

Eastwood wins four events in JV invitational



Photo Credits: Danielle DeFalco; Athlete: Macey Johnson

By Kevin Gordon

LUCKEY — Eastwood High School’s girls and boys track and field teams combined to win five events Monday during the Eagles’ junior varsity invitational at Freedom Field.

Sophomore Macey Johnson won the discus and the shot put in the girls meet, while Megan Graham won the high jump, and the 4x800 relay team of sophomore Elle Ruffner, and freshmen Molly Krukemyer, Cameron Sechkar and Maggie Ramsey also won.

Junior Nate Heskett won the shot put in the boys meet

“What I like about this meet is how many teams come and how many kids there are, and for some, it’s big meet experience,” Eastwood boys head coach Brian Sabo said. “I enjoyed seeing our kids compete, and we had a lot of PRs. They’ve gotten better as the

season has gone on, and they’ve gained confidence. It’s fun to watch them in a meet like this.” “It was a fun night,” Eastwood girls head coach Nikki Sabo said. “It was nice to hear their names, and the times they ran and the distances they threw, and for them to get that recognition for the time and effort they’ve been putting in. Their times are dropping. There are tons of smiles.

“Those are the moments you really enjoy,” Nikki Sabo added. “I know some of them were nervous and they just rocked it tonight. They competed really well, so it was fun to watch. It’s a nice way to end the season.”

The meet was the brainchild of former Eastwood boys head coach Gary White, who retired after the 2011 season. The meet dates back to about the 2005 season. It was canceled last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brian Sabo was an assistant coach for White when the JV invitational started, and Nikki Sabo was also an assistant coach at the time.

“The point Gary made years ago is it’s an extra week you get to coach the kids because some of them would have been done last week, and typically the weather is a little better this week,” Brian Sabo said. “We’ve always seen a lot of PRs in this meet, a lot of athletes have earned their letter because of this. When you’re done with this meet, you’re always happy you were able to do this for the kids and the teams.”

Schools are allowed up to three athletes per running event and four athletes per field event. Relays are limited to one entry per school. No team scores are kept.

“This meet has been nothing but a blessing,” Brian Sabo said.



Athlete: Jimmy Russell

“I’m so glad Coach White started this meet because it gives this group an opportunity to PR or earn a letter by scoring points or hitting a standard,” Nikki Sabo said. “To end the season on such a positive and head into the offseason with this last memory is really cool.”

White originally wanted to make the invitational a Suburban Lakes League junior varsity meet, but there weren’t enough athletes to do that. White then opened the meet to all schools in the area.

“More and more schools kept coming, and it’s continued to grow,” Brian Sabo said.

Schools from track Divisions I, II and III competed in the meet. Seniors aren’t allowed to compete in the meet, and athletes who will compete in their conference meet later this week aren’t allowed to take part, either.

Without the JV invitational, Eastwood’s athletes who competed in the meet would have ended their seasons last Tuesday following their dual meet at Elmwood. The athletes also received big-meet experience in the JV invitational.

“Invitational style meets are fun and it’s a great way to end the season,” Nikki Sabo said.

Eastwood’s athletes who will compete in the Northern Buckeye Conference championships Saturday serve as event workers at the JV invitational and cheer their teammates.

“I like that our other kids help run this meet, and they stick around to support their teammates, both boys and girls,” Brian Sabo said. “It just says a lot about who we are.”



Athletes: Maggie Ramsey, Jada Jensen, & Megan Graham

GIRLS RECAP

Johnson threw 26-7 to win the shot and 91-7 to win the discus, while Graham cleared 4-4 to win the high jump. The 4x800 team of Ruffner, Krukemyer, Sechkar and Ramsey won in 11:48.32.

Finishing second for the Eagles were: junior Addie Young, 400, 1:09.41; sophomore Mariah Hahn, discus, 80-3; freshman Joelle Jared, pole vault, 6-6; freshman Abby Rothenbuhler, high jump, 4-2; and the 4x100 team of junior Marina King, Jared, Rothenbuhler and

freshman Allison Kwiatkowski, 59.03.

The Eagles’ third-place finishers were: Sechkar, 300 hurdles, 1:03.51; Graham, 800, 2:55.23; Ramsey, 3,200, 14:08.72; Hahn, shot, 25-7½; Rothenbuhler, long jump, 12-10; King, pole vault,

6-6; the 4x200 team of King, Jared, freshman Jady Lubash, and Kwiatkowski, 2:07.82; and the 4x400 team of Graham, junior Jada Jensen, sophomore Grace Dubois and Krukemyer, 5:05.47.



Athlete: Curtis Nutter

BOYS RECAP

Heskett had a throw of $39-2\frac{3}{4}$ to win the shot, while junior Andon Mason was second in the 300 hurdles in 47.35 and third in the 110 hurdles in 17.90.

Also for the Eagles, freshman Jordan Kieper was third in the high jump at 4-4, and freshman Eli Good was third in the pole vault at 8-0.

Complete results of the meet are available at:

https://www.baumspage.com/track/eastwood/jv/2021/Results%20to%20print%20w_d_%20file%20series.pdf