

Boys finish second at Napoleon

By Kevin Gordon

NAPOLEON — Regardless of the how the day ended, Eastwood High School's boys track and field team was still happy with its performance.

A disqualification in the 4x400 relay and a scoring snafu in the discus didn't ruin the Eagles' day. Andre Lewis won the 300 hurdles, and Eastwood added three second-place finishes and four third-place finishes for a second-place finish Saturday in the Napoleon Invitational.

The Eagles totaled 130½ points to finish as the runner-up to Celina by four points in the nine-team meet held in chilly and windy conditions. Defiance was third with 101, while Wauseon was fourth with 83½.

Eastwood was announced as the winner of meet, even after it was disqualified for a false start in the 4x400 relay — the final event of the meet. But moments later, Eastwood was told it finished second and Celina won because of the error in the discus.

"I'd still be saying the same things even if we had won," said Eagle head coach Brian Sabo, whose team also performed well April 5 in a third-place finish at the Whitmer Invitational. Eastwood's Tuesday tri-meet against Genoa and Maumee was postponed because of inclement weather.

"Our kids competed really well," Sabo said. "There are definitely some things to fix. When you're in field events, there are things you're trying to fix. Their intent is to do well.

"I don't think they're trying to blow things off," Sabo added. "It's our job, as coaches, to help them fix what's wrong and improve. Today was a good day overall, and helped this team moving in the right direction. We had a lot of (personal records) and season bests."

Busy day brings success

Eastwood's upperclass workhorses — Kevin Lewis, Andre Lewis, Dayquan Oliver, Jesse Poiry and Kaiden Sanchez — all performed well despite heavy workloads.

Andre Lewis won the 300 hurdles in 42.07, and Poiry was third in 43.20. In the 110 hurdles, Poiry finished second in 15.92 and Andre Lewis was fourth 16.10. Andre Lewis also finished second in the high jump (6-0). Kevin Lewis finished third in the long jump (20-9¾).

Oliver was third and Sanchez tied for 5th in the 100 with times of 11.31 and 11.57, respectively.

Oliver was second and Sanchez was fifth in the 200. Oliver ran 23.41, while Sanchez was timed in 24.44. Oliver also was second in the long jump (20-9¾) and fifth in the high jump (5-6).

The 4x100 team of Andre Lewis, Kevin Lewis, Sanchez and Wyatt Oestreich was second in 46.23.

Poiry helped the 4x200 relay team to a fourth-place finish in 1:39.86. Also running the relay were Oestreich, Collin Brogan and Wyatt Ashby.

Andre Lewis, Oliver, Poiry and Sanchez all competed in the maximum of four events. The 100, 200 and the 110 hurdles all had semifinals, further adding to their busy schedule.

"They had a lot to do in a short amount of time," Sabo said. "They handled it really well. They all had big days. It's really difficult to stay focused when you're going back and forth from one event to another."

"For some of the kids, it was only their second meet and for others it was their third," Sabo added. "We'll get better. It's our job, as coaches, to get them better. The effort and the caring

was there to perform well and score for the team. They like being around each other. They like supporting each other and that means a lot.”

Also finishing fourth for the Eagles was Henry Howard, who had a time of 2:15.13 in the 800.

Pole vaulters fare well

Cullen Shank, Hayden Hoelter and Eli Good all had successful days in the pole vault.

All three placed — Shank was second at 13-6, Hoelter was third at 12-6 and Good was sixth at 10-6.

“The vaulters did a great job,” Sabo said. “They’re performing well. They care a lot. They work on things. They’re coachable. They’ll do exactly what you ask. They’re giving us a lot of feedback, and they dive in to get better.”

Shank and Hoelter both had PRs, while Good matched his PR.

“You can see the progression of them getting better,” Sabo said. “There’s a lot left in the tank. That’s what exciting. It’s midway through the season. They’re still figuring things out even more. That’s exciting.

“When you get some technique, and that’s true for all of our kids, the technique is slowly coming along,” Sabo added. “The athleticism is there, but the technique is slowly coming and things are going to explode once the technique meets the athleticism.”

Three freshmen PR in the 400

Three Eagle freshmen — Cody Hefflinger, Cam Schumaker and Ben Buehler — ran PRs in the 400.

Hefflinger’s time was 57.65, while Schumaker was timed in 58.38, and Buehler’s time was 58.60.

“They all had PRs,” Sabo said. “They didn’t place, but the PRs mean a lot to me. They all wanted to run it and took it seriously enough to want to PR. I respect that.”

Field events score well

The Eagles scored 53 of their 130½ in the five field events. Eastwood’s top performance in the throws was a fourth-place finish in the shot put by Ian Sibbersen, who threw 44-10.

“That’s a lot of points,” Sabo said. “Our coaches value that. Our kids value that. That’s exciting.”

NEXT

Eastwood travels to Rossford Tuesday for a Northern Conference tri-meet against the Bulldogs and Fostoria at the Glenwood Athletic Complex, 28720 Lime City Road. The Eagles then host the Eastwood Relays Friday.

NAPOLEON INVITATIONAL RESULTS

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