

Warrior's seniors set to show the way around the track this season

By Lenny Sementi

Head boys track coach Ryan Hornaday and his assistant Austin Sexson along with girls coaches Dustin Dees and Tracy Hornaday will link up with long time legendary throws coach Stan Weinke this spring once the IHSA gives the go ahead. The experienced group of coaches will look to their seniors to lead the way around the oval this spring and have already utilized them during three indoor meets at the University of Illinois Armory.

Brandon Douglas, Mason Day, Josh Dyer, Coulson Poffenberger, Nick Woods and Marcus Holmes will be at the front of the pack for the boys group while Karli Dean, Hannah Lemay and Caleigh Parsley will take over the reins on the girls side of things. Hornaday says "both squads will be geared more toward individual performances, rather than team standings as in years past. Our hope is to prepare them to hit full stride and perform great in May."

Tuscola squared off with at least fourteen different teams at the armory competing in a six team meet on Friday February 7. Seven teams were there on the 21st of that month, including 1A distance powerhouse University High and ten teams the first weekend of March when 2A perennial powers Centralia, St Joe Ogden, Shelbyville and Tolono Unity turned laps.

Dyer and Douglas are two of the individuals returning that could turn some heads in late May. Both fourth year athletes placed in big meets last season and have their sights set on the state meet. Douglas qualified for the IHSA meet in Charleston a year ago in the pole vault and was a near miss on the podium. He is hunting not only a state medal but also the school record. During indoor he joined with Logan Wallace, Ian Buchanan and Hunter Branca for a fifth place finish in the 4x200 relay turning in a 1:46 and also posted the Warriors fast time in the 60-meter dash crossing the line in 7.7-seconds. Another senior Poffenberger anchored another 4x2 team finishing just one second back taking the baton from Ben Hornaday, Colin Lewis



Brandon Douglas doing pole-vault during his 2019 season.

File Photo

and Eric Badgett.

Dyer will be the point chaser in the throws after missing state qualification by less than an inch a year ago. He led the way at

the armory second and two thirds delivering a personal best 13.98-meters in the second meet. Classmate Sergio Martinez and freshman Chris Boyd were next in line tak-

ing fifth and sixth respectively. Hans Goodman, Thomas Brown, Colton Gunter, Austin Lewis, Dalton Eades, Zach Patterson, Blake Cruzan and few others will also

donate in the throws.

Poffenberger will be another that will seek a spot on the big blue track at EIU's state contest. He turned more than a few heads and col-

lected some hardware last spring in the triple jumps and took first twice during indoor. James Boyd, a junior, captured first place in the pole vault in the third meet and Lewis posted a PR in week two taking second in the long jump.

Day had a great fall campaign in cross-country as did classmates River Kanitz and Nick Woods. The trio will be the spotlight runners for the Warriors in the distance events. They will also be the leaders in relays as well joining them will be Tanne Campbell, Krish Patel, Clayton Hausmann, Hornaday, Badgett and Jacob Middleton.

On the girls side look for sophomore Alyssa Williams to shine. The sprinter ran away with the 60-meter in both weeks one and two at the U of I meets posting a PR of 8.08-seconds on February 21. Skylar Wilkins and Parsley PR'd in the same meet producing a third and sixth respectively. Lemay was strong in cross and will be the backbone of the middle to long distance races. She finished top ten in the 800-meter in meet three.

The Dean sisters Karli and Kate will be coach Weinkes front runners. Karli captured a fifth and sixth place finish in shot with a toss of 9.53-meters while Kate took eighth both times. Both are even stronger in the discus when outdoor season is underway. Williams is strong in the field also posting first in the long jump with a personal best 5.11-meter leap. Addi Fowler placed fifth in the same meet with personal best jump.

Hornaday states "The boys side is loaded, i.e. Salt Fork (state trophy last spring), Arcola and Arthur are all extremely talented. Unity, St Joe and Monticello are as always very good. On the girls side the Central Illinois Conference with likes of St. Teresa and Shelbyville have traditionally competed with the best in the state since its inception and this year Clinton looks especially strong."

