

Black & Gold

Tuscola has numbers: 36 to compete in boys' track

By Daniel L. Chamness
The Tuscola Warrior track team could easily be compared to some great athletic teams, professional or otherwise, of the past in this regard: you are not quite sure if you are witnessing future greatness, but you know you very well could be.

The Warriors have a total of 36 athletes out for track with the junior class leading the way with 12 athletes.

"We should be very strong in the field," said Ryan Hornaday, the Tuscola head coach. "It is great to have a full winter's

worth of preseason workouts. Last year was brutal for trying to schedule training in an orderly fashion from February through April, while working around basketball and football."

Hornaday's assessment of his team's strength in the field is partially based on the recent indoor season, which ended with Chris Boyd and Will Foltz both earned medals at the Class 1A Top Times Meet on the final Friday of March. Boyd earned his medal in the shot put and Foltz earned a medal in the pole vault.

"Chris will be one of the better throwers in the shot and discus in the state of Illinois," said Hornaday. "Will will be very regionally strong in the pole vault."

The other part of that puzzle is the unique coaching staff Hornaday has to assist him.

"My assistants are terrific," said Hornaday. "We have coaches that were extremely successful athletes. They also know how to instruct and communicate with the athletes in such a way to make them successful. That is a huge plus."

Boyd is a junior, while Foltz is a sophomore. In addition to the two indoor medaling athletes, they also return Connor Lewis, Krish Patel, Logan Wallace and Riley Nolan from one year ago. Ben Hornaday and Bryce Graves are returning sprinters, while Josiah Hortin and Jackson Barrett in the distance events.

Wallace, Nolan, Barrett and Hortin also made the Top Times Meet in the 3,200 meter relay, but did not earn medals.

Haven Hatfield and Tyson Macaulay are newcomers, but they are upperclassmen. They

are expected to contribute in the throwing events. David Hornaday, only a freshman, and Tristan Gadomsky, are expected to contribute in the sprints as well as the sprint relays. Thomas Brown is another senior newcomer.

"We look forward to the Tuscola Open and the Central Illinois Conference Meet," said Hornaday. "In addition, we will learn so much about ourselves at the St. Joseph Ogden Classic. It is the most-loaded and competitive meet we will attend all year."

The Warriors lost three

seniors to graduation from the 2021 team. James Boyd, the older brother of Chris Boyd, is currently pole vaulting for Eastern Illinois University. They also lost Clayton Hausmann and Hans Goodman to graduation.

"We will miss different things about those three athletes," said Hornaday of his departing seniors. "Clayton was always a steady presence for us, while Hans had great leadership skills. James could score points. He had tremendous point scoring ability."



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