



NCAA national qualifier
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The PRESS Sports

May 30, 2022



League champions
See Page B-6

Numbers gaudy, but 'approach' is why Eagles succeed

By J. Patrick Eaken
Press Sports Editor
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Eastwood entered Division III district play Friday taking on its second straight Midwest Athletic Conference team, Minster, in the tournament.

Since 1972-73, the MAC has crowned 145 state champions. At 24-1 and ranked third in the state coaches' poll, Eastwood knows what it had to do to reach next week's regional tournament and that's go through the state's best.

Eastwood had no trouble in its sectional final defeating a MAC team, Rockford Parkway, 10-0 in a game that only went five innings because of the mercy rule. If the Eagles got past Minster, they had another MAC team possibly waiting in Coldwater, if the Cavaliers defeated Lima Bath.

Eastwood coach Kevin Leady knew he had highly skilled players coming into the season. What he also has our guys who take care of business by properly preparing.

"They are good athletes but the way they approach everything is incredible," Leady said. "They don't care about themselves. They care about the team."

"Honestly, we haven't talked about any stats with any of the kids other than them being 24-1. Our message to the guys is that every day you play our record is 0-0 and your job is to get to 1-0. Then, that game is over and then on to the next one," Leady continued.

"They don't really care about the big hoopla. To be honest, they call it all 'noise.' As soon as somebody starts to talk about this or that, they shut each other down, like, 'Nope, that is all noise,' and we focus on today."

In the win over Parkway, Eastwood senior pitcher Lake Boos struck out nine, walked four, and threw 73 pitches. He threw 42 strikes and faced 17 batters.

Eastwood's offense hit three home runs by sophomore Tristan Schuerman, junior Case Boos, and Lake Boos, plus the Eagles had six stolen bases, including two by Case Boos and one each by Schuerman, senior Caleb Recker and juniors Jackson Bauer and Jordan Pickerel.

It has been that kind of season for the Eagles, winning games by mercy rule on their way to an outright Northern Buckeye Conference title.

Perhaps the Eagles' biggest strength is their depth on the mound.

"Our ability to pitch and play defense has really separated us. They have done an incredible job," Leady said.



Eastwood senior Andrew Arntson slides home at Genoa. (Press photo by Harold Hamilton/HEHphotos.smugmug.com)

"When you look at our team ERA (0.766), we have not even allowed an earned run a game. To be honest, we've only given up 22 runs total on the year in 24 games, so our pitching staff has done an absolutely incredible job. But then you have to credit our defense as well that they go out there and help them."

Junior pitcher Ethan Rapp has not given up an earned run yet in 37.2 innings pitched. His 0.00 ERA is accompanied by a 6-0 win-loss record, and he has struck out 61 while allowing 11 hits. Only three unearned runs have been scored while he is on the mound.

Lake Boos is 5-1 with a 1.01 ERA, striking out 61 and allowing 16 hits and five earned runs in 34.1 innings. Bauer is 6-0 with a 1.12 ERA, striking out 26 while allowing 19 hits and four earned runs in 25 innings.

Senior Toby Marten is 3-0 with a 1.17

ERA, striking out 32 while allowing nine hits and three earned runs in 18 innings, and sophomore Andrew Badenhop is 3-0 with a 1.50 ERA, striking out 21 while allowing nine hits and three earned runs in 14 innings.

The numbers are just as gaudy on the offensive side, too. On the average this season, for every run the opponent scores, Eastwood scores 10.

"We've done an incredible job. We're hitting .375 as a team and we have scored 250 runs," Leady said. "We have an ability on that side of the field, too, to put a lot of pressure on the opposing team."

"Our lineup is fairly deep one through nine and our guys have done an excellent job of making pitching one-through-nine very difficult on the pitcher. That is our goal every time is to put as much pressure on the pitcher as we can, one through nine."

At the plate, five Eagles are batting over .400 and seven are hitting .300 or better. Case Boos is hitting .493 (33-for-67) with 42 runs, three home runs, 21 RBIs and 36 SB. Pickerel is batting .462 (24-for-52) with 23 runs, a homer, 25 RBIs and seven SB.

Bauer is batting .439 (25-for-57) with 23 runs, 22 RBIs and 14 SB. Lake Boos is hitting .414 (29-for-70) with 29 runs, two homers, 30 RBIs and 19 SB and senior Dylan Hoffman is batting .400 (12-for-30) with 15 runs, one homer, six RBIs and eight SB.

Schuerman is batting .364 (16-for-44) with 21 runs, two homers, 13 RBIs and nine stolen bases and Badenhop is hitting .364 (12-for-33) with 14 runs, 14 RBIs, and four SB.

Senior Andrew Arntson is batting .288 (17-for-59) with 26 runs, a team-leading four HR, 15 RBIs and seven SB. Senior Isaac Cherry is at a 2.80 clip (18-for-62) with 23 runs, two homers, 25 RBIs and nine SB.



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Plenty of reasons for Rockets' historic tournament run

By J. Patrick Eaken
Press Sports Editor
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There are multiple reasons why Oak Harbor softball was one game away from the state final four heading into last Friday.

One reason could be their Kent State commit, senior shortstop and pitcher Reagan Schultz, or it could be the three seniors who have led the way.

Or, you can point to the impressive offensive numbers the Rockets have put up, or even the competition they had to face in the Sandusky Bay Conference Bay Division.

Point to any of them, or maybe it is just best to combine all of them, plus the impact coach Chris Rawski has had on his team as he got his 200th career win this season.

They add up to the fact that Oak Harbor has been on a historic tournament run. It may lead to the program's first state final four appearance in school history.

