

Eagles build confidence at Whitmer freshmen invitational



By Kevin Gordon

TOLEDO — Eastwood's boys had an excellent day Thursday during the Whitmer Invitational for freshmen.

The Eagles set three personal records and matched a fourth PR during the meet.

Eastwood's highest finishes were second-place efforts by Eli Good in the pole vault, and Carter Snyder in the shot put, where Braden Bowdle finished third.

"We had a great day, and it's been a lot of fun," Eastwood head coach Brian Sabo said. "They're used to competing against 17- and 18-year-olds, and today they're competing against kids their own age. Today is important because it builds confidence. It helps them realize that they're not nearly as far behind as they somehow think they are."

Eight Eagles competed in seven events during the meet.

The meet consisted of 15 events. Only the 4x200 and 4x800 relays were not held. Each school was limited to two athletes in the field events, and one entrant in the running events.

St. John's won the championship with 85 points, edging runner-up Napoleon by three and third-place Saline by seven. Whitmer was fourth with 66, followed by St. Francis 58, Bedford 39 and Eastwood 24.

"My favorite thing about our two freshmen meets is they get to compete against kids their own age," Sabo said.

The Eagles' other freshmen only meet is May 3 at Napoleon.



The Eastwood freshmen always compete in the team's varsity dual and tri meets on Tuesdays, but most don't compete in the big weekend invitationals.

"I've heard comments from our kids like, 'I finished third' or 'I beat a couple kids.'" Sabo said. "They realize they're not nearly as far as behind as they think they are, and you try to tell them that. And when they compete, they realize this isn't so bad."

Eastwood's results:

- Pole vault: Eli Good, second, 7-6.
- Long jump: Jordan Kieper, seventh, 15-9.
- High jump: Kieper, no height.
- Shot put: Carter Snyder, second, 37-3; and Braden Bowdle, third, 36-6.
- Discus: Ian Sibbersen, seventh, 72-1; and Elden Slack, 12th, 48-2.
- 800: Seth Bisbee, sixth, 2:48.2.
- 1,600: Jimmy Russell, sixth, 5:54.7.

Complete results of the meet are available at:

<https://www.baumspage.com/track/whitmer/9th/2021/Results.pdf>