

Community Sports



Barrett and Tuscola's boys track team go big at annual open

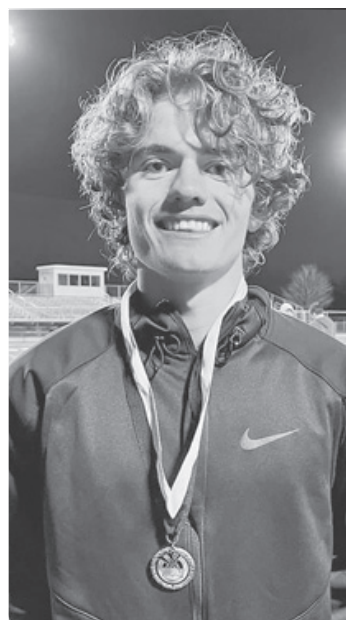
By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's boys track team protected their house this past Friday evening winning the 37th Annual Tuscola Open in dominating fashion winning the event scoring 106-points to outdistance their nearest opponent by over 30-points. Coach Ryan Hornaday's squad did this without full use of two of the state's top distance runners. Jackson Barrett and Josiah Hortin ran in just one relay race Friday evening before making the trek north to the Chicago suburbs to compete in the nationally renowned Palatine Distance Night on Saturday evening.

Coach Hornaday, like he always does, found his points in a lot of ways to secure the open title putting 20-points on the board in relays alone. Barrett and Hortin led off the 4x800 building a big lead before handing it the baton to Boyd Brewer and Will Foltz for the final two legs who shut the door on a gold medal performance clocking in at 8-minutes and

32-seconds. Foltz was part of another relay that added to the point totals joining up with Ben Hornaday and the Graves brothers Bryce and Dylan for a 4th place finish in the 4x400. Hornaday and Greenville College commit and the Graves then added Alan Robello to the mix in a bronze medal performance in the vaunted 4x100-meter relay crossing the line in 45.74-seconds.

Hornaday donated to the cause in the open runs as well taking second in the 100 posting a personal best time of 11.62-seconds. Despite not having Barrett and Hortin in the open runs the distance crew that turned heads in the fall in cross country made a statement securing 38-points. The elder Graves, Bryce won the 400 delivering a personal best time of 52.86-seconds. Foltz PR'd as well but in the 800 taking 2nd overall with a 2:02 while Blake McLeese and Xander Neamtu combined for 20-points in the 1600 and 3200-meter runs. The



Jackson Barrett

duo swept the top two spots on the podium in the 3200 both PR'ing with McLeese breaking the tape in 9:53 and Neamtu crossing the line in 9:57. McLeese gutted out a 5th place effort in the 1600 posting another personal best time clocking in at 4:45. David Hornaday scored

and PR'd in both hurdle races taking 4th in the 110-lows with a time of 18.17-seconds and 3rd in the daunting 300-lows finishing in 46.29-seconds. Freshman Kamden Flenner rounded out the scoring in the open run finishing 3rd in the 200-meter sprint with yet another personal best time for the Warriors ending the race in 24.11-seconds.

Like he has for the past two seasons senior thrower Chris Boyd led the field crew. The Arkansas State commit took 2nd in the shot put hitting the sand at 57.45-feet and 3rd in a loaded discus field that saw the meet record be broken in every round ending up with a winning toss that eclipsed 190-feet with two throwers over the 180-foot mark. John Claxon and Kalen Shinn rounded out the scoring in the field events taking 4th in the shot put and 5th in the pole vault respectively.

"Going into the meet, I predicted us to just narrowly defeat Sullivan for the team title. It was mind blowing to see

us pull away in convincing fashion. I'm so excited for our team to win by more than 30 points without the full use of two of our best runners. We only won three of the eighteen events - Bryce (400), Blake (3200), and the 4x8 (Jack, Jo, Boyd, and Will). This is a testament to the depth and diversity of our squad. We're able to score in nearly every event category (jumps, throws, relays, sprints, distance). It's always exciting to see different guys step up and exceed expectations, we had several guys score way ahead of their seeds."

One night later Barrett and Hortin not only rubbed elbows they proved they belonged with elite runners from schools of all sizes and more than a few boasting enrollments of over 5,000-students but also some of the best runners from Indiana and Wisconsin. Hortin who posted a school record time of 9:24 a week ago in Monticello was ranked 12th overall in the section 3 heat and Barrett wasn't far behind boast-

ing a 9:25 that also broke the previous school record landing him in the 14th qualifying spot in the heat.

The two in black and gold were shoulder-to-shoulder most of the race but the final lap for Barrett was something special. The all state cross country runner found another gear taking 4th in the fastest heat and 5th overall all out of over 80 of the top runners in the Midwest shattering the school record by nearly 10-seconds posting a 9:15.88. