

ALAH Jr. High Track Teams Honored at Awards Night

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The Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond Jr. high track boys and girls teams held their end of season Awards Night at ALAH HS on Monday, May 22.

Head Boys Jr. High Track Coach Don McCarthy led off the program with thank yous to parents, administration, administrative assistants, Athletic Director Nathan Seal, maintenance crew, teachers, clerks Josh Stack, Derik Eaton, David McGrath and Josh Ryan for their help as meet clerks, the Athletic Boosters for their help with payment for motel rooms for state and the many meet helpers including parents and high school athletes and their coaches Matt Thomas and Ryan Jefferson. A special thank you went to Monica Green who took over the organization of the concession stand this season and did a fantastic job. All proceeds earned at track meets go back to the ALAH track programs.

He gave special thanks to Assistant Coach Mike Haste and Girls Coach Bryton Ragon for all their help this season. He also thanked Makaylah Graham for her time helping early in the season.

Coach McCarthy then spoke about his team and stated that track is both an individual and team sport and it is challenging and most times their opponent is themselves. He was proud of the way they

overcame adversity throughout the season and the way individuals stepped up when needed. The goal of JH track is to improve every day and reach their full potential as an athlete, student and individual.

Coach then introduced the sixth graders who were members of the 7th grade team. Sixth grade team members introduced were: Conner Crabtree, Anthony Graham, Beau Green, Bentley Hutson, Jase Kingery, Colton Snyder, Dustin Snyder, Donovan Vanausdoll and Greyson Yoder. Coach then introduced the seventh graders: Anden Berry, Solly Binion, Ashton Crumrin, Cannon Doggett, Faemus Davison, and Alex Olivero. Their record in dual and triangular meets was 10-5-1. They took 2nd in both the ALAH Invite and Arcola Invite, 12th at Mt. Zion's Invitational, were Jr. High Okaw Conference Champions and were 7th at the IESA Sectional at Newton. Beau Green represented the 7th grade team at State in the 1600 meter run.

The eighth grade team members were up next. Team members included: Max Boddy, Hayden Ely, Preston Gingerich, Coye Grant, Owen Herring, Brennon Hutson, Dylan Ingersoll, Tyler Lisanby, Cameron McGill, Nicholas Rafferty, Cooper Shoemaker, Josh Taylor and Mason Thomas. Their season record was 8-8



The ALAH Jr. High track teams held their annual awards night on Monday, May 22 at ALAH High School. Winning awards for the girls team were: Norma Mendoza, seventh grade Points Award; Zoey Mendoza, sixth grade Points Award; Gwen Herring, Team Award; Reece Oye, Leadership Award; Embrey Reardon, Team Award; and Cassidy Rohacs, eighth grade Points Award. Not pictured, Ella Oye, Leadership Award.

in smaller meets and they were 1st in their own Invite, 2nd in the Arcola Invite, 7th at Mt. Zion, 3rd in the JHOC, and 9th at Sectional. The six State qualifiers were Max Boddy, Owen Herring, Brennon Hutson, Tyler Lisanby, Cooper Shoemaker and Mason Thomas. Coach said they repre-

sented their team, school, and communities very well.

Coach McCarthy then gave out his Special Awards. The Points Award goes to the athlete in each grade that scores the most points during the season. Beau Green won the award for the sixth grade, Alex Olivero was the leading scorer

in the seventh grade and Max Boddy scored the most points in the eighth grade.

The Team Award is given to the athlete that is unselfish, has a good work ethic, is coachable, sets a positive example and is consistent. Winners of the 2023 Team Award were Jase Kingery and Cooper Shoemaker.

The last award for the boys was the Leadership Award, given to the athletes that lead by example and also verbally and help their teammates become better. 2023 Leadership Award winners were Tyler Lisanby, Preston Gingerich and Brennon Hutson.

Coach McCarthy wrapped up his portion of the evening by stating this year's team were a great group at both practices and meets. They worked to be the best and he was privileged to be their coach. He looks for good things in the future for his returning athletes and those entering athletics in high school.

Coach Bryton Ragon then began the girls' portion of the program. Coach Ragon said it was quite an interesting season and sometimes it seemed as if it was held together with ice, bandages, and KT tape!! Younger athletes stepped up and ran in events in the eighth grade and the girls all persevered to get through the season. Their motto was: "We are small, but we are mighty!!"

Coach Ragon introduced his sixth grade team members Katharine Palma, Georgia Stroh, Gwen Herring, Macey Boddy, and Zoey Mendoza and then the seventh graders: Brianna Clayton, Emily Keagle, Ella Oye, Layla Beck, Sophia Johnson and Norma Mendoza.

Before he had the eighth graders come up front, he mentioned that this his first group of girls he coached in Jr. High starting with them as sixth graders. This group won the ALAH and Arcola Invites all three years and were Jr. High Okaw Conference Champions each year also. Eighth grade team members were Ashby Coblenz, Reece Oye, Leighton Poulos, Maleyna Vanausdoll, Kate Wiley, Cassidy Rohacs, Riley Strode, Embrey Reardon and Morgan Casteel.

Coach Ragon then handed out his Special Awards. First up was the Points Award given to the athlete that scores the most points during the season. The 6th grade winner was Zoey Mendoza and the 7th grade award was won by her sister Norma. Coach Ragon thought the sisterly rivalry between the two helped them to score the most points. Cassidy Rohacs was the Points Award winner for the eighth grade as she consistently scored high in the hurdles and on relays and in the high jump. Cassidy was also the only girl to qualify for the State meet this year.