If the 23-8 Rockets defeated Lexington, ranked 10th in the state coaches' poll, on Saturday in a Division II regional final Friday, they are headed to Akron's Firestone Stadium to take on the winner of Plain City Jonathan Alder and Springfield Kenton Ridge in a state semifinal on June 2 at 12:30 p.m. Jonathan Alder is ranked second in the state, so it will not get any easier. The televised championship game is June 4 at 10 a.m.

In the Rockets' regional semifinal, Schultz pitched a complete-game four-hit shutout as Oak Harbor defeated Norton, 6-0. Schultz struck out six, walked two, and threw 103 pitches, including 69 for strikes, facing 28 batters.

On the year, Schultz is 19-2 with a 1.85 ERA, striking out 134, walking 43, and allowing 98 hits and 33 earned runs in 124.2 innings.

At the plate, her numbers are just as impressive. She is batting .524 (43-for-82) with 14 doubles, two triples, six home runs and 29 RBIs. She is SBC Player of the Year and a first team All-Ohio and all-district selection.

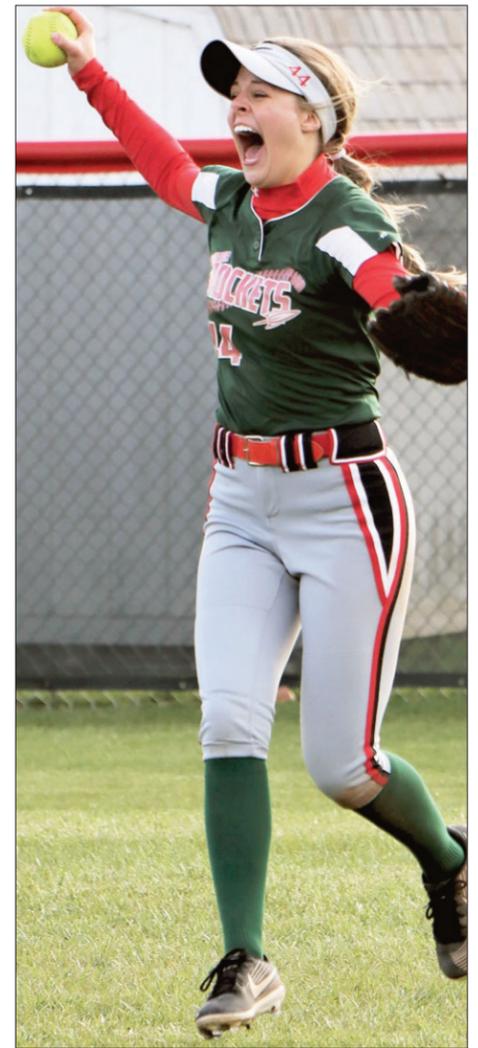
"She can hit a variety of pitches, she can hit for power, she can hit for average, she's real speedy and can even lay down a bunt. She has all the tools to play at an elite level," Rawski said.

"She kind of carries us. She hits in the leadoff spot. That (batting numbers) is legit. She doesn't get pitched to a whole lot and when she does, she hammers it," Rawski continued.

In the win over Norton, the Rockets hit five doubles, including two by senior Remi Gregory and one each by Schultz, sophomore Porter Gregory, and junior Ashley Schiller. Junior Emily Sommers was 3-for-4, Porter Gregory and Remi Gregory had two hits apiece and combined for three RBIs,



Reagan Schultz. (Photos by Laura Bolander)



Sydney Overmyer

and senior Sydney Overmyer was 2-for-3, plus the team successfully laid down three sacrifice bunts.

It is not just Schultz who brings a powerful bat. Eleven players are batting over .300, if you include a couple players who have limited varsity time. They can hit the ball, too, giving Rawski plenty of options, and that includes on the defensive side of the game, too.

"We're pretty special at hitting the ball one through nine. We have a freshman catcher (Allie Giezie) who has done a great job for us defensively behind the plate, and we have three senior leaders who have been outstanding throughout the run here," Rawski said.

The trio of seniors include Schultz, Remi Gregory at third base and Overmyer in the outfield. Schultz and Gregory are four-year varsity starters and Overmyer is a three-year starter.

Overmyer is batting .341 (28-for-82) with two doubles, five triples, and 21 RBIs. Remi Gregory is hitting .337 (32-for-95) with 10 doubles, one triple and 23 RBIs.

Sommers is batting .459 (39-for-85) with 12 doubles, two triples, one homer, and 27 RBIs. Freshman Hannah Schimmoeller is hitting .450 (27-for-60) with three doubles, two triples and two homers, and Porter Gregory is at a .431 clip (44-for-102) with 10 doubles, one triple, a team leading five home runs and she is tied with Schultz for the team lead in RBIs with 29.

Then, you get into others batting .300 and over, and there are more hitters than can fill a starting lineup, even if you include the flex and designated player.

Plus, you can almost put sophomore Reese Adkins into the .400 category because she might get there before the season is over. Adkins is batting .398 (37-for-93)

with four doubles, one home run and 19 RBIs.

To get to the regional tournament, top-seeded Oak Harbor defeated St. Ursula, 3-2, and then took down Wauseon, 10-3, in a district final at Genoa.

"It was great. We lost a game in the late innings last year to Wauseon (13-9) in the district final, so it was nice for them to come back and bounce back and get that one this year," Rawski said.

However, the Rockets did not even win the Bay Division, finishing second to Margaretta. It was not just the Polar Bears who taught Oak Harbor a few lessons during the season.

"It definitely prepared us," Rawski said. "Margaretta was good, Edison was good, Huron was good, and each team made a run at the end, so we definitely went through the trials and the tribulations of league play that helped us out."



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Andrew Burderer (ONU Sports Information)

Buderer NCAA qualifier

Ohio Northern senior Andrew Burderer (Oak Harbor) has qualified for the 2022 NCAA Division III Outdoor Championships.

