

# Black & Gold

## Lady Warriors leave Top Times meet holding eight medals

**By Daniel L. Chamness**  
While there is no team score at the Illinois Top Times Indoor Track Championships at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, if you are keeping score, the Lady Warriors would have had 47 points. In the Class 1A state championships, the division that Tuscola will be competing in, it would have been enough to earn a trophy in three of the last four track seasons. One year, 47 points would have been enough to win the state title. As will likely be the case on numerous occasions during the outdoor season, the Lady Warriors were led by Murray State University-commit Alyssa

Williams, who won two individual titles at the top times meet. Williams won the second to last event of the day, the 200-meter dash. The senior dashed to the finish line in 25.93 seconds to win the event by 72/100ths of a second. Tremont's Cambria Geyer took second in :26.65. It was the second victory of the day for the Lady Warrior senior, who started the day with a victory in the 60-meter dash. Williams ran the back straightaway at Illinois Wesleyan University in :07.74. Once again, Geyer was there, slightly behind Williams in :08.06. She was second in that as well.

"This is special and I have waited for this for long time," said Williams. "I am healthy and ready for more. We just have to get out there and perform. I enjoy the indoor season and the outdoor season. My freshman year I had some injury problems, then there was the pandemic. Last year was my first true year of outdoor track and field. I am ready for another year of outdoor." Sandwiched between the two individual wins was leading the 800-meter relay to a fourth place finish. Williams, the lone senior on the team, combined talents with junior Mia Hausmann and freshmen Kenna Clodfelder and Lia Pat-

erson to run a time of 1:50.62. The team was less than one second from the championship in that event. Maroa-Forsyth took first with a 1:50.07. Williams picked up her fourth medal of the meet in the long jump. The future Racer track team member recorded a leap of 5.44, which was good for second. "Alyssa was absolutely amazing all night," said Drew Sterkel, Tuscola's head coach. "Every time I watch her compete, it makes me realize that athletes like her do not come along often. I find myself forgetting to turn on the stop watch just so I can see her run." Patterson would also place

third in the 400-meter dash, running 1:00.74. "I was happy with the relay and the 400," said the freshman. "But, I was troubled that I opened the meet with a disqualification in the 60-meter hurdles. I knew that I had to change my attitude or I would not do well for the rest of the meet. All my teammates were great about encouraging me. Even the other competitors from other schools were encouraging and uplifting. I had to forget the disqualification and move on. I feel like I pushed myself and did not give up." Clodfelder also competed in the triple jump. The freshman took 12th in 9.74 meters.

The Warriors will begin the outdoor season tonight at Sullivan. The meet will feature several teams and is slated to start at 4:30 p.m. They also have a home meet on Thursday, featuring five other teams. The meet will feature boys and girls in both cases and will also start at 4:30 p.m. "Three of our girls (Addy Pettry, Harley Woodard and Alondria Tapia) were available to run in the relay if needed," said Sterkel. "They came to support their teammates as well. That made me so proud to see such a selfless act to cheer on and support their teammates."

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