

## Boys win Liberty-Benton Relays, girls finish third



Photo Credit: Danielle DeFalco

### By Kevin Gordon

FINDLAY — Eastwood High School's boys track and field team finished first and the girls were third Saturday in the Liberty-Benton Relays.

The boys won five of the 14 events and totaled 82 points in the five-competition. Liberty-Benton was second with 74 points, followed by Liberty Center 49, Bowling Green 36 and Bryan 35.

The girls totaled 60 points to finish behind Liberty-Benton 92 and Liberty Center with 82. Bowling Green and Bryan each scored 22 points.

The teams battled cold and windy conditions during most of the meet.

Eastwood has two meets this week, hosting Genoa and Swanton Tuesday and traveling to the Whitmer Invitational Friday.



Photo Credit: Danielle DeFalco

### BOYS RECAP

Eastwood's victories were helped by four second-place finishes and three third-place performances.

The Eagles' winners were:

- 4x100 throwers relay, 50.93, team of Gage Might, Anthony Molina, Jacob Stonerook and Jonathon Nassaux.
- Freshmen sprint medley relay, 1:48.85, team of Kaiden Sanchez, Jordan Kieper, Noah Haar and Caleb Sauder.
- Long jump relay, 55-8¼, team of Bryce Koprowski-Kistner, Connor Oberhouse and Robby Rothenbuhler.
- Shot put relay, 115-7, team of Might, Nate Heskett and Carter Snyder.
- Discus relay, 313-10, team of Mason Steele, Might and Heskett.
- Pole vault relay, 30-0, team of Dalton Hesselbart, Bryce Hesselbart and Wes Johnson.

“Total team effort,” Eastwood head coach Brian Sabo said. “(The field events) got us going, and then it was one race after another. Even if we didn’t get the place we wanted, we got some things to fix. We kept coming and coming. We’re just a bunch of young guys, and that means there’s a lot of room for improvement. When you give great effort and keep going, it’s exciting for the rest of the season.”

Approximately 80 percent of Eastwood’s 50 athletes competed in the meet, and most did one or two events. Athletes are limited to a maximum of four events in a meet under Ohio High School Athletic Association rules. Might was the only Eagle to compete in four events.

“That’s really cool,” Sabo said of the 80 percent.

The Eagles have a young team with just seven seniors, and only six athletes who have competed in one of the last two Northern Buckeye Conference championships.

“We were very solid against solid competition,” Sabo said.

Finishing second for Eastwood were:

- 4x800 relay, 9:09.34, team of David Russell, Cory Jay, Nassaux and Xander Ramsey.
- Distance medley relay (800-400-1,200-1,600), 12:042.40, team of Devin Good, Jacob Rowe, Jimmy Recknagel and Jay.
- 4x110 shuttle hurdles relay, 1:10.08, team of Andon Mason, Noah Smith, Ross Welling and Might.
- High jump relay, 14-8, team of Jaleel Rayford, Wes Johnson and Haar.

Eastwood had the top individual in four field events — Dalton Hesselbart, tied for first, pole vault, 12-6; Koprowski-Kistner, long jump, 20-0¼; Might, shot put, 42-11; and Steele, discus, 118-0. Heskett also was third in the shot, 40-6.



Photo Credit: Danielle DeFalco

## GIRLS RECAP

The Eagles won the shot put relay where Ava Kiefer, Hannah Friend and Olivia Newsome had a combined distance of 91-1. Eastwood also had four second-place finishes and five third-place finishes.

“We had a good day,” Eastwood head coach Nikki Sabo said. “I’m proud all three facets are contributing and improving. You can see their confidence growing.”

The Eagles performed well for the second time in as many meets this season after starting with a victory Tuesday over Oak Harbor.

Oak Harbor is the defending Sandusky Bay Conference champion, while Liberty-Benton is the reigning Blanchard Valley Conference champion, and Liberty-Center is the defending Northwest Ohio Athletic League winner.

Eastwood had six personal records and one season best during the meet.

“It’s good for us to see that good competition, especially early in the season,” Sabo said. “If we’re third, we’re third, but the competition will make us better as the season goes along. They competed well and went after it. I’m proud of their efforts today.”



Photo Credit: Danielle DeFalco

Eastwood's second-place finishers were:

- 4x200 relay, 1:55.33, team of Julia Sabo, Aubrey Haas, Emma Downs and Mikayla Hoelter.
- Freshmen sprint medley relay (100-100-200-400), 2:06.69, team of Saylor King, Lila Kiefer, Kayla Buehler and Reilly Might.
- High jump relay, 13-8, team of Maisy Stevenson, Hoelter and Abby Rothenbuhler.
- Discus relay, 289-4, team of Newsome, Kiefer and Friend.

Julie Sabo was the individual runner-up in the pole vault with a jump of 10-1 to move into sole possession of third place on Eastwood's all-time Top 10. She tied Jessica Lang (2016) for third Tuesday with a jump of 10-0 against Oak Harbor.

The school record of 10-6 is shared by Allison Abke (2017) and Elise Wolff (2014).

Hoelter was the top individual in the long jump with a distance at 15-6¼, while Stevenson was second in the high jump at 4-10, and Hoelter was third at 4-8.

In the throws, Kiefer was second in the shot put at 32-5, and Newsome was second in the discus at 113-6.

Complete results of the meet are available at: <https://www.baumspage.com/track/liberty-benton/relays/2021/Results%204.3.21.htm>