BOARD

Continued from 1

15, 2015. The agreement was executed by the Illinois Department of Transportation on May 5, 2015. The agreement was for an amount of \$770,070 (state funds) that corresponds to the Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement between Chastain & Associates (Decatur, IL) and the Douglas County Board that was executed on February 18, 2015. On October 4, 2018, The Douglas County Board executed "Supplement #1 Preliminary Engineering Services agreement with Chastain & Associates, for an additional engineering fee of \$503,500. This additional fee was needed to cover additional engineering required at the request of IDOT and to cover work not captured in the original scope of services. The new upper limit of the engineering amendment was \$1,273,570. This amendment for Local Agency Agreement for State Participation, in the amount of \$1,273,570 needs to be approved and executed by the Douglas County Board and the State of Illinois so that the Douglas County Highway Department can continue to be reimbursed for engineering services from IDOT as the expenses are paid to the consultant.

The first order of new business came from the Supervisor of Assessments office announcing an extension of the May 1, 2020 deadline for all exemption renewals including senior households, senior freeze, disabled persons and disabled veterans. The office is encouraging

seniors and disabled persons not to submit their renewals in person. Renewals may still be submitted by mail. In April, an official resolution for deadline extension to October 1, 2020 will be submitted to the Douglas County Board.

The next item of new business was in reference to the COVID-19 virus. State's Attorney Kate Watson worked to create a resolution for a declaration of emergency for Douglas County. The COVID-19 task force which contains different offices in the county, has come together multiple times to try and stay ahead for the county. The task force declared that there was a need for a state of emergency, so Watson went to work on a plan. Munson said that the plan will not be published or entirely released, Wastson and Munson agreed it was fair and "humble in it's content" and said that a "more aggressive resolution could be passed when and if necessary." Munson said, "I personally, after reading it several times, am in favor of this and going forward with it. I don't see anything in here that grants any overreaching powers to anybody." Munson asked the board to read over the resolution while Amanda Minor from the Health Department gave a presentation. The board agreed that the right thing to do would be to pass the resolution. Munson signed the resolution on March 18, making it good for 7 days without board approval. The board will need to hold an emergency meeting in order to make renew this resolution following the 7-day period.

Amanda Minor, Douglas County Health Department Administrator, then talked to the board about the COVID-19 virus. Minor said that "this is a very very fast-moving thing that is happening. On Friday when I left if you had told me that we would be closing bars and restaurants and moving meetings, I would not think it would have happened by Monday. I am very grateful to the restaurants and bars and the people in this community, you're all doing a wonderful job. I would like to applaud you. I am also asking those who are still thinking 'oh we can still meet' how important are these things? Are they as important as a loved one's life? I think it's important to put that in perspective as to what we're thinking. As you know, yesterday was the first death in Illinois, unfortunately, it is probably not going to be the last. As for Douglas County, we have submitted tests. However, I do not need a test to tell you that it's here. It's everywhere. We all can do something about it. The things we can do are social-distancing, being careful touching surfaces, washing your hands. According to research, the virus can live in the air for up to 2 hours and on surfaces in 24 hours. It is serious and I want people to take it seriously. If you are looking for additional information, it is available on our website and Facebook page. I know with the great community that we have, we will get through this and things will be okay. It is just going to take some time and effort."

In other new business, the Douglas County Health Department, Douglas County

Highway Department, County Clerk's Office, and Circuit Clerk's Office are all closed to the public to "limit exposure". County Clerk Judi Pollock said "something we all need to think about is our employees. We have some employees in this county who are really rattled by what is going on and don't know what the right move to make is. So, I think that's something we need to think about is the mental health of our employees with what's happening. It's a difficult time." Employees will still be reporting to the office and working with the door closed for the time being. Munson also asked that the board cancel all the subcommittee meetings and move their discussions to emails to later be posted in the minutes and on the website.

There were also some questions from concerned citizens at the meeting.

The first question came from Jim Allen who asked if it would be possible for the recorded meetings to be on the website for a couple of weeks so that more people could view them? Munson said yes and as soon as they are able to get it set up and they will be doing that.

Nancy Allen then asked if the board would postpone the construction happening to the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm due to the population in the area and the travel restrictions. Munson responded that the task force would be meeting later that afternoon and would discuss it there.

A concerned citizen then asked for clarification about something that was said about a meeting in July,

Munson asked that the question be emailed to the board.

Michael Holmes then asked the board if they had any further consideration to a phase two of the project. Munson responded that there were not and took no more questions.

The board also:

* Approved the February 19 regular board meeting.

* Approved the payments of the county's financial obligations.

* Approved the reports of fees of county offices.

* Approved the purchase of a used vehicle for the Coroner in the amount of \$5,000.

* Adjourned until the April 15, 2020 board meeting.

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