Buderer qualified in the pole vault and will compete in the national meet May 26-28 in Geneva, Ohio.

The top 20 individuals in each event earn qualification into the NCAA Championships meet.

Buderer qualified for the national meet with a mark of 4.86 meters in the pole vault at Thursday's Mount Union Last Chance meet. That height ranks 17th nationally and third all-time at ONU.

The 2021 OAC champion in the outdoor pole vault, Buderer placed second in the event at the 2022 Outdoor OACs.

In mid-May, Buderer led the Ohio Northern for the second and final day of the St. Francis (Ill.) Fighting Chance Invite at Joliet Memorial Stadium. Buderer placed second in the pole vault, clearing a height of 4.4 meters at the meet, which was not team scored.

Buderer, who is also a sprinter, is a three-time Ohio Athletic Conference champion, winning the indoor pole vault twice and outdoor once, and a five-time All-OAC selection. He has earned US Track and Field CCCA All-American status once, All-Great Lakes Region status four times, and has been OAC Field Athlete of the Week twice.

Wharton, Lemay coaching at Clay

Oregon City Schools announced the selection of Justin Wharton as the new head coach of the Clay wrestling program, replacing Ralph Cubberly, who retired.

Wharton brings nine years of coaching experience. Last year, he was the head coach for St. Francis High School (Toledo). Previously, he was an assistant coach at Heidelberg University, Wisconsin-Whitewater University, and Memphis St. Benedictine High School.

"Justin has tremendous passion for the Clay wrestling program" said Clay Athletic Director Mark Beach. "He is a product of the program and understands its history and traditions. Coupled with his collegiate wrestling and coaching background we think he is uniquely qualified to lead the Eagles to future success."



Justin Wharton



E.J. Lemay

Wharton is a native of Oregon and was a two-time state placer for the Eagles. He is a graduate of Heidelberg where he wrestled for four years. Justin and his wife Alexa and their daughter, Emma, reside in Oregon.

Oregon Schools hired E.J. Lemay as the new head coach of the Clay hockey program.

Lemay brings eight years of coaching experience that includes travel and high school experience. He has been heavily involved in the Toledo Cherokee development program, most recently leading the Toledo Cherokee's 2010 squad. He also spent several years as an assistant at Perrysburg High School. His playing career spanned 15 years, most of which was on the travel circuit, that also includes three years for the Clay Eagles.

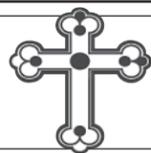
"We are excited for E.J. to lead the Clay hockey program" said Beach. "He is a Clay alum who is passionate about our hockey program and is committed to make it more competitive and relevant in Northwest Ohio".

Lemay is a native of Oregon. He and his wife, Amanda, and their four children, Brady, Cameron, Madelynn, and Landen, reside in Oregon.



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Inspirational Message of the Week:

A recent survey by the Royal Society for Public Health suggests that social media can be bad for our mental health. Anyone who has ever spent time on Facebook or Instagram probably knows that the images and messages there can make you feel insecure, envious and inferior. Cases of cyber-bullying and other forms of online shaming or intimidation are too well-known for anyone to doubt this possible hazard. The survey of approximately 1500 people aged 14- 24 found that social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram increased feelings of anxiety in over half of the respondents. Seven out of ten of the respondents said that Instagram made them feel worse about their body image and 2/3 of them said that Facebook made cyber-bullying worse. Those who

spent more than two hours per day using social media were most at risk, and the researchers are calling for measures aimed at educating users on how to use social media in a positive way. We all desire to connect with others in a positive way, and while social media can facilitate this, it can also make it very easy to harm others. So use social media, but use it wisely, and always only for good. "Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone."—2 Timothy 2: 22-24 NIV

Buhro leads multiple Rockets at SBC meet, districts

By J. Patrick Eaken
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Once again, the Oak Harbor track teams made notice at the Sandusky Bay Conference meet and the Division II district meet.

The Oak Harbor boys finished second in the Sandusky Bay Conference Bay Division meet, scoring 167 points to place behind champion Huron (185). Edison (106) was third, followed by Margaretta (82), Port Clinton (52), and Willard (46).

"I am extremely proud of the team for competing very hard in the league meet," coach Andy Augsburger said. "We had 20 personal records in 17 events which was amazing to watch our boys try to win another conference title. We also had seven event SBC champions.

"Overall, we have been working really hard to get our team prepared for this time of the season. We are hoping to put everything together and get as many people down to Columbus as possible."

Oak Harbor junior sprinter Hayden Buhro was named the SBC Bay Division Most Outstanding Performer after winning four events, including the 100-meter dash, finishing in 11.12 seconds to beat Edison sophomore Trayvon Williams (11.38) to the finish line.

Buhro was also joined on the 4x200 relay team by senior Hayden Hower, junior Judson Overmyer and freshman Tyler Thompson that won in 1:30.01, defeating the runner-up team from Huron (1:30.17) by less than one-fifth of a second.

Buhro's third championship was in the 200, where he finished in 22.67 seconds to defeat Huron junior Conner Schaeffer (22.8).

In Buhro's fourth championship, he was joined on the 4x100 team by Hower, senior Isiah Miller and sophomore Jaqui Hayward, which finished in 42.88 seconds to defeat runner-up Huron (43.35).

"Hayden has been doing great this year," Augsburger said. "His work ethic on and off the track is awesome. He trains hard during his running workouts and also in the weight room.

"The sprint group has pushed each other all season and has not shied away from competition. Our 200-meter record here at the high school is 22.3. He has run a FAT of 22.35. He hasn't broken the school record but obviously is really close," Augsburger continued.

"Hayden is also on the 4x200 with teammates Judson Overmyer, Hayden Hower, Owen Miller and Tyler Thompson (in various foursomes). They have broken three meet records this year.

