

Boys, girls perform well in beating Swanton

By Kevin Gordon

LUCKEY — Eastwood High School's boys and girls track and field teams both fashioned their third straight quality performance in beating Swanton Tuesday night.

The boys won all 17 events on the way to a 127-10 victory, while the girls had 15 first-place finishes in their 113-23 win.

BOYS RECAP

The Eagles dominated after winning the Liberty-Benton Relays Friday and opening the season with a dual-meet victory over Oak Harbor March 29.

"We had a number of PRs and season-bests," Eastwood head coach Brian Sabo said. "They brought great energy, and I appreciate that."

Although Swanton didn't enter athletes in every event, Eastwood still competed hard.

"It was a good night, especially being a dual meet. You just don't know how the team is going to react," Sabo said. "I appreciate the team going after it. They're going to compete and attack, no matter who is on the track or if it's only themselves. They're always going to give great effort."

"When you expect that, it's one thing, but to see it happen, you really appreciate it, and the coaching staff wants them to get better," Sabo added. "This is how you get better. Our kids tried some things the coaches were asking them to do. Some were successful, some were not, but they'll fix it and get better. You have to attempt it and attempt it in a meet. It was a fantastic meet."

Eleven different Eagles won individual events, including junior Noah Smith and sophomore Kaiden Sanchez, who were double-winners.

Smith swept the hurdles, winning the 110 race in 15.60 and the 300 race in 42.61. His time in the 110 race was a personal record, lowering his best of 15.89.

Sanchez won the 100 in 12.00 and the 200 in 24.35. His 200 time was a PR, improving his best from 24.37.

The Eagles' other individual winners in the running events were: junior Keagan Herr, 1,600, 5:41.90 (PR from 5:54); senior Xander Ramsey, 400, 56.80; senior Devin Good, 800, 2:13.75; and freshman Connor Schramm, 3,200, 12:29:81 (PR from 12:45, 43).

Senior Jacob Meyer and junior Dalton Hesselbart came to close to moving up again on Eastwood's Top 10 in winning the high jump and pole vault, respectively.

Meyer cleared 6-0 to win the high jump, and then missed three attempts at 6-2, a height he cleared at Liberty-Benton. The 6-2 jump was good for a five-way tie for sixth place on Eastwood's all-time list.

He appeared to clear 6-2 on his second attempt against Swanton, but he barely brushed the bar with his left calf, causing the bar to fall.

"That jump felt pretty good, but that's what happens when you don't have your form fine-tuned," Meyer said. "It felt pretty good in the air, but it's always encouraging to have a nice attempt like that."

Meyer came out for track and field again this season after he didn't compete in the sport last season. He had an injury-plagued freshman track and field season, and his sophomore season was canceled because of COVID.

He also jumped 6-0 at Oak Harbor.

“When you’re consistently jumping 6-foot, it means there are some big things that are going to happen soon,” Sabo said. “We’re going to get there. He’s been solid.”

The Eastwood record is 6-8, and a jump of 6-3 is needed to crack the top five.

“I’m happy so far. I didn’t really have any expectations coming out this year,” Meyer said. “I didn’t know what I’d be able to clear. It’s nice to set our sights on 6-4 now and go from there. I really don’t have too many big goals.

“Some of it has come right back to me, and some of it hasn’t. I never had the form down from the beginning, and a lot of it is still brand new to me. I still have a lot of work to do in practice, but I feel pretty good at this point in the season.”

Hesselbart won the pole vault at 13-0, and then missed three attempts at 14-0, which would have added an 3 inches to his PR earlier this season. He was easily over the bar on his second attempt at 14-0, but knocked the bar off on his way down.

“That was a good attempt,” Sabo said. “He’s going to get better.”

Hesselbart, a Division II state qualifier last season, is in a three-way tie for ninth on the Eagles’ all-time list.

Also winning field events for the Eagles were: senior Emmet Getz, discus, 123-6 (PR from 117-10); senior Nate Heskett, shot put, 43-7½; and freshman Kevin Lewis, long jump, 18-3.

Eastwood won four relays.

The 4x800 team of senior Cory Jay, freshman A.J. O’Brien, Herr and junior Ian Sander won in 9:45.09.

The 4x200 team of freshman Hayden Hoelter, Lewis, senior Calvin Price and junior Robby Rothenbuhler won in 1:42.43.

The 4x100 team of senior Jake Limes, freshman Logan Perry, junior Wes Johnson and senior Hunter Berlin won in 48.35.

GIRLS RECAP

Ten different individuals won for the Eagles, who also won three relays. Like the boys, girls performed well last week in defeating Oak Harbor and winning the Liberty-Benton Relays. Eastwood had 24 PRs against Swanton, including relay splits.

“Definitely a fun day to move some things around, and try some different events for some athletes to see what they can do,” Eagle head coach Nikki Sabo said. “We had a lot of positivity, a lot of good results from that. It was a good night. The kids really competed hard.”

Freshman Lilly Mullholand and senior Ava Kiefer both won twice.

Mullholand won the 400 in 1:08.32 and cleared 4-10 to win the high jump. Her height in the high jump was a four-inch PR. Kiefer threw 118-11 to win the discus and 36-7¼ to win the shot put.

The Eagles’ other individual winners were: senior Aubrey Haas, 100 hurdles, 17.61; junior Emma Downs, 100, 13.42; freshman Leah Emch, 1,600, 5:42.17; sophomore Reilly Might, 300 hurdles 53.80; senior Maisey Stevenson, 800, 2:37.82; sophomore Maggie Ramsey, 3,200, 13:39.62; senior Mikayla Hoelter, long jump, 14-8½; and junior Julia Sabo, pole vault, 10-0.

Ramsey’s time was a PR, lowering her previous best of 13:46.15.

Eastwood won three relays.

The 4x200 team of Stevenson, sophomore Lila Kiefer, freshman Bella Provo and Sabo won in 1:57.88.

The 4x100 team of Hoelter, sophomores Saylor King and Allison Kwiatkowski, and Haas won in 54.98.

The 4x400 team of Hoelter, Downs, Might and senior Megan Graham won in 4:36.19.

Senior Night

The home meet was Eastwood's first of the season and marked the school's Senior Night for all spring sports. Athletes and their parents in track and field, baseball and softball were recognized before the meet and walked across the football field.

"It was nice to be at home and have Senior Night, and to have some nice weather," Nikki Sabo said. Both of Eastwood's meets last week were held in cold, cloudy and windy conditions. "We really appreciate the middle schoolers who helped work the meet, and the middle school coaches who helped work the meet. We appreciate their efforts in helping to make the meet run smoothly."

On The Horizon

The Eagles compete in the Gold W Invitational at Whitmer Friday night.

Meet Results

<https://www.baumspage.com/track/eastwood/040219/2022/Results%20to%20view.htm>