

## Girls, boys compete in Liberty-Benton Relays



All Photo Credits: Danielle DeFalco  
Athlete: Emily Payne

### By Kevin Gordon

FINDLAY — Eastwood High School's girls 4x1,600 relay team finished first Thursday night in the season-opening Liberty-Benton Relays.

The team of Leah Emch, Emily Payne, Z Ramsey and Haley Sponaugle had a time of 23:07.9 to win the race by almost 14 seconds.

The Eagles finished seventh as a team with 49 points. Liberty Center won the eight-team meet with 76 points, Notre Dame was second with 70 and Whitmer was third with 60.

In the boys meet, Eastwood scored 45 points to finish sixth. Columbus Grove won the seven-team meet with 84 points. Liberty-Benton and Oak Harbor tied for second with 70.

### GIRLS RECAP

Eastwood also had three second-place finishes.

The 4x800 team of Amelia Ward, Keira Dawson, Camille Foos and Emch was second with a time of 10:26.2.

The distance medley team (800-400-1,200-1,600) of Raegan Russell, Kayla Buehler, Z Ramsey and Sponaugle was second in 14:20.6.

The high jump team of Frances Lockyer, Lilly Mullholand and Foos was second with a combined height of 14-2.



Athlete: Frances Lockyer

The field events were scored as relays. Each school entered three athletes per event, with the combined height or distance determining the order of finish. Lockyer and Mullholand both jumped 4-10 to finish in a six-way tie for second individually. Foos cleared 4-6. "Our goals were to have fun, give great effort, pour into each other and come together as a team," Eastwood head coach Nathan Howard said. "We accomplished every one of those goals tonight. I'm really happy with the way our girls responded.

"We had a lot of young kids competing," Howard added, pointing out the team had eight freshmen in the meet — more than the total number of juniors and seniors who competed. "The kids stepped up and attacked whatever I asked them to do. I couldn't be happier. We faced good competition. We'll continue to work hard and get better. We saw a lot of good things."

The Eagles had two third-place finishes.

The 4x100 shuttle hurdles team of Mallory Sandberg, Makenna Nelson, Buehler and Lockyer was third in 1:14.0.

The shot put team of Harper Rollins-Morlock, Kennedy Ameling and Emma Kiefer was third with a distance of 86-1½. Rollins threw 30-8, while Ameling had a distance of 28-4, and Kiefer threw 27-0½.



Athlete: Dayquan Oliver

## BOYS RECAP

The Eagles' high jump team of Dayquan Oliver, Sawyer Mason and Drew Luidhardt finished second with a height of 16-4. Oliver cleared 5-8, while Mason and Luidhardt both jumped 5-4.

Eastwood had three third-place finishes.

The 4x110 shuttle hurdles team of Luidhardt, Steven Nelson, Mason and Jesse Poiry was third in 1:06.4.

The 4x800 team of Austin Miller, Henry Howard, A.J. O'Brien and Raif Johnson was third in 8:46.6.

The long jump team of Oliver, Hunter Wilson and Cam Schumaker was third with a distance of 54-11½. Oliver was first individually with a jump of 20-7½, while Wilson jumped 17-8½ and Schumaker had a distance of 16-7½.

"The kids gave great effort," Eagle head coach Brian Sabo said. "This was a tough meet, good competition. We had a lot of new faces tonight and it showed, but they'll get better.

The kids gave a great effort. They cheered for each other. I'm

all right with failure. Now, it's about how we're going to fix it. We'll get better. There were a lot of major positives for us. We already do some things way better than we did last year, and that's a great start."

## NEXT

The Eagles have two meets next week. They host Swanton and Liberty-Benton in a tri-meet Tuesday, and compete in the Whitmer Invitational Friday.

## MEET RESULTS

<https://oh.milesplit.com/meets/597237-liberty-benton-relays-2024>