"Hayden is also part of the 4x1 team with his teammates Isiah Miller, Jaqui Hayward, Hayden Hower and Tyler Thompson. They have broken three meet records as well. Our school record in the 4x2 is 1:29.31 and these athletes have run 1:30.01. Our school record in the 4x1 is 42.76 and these athletes have run 42.88."

Owen Miller, a junior, won the 400, finishing in 51.03 seconds to edge Margaretta senior Jacob Leibacher (51.4).

Miller also won the 300 hurdles, finishing in 39.6 seconds to defeat Huron sophomore Beau Markelroad (42.28) by over two seconds.

Oak Harbor junior William Rahm won the pole vault, clearing 12 feet, six inches,



Hayden Buhro leads the pack in a relay race. (Photo by Laura Bolander)

one foot better than second place Huron sophomore Charlie Norwell (11-6).

The Oak Harbor girls, headed up by longtime coach John McKitrick, finished fourth at the SBC Bay, scoring 116 points to place behind Margaretta (157), Edison (142) and Huron (119). PC (73) was fifth and Willard (31) sixth.

In the girls meet, Oak Harbor junior Rylee McKitrick won the 200, finishing in 26.59 seconds to defeat Port Clinton sophomore Jade Mitchell (27.19).

Oak Harbor senior Amelia Mizelle won the 100, crossing in 15.01 seconds to edge second place Margaretta senior Kenna Stimmel (15.02) in a near photo finish.

At the district meet, the Oak Harbor boys finished second out of 13 teams, scoring 106 points to trail first place Perkins (155). The girls were fourth, scoring 81

to finish behind Perkins (121), Eastwood (113) and Central Catholic (92).

The boys 4x100 relay team of Isiah Miller, Hayward, Hower, and Buhro won a district championship, finishing in 42.37 to beat second place Central (42.57) by one-fifth of a second.

The 4x400 (Overmyer, Isiah Miller, Owen Miller, freshman Carson Ridener) finished second (3:25.24), the 4x200 relay (Overmyer, Hower, Miller, Buhro) finished third (1:29.68), and the 4x800 (Ridener and seniors T.J. Hallett, Andrew Swartzlander, Antoine Gonzales) placed fourth (8:46.99).

Buhro was second in the 100 (11.08) and 200 (22.91), Owen Miller was second in the 400 (50.18) and 300 hurdles (39.75), T.J. Hallett was third in the 1600 (4:43.93), Rahm was third in the pole vault (12-3), and Evan Hall was second in the shot put (49-9).

For the girls, Mizelle won a 100 hurdles championship (15.48) and finished third in the 300 hurdles (47.55).

McKitrick was second in the 100 dash (12.61), and in the 800, Skyler Turner (2:30.85) was second and Logan Wagner (2:31) third.

Ally Garner was second in the long jump (16-¼), Abigail Schiller third in the pole vault (8-9), and three relay teams qualified for regionals — the 4x100, 4x400 and 4x800.

The 4x100 (Mizelle, McKitrick, Garner, and freshman Effie Schulte) was fourth (50.95), the 4x400 (McKitrick, Turner, Wagner, and senior) Emma Baumgartner placed fourth (4:13.86), and the 4x800 (Turner, Wagner, sophomore Marissa Mapes and freshman Samara Tack) was third (10:46.29).

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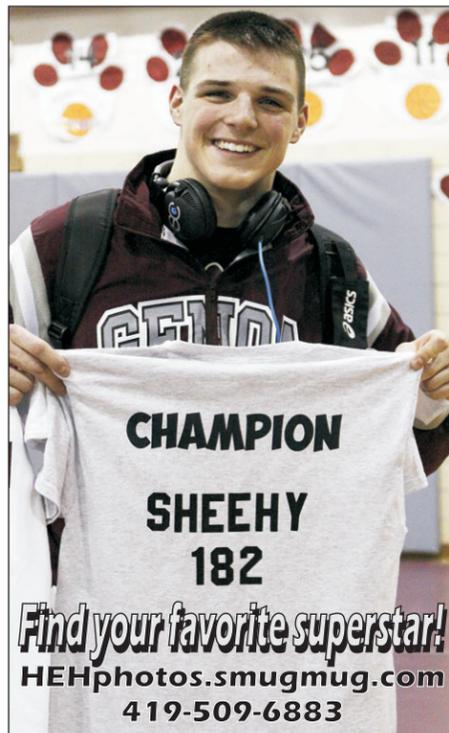
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Gibsonburg girls bring back SBC title

By Press Staff Writer
sports@presspublications.com

The Gibsonburg girls track team won the Sandusky Bay Conference River Division championship, scoring 112 points to edge second place Danbury (110½).

It is Gibsonburg's first league title since 2015, but the Golden Bears were regional runner-up in 2013, district champions in 2015 and district runners-up in 2013 and 2014 under coach Glenn Owens, now in his 13th year. The River Division championship was an improvement on last year's third place finish.

Old Fort (97) was third, followed by Tiffin Calvert (92½), Hopewell-Loudon (92), Fremont St. Joseph (75), Lakota (33), Sandusky St. Mary (31), and New Riegel (16).

The 4x800 relay team of juniors Emelia Simmons and Brianna Montgomery, sophomore Sophia Paul and freshman Mary Myerholtz won in 10:27.33 to defeat a second-place team from Old Fort (10:32.44).

Montgomery won the 300 hurdles, finishing in 47.42 to edge Old Fort senior Kristin Baker (47.58) by less than one-fifth of a second.

Gibsonburg hosted the Division III district meet and the girls team finished fifth out of 18 teams.

Liberty Center (151½) won the championship, followed by Margaretta (121), Woodmore (87), Old Fort (47) and Gibsonburg (44).