The Team Award for the girls is given to the athletes that put forth consistent effort, are willing to learn, develop and get better. Winners of this award were Gwen Herring, who was willing to move up and run against eighth graders as she learned it would only make her a better runner and Embrey Reardon who had drive and endurance and was often harder on herself than Coach.

The girls' Leadership Award goes to those who lead by example, lead during warm ups and can be counted on to take care of the other girls. Another pair of sisters were the winners of this award, Ella, seventh grade and Reece Oye, eighth grade.

Coach Ragon said the season was a success despite the setbacks and was a year of al-mosts, mentioning how close some athletes came to qualifying for State. He also wanted to recognize Kate Wiley who although she was hurt most of the season was there all the time, cheering on the other girls and doing whatever she could to help. He was very proud of the fact that she got to run one race in the final home meet of the season.

The Jr. High track teams would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the 2023 season.



Award winners for the Jr. High boys' track team at the annual awards night were: Max Boddy, eighth grade Points Award; Jase Kingery, Team Award; Beau Green, sixth grade Points Award; Preston Gingerich, Leadership Award; Cooper Shoemaker, Team Award; Brennon Hutson, Leadership Award; and Alex Olivero, seventh grade Points Award. Not pictured, Tyler Lisanby, Leadership Award.

ALAH Knights Earn 5 Spots on 2023 Lincoln Prairie Conference Baseball All Conference Teams

The Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond Knights baseball players claimed five spots on the Lincoln Prairie All Conference baseball teams as selected by the conference coaches. Three of the selections were unanimous.

Named First Team Pitcher unanimously was senior Clay

Seal who had an outstanding season on the mound for the Knights. He had a 5-1 record with an ERA of 0.78 and a winning percentage of .833. Sophomore Dalton Vanausdoll was also chosen unanimously for First Team - Any Position and was an excellent hitter with a batting average of .486

for ALAH.

Freshman Will Hilligoss was the Knights' third unanimous All LPC selection on the Second Team - Any Position. He led the team in hits with 23. Joining his brother on the Second Team - as a Pitcher was senior Wyatt Hilligoss who helped the team on the mound

as an injury kept him out of the batter's box.

Maddix Stirrett rounded out the Knights All LPC honors being named as a selection for Honorable Mention. The sophomore led ALAH with 13 stolen bases.

The complete list of All LPC baseball players follows.

First Team Pitcher - Clay Seal - Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond (unanimous) and Gibson Dickens-Okaw Valley.

First Team - Any Position - Braden Phillips-Arcola, Tanner Thomas - Arcola (unanimous), Dalton Vanausdoll- Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond (unanimous), Tyson Moore - Cerro Gordo Bement (unanimous), Gavin Hendrix - Cumberland, Haiden Stocks - Lutheran School Association (unanimous,) Braden Montgomery - Okaw Valley (unanimous), Aiden Williams-Okaw Valley, and Gavin Kiser-Villa Grove.

Second Team - Pitcher - Wyatt Hilligoss-Arthur Lov-

ington Atwood Hammond and Sam Bender - Villa Grove.

Second Team - Any Position - Brevyn Whisman-Arcola, CarterLogue - Argenta-Oreana, Will Hilligoss - Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond (unanimous), Ty Carlson-Cerro Gordo Bement, Blake McMechan - Cumberland, Emmanuel Roughton - Lutheran School Association, Ryan Forlines - Okaw Valley, Jackson Ehlers - Tri-County (unanimous), and Luke Zimmerman-Villa Grove (unanimous).

Honorable Mention - Jayden Henson-Stice - Arcola, MJ Hall - Argenta-Oreana, Dylan Ragsdale - Argenta-Oreana, Maddix Stirrett - Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond, Trevin Magee - Cumberland, Maddox McElravy - Cumberland, Robert Holloman - Heritage, Julliyann Gray-Heritage, Brady Clodfelder-Villa Grove.

Congratulations to Clay, Dalton, Will, Wyatt, and Maddix!!!!

Beckmier Earns All State Honors

Two members of the ALAH Track & Field team qualified for and competed at the IHSA State Championships held in O'Brien Stadium on the campus of Eastern Illinois University May 25 and 27.

Logan Beckmier completed his high school career with an all state performance in the 3200. Running in the championship flight, 16 runners toed the waterfall start line at 12:10pm under sunny, blue skies and a light easterly breeze. After a slower than desired opening lap, Beckmier went to the lead for 3 laps

and took the field through an opening mile of 4:45. Creighton signee Tommy Murray of Port Byron Riverdale took over at that point and surged to the lead. He eventually wins and doubles as the 1600 victor as well. Future Michigan Wolverine Akihli Parek of Chicago Latin chased Murray in 2nd. Beckmier, a future Western Illinois athlete, remained in the lead pack and finishes in a 2nd all time career best time of 9:28.49 to secure the 5th place medal.

Preliminary rounds were held on Thursday and it was

then that the semifinals of the 1600 meter run were held. Those 3 sections contained Beckmier in heat #2 and Lyle Adcock in heat #3. Winners of the 3 heats automatically qualified for Saturday's final along with the next 9 fastest times. Though finishing 2nd in his heat in 4:30.16, Logan's time placed him 14th overall missing the final by 8/10th of a second. Adcock drew what ended up being the fastest section with 6 runners advancing. He completed his outstanding high school career in 4:44.80 also missing the Saturday final.