

Boys qualify for state in 8 events



By Kevin Gordon

MARION — Eastwood High School's boys track and field team will be busy at the Division IV state championships.

The Eagles qualified in five events for the state meet during Friday's final day of the regional meet at Harding Stadium.

Seniors Austin Miller and Hunter Lauer both earned automatic berths to their sport's showcase event with sixth-place finishes to earn an at-large berth in the 400 and shot put, respectively.

The Eagles also advanced three relays to state:

- The 4x200 relay team of sophomore Carsyn Jones, senior Zach Mullholand, senior Collin Brogan and Miller advanced with a fifth-place finish.
- The 4x400 team of Mullholand, Miller, Brogan and senior Henry Howard finished fifth.
- The 4x100 team of Brogan, Jones, sophomore Trace Johnson and Mullholand qualified as an at-large team with a seventh-place finish.

Miller ran a personal-record time, and the 4x200 and 4x400 relays both posted season-best times.

The top five finishers in each event at the regional advanced to the state championships June 4-5 (Thursday-Friday) at Ohio State University's Jesse Owens Stadium.

The state championships also includes three at-large qualifiers in each event. Those spots went to the next three finishers with the best height/time/distance, regardless of region. The other regionals were at Austintown Fitch and Chillicothe Southeastern.

"I'm kind of speechless," Eagle head coach Brian Sabo said. "We felt if we gave the effort we gave tonight and it was about us, things would fall into place where they may. That's what happened. We had a great night."

The Eastwood girls qualified for state in seven events.

"It's so fun counting the number of kids we're taking to state," Sabo said.

The Eagle teams celebrated with dinner in Marion after the meet.

"It's enjoyable to have so much fun with them," Sabo said. "Just to be around a bunch of guys and girls who you enjoy being around for another week, I really appreciate that. Eating dinner with them was so fun and pleasant. It's all about things like that."

The boys qualified for state in eight events, their most since 2017 when they also advanced in eight events.

On Wednesday, Lauer won the discus, Shank finished fourth in the pole vault, and the 4x800 relay of Howard, Miller, and juniors Ben Buehler and Casen Henline finished sixth to advance as an at-large team.

"The guys said earlier this season we're getting all four relays to state," Sabo said. "That's a difficult task, and a couple of those guys were doubling up within 20 minutes. We needed some help in a spot or two, but our regional was so loaded, we felt if we ran and performed well, even if we were in sixth or seventh, we could still make it and that's what happened." Eastwood qualified for state in only one event in 2021 and 2022, two events in 2023, one event again in 2024 before advancing in four events last season.

Miller is Eastwood's first four-event state qualifier since Ryan Reiter in 2017.

"A year or two ago, I was hoping we'd get a person or two to state, and here you've got (Miller) going in four events, and other guys going in multiple events and we're going in eight events as a team," Sabo said, "It's another week of being around these guys who are a joy to be with, and they represent our school the right way. That's important to us as well."

The Eagles finished ninth as a team with 34 points. Huron was first with 61, followed by Margetta 57, Liberty-Benton 47, Coldwater 43 and Mount Gilead 41 to complete the top five. The top eight finishers in each event at the regional scored team points. The points were awarded on a 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis.



4x400 finishes fifth with season-best time to advance

The 4x400 team of Mullholand, Miller, Brogan and Howard ran a season-best time of 3:24.78 to finish fifth and advance to state. The four also ran a season-best of 3:25.95 during Wednesday's semifinals. Eastwood's best entering the regional was 3:28.62.

"It's great to be making it to state," Howard said. "You look at the time, and it makes you elated to

be going to state. We're super pumped. It's been coming for a while. We've seen our times dropping and we knew we could go even faster tonight. We're super excited for next week."

Lakota won the relay in 3:21.40, followed by Bluffton 3:23.22, Huron 3:23.87, Wayne Trace 3:24.44 and the Eagles.

"All four of us went out hard," Mullholand said. "If we stay in front of them, we're going to be there and compete, even at the regional and state levels."

"Our regional is the best of the best," Brogan said. "Iron sharpens iron. Running with them is going to help us."

Friday's time moved the Eagles within 1.35 seconds of the school's Top 10 list. Eastwood's time is 11th best in the state.

"Our philosophy is to try to get to in first at some point and make the other teams come after us," Howard said. "A lot of it is a mindset. We like to go out hard and be aggressive. There's no other way to do the 400. When you have four guys doing that, especially with the talent we have and developing that talent over the years, you're going to run well and be tough to beat."

Miller was moved from the fourth to second on the relay for Friday's race.

"We changed the order to get out of some of the traffic and we did that," Sabo said. "Those guys ran so hard and dropped another second. It's super exciting with that group. Even our alternates could fill those spots. We have such a deep a 4x4 pool right now. That's what great about this team."



4x100

4x200, 4x100 relays both advance to state

The 4x200 and 4x100 teams both advanced to state. The 4x200 team of Jones, Mullholand, Brogan and Howard was fifth with a season-best time of 1:30.55, beating its previous best of 1:30.60 and its semifinal time of 1:31.41.

The 4x100 team of Brogan, Jones, Johnson and Mullholand was seventh in 44.04 to earn an at-large berth.

The Eagles finished seventh at state in the 4x200 last season, but all four runners graduated. Yet they're headed back to the state in the 4x200 with four new runners.

