

Hesselbart clears 14-0 for second time



By Kevin Gordon

COLUMBUS — Dalton Hesselbart had the second-best vault of his career Friday.

The Eastwood High School pole vaulter cleared 14-0 during the Division II state track and field championships.

The senior finished 11th in his specialty by clearing 14-0 for the second time in his career at Ohio State University's Jesse Owens Stadium.

Hesselbart competed at state for the second straight season following a tie for 14th last season when he cleared 13-0.

"My attempts were good, and I was happy I attempted a PR," said Hesselbart, whose previous PR of 14-3 came during the district meet at Oak

Harbor High School two weeks ago.

The vault of 14-3 moved Hesselbart into fifth place on Eastwood's all-time Top 10.

"It's always nice to attempt a PR, and clearing 14-0 is what I've been looking for all year," Hesselbart said.

Hesselbart was happy with his three attempts at 14-6, including the final one when he came close to clearing the bar, only to knock it off with his foot.

"They were pretty solid attempts," Hesselbart said.

Hesselbart was perfect at the first three heights, clearing 13-0, 13-6 and 14-0 on his initial attempt. His only three misses of the day were at 14-6.

"Definitely a great day," said Eagle assistant coach Ethan Downey, who works with the vaulters. "He came ready to compete. Warmups went well. He jumped well."

The top nine vaulters all cleared 14-10 or higher. The top eight finishers in each event at state are recognized on the awards stand and earn All-Ohio recognition. Eighteen vaulters competed in the meet.

Indian Valley senior David Adams cleared 16-2 to win the event, while defending state champion and Perry senior Javin Richards was second at 15-10. Adams was fifth in the state last season.

Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary senior Blake Sifferlin was third at 15-6.

Of the top 25 vaults in the state this season, regardless of division, 10 were by vaulters who competed in the Division II meet. Adams had the state's best jump this season at 16-4½, while Richards was fourth at 14-10 and Sifferlin was sixth at 15-8.

"That's one of the best competitions, for any division, I've seen, where you have that many jumpers over 14-10," Downey said. "That's unusual for any division."

The nine vaulters who cleared 14-10 or better were the most in the Division II state meet, dating back to 2000. The previous high was six in 2014, followed by five in 2015 and four in 2019. No other year saw more than three vaulters clear at least 14-10. From 2000-2013, only 16 vaulters total went 14-10 or higher.

Also in the span from 2000-2022 a vault of 14-0 would have placed in the top eight at least 13 times.

"That was great competition," Hesselbart said.

Hesselbart's best vault last season was 13-6 after his freshman season was canceled because of Covid.

"I learned a lot this season," Hesselbart said. "Now, myself, Coach Sabo (boys head coach Brian) and Coach Downey can start zeroing in on next season. I definitely want to vault higher heights."

"This was a great experience for him," Downey said. "We were ready. We were prepared. Now, it's time to go back to work and get ready for next year, so we can get back here and attempt some PRs."

Results of the state championships

<https://oh.milesplit.com/meets/485680-ohsaa-div-2-state-track-and-field-championship-2022/results#.YpwQNpDMK3k>