Montgomery finished fourth in the 100 hurdles (16.82) and second in the 300 hurdles (49.16). Jenna Spanfeller was third in the high jump (four feet, nine inches).

The Golden Bears' 4x800 relay (Montgomery, Myerholtz, junior Amelia Simmons (1600 school record holder), and sophomore Sophia Paul) was third (10:21.27) and the 4x100 (senior Morgan Albanese, juniors Jessika Foster and Malani Halbeisen, and sophomore Vonaija Harris) was fourth (53.36).

The Gibsonburg boys team placed second with 110 points to trail champion Hopewell-Loudon (145). Danbury (101) was third, followed by New Riegel (82), Calvert (74), Lakota (73), Old Fort (44), St.



Gibsonburg sprinter Amelia Simmons. (Photo by Doug Hlse)

Joseph (19), and St. Mary (11).

Gibsonburg senior Austin Rodriguez won the high jump, clearing six feet, two inches to defeat second place H-L sophomore Evan Kreais (6-0). It was Rodriguez's second straight high jump title.

Gibsonburg sophomore and school record holder Cole Owens won his second consecutive pole vault title, clearing 13-9 to easily outdistance second place Old Fort freshman Evan Combs (13 feet).

Ottawa Hills won the 18-team district meet, scoring 99 points, followed by Norwalk St. Paul (93), Liberty Center (91½), Margaretta (79.3), Maumee Valley (65) and Gibsonburg (46).

Gibsonburg distance runner Anthony Caprera was fourth in the 1600 (4:55.65) and in the 3200 (10:46.6). Rodriguez was third in the high jump (5-10) and Owens second in the pole vault (13-4), allowing them to advance to regionals.

Trip to the Masters

Central Catholic High School is selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a package for the 2023 U.S. Masters in Augusta, Georgia. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at CentralCatholic.org. All proceeds benefit the Central Catholic Athletic Department and all Irish student-athletes.

The drawing will take place during Central's Athletic Golf Outing on June 3 at the Valleywood Golf Club in Swanton. Raffle tickets will be sold at the event as well, and sales will end at 6 p.m. that day. The winning ticket will be chosen at approximately 7 p.m. The winner does not need to be present to win. Purchaser must be 18 years of age or older to buy a raffle ticket.

Visit CentralCatholic.org or contact Jim Olsen at 419-266-4422 or jolsen@centralcatholic.org for information.

Lourdes lacrosse camp

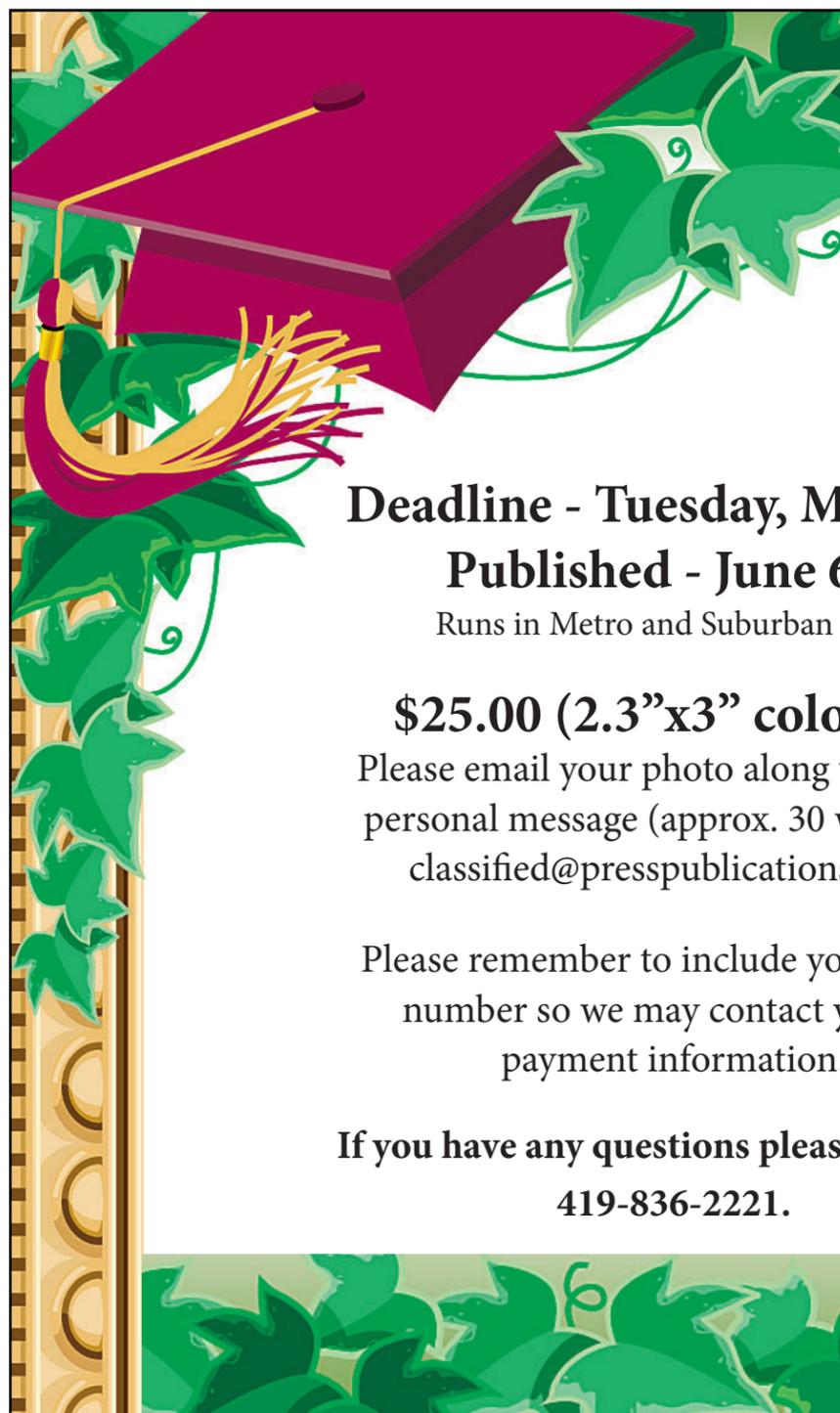
Lourdes University is partnering with the Sylvania Recreation District to host a Boys Lacrosse Camp June 9-11 at Wildcat Stadium. This camp is open to boys entering grades 5-8 and will take place from 5-7 p.m. each day. Players must provide their own equipment.

The cost of the camp is \$60. For information, visit www.playsylvania.com/lourdes-gray-wolves-lacrosse-camp/. Registration can take place through www.playsylvania.com or by calling 419-882-1500.

Play Ball Weekend

The Toledo Mud Hens are teaming with the City of Toledo and Major League Baseball to host its annual Play Ball Weekend at Fifth Third Field from June 10-12. These events are part of an ongoing effort to build connections between youth sports and the Toledo community.

The Play Ball initiative is baseball's collective effort to encourage young people and communities to engage in baseball or softball-related activities, including formal leagues, special events, and casual forms of play. Play Ball events have become MLB's signature youth engagement activity.



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Field events propel Northwood girls to TAAC title

By J. Patrick Eaken
Press Sports Editor
sports@presspublications.com

Northwood girls won a Toledo Area Athletic Conference championship, scoring 117 points to defeat second place Toledo Christian (101) by dominating the field events.

“It was a great team effort,” Northwood coach Jeremy Lewin said. “Every girl scored points for the team in some capacity.”

“Our girls in the field really stepped up: went one-two in the pole vault, first and third in the shot put, second and sixth in the disc, third and sixth in the long jump, and third and sixth in the high jump.”

In the pole vault, Northwood junior Jade Wiley was first at eight feet and sophomore Kayleigh Moyer was second at six feet, six inches. In the long jump, Moyer was third at 13-8¼ and sophomore Marysa Apthorpe was sixth at 12-8¼. In the high jump, junior Regan Grant was third (4-2) and freshman Alexa Urbanyi (3-10) was sixth.

In the shot put, Northwood sophomore Breanna Bolden (35-9½) won the championship and junior Amelia Lewin (31-6½) was third. In the discus, Lewin was second at 86-4½ and sophomore Amelia Fowler was sixth (67-2).

The field events, which concluded before the running finals were completed, put the Rangers in a good position, but they had to hold on.

“So, we had a good lead early in the meet, but (junior Jordan) Rosales and (sophomore Myiah) Welborn from Toledo Christian and (sophomore Ella) Shetterly and (junior Elanora) Smith from Ottawa Hills really performed well to keep it close,” Lewin said.

“We had a couple other surprises that really helped us seal it. Our girls 4x100 was seeded to take third and took first, and our 300 hurdler, Madison Ferrell, was also seeded to take third, and took the gold. Both dropped considerable time to do it,” Lewin continued.

Ferrell, a sophomore, finished the 300 hurdles in 51.6 seconds to nip second place



Northwood sophomore Kayleigh Moyer and junior Jade Wiley take on the hurdles. (Press photo by Don Thompson/Facebook.com/DNRSport)

Maumee Valley junior Paige Yustick (51.9) by three-tenths of a second.

The 4x100 relay, Wiley, Grant, Moyer and Bolden, won by a tenth of a second, with Bolden crossing the finish in 54.9 seconds, ahead of an Ottawa Hills team that led off with Shetterly, finishing in 55 seconds flat.

Rounding out the team standings were third place OH (94), followed by MV (72), Emmanuel Christian (65) and Cardinal Stritch (45).

Ottawa Hills won the boys meet, scoring 188 points, followed by MV (158), Northwood (77), TC (49), and Stritch and Emmanuel tied for fifth with 20 points each.

“The boys represented themselves very well, knowing that going into the meet that Ottawa Hills and Maumee Valley Country Day were the teams to beat,” Lewin said.

“They all competed hard and tried their best to score as many points as possible, which is easily seen in their times, as many of them dropped considerable time as well scoring points we weren’t expecting to get.”

“The boys sprints this year in the TAAC are incredible,” Lewin continued. “The 100-meter (OH senior Walker Kight won) and 4x100 (won by OH) were both very competitive.”

“Ottawa Hills, Maumee Valley Country Day, Cardinal Stritch, and us have been going back and forth all season, and to watch them all in one race was a lot of fun.”

Northwood sophomore Tyler Duprey won the 110 hurdles in 18.6 to beat second place OH junior Thomas Franklin (19.1).

Northwood senior Joey Yarad won the pole vault, clearing nine feet to outdistance second place OH junior Mathias Weaver (8-

6). In the Division III district meet at Gibsonburg, Bolden advanced to the Port Clinton regional meet by finishing fourth in the shot put with a toss of 34-4.

On Northwood’s boys team, junior Alex Howe finished third in the 100 at the district meet with a time of 11.71 in the finals and advanced to regionals.

Stritch also had two boys relay teams qualify for regionals — the 4x100 and 4x200. The 4x100 team of all seniors Clarence Brown, Thomas Foust, Demontri Whitehead and Jaden Moss finished fourth in 46.07, allowing them to advance. They currently own the school record at 45.9 seconds.

The same foursome finished second in the 4x200 with Whitehead crossing in 1:35.27, just a little over one second behind champion Margareta (1:34.13).

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Eastwood track's experience, depth paying off big-time

By J. Patrick Eaken
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Eastwood boys track had plenty of experience coming into this season with indoor state qualifiers Dalton Hesselbart (pole vault), Bryce Koprowski-Kistner and Robby Rothenbuhler (triple jump, not a spring state meet event).

