

Lady Eagle runners aim to qualify for state

By Mike Lee
Eagle Contributor

The Class 2A Goldthwaite Lady Eagles have finished second to Hamilton at the district cross country meet for the last three years. Hamilton was elevated to Class 3A in the latest UIL realignment so the first team goal for the Goldthwaite girls this season is clear.

"With Hamilton gone, we obviously want to win the district championship," said Ashley Spradley, the Goldthwaite fourth-year cross country coach. "It's always been tight between us and De Leon for second and third, but our girls have been doing really well so far. They're all juniors and seniors except for (sophomore) Jasmine Balencia. We have good depth."

The Lady Eagles also have the best cross country runner in the district in defending individual champion Kylee Medina, a junior. Senior Madison Martinez finished 10th at district last year, and she was followed by Callie Jernigan (11th), Ally Hopper (15th), Balencia (18th) and Macy Seward (19th).

Depth comes from the Lady Eagles' junior varsity team that won its third consecutive district team championship last year. Junior Jessica Horton won the JV individual title at district last year, and she was followed by Kelly Ables (3rd), Haley Guerrero (4th), Emma Grebe (5th) and Taylor Rountree (6th) as Goldthwaite dominated the division.

Spradley can pick seven runners for the varsity division at district, with the top five finishers counting toward the team score. Goldthwaite is scheduled to host the District 10-2A Meet on Oct. 10 at the Municipal Golf Course.

Beyond district, the Lady Eagles' goal is to qualify for state as a team. Medina finished 17th at state as a freshman individual and sixth last year as a sophomore. She'd love to have her teammates join her for this year's state meet, scheduled for Nov. 3 at Round Rock.

The top four teams at regional qualify for state, and the Lady Eagles have finished sixth at regional the last two years.

"Our goal after district is the same as always. We're

looking to get our team to state," Spradley said. "We've always missed qualifying by one or two places.

"Last year I think we peaked too early. Most of our girls ran their personal-best times at district. We need to be doing that at regional and state. Last year we started training in mid-July. This year we started a little later in the second week of August. We hope that change will put us on the right track.

"Kylee wants to run with her teammates at state. Her personal goal is to get on the medal stand at state (with a top three finish). She was third last year with 800 meters left and ended up sixth. She's getting close. It just came down to some footspeed there at the end," Spradley said.

GHS Boys

The Goldthwaite boys' cross country team won the District 10-2A team championship, giving the Eagles their only win over De Leon in any of the team sports during the 2017-2018 school year.

The Eagles lost 2017 senior Diego Castorena, and when preseason practices began this year, the Eagles had only four runners. Five are required to field a team at the district level. The Goldthwaite all-sophomore four-some consists of Jonathan Bartek, Brecken Reyes, Clayton Schulze and Devin Martinez. Wyatt Adams, another sophomore who ran last year, is out with a broken foot.

At last year's district meet, Bartek finished fifth individually, Reyes was sixth, Martinez 13th, Schulze 15th and Adams 24th. At regional, Bartek led the way with a No. 42 finish and Reyes was next at No. 60.

"Winning district last year with a bunch of freshmen was a cool moment for them," Spradley said. "We hope we can get a fifth runner out so we can have a team this year. If we do, it will probably be a battle between us and De Leon at district."

The District 10-2A meet will include De Leon, Goldthwaite, Hico, Meridian and Santo.

Goldthwaite Cross Country Girls Preseason Roster

Madison Martinez – Sr.
Ally Hopper – Sr.
Jordan Carr – Sr.
Haley Guerrero – Sr.
Taylor Jamison – Sr.
Kylee Medina – Jr.
Jessica Horton – Jr.
Macy Seward – Jr.
Callie Jernigan – Jr.
Bayleigh Hicks – Jr.
Jasmine Balencia – So.
Kelly Ables – So.
Emma Grebe – So.
Taylor Rountree – So.
Sarah Williams – So.
Karleigh Bolt – Fr.
Emma Head – Fr.
Mia Herrera – Fr.
Reagan Switzer – Fr.
Maggie Tupin – Fr.

Boys Preseason Roster

Jonathan Bartek – So.
Brecken Reyes – So.
Clayton Schulze – So.
Devin Martinez – So.
Wyatt Adams – So. (injured)

2018 Girls & Boys Schedule

Aug. 29 – San Saba
Sept. 5 – Mason
Sept. 12 – Brownwood
Sept. 19 – Hamilton
Sept. 26 – Priddy
Oct. 3 – Goldthwaite
Oct. 10 – District 10-2A Meet, Goldthwaite
Oct. 22 – Region II-2A Meet, Grand Prairie
Nov. 3 – UIL Class 2A State Meet, Round Rock



Goldthwaite Cross Country 2018