

Black & Gold

Warriors win Unity girls invite

By Daniel L. Chamness
The Tuscola Lady Warriors show every week they may not have a peer in Class 1A track and field.

Last week was no exception. While the Paxton-Buckley-Loda Quad was canceled on Monday night, the Unity Girls Invitational was not and it gave the thin clads one more chance to show just how good they are. They would win the Unity Meet by 27 points, besting Salt Fork. Tuscola scored 95, while Salt Fork finished with 68 points. Monticello was third in the field of 15 teams. The Sages finished with 57 points.

"It was a great night for us," said Drew Sterkel, Tuscola's head coach of his team's win. "We want to build on our performances each week and I feel we are doing that. We had multiple personal bests on a night

that the weather was far from ideal. We had some girls that did some selfless acts for the betterment of the team and team score. I am extremely proud to be the coach of these athletes."

While the winning track meets is becoming a common theme, the other common theme is who is leading the Lady Warriors to those victories. Alyssa Williams and Lia Patterson would once again score most of the points.

Williams dashed to victory in both the 100 and 200-meter dashes, winning in respective times of 12.22 seconds and :35.95. She would jump to victory in the long jump with a leap of 5.17 meters.

(On April 12, Williams ran the 200-meter dash in 24.98 breaking the school record that she set last year. She is

ranked No. 1 in the 100 and 200 for Class 1A.)

She would also run the opening leg of the 400-meter relay, which would win in :51.81. The other three members of the relay were Mia Hausmann, Jillian Alexander and Patterson.

Patterson, only a freshman, would win two other individual events and finish second to Williams in the 200-meter dash. Patterson would win both hurdle races, dashing to victory in the 100-meter hurdles (:15.44) and 300-meter hurdles (:45.84). She would run as a time of:26.50.

Williams and Patterson are definitely laying the bricks of the team, but the Lady Warrior team would simply not be the same without the mortar. In the field, that "mortar" would be in the form of Natalie Hast-

ing and Kenna Clodfelder.

Hasting, a sophomore thrower, would finish with a toss of 10.19 meters. She would also take fifth in the discus, throwing 26.64 meters.

"The Unity Meet has had a past of having some great throwers," said Hasting. "I was a little shocked I was able to get second. I was pretty close to my best throw ever. Anything over 33 feet, I am pretty pleased with. I know there are some technical things I need to do better. I struggle with getting my left arm and pulling it through to make the shot put throw a bit higher. Also, I need to get to the middle of the ring with my foot turned."

Clodfelder would grab an individual third place finish in the triple jump. She recorded a leap of 9.75 meters. She also finished in the top 10 in the



Williams

In the triple jump, especially, I focus on what my coach is telling me to do and I try to do what he is asking me to correct or improve upon."

She was also a member of the 800-meter relay, which took third in 1:58.08. Hausmann, Alexander and Harley Woodard ran the other three legs of the relay.

Woodard also took fourth in the high jump, leaping 1.47 meters, while Hausman took 10th in the 400-meter running a 1:09.48.

Other top 10 finishes posted by the Lady Warriors included: Olivia Wallace (sixth, discus), Rylie Vanausdoll (eighth, 800-meter) and Taylor Gordon (eighth, shot put). The 3,200-meter relay team of Braidy Stahler, Lauren Woods, Alondra Tapia and Adrina Simmons took ninth.

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