

Black & Gold



FLANKED BY HER TEAMMATES, Tuscola senior leader Alyssa Williams, proudly displays the Tuscola Invitational Championship Plaque won on Friday night. The Lady Warrior, who will compete for Murray State University next year, won three individual events and helped the Warriors win the 800-meter relay title as well. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.

Tuscola boys finish second at home invite

By Daniel L. Chamness

In the relays at the Tuscola Invitational, the Tuscola Warriors simply dominated.

The Warriors, who finished second overall as a team, won three of the four relays. In the team battle, the Warriors scored 105 points. Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond (ALAH) won the meet with 118 points.

They were the only two teams with over 100 points. Catlin-based Salt Fork took third with 88 points. Starting with fourth place, the other teams were all 45 points or less.

"We obviously want to win our own invite," said Ryan Hornaday, Tuscola's head coach. "Most years we are able to just that. Losing to ALAH is respectable, plus we out-performed 15 other teams in the process. Our ability to score does not just stop with the top two, we have great depth across the board. Some of our athletes that finished third through fifth would be the best for most other teams. In the distance running events, Riley (Nolan) has been steady for us. He is coming on strong."

The Warriors started the winning relay trend with the first running event of the day, the 3,200-meter relay. Logan Wallace and Riley Nolan, both

seniors and the first two legs of the relay, joined forces with Will Foltz and Josiah Hortin, two Warrior sophomores, to finish the 3,200-meter relay in 8 minutes, 46.67 seconds. ALAH took second in 8:50.32.

"Starting the meet off with a great run really gets the team excited and ready for the meet," said Wallace. "Winning the first event is always a great way to start off the meet. Especially, when it is a relay. We entered the relay ranked second, but we would end up finishing first. I am very happy with that."

Wallace and Hortin were also members of the last running event of the day, the 1,600-meter relay. While he would be the opening leg of the 3,200-meter relay, Wallace had the distinction of anchoring the 1,600-meter relay. The two joined with junior Ben Hornaday, who ran the opening leg, and Hunter Branca, who ran the third leg to race to victory in 3:36.69.

"It was exhilarating to run the final leg of the 1,600-meter relay," said Wallace, who raced to the finish line as music played throughout the race. "I was very happy with my efforts. I am always pleased when I can help contribute to the team success."

Branca and Hornaday were

also two parts of the 800-meter relay. Conner Lewis and Krish Patel were the other two parts of the relay, which finished in 1:34.35.

Other than the winning relays, the Warriors were successful in the field, winning three of the six field events.

Christopher Boyd won the shot put, throwing 17.32 meters. The junior thrower was also second in the third in the discus, throwing 42.38 meters.

"In the shot put, I just tried to stay calm," said Boyd. "It was not anything special. I tried to get through the ring as far as I can and make sure that I threw smoothly. When I felt the push from my fingertips, I knew it was going to be at least a decent throw."

Will Foltz and Conner Lewis were also victorious in their individual field events. In the pole vault, Foltz won his fifth consecutive title, leaping 3.99 meters. Lewis jumped 6.38 meters to win the long jump.

In both the shot put and the discus, the Warriors had another finisher in the top six in the form of Haven Hatfield. The senior thrower was second in the discus with a throw of 43.07 meters and fourth in the shot put 12.29 meters.

"I am currently ranked sixth in the state in the Class 1A pole vault," reported Foltz. "I not only want to make it to state, I want to be on the awards stand on Saturday. It was fun to win the vault, but I still want to improve on my turn and invert. I feel I am getting better and better each week."

Jackson Barrett placed in the top six in the three longest distance events. He would open the meet by taking third in the 3,200-meter run, finishing in 10:19.87. He would re-



BEN HORNADAY RACES a Sullivan sprinter in the 100-meter dash on Friday night. Hornaday took fourth in 11.74 seconds. He helped the Warriors win the 800-meter relay and 1,600-meter relay titles at the Tuscola Invitational. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.

turn in the 800-meter run and the 1,600-meter run. He would take fourth in the 1,600-meter run, crossing the finish line at 4:47.17. It was after the other two races. He was sixth in the 800-meter with an effort of 2:11.98.

Tristan Gadomski scored points in both hurdle races. In

the 300-meter hurdles, he finished in :45.64, which was good for fourth. He clocked in at :18.93 in the 110-meter hurdles for sixth place.

Hornaday and Hortin would also each take fourth. Hornaday ran a time of :11.74 in the 100-meter dash, while Hortin finished the 800-meter run in

2:07.14.

In the 400-meter dash, Wallace took fifth with a :55.07, while Foltz took sixth in :55.85.

"My legs felt fresh in the 400-meter dash," said Foltz. "I had someone pushing me at the end to bring out my best race."

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