"We've put a lot of work into it," Jones said of the 4x200. "It's been our goal all season, so we're proud of ourselves. I'm really proud of us. We went out there to kick some butt and we did."

"I'm on a high right now. I feel so good," Mullholand said. "Everyone ran well."

Margaretta won the 4x200 in 1:28.93, followed by Huron 1:29.56, Liberty-Benton 1:30.02, Coldwater 1:30,11 and the Eagles.

"We knew if we ran our time, no matter what, we could get in because our region was really good," Brogan said. "If we get sixth or seventh, we knew we'd be close and probably get in. But it's great to be in automatically. We're excited for next week.

"The time can improve, if we improve our handoffs," Brogan added. "We have good chemistry. I love running with everyone."

The four already have run the seventh-fastest time in school history this season, 1:30.60. The Eagles are ranked 11th in the state.

"We're running a higher-caliber time right now and we still have time to drop," Sabo said. "We've really shown up and got after it. The guys have attacked that race and still come back to attack the 4x100. They've been ripping it up and getting after it. We're running well."

In the 4x100, the Margaretta won in 42.76, followed by Evergreen 43.08 and Liberty-Benton 43.10. The top six teams were all under 44 seconds.



“It’s awesome we made it,” Johnson said. “I’m excited being my first year. The time was decent, but we can definitely get better.”

“We have run better, but we will run better,” Brogan said. “We’ll run better at state. We can improve some little things like our handoffs.

Eastwood ran a season-best time of 43.82 during the semifinals.

Brogan, Jones and Mullholand all ran

the 4x200 and 4x100 in a 33-minute span.

“Some of those guys had to turn around and double,” Sabo said. “They thought one handoff stretched, and we’ll fix that. We still got the baton around. They’re upset, but they got better. I knew they were going to run a season best. That tells us what they’re capable of and that’s exciting.”

Brogan, Jones and Mullholand all enjoy running multiple relays. The Eagles qualified for state in all four relays.

“We’ve all worked together and that’s been our goal all season, to take four relays to state,” Brogan said, echoing the feelings of Jones and Mullholand. “That’s a great feeling. If you’re doing a solo event, you don’t get to do it with anyone. Here, the excitement is bouncing off each other. You’re doing it for the guys you’re running with and the team.”

The 4x200 team ranks 11th in the state.



Miller finishes sixth in 400 with PR

Miller finished sixth with a PR of 49.91, beating his previous best of 50.02 earlier this season, to earn an at-large berth to state.

Bluffton senior Kain Wright won the 400 in 47.93, and the second- through sixth-place finishers all broke the 50-second mark.

“I feel good about that time, but I still feel like I have some time to drop,” Miller said. “I can’t be upset with a PR. I’m excited about that. I’m finally starting to hit the times I thought I could

hit, and I still have improvements to make, but I’m seeing what I can really do.”

Miller’s previous PR of 50.02 already ranked third in Eastwood history, but he moved closer to former teammate Dayquan Oliver’s second-place time of 49.72 in 2024. Bob Gay set the school record of 48.86 in 1997.

“(Miller) took it out, and we ran 49 and finished sixth, that’s just wow,” Sabo said.

Lauer finishes sixth in shot

Lauer finished sixth in the shot with a throw of 52-9½ to earn an at-large berth to state. He’s a two-event state qualifier after winning the discus Wednesday.

“It’s great to make it to state in both events, and I didn’t throw exactly the way I wanted, but I was sixth and I’m going to state, so that’s great,” Lauer said. “I had a good feeling



about today because I had already qualified for state in one event. There were still some nerves, but I'm still happy with today."

"He knew he was in a really good regional," Sabo said. "He knew if he could throw decent and finish sixth or seventh, he'd still get out. That's what happened."

Lauer was sixth after the preliminaries with a throw of 51-8¼ on his second attempt. He also threw 51-6½ and 51-4 in the preliminaries. In the finals, he improved his distance to 52-

9½ on his first attempt, and fouled on his final two attempts.

The 16 qualifiers each received three throws during the preliminaries, with the top nine distances advancing to the finals. The finalists then received three more throws in an attempt to improve their distance.

Lauer ranks fourth all-time at Eastwood in the discus (171-6) and fifth in the shot (54-6½). In Division IV this season, he's sixth in the discus and ninth in the shot.

"I've been consistent this season and coach Sabo says when there's consistency, there's a big jump coming," Lauer said. "Practices have been good, so that's exciting. We'll see how next week goes. I've been throwing well in practice and in meets, so I'm excited to see how state turns out."



Buehler places 12th in the 800

Eastwood junior Ben Buehler finished 12th in the 2:04.24. The junior had earned a state berth in the 4x800 relay Wednesday.

"He felt great and ran a great race last week, and bought an opportunity to be here," Sabo said. "He belongs here. He was relaxed enough to know he was already going to the state meet in the 4x800. He went out and give it a good shot in the 800."

NEXT

The Eagles compete in the state championships are (Thursday-Friday) at Ohio State's Jesse Owens Stadium.

MARION HARDING REGIONAL RESULTS

<https://www.athletic.net/TrackAndField/meet/651382/info>

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS INFORMATION

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Track-Field/2026-Track-and-Field/2026-Track-Field-State-Coverage>

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Track-Field/2026/2026InformationPacket.pdf>