

Boys finish first or second in five field events at Eastwood Relays



All photo credits: Danielle DeFalco Athlete: Dayquan Oliver in the first ever mixed 4x400.

By Kevin Gordon

LUCKEY — Eastwood High School's boys track and field team won the discus, and finished second in four other field events Friday night during the Eastwood Relays.

The finishes helped Eastwood finish fifth in the 13-team meet with 61 points, just 3½ points behind fourth-place Liberty-Benton. Findlay won the meet

with 99 points, while Southview was second with 80½ and Whitmer was third with 75.

"It was fun to watch our kids compete," Eastwood boys head coach Brian Sabo said. "It's more exhilarating when they place or have PRs, or they win, but I love watching our kids compete, even our kids who didn't get a medal or didn't place.

"I love watching them compete in this meet. It brings me a lot a joy," Sabo added. "We saw a lot of great efforts, and we still had PRs in crappy weather. I love the competition here. We don't see a lot of these teams during the season, but the competition makes us better. You don't get better winning your meet by 40 points. Our kids know they can compete against good competition."

The Eagles' discus team of junior Braden Bowdle, freshman Hunter Lauer and junior Elden Slack won with a distance of 365-10. Bowdle was the top individual in the event with a throw a 135-3, while Lauer threw 118-6 and Slack threw 112-1.

The field events were scored as relays. Each school could enter up to three athletes in the discus, shot put, high jump, long jump and pole vault, with the combined distance or height determining the team scoring. The pole vault, however, was canceled because of rain.

The hammer throw was held as an individual event.

The top eight finishers scored team points, with those points awarded on a 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis. Seventeen events were held. The teams also battled chilly and windy conditions.

Eastwood finished second in four other field events:



Athlete: Ian Sibbersen

- Shot put, junior Ian Sibbersen, Lauer and junior Collin Clarke, 124-6³/₄. Sibbersen was the top individual with a throw of 44-5³/₄, while Lauer threw 41-2¹/₂, and Clarke threw 38-10¹/₂.

- Hammer throw, Sibbersen, 97-10.

- High jump, sophomores Dayquan Oliver and Andre Lewis, and freshman Drew Luidhardt, 16-2. Oliver cleared 5-10, while Lewis cleared 5-4 and Luidhardt cleared 5-0. Oliver finished in a three-way tie for first individually.

- Long jump, Oliver, Kevin Lewis and senior Bryce DeFalco, 58-8¹/₄. Oliver jumped 19-

11¹/₂, while Kevin Lewis jumped 19-8¹/₄, and DeFalco jumped

The Eagles had three third-place finishes:

- 4x110 shuttle hurdles, freshman Zach Mullholand, Andre Lewis, sophomore Jesse Poiry and Luidhardt, 1:05.40.

- 4x400 mixed relay, senior Talia Baum, and sophomores Lilly Mullholand, Andre Lewis and Oliver, 3:58.97.

The mixed relay was held for the first time at Eastwood after it was approved last summer by the National Federation of High School Associations, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Eastwood's boys and girls lined the track on the front stretch to encourage the runners from all of the schools during the final three laps. Sabo also broke out new white jerseys for the mixed relay. Eastwood's girls and boys regular uniforms are red.

"I loved it," Sabo said of the mixed relay, "The atmosphere was great. It made the night even better. Combining with the girls was a lot of fun, and the kids getting on the front stretch was really cool the last couple races supporting our teams, and the other teams. I hope the other schools enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun, and we want our sport to be fun."

Sabo anticipates running the mixed relay again next year, and a second mixed relay might be added. All relays, including the shuttle hurdles, can be run as a mixed event.



Long jump relay: Oliver, Kevin Lewis, Bryce DeFalco



Athlete: Hunter Lauer

NEXT

The Eagles travel to Otsego Tuesday for a Northern Buckeye Conference tri-meet against the Knights and Lake. The meet against Otsego and Lake originally was scheduled for Lake, but was moved to Otsego because of construction on the Lake campus. The starting times also have been changed for the meet, to 5 p.m. for the field events and 5:30 p.m. for the running events.

EASTWOOD RELAYS RESULTS

<https://www.baumspage.com/track/trevent.php?peventid=830&table=C>

EASTWOOD-OTSEGO-LAKE INFORMATION

<https://www.baumspage.com/track/trevent.php?peventid=181&table=C>