

Local teams compete in rain drenched North Harrison Invitational Track Meet

Written by Administrator

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The North Harrison Invitational Track Meet must have seemed more like a swim meet Friday afternoon to the athletes from the participating schools.

Several times, rain delayed the action, sending athletes scurrying for shelter from the rain. Several tents had been set up on the outside of the track fence, giving some added protection from the rain.

The meet even saw a total of 10 events, five in the girls' division, and five in the boys' division, canceled because of the conditions.

Both the boys' and girls' pole vault and long jump was canceled, accounting for four events.

"Those events just didn't (go ahead) because of the conditions," said North Harrison boys' coach Joe Kellum. "There's nothing you can do about it, it just happens."

Also, both the girls' and boys' divisions of three different relay races were erased, accounting for a total of six more events altogether. Canceled were the freshman 1600 meter relay, the varsity 1600 meter relay, and the varsity 800 meter relay.

Even so, each division crowned a champion, even though detailed results and team scores were unavailable at the time of writing.

Brownstown's Lady Braves won the girls' division, and host North Harrison won the boys' title for the Cougars.

Boys' Meet -

"Everybody did great," said Kellum of his team. "It was a pretty good win."

Alan Austin helped out greatly for North Harrison in the two throwing events, winning both the shot put (49'9") and the discus (157'4") for his team. "He's a great athlete," Kellum said of Austin.

Tyler Byrne reeled off three first place finishes for the Cougars by himself. The junior won the 800 run (2:00), the 3200 run, and the 1600 run (4:20). In the 3200 run, he was joined by team mate Johnny Guy, a freshman who was third (10:34).

Kellum thought that the two finishers he had in the 3200 run did an excellent job to be up so far in the standings. "It was pouring down rain in that race," he said.

Byrne is normally in the 3200 relay, but Friday he was not among the four North Harrison runners in it. They still finished in first place, with a time of 8:25. Kellum said the mark was four seconds shy of their best time, and that was with Byrne not in it.

"They did an excellent job," Kellum said of the 3200 relay team.

Also, Jared Richards won the high jump for the Cougars. He jumped a somewhat low height of 5'8", but Kellum added that the weather conditions made it hard for anyone to jump very high.

"No one else did any better, he said.

Adding a few points in the sprints was Tony Powell, who was sixth in the 100 dash, and fourth in the 200 dash. The team also scored a pair of second places, in the varsity 400 relay, and the freshman 400 relay. They also had a third place in the 300 low hurdles.

Kellum noted that although they have some sprinting speed, they don't have "that stand out super frosh sprinter."

All in all, Kellum is happy with the way his team is performing with only two weeks of the regular season remaining. This week the Harrison County Meet is held, and next week the Mid Southern Conference Meet is held.

"Everybody's on the road to where they need to be," Kellum said.

Eastern boys' track coach John Dablow was pleased with the results of his athletes.

Sophomore Jash Higdon was in the top six of both the 100 dash and the 200 dash, and that was fine with Dablow.

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“Our goal was to make the finals. That was good for him.”

Charles Bright, a sophomore in Bright’s crew, had a personal best time in the 1600 run at 5:05.

Also scoring for the Musketeers were Jacob Portella and Kyle Taylor in the 400 run. Both were freshmen, and Dablow hopes they keep going out for track.

“We’re hoping to work with those kids a couple more years,” Dablow added.

Eastern lost some potential scoring when five boys’ events were canceled, but Dablow realizes the cancellations could not be helped. The athletes he had that did compete didn’t have an easy time of it, either.

“It was such a rough night for several of our guys,” said Dablow.

The meet was called permanently at approximately 11:30 p.m., with the previously mentioned 10 events canceled.

“I do think they made the right decision by calling it,” Dablow said of the North Harrison decision to call the meet before all events were done.

Eastern has 42 boys out for track this year, and 33 are either freshmen or sophomores.

Girls’ Meet -

Eastern was in fourth place in the team standings, with 49 points. Eastern girls’ track coach Jennifer Olesh was pretty happy with her team’s performances.

“We had some girls score pretty high,” Olesh said.

Debra Adkins was the highest finisher for the team, winning the shot put with a distance of 33’ 10 ½ “. In another field event, Olivia Webster was in second place in the high jump with a height of 4’ 10”.

Eastern also had a couple of other second place finishers, with Rachel Dalton turning in a time of 2:42, and their 3200 relay team tied the school record in time, with a clocking of 10:57.

The team also scored two times in the 1600 run, with Rachel Dalton and Erica Wilson finishing third and fourth in the race. They had identical times of 5:44.

Kaylyn Rodewig also placed fifth in both the 100 dash (14.2), and the 200 dash (29.2). Rodewig can also run better than those two times, according to her coach.

“She’s run better times than that before. Everybody was cold. The times aren’t that great on the sprint races,” Olesh said.

Olesh added, “I thought all of the girls did really well. The conditions were really cold out there. You don’t want to have them hurt, just because we want to try to finish the meet in the rain.”

Salem saw their girls’ team (which finished in third place) turn in several excellent individual performances as well.

Cora Carter placed first in the 100 dash (13.2), and had a second place turn in the long jump (15’ 3”).

The Salem freshman relay team won their event with a time of 57 seconds flat. And Salem’s Kali Johnson was second in the 100 meter hurdles.

Salem girls’ track coach Roger Bundy wished that the weather had been better, but he realized his team still managed to get through it.

“It was a pretty messy meet,” Bundy said. “The girls ran pretty well. It gave us a pretty good look at how we might do in the (Mid Southern Conference). We’re pretty beat up and banged up.”

He is hoping they can recuperate over the last two weeks in the regular season. Join St. Mary of the Knobs to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day in style! Their 4th Annual Reverse Raffle is set

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for Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. Only 100 tickets sold in increments of \$100, \$50, and \$25. Total cash prizes of \$5,500 – even losers have a second chance to win!