

Black & Gold



JACKSON BARRETT ROUNDS the curve in the 3,200-meter relay. The sophomore was one of two Tuscola underclassmen on the relay, which finished ninth in the Class 1A Division at the Top Times Meet on Friday night. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



RILEY NOLAN RUNS stride for stride with Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond's Jace Green in the 3,200-meter relay. The Tuscola foursome of Nolan, Jackson Barrett, Josiah Hortin and Logan Wallace took ninth and missed earning a medal in the event by one spot and less than 10 seconds. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.

Boyd and Foltz earn medals at Top Times

By Daniel L. Chamness

The Tuscola boy's track team looks healthy in not only the shot put, pole vault and 800-meter run not only for this year, but next year as well.

At the Top Times Meet, which was held at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, the Warriors left with two medals, both earned by underclassmen. In addition, two of the relay spots were occupied by underclassmen as well. It bodes well for the Warriors for not only the future, but the future beyond the next few months as well.

Christopher Boyd was the highest place Warrior finisher as he took fourth in the shot put with an effort of 15.62 meters. The junior thrower, who is the brother of Eastern Illinois University pole vaulter James Boyd, was the top finishing underclassman in Class 1A. The shot put was won by Cowden-Herrick-Beecher City senior Daniel Lucas won the event with a put of 16.89 meters.

"I was hoping to throw a little bit better," said the junior, who threw just over 51 feet. "I was hoping to throw around 53-0 or a little over that. I learned there were a ton of talented throwers in this state. Most of the throwers are great. They are there to compete, but they are pretty friendly. They are welcoming and pretty helpful at times. Near the end of the meet, the pressure started to build because of the standards I had set for myself."

In an event, which favors strength and size meaning age and upperclassmen reign supreme, usually, Boyd was one of two juniors to earn a medal.

Will Foltz, a Warrior sophomore pole vaulter, grabbed the final medal in that event. He was eighth with a leap of 3.65 meters.

"I was happy to place, it was one of my goals," said Foltz. "But, I wanted to vault a little higher. I will use this and improve for outdoor. In outdoor, I want to get the school record and clear 14-0. I know I will probably be able to get over 13-6. My other outdoor goals are to win the conference title. There are some great vaulters from Sullivan and Shelbyville and I am looking forward to competing in the Central Illinois Conference."

The only other entrant that Tuscola had was the 3,200-meter relay. The relay contained two sophomores (Jackson Barrett and Josiah

Hortin) and two seniors (Logan Wallace and Riley Nolan). The Warrior foursome finished in 8 minutes, 59.14 seconds. Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond grabbed the final medal with 8:50.96.

"We entered the meet ranked ninth in that event and finished ninth," said Tuscola head coach and athletic director Ryan Hornaday. "We set ourselves apart as one of the best 3,200-meter relay teams in Class 1A. We were hoping to place a couple of spots higher, but it did not work out that way. There are good days ahead of us."

The Warriors are scheduled to have three outdoor meets, two of them at home, in the next seven days. They start tonight on the road at nearby Sullivan. They have a six-team meet at home on Thursday and then next Tuesday they will host Newton and the Arcola Purple Riders. The first three meets will feature boys and girls and will all start at 4:30 p.m.

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