

# Lady Eagles want team to join Medina at state

By Mike Lee  
Eagle Contributor

Goldthwaite's Kylee Medina lived up to expectations last year as a freshman, qualifying for the UIL Class 2A state cross country meet and finishing 17th in a field of 147 runners. Now the goal is for the Lady Eagles to qualify for state as a team.

The Lady Eagles finished sixth at last year's regional meet, but only the top four teams qualify for state. Third-year cross country coach Ashley Spradley knows how her team must improve to advance to state.

"The other girls have to step up and run closer to Kylee," Spradley said. "Last year we had too big a gap between Kylee and our second runner, much less our fourth or fifth runners.

"We will do a lot of pace work in practice. Our next-best runners need to stay within 45 seconds of Kylee (on a two-mile run). Her best last year was 12:17, so our other runners need to be in the low 13-minute range.

"We have the advantage of someone like Kylee who can go out there and set a fast pace every day in practice for the other runners. They can work in practice at staying closer to her," Spradley said.

Individually, Medina finished second

at district and third at regional last year. She and junior teammate Ally Hopper attended Texas Tech's summer cross country camp in preparation for this season.

The responsibility of staying closer to Medina will fall primarily on at least eight other varsity returnees or candidates. Kylee Sutherland is the lone senior on the Lady Eagles' roster, and there are five juniors in Hopper, Madison Martinez, Haley Guerrero, Alyssa Herrera and Jordan Carr.

Sophomores Jessica Horton, Macy Seward and Callie Jernigan ran on the varsity last year. Sophomore Haylee Purcell could make a push for a varsity spot, along with freshmen Jasmine Balencia, Taylor Rountree, Mia Winters and Ellie Peterson.

Spradley carried about 10 runners on the varsity last year until the district meet, when varsity rosters are trimmed to seven entries and the others run in the JV division.

The coach expects continued improvement from all her runners, starting with Medina.

"Kylee is never satisfied. She wants to run a p.r. (personal record) every time out. She finished 17th at state last year as a freshman and was mad at herself. She's so hard on herself that I think it

makes her doubt herself sometimes. She needs to run with more confidence because she's very talented," Spradley said.

Goldthwaite opens the cross country season Wednesday, Aug. 30, at San Saba. Goldthwaite will host its meet Oct. 4. The district, regional and state meets are Oct. 11, Oct. 21 and Nov. 4 at Hamilton, Grand Prairie and Round Rock, respectively.

## Boys cross country

Goldthwaite fielded a boys' cross country team last year for the first time since 2013, and the Eagles finished second at district and competed at regional as a team.

The Eagles will return senior Diego Castorena, who finished ninth at last year's district meet, and junior Rodrigo Macias, who was 10th at district last year. Sophomore Lane Dowell finished 14th last year at district while junior Jay Bhakta was 17th.

Freshmen Jonathan Bartek, Wyatt Adams and Clayton Schulze will join the high school team this year. Bartek medaled at most of last year's eighth-grade track meets in the distance races.

The boys are also coached by Spradley and will run the same meet schedule as the girls.

## Goldthwaite Cross Country Lady Eagles Roster

Senior – Kylee Sutherland.

Juniors – Madison Martinez, Ally Hopper, Haley Guerrero, Alyssa Herrera, Jordan Carr.

Sophomores – Kylee Medina, Jessica Horton, Macy Seward, Callie Jernigan, Bayleigh Hicks, Victoria Herrin, Savannah Head, Haylee Purcell.

Freshmen – Jasmine Balencia, Taylor Rountree, Emma Grebe, Jadyn Deweese, Ellie Peterson, Mia Winters, Sarah Williams, Kelly Ables.

## Eagles Roster

Senior – Diego Castorena.

Juniors – Rodrigo Macias, Jay Bhakta.

Sophomore – Lane Dowell.

Freshmen – Jonathan Bartek, Wyatt Adams, Clayton Schulze.

## 2017 Schedule

Aug. 30 – San Saba

Sept. 6 – Mason

Sept. 13 – Brownwood

Sept. 20 – Hamilton

Sept. 30 – McNeil Invitational,  
Round Rock

Oct. 4 – Goldthwaite

Oct. 11 – District 10-2A Meet, Hamilton

Oct. 21 – Region II-2A Meet,  
Grand Prairie

Nov. 4 – UIL State Meet, Round Rock



Back Row L-R: Taylor Rountree, Clayton Schulze, Jay Bhakta, Jonathan Bartek, Diego Castorena, Lane Dowell, Jordan Carr, Kylee Medina. Middle Row L-R: Mia Winters, Emma Grebe, Sarah Williams, Madison Martinez, Haley Guerrero, Macy Seward, Jessica Horton, Callie Jernigan, Ally Hopper, Kylee Jo Sutherland, Haylee Purcell, Savannah Head, Bayleigh Hicks. Front Row L-R: Victoria Herrin, Jadyn Deweese, Jasmine Balencia, Kelly Ables, Emmar Peterson, Ellie Peterson, Alyssa Herrera.