



GOLDTHWAITE EAGLES BOYS TRACK: Back Row: Jordan Simon, Mitchel Hopper, Slade Southerland, Cason Guthrie, Bryson Owen, AJ McCoy, Garren Higginbotham, Jacob Valdez, Wyatt Adams, “front” Back Row: Cole Hermesmeier, Seth Gardner, Jackson Patrick, Adrean Martinez, Tyler Shelton, Trent Dericek, Scott McCoy, Calix Mensch, “kneeling” Row: Aaron Anzua, Saul Vaquera, Dusty Partin, Lane Dowell, Kody Roberts, Caleb Avants, Braden Harlan, Luis Avila, Front Row: JD Valdez, Aries Vanderlaan, Connor Bartek, Javier Venegas-Martinez, Migel Martinez, Hayden Fletcher, Wezlee Wilkey.

Young Eagles’ track team seeks to defend 10-2A title

**By Mike Lee
Eagle Contributor**

New Goldthwaite boys’ head track and field coach Erik Edwards has inherited a young team, but one that was good enough to win the District 10-2A team championship last spring.

“We’re going to be younger than we were in football last fall,” said Edwards, who’s entering his 15th year as a track coach, including his fourth as a head coach.

Like a lot of coaches, Edwards thinks track helps identify the top competitors in the athletic program.

“I understand that track is not everybody’s favorite sport,” he said. “But kids can use track to help them improve in the sports that are their favorites. Track helps you gauge what type of kids you have. I’m talking about physical and mental toughness.”

“There are always a couple of kids that surprise you in track. They turn out to be faster or tougher than you thought. Track helps you find those kids.”

Goldthwaite edged De Leon for last year’s District 10-2A team title, and

the Eagles finished third at the 9-2A/10-2A area meet. Lane Dowell, who returns for his senior season, scored the Eagles’ only points at the regional meet with a fourth-place finish in the pole vault with a personal-best clearance of 13 feet.

Dowell, who scored a team-high 25 points at last year’s district meet, also qualified for regional in the 110- and 300-meter hurdles in 2019.

Other top returnees include sophomores Jackson Patrick, Dusty Partin and Kody Roberts; along with junior Jona-

than Bartek. Patrick last year qualified for regional in the 400 meters with a best time of 54.05 seconds. He also ran on the Eagles’ regional-qualifying 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Partin spent much of his freshman season coming back from a knee injury. He competes in the sprints, long jump and relays. Roberts topped 100 feet in the discus and figures to improve this spring.

Jonathan Bartek was a regional qualifier in the 3200 and 1600 last year, and he’ll be joined this year by his freshman brother Connor Bartek. Connor has already made an impact at the high school level by qualifying for state in cross country last fall.

“We’re expecting good things in the 3200 and 1600 with Jonathan and Connor,” Edwards said. “It’s unreal the kind of shape Connor’s in.”

Patrick, who didn’t vault last year while coming back from a football injury, will enter the pole vault -- joining Dowell and freshman Carsyn Campbell.

Patrick and Partin ran on the 4x100 relay last year while Patrick and senior returnee Trent Daricek ran on the 4x400 relay.

“We’ll put a lot of emphasis on the relays. We just have to put them together,” Edwards said. “We’ll do our best to make sure kids on the relays get to compete as individuals as well. We’ll probably have about 40 kids out between the varsity and JV.”

The top prospects from last year’s JV include Seth Gardner, who won district in the JV 3200 and 1600, and Saul Vaquera, who won district in the JV discus.

The Eagles will have a short invitational season, with only four meets before district, including the March 26 Eagle Relays. The District 10-2A meet is scheduled for April 2 at Meridian, and the 9-2A/10-2A Area Meet is scheduled for April 13 at Mineral Wells.

The Region II-2A meet is scheduled for April 24-25 at Springtown, and the UIL state meet will be May 8-9 at Austin.

2020 GOLDTHWAITE EAGLES PRESEASON TRACK ROSTER

| Name | Class | Events |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Lane Dowell | Sr. | pole vault, hurdles, 4x400 relay |
| Trent Daricek | Sr. | 400, 4x400 relay |
| Jordan Simon | Sr. | distance |
| JD Valdez | Sr. | sprints, relays |
| Jaxon Wootton | Sr. | hurdles, relays, high jump |
| Jonathan Bartek | Jr. | distance |
| Aries Vanderlaan | Jr. | throws |
| Scott McCoy | Jr. | 400 |
| Slade Sutherland | Jr. | 400, throws |
| Wyatt Adams | Jr. | distance |
| Mitchell Hopper | So. | discus, relays |
| Jackson Patrick | So. | 400, relays, pole vault |
| Aaron Anzua | So. | relays, horizontal jumps |
| Kody Roberts | So. | shot put, discus |
| Kyler Shelton | So. | 400, relays |
| Dusty Partin | So. | sprints, relays |
| Saul Vaquera | So. | shot put, discus |
| Cason Guthrie | So. | hurdles |
| Seth Gardner | So. | 800, 1600 |
| Jacob Valdez | So. | shot put, discus |
| Calix Mensch | So. | shot put, discus |
| Adrean Martinez | So. | hurdles |
| Spencer Mullins | So. | shot put, discus |
| Bryson Owen | So. | middle distance |
| Jessy Anzua | So. | middle distance |
| Luis Avila | So. | middle distance |
| Cole Hermesmeier | So. | middle distance |
| Caleb Avants | Fr. | |
| Connor Bartek | Fr. | |
| Carsyn Campbell | Fr. | |
| Cutter Campbell | Fr. | |
| Hayden Fletcher | Fr. | |
| Brayden Harlan | Fr. | |
| Garren Higginbotham | Fr. | |
| Miguel Martinez | Fr. | |
| AJ McCoy | Fr. | |
| Craig Scott | Fr. | |
| Austin Senger | Fr. | |
| Javier Vanegas | Fr. | |
| Wezlee Wilkey | Fr. | |

Coaches – Erik Edwards, Keith Virdell, Jeffrey Head.

2020 G’WAITE TRACK & FIELD SCHEDULE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS

Subject to change

| Date | Meet | Location |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Feb. 27 | Buffalo Relays | Cross Plains |
| March 5 | Dublin Invitational | Dublin |
| March 12 | Llano Relays | Llano (girls only) |
| March 19 | Redskin Relays | Comanche |
| March 26 | Eagle Relays | Goldthwaite |
| April 2 | District 10-2A Meet | Meridian |
| April 13 | Dist. 9-2A/10-2A Area Meet | Min. Wells |
| April 24-25 | Region II-2A Meet | Springtown |
| May 8-9 | UIL State Meet | Austin |

2020 GOLDTHWAITE MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK & FIELD SCHEDULE

Subject to change

| Date | Meet | Location |
|----------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Feb. 28 | Junior Buffalo Relays | Cross Plains |
| March 2 | Junior Dublin Invitational | Dublin |
| March 20 | Junior Redskin Relays | Comanche |
| March 27 | Junior Eagle Relays | Goldthwaite |
| March 30 | District Meet | Goldthwaite |



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