



GOING OVER THE HIGH JUMP, Kaitlyn Stapp (above) took sixth place at the Class 2A-1A State Track meet in Wichita over the weekend with a 5-foot jump. She took first in Regionals.

Lauren Fortin (below, middle) came in second in the 100-meter dash in 12.65 seconds. She also took first in the Regional competition. —Herald staff photos by Dick Boyd

Oberlin track stars win medals at state

Junior hurdler takes double gold as teams finish fourth, eighth at meet

The Decatur Community High School boys track team was carried into fourth place at the Class 2A state track meet by junior Teryn Grafel, who won two firsts in the hurdles.

The Oberlin girls came in eighth on the strength of a second-place finish by Lauren Fortin and a pair of thirds by relay teams.

Oberlin sent 13 athletes to compete in 11 events at the meet in Wichita on Friday and Saturday.

Grafel ran the 110-meter high hurdles in 15.32 seconds. In regional competition, he took first in 14.46, an Oberlin high school record.

Last year, Grafel won the state meet in the 110 hurdles, running the course in 15.19.

A second gold medal came as Grafel cleared the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 40.02. He was a little faster last week, when he won first in the regional meet in 40 seconds to tie a school record.

Last year, he took third at state in the 300, running the course in 41.9.

Grafel won an additional medal as a member of the Oberlin boys 4x100-meter relay team, which placed fourth.

This is the second year in a row that Grafel has been in three events at state. Last year, he was on the 4x400-meter relay team, which came in ninth in the preliminaries. As a freshman, Grafel took fifth at state in the 110 hurdles and competed in the 300 hurdles.

Sophomore Lauren Fortin, who won the regional 100-meter dash in 12.5 seconds, came in second at state in 12.65.

Fortin helped the girls 4x100-meter relay team to a third and the 4x400-meter relay team to seventh at state.

All three of the Oberlin girls relay teams ran well enough at regionals to get a chance at state.

The 4x100-meter relay team, which came in first at regionals in 50.4, a school record, took third at state, running in 50.93. Members are Fortin, freshman Heather Glodt and juniors Kaitlyn Stapp and Lydia Karnopp.

The 4x800-meter relay team of freshman Lacey Ream, sophomore Sarah Murray and juniors Lora Marietta and Whitney Beinke came in third at regionals in 10:20.2 and third at state in 10:08.6, a school record.

Stapp came in sixth in the high jump at state at 5 feet. She won the regional competition at 5-2.

Senior Lance Fortin won two medals in three events as he placed fifth in the javelin at 162 and helped the boys 4x100-meter relay team to fourth place. Fortin placed 16th in his third event, the high jump.

At regionals, he was second in the javelin at 156-1 and third in high jump at 5-10.

The boys 4x100-meter relay team of Fortin, Grafel and juniors Bruce King and Joe Mondero took fourth at state in 44.92. The team came in third in regionals in 44.1, a school record.

The girls 4x400-meter relay team of Beinke, Fortin, Ream and Karnopp came in 4:17 to medal at state. The team took fourth at regionals in 4:12.5.

Bailey took ninth in the javelin at state in 151-4. He was first in javelin in the regional meet at 164-2.

Ream took 10th in the 800-meter run at state in 2:31. She came in fourth in regionals in 2:34.6.

"Both teams competed well and we had a really good track season this year," Coach Joe Dreher said.



Jennings runner does well

Sophomore Marcus McKenna of Jennings, the last athlete to compete for the Prairie Heights Coyotes, broke a school record in one race and matched his personal best in another in the state Track and Field Meet in Wichita on Saturday.

Since Jennings did not have a track team in this final year for the school, McKenna competed for Hoxie High School until time for the regional meet, where he qualified for the state in Class 1A in both the 1,600-meter and 800-meter runs.

Wearing Jennings' colors in the state meet, he placed fifth in the 1,600, setting a school record of 4 minutes, 43.19 seconds, and sixth in the 800 in 2:05.23. He had broken the 1,600-meter school record twice earlier this year.

He missed fourth in the 1,600 by 26/100 of a second and fifth in the 800 by 1/100 of a second.

His 1,600 time was more than six seconds better than his 4:49.3 regional time and he cut more than a second off his regional 800 time of 2:06.8.

"We talked to him about running competitively since it would be the last time for a Jennings athlete to compete," said Hoxie Coach Tom Friess. "He definitely upheld the pride of the Jennings community."

"He got boxed in several times in the 1,600-meter or [he] could have won it. He is just a sophomore, so was not as experienced as some of the other runners."

"We were really happy to have Marcus on our team this season. He works even harder than we expect."

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