



**LADY EAGLES TRACK:** Ellie Petersen, Britni Roberts, Annie Grebe, Avery Graves, Makayla Miles, Logyn Rountree, Jenna Fincher, Dakota Sutherland, Callie Jernigan, Karlee Bolt, Jasmine Balencia, Taylor Rountree, Kelly Ables, Kylee Medina, Emma Grebe, Maggie Tupin, Jaycie Chapman.

# New coach, same goal for Lady Eagles’ track

By Mike Lee  
Eagle Contributor

For her first head coaching assignment in track and field, Blake Ashmore has inherited a Goldthwaite Lady Eagles’ team that last year won the District 10-2A and Area 9-2A/10-2A team championships.

Ashmore is a former state champion pole vaulter from Hico and a collegiate vaulter at Texas Tech, where her personal best was 13 feet, 4 inches. She was an assistant track coach last year at Sudan.

“I want to make track fun,” Ashmore said. “I know most high school kids don’t think of track as fun. But these girls at Goldthwaite are capable, and they’re hard workers every day in everything -- basketball, track, softball, the weight room. I think if you have success in track, you can have fun doing it.”

The Lady Eagles’ top returnee is senior Kylee Medina, who last year finished second at the Class 2A UIL state meet in the 3200 meters with a personal-best time of 11 minutes, 46.55 seconds. That time broke the 25-year-old Goldthwaite school record.

“Kylee doesn’t necessarily enjoy running the distance events or cross country, but she’s good at it and she’s so competitive,” Ashmore said.

Medina also ran on the Lady Eagles’ 4x100 and 4x400 relays last year. Ashmore hopes Medina, a four-time state qualifier in cross country, will considering running both the 3200 and 1600 for her senior track season.

Senior Macy Seward finished sixth at regional last year in the discus with a personal-best throw of 112 feet, 1 inch. She also throws the shot put and last year ran on the Lady Eagles’ 4x400 relay.

Callie Jernigan, another senior, is hoping to rebound after a disappointing junior season in the 300 hurdles. After qualifying for state in the event as a sophomore, Jernigan didn’t make it out of the area meet last year. She did run at regional as a member of the Lady Eagles’ 4x100 relay that made the finals and finished eighth.

Senior Dakota Sutherland plans to enter the throwing events this year.

Junior Kelly Ables was a regional qualifier last year in the pole vault. Ables and five other juniors -- Jasmine Balencia, Emma Grebe, Ellie Petersen, Taylor Rountree and Sarah Williams -- should all help in the sprints and relays.

The Lady Eagles qualified all three relay teams for the area meet last year. Returnees include Medina, Jernigan and sophomore Karleigh Bolt on the 4x100 relay; Bolt, Balencia and Williams in the 4x200 relay; and Medina, Seward and Williams on the 4x400 relay.

Bolt also was a 2019 area qualifier in the 200 and high jump. Ashmore thinks Bolt’s best individual race could be the 400.

The Lady Eagles should receive immediate help from two freshmen -- versatile Avery Graves and hurdler Logyn Rountree. Graves cleared 9 feet in the pole vault last year as an eighth-grader. She also won district in the high jump, 400 and 200. She also figures to run on at least one relay. Logyn Rountree, who also could help on the relays, is back from almost a year’s absence because of an injury.

“We have some speed, some power and some strength,” Ashmore said. “We have a bunch of puzzle pieces. We have to fit the girls into their different spots on the relays and the individual events.”

The Lady Eagles have five meets scheduled -- including the

March 26 Eagle Relays -- before the District 10-2A meet April 2 at Meridian. The District 9-2A/10-2A area meet is scheduled for April 13 at Mineral Wells, and the Region II-2A meet will be April 24-25 at Springtown. The UIL state meet is scheduled for May 8-9 at Austin.

2020 GOLDTHWAITE LADY EAGLES PRESEASON TRACK ROSTER		
Name	Class	Events
Kylee Medina	Sr.	distance, relays
Macy Seward	Sr.	throws, 4x400 relay
Callie Jernigan	Sr.	hurdles, relays
Dakota Sutherland	Sr.	throws
Kelly Ables	Jr.	pole vault, sprints, relays
Jasmine Balencia	Jr.	sprints, relays
Emma Grebe	Jr.	sprints, relays
Ellie Petersen	Jr.	sprints, relays
Taylor Rountree	Jr.	sprints, relays
Sarah Williams	Jr.	sprints, relays
Karleigh Bolt	So.	sprints, relays, high jump
Maggie Tupin	So.	sprints, relays
Makayla Miles	So.	sprints
Jaycie Chapman	So.	hurdles
Jenna Fincher	Fr.	sprints
Avery Graves	Fr.	pole vault, sprints, relays
Annie Grebe	Fr.	sprints
Britni Roberts	Fr.	throws
Logyn Rountree	Fr.	hurdles
Coaches – Blake Ashmore, Ashley Spradley, Angie Hermesmeier, Jessica Pelham, Deborah Moore		



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