The Eagles' field events had a strong start as Koprowski-Kistner was first in the long jump where senior Connor Oberhouse was fourth. Senior Mason Steele was third, senior Gage Might finished fourth and junior Nate Heskett placed eighth in the shot put. Those two events produced 27 points.

Eight of the Eagles' nine athletes in the 100, 200 and the 110 hurdles qualified for the finals of those event in the individual running events. Eastwood turned those prelim finishes into 40 points during the finals.

The top eight finishers in each event scored team points. Schools were allowed to enter up to three athletes in the 13 non-relay events and one team in each of the four relay events.

Eastwood had at least two scorers in eight of the 13 individual points, including three scorers each in the 110 hurdles, 100 and the shot put. The Eagles, with 30 athletes competing in the meet, scored in all 17 events.

"I told the guys to make sure they made something happen early that would positively affect the final outcome at 2 or 3 o'clock," Sabo said. "Even though it was an early start, we got charged up and carried the momentum through the day."

"The mental prep in the morning and the team spirit and the team energy they had throughout day, I'm very happy with," Sabo added. "It was constant cheering. As they read the team scores a couple times, the energy kept growing."

The Eagles have two meets this week, visiting Woodmore for a Northern Buckeye Conference tri-meet that includes Rossford, and hosting the Eastwood Relays Friday.



Photo Credit: Danielle DeFalco

Jay posts Top 10 time

Cory Jay ran the third-fastest time in Eastwood history in the 3,200 en route to third place.

The junior's time 10:24.66 lowered his season-best of 11:45.57 and PR of 10:39. The top three times in school history are all under 10:00, including the record of 9:44.27 set by Corey Johnson in 2007. Next on the list for Jay is Lucas Coffman at 10:19.49 in 2018.

Jay also finished fourth in the 1,600 in 4:46.66, beating his previous best of 4:50.92.

"He just keeps coming," Sabo said. "He doesn't even realize his untapped potential. He keeps surprising himself. We believe heavily in him. He has so much more to give, and he's starting to see that he can be very elite."

Jay finished strong in the 3,200, posting a final lap of 1:07 to pass several runners to move into third.

"He shows up and runs hard," Sabo said. "That's why everyone respects him. Running 67 (1:07) on the final lap of the 3,200 is not something you should do. But he can always finish which makes me think about how much he's still capable of."

Throwers perform well again

Steele threw 41-10 in the shot, followed by Might at 41-7½ and Heskett at 38-7½.

In the discus, Might threw 127-5 for second place, Steele was third at 127-2 and Heskett was 13th at 92-10. Might's mark was a PR, beating his previous best of 114-5 and came shortly after he didn't throw well despite a second-place finish in the shot.

"They've been so consistent," Sabo said of the throwers. "They've been consistently getting better. They're consistently solid, and they're good leaders."



Second-place finishes

Eastwood had three other second-place finishes.

Sophomore Noah Smith was the runner-up in the 110 hurdles (18.20) and 300 hurdles (43.70), and Boice was second in the 100 (11.84).

Smith's time was a PR, beating his mark of 17.61. Boice had two PRs in the 100. He entered the meet with a PR of 12.05, but ran 11.99 during the prelims and 11.84 in the finals.

Third-place performances

The Eagles' had three other third-place finishes.

Jake Limes was third in the 100 (11.91), Might was third in the 110 hurdles (17.49), and the 4x800 relay team of senior David Russell, junior Devin Good, freshman Caleb Souder and junior Xander Ramsey was third in 8:50.40. Limes ran a PR in the prelims with an 11.89 clocking. His previous best was 11.90. Might had two PRs. He had a PR of 18.24 entering the meet, but was timed in 17.95 in the prelims and 17.49 during the finals.

Complete results of the meet are available at:

<https://www.baumspage.com/track/napoleon/2021/2021%20Napoleon%20Wildcat%20Invitational%20Final%20Results.pdf>