In addition, at the indoor state meet, Eastwood qualified a 4x400 team to the state indoor meet that included four freshmen, Jesse Poiry, Lewis, Kevin Lewis, Hayden Hoelter, and Nate Heskett in the weight throw (not spring state meet event), plus it helped to have seniors returning to the team or deciding to take a try at track.

"Our freshmen are a jolt of energy and talent," Sabo said. "They bring more positive energy to an already positive environment. Jacob Meyer and Emmet Getz were successful as freshmen and decided to come back out this season. Gavin DeWese and Justin Greenlese are two other seniors that bring a lot of positive energy giving track a try in their first season."

Once the Eagles got into the spring season, the momentum continued. Eastwood won the eight-team Napoleon Invitational, scoring 151 points to defeat second place Wauseon (125), followed by Archbold (86) and Bowling Green (81). Eastwood won three field events and 16 of 17 events overall, setting 11 personal records and two season-bests.

The Eagles also were first in the Liberty-Benton Relays and the Gold W Invitational at Whitmer, and they were unbeaten in dual meets again this season. The success continued into the Division II district meet hosted by Oak Harbor.

At districts, Hesselbart won a district championship in the pole vault, clearing 14 feet, three inches.

Eastwood's Devin Good was second in the 800 (2:04.62), Cory Jay was second in the 1600 (11:05.12), and the 4x800 relay team finished second in 8:30.85.

Placing third for the Eagles were Noah Smith in the 110 hurdles (15.76), Meyer in the high jump (6-0) and Dayquan Oliver in the long jump (20-8¼).

Eagles placing fourth were Smith in the 200 (23.06) and the 4x100 relay team (44.08). The top four advanced to regionals at Lexington, which concluded Saturday.

As a team at the districts, Eastwood scored 89 points to finish fourth at the 13-team event.

Making it tough at home

Perhaps Eastwood's toughest test during the regular season was on their home track in cold, rain and wind at Jerry Rutherford Stadium's Freedom Field. Eastwood came up just short, scoring 106 points to finish second in the Larry Kohring Eastwood Relays.

Eastwood's only wins were in field events, but they were competing against mostly larger schools, and that is by design.

Findlay won the meet with 119 points, Whitmer (92) was third, followed by Sylvania Southview (77), Liberty-Benton (66), Anthony Wayne (52), Bowling Green (47), Napoleon (39), Sylvania Northview (37), Clay (12), Rogers (6), Start (4), and Cardinal Stritch (2).

Meyer jumped six feet to win the individual high jump competition, and Eastwood won the three-team relay as he

was joined by freshmen Andre Lewis (five feet, six inches) and Dayquan Oliver (5-6). Meyer called it a poor jump by his standards.

At a total of 17 feet, Eastwood barely got by a second place Findlay team, but Meyer credited his two freshmen teammates for helping the Eagles get the relay win.

Eastwood also took the discus relay as Getz threw 139-4, Braden Bowdle hit 124-8 and Elden Slack threw 108-4. For Getz and Bowdle, they were personal records.

Heskett, who will throw at Ohio Northern University, won the individual hammer throw, reaching 122-8 to outdistance second place Whitmer thrower Kevin Hornbeak (109-2).

The hammer throw is not a standard event at most high school meets but can be included. Heskett said he loved having the opportunity because it is something he may be doing in college.

Eastwood senior Jacob Limes, who finished third in one of the few individual events raced, the 100 meter dash (11.5 seconds), will tell you how good the competition was.

"I knew we were going into a quick heat with a lot of quick guys. The kid from Findlay (Ben Ireland) is a good runner — he has been running good times all year. I'm just hoping to push myself to compete with him, and to be able to compete with guys like that is great just to get ready for the league and go on to the state tournament and stuff like that," Limes said.

"It felt good coming out. You just have to prepare for big guys like that — lots of competition. You have to have competition like that just go get prepared. It felt good though."

Eastwood's 1600 sprint medley team finished fourth, proving it takes depth to compete in a relays event, and the Eagles were up against mostly larger schools. Still, Eastwood runner Caleb Souder thought his team's time of 3:52.52 was well done.

"I think we got out good. Our 800 runner, Devin Good, he took it out hard and did what he could. It came down to the end and it was a pretty close race for third and fourth. To get fourth I think we raced pretty well," Souder said.

Good found out how tough a relay meet can be when his team finished second in the 4x800, finishing in 8:44.55 behind L-B (8:38.95). He was still trying to catch his breath from a previous event held minutes earlier.

"We knew we were coming off a tough double because both of our guys already ran races. We got onto the 4x8 team, and we were just going out there to get what we could get. We'll take second if we can get it. That's a tough double from sprint medley with only a two sprint races in between. So I'll take a 2:10 (Good's leg) — that's a good time."

Then you had the shuttle hurdles, something prep athletes don't always compete in. Eastwood took second.

"It went amazing. All of our teammates three-stepped and we've been working on it in practice and we're slowly putting it all together. I love it. This is the most fun I've had in a meet. It's amazing," Poiry said.

Eastwood team captains are seniors Ethan Kwiatkowski, Good, Xander Ramsey, Heskett, Meyer, Jacob Stonerook, and Koprowski-Kistner. The majority of Eastwood's starting athletes are ranked in Ohio on MileSplit.



Eastwood pole vaulter Dalton Hesselbart. (Photo by Danielle DeFalco)

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Agriculture

Ag-LINK program changed and updated

With the passage of House Bill 440, legislation to update the Ohio Gains initiative, Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague has announced changes to the Ag-LINK program.

As part of the legislation, agricultural cooperatives (co-ops) have been added as eligible Ag-LINK borrowers for the first time in the program's history. Programmatic and loan caps have also been removed from statute to ensure the program keeps pace with changing economic conditions.

Additionally, in February, Sprague announced that for the first time, applications will be accepted year-round to provide borrowers with greater flexibility and access to lower-cost capital when they need it most.

"For decades, Ag-LINK has supported Ohio farmers by driving down the cost of doing business," said Sprague. "As they face new challenges caused by crippling inflation and massive supply chain issues, we've taken Ag-LINK to the next level to better meet their needs. We're proud to make these much-needed improvements

at this critical time and serve the Buckeye State's next generation of farmers."

In the first quarter of 2022, Ag-LINK: -Supported 530 loans to Ohio agricultural businesses across 54 counties totaling more than \$103 million

-Saved Ohio agricultural businesses at least \$518,453 (based on the first quarter minimum loan discount of 0.5 percent.

The Ohio Treasurer's office administers the Ag-LINK program to help farm operators, agribusinesses, and now agricultural co-ops, finance the upfront operating costs for feed, seed, fertilizer, fuel, equipment, and other costs.

Prior to HB 440's passage, Ohio law limited individual loans available through Ag-LINK to just \$150,000 per year. Moving forward, loan caps will be assessed and set on an annual basis by the treasurer's office.

Each year will be divided into four quarters. New interest rate reduction figures are announced at the start of each quarter to reflect current economic conditions. For

the current quarter, Ag-LINK is providing a 0.5 percent interest rate reduction on agriculture business operation loans at eligible banks, credit unions, and farm credit lenders.

Those interested in Ag-LINK should contact their financial institution to begin the online loan application process. More information on the Ag-LINK program can be found online.

"The Ohio Gains initiative puts the state's balance sheet to work for Ohioans through innovative investment strategies that will secure a more prosperous future for Ohio", Sprague said.

House Bill 440 includes investment reforms that bolster support for the state's agriculture community, health systems, and institutions of higher education.

The legislation was sponsored in the Senate by Michael Rulli and Jerry Cirino and in the House by Representatives D.J. Swearingen and Andrea White.

Farmers group backs labeling bill

National Farmers Organization's ongoing support of Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling continues with recent U.S. House legislation.

Representatives Lance Gooden (R-Tex.) and Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), introduced a bill for MCOOL in late March which would help consumers differentiate beef produced domestically from the nearly 3 billion annual pounds of beef imports. Canada, Mexico and New Zealand are the largest beef importers.

"National Farmers supports legislation in both the House and Senate to reinstate mandatory Country of Origin Labeling," said National Farmers Legislative Coordinator Gene Paul. "This country imports beef from more than 20 foreign countries and we applaud legislator's intent to restore mandatory MCOOL so U.S. producers can compete against the growing tide of undifferentiated products imported into our domestic markets."

Representative Gooden said American cattle ranchers are being undercut by foreign competition because current labeling standards allow imported beef to be marked as made in the United States if it is only packaged here. "Our trade policies should promote American-made beef and put the hard-working cattle ranchers in the United States first," said Rep. Gooden.

National Farmers markets milk, livestock and crops for thousands of American agricultural producers.

Certification cost

Help for organic producers

Agricultural producers and handlers who are certified organic, along with producers and handlers who are transitioning to organic production, can now apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Organic and Transitional Education Certification Program (OTECP) and Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP), which help producers and handlers cover the cost of organic certification, along with other related expenses.

Applications for OTECP and OCCSP are both due Oct. 31, 2022.

"By helping with organic certification costs, long identified as a barrier to certification, USDA has helped producers participate in new markets while investing in the long-term health of their operations," said Farm Service Agency Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "We launched the Organic and Transitional Education Certification Program to build on the support offered through the Organic Certification Cost Share Program and provide additional assistance to organic and transitioning producers weathering the continued market impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, in response to stakeholder feedback, we have aligned the signup dates for these two organic programs and encourage producers to work with the local USDA Service Centers and State agencies to complete the applications. We're committed to making sure our Nation's organic producers and handlers have the tools they need to continue positively shaping our local and regional food systems."

OTECP covers:

- Certification costs for organic producers and handlers (25 percent up to \$250 per category).

- Eligible expenses for transitional producers, including fees for pre-certification inspections and development of an organic system plan (75 percent up to \$750).
- Registration fees for educational events (75 percent up to \$200).
- Soil testing (75 percent up to \$100).

Meanwhile, OCCSP covers 50 percent or up to \$500 per category of certification costs in 2022.

This cost share for certification is available for each of these categories: crops, wild crops, livestock, processing/handling and State organic program fees.

Producers can receive cost share through both OTECP and OCCSP. Both OTECP and OCCSP cover costs incurred from October 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2022. Producers have until Oct. 31, 2022 to file applications.

To apply, producers and handlers should contact the Farm Service Agency at their local USDA Service Center. As part of completing the OCCSP applications, producers and handlers will need to provide documentation of their organic certification and eligible expenses. Organic producers and handlers may also apply for OCCSP through participating State agencies.

Additional details can be found on the OTECP and OCCSP web pages.

FSA is accepting applications for state agencies to administer OCCSP through July 18, 2022. If a state department of agriculture chooses to participate in OCCSP, both the state department of agriculture and FSA county offices in that state will accept OCCSP applications and make payments to eligible certified operations. However, the producer or handler may only receive OCCSP assistance by either FSA or the participating state department of agriculture.

Farm Science Review set

This year's Farm Science Review is scheduled for Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in London, Ohio.

Typically, more than 600 exhibitors fill the 65-acre main show grounds to display innovations in the agricultural industry.

There are also field demonstrations, educational exhibits and sessions hosted by Ohio State University Extension and natural resource-related programming at the Gwynne Conservation area.

For information contact the FSR office at 614-292-4278 or fsrinfo@osu.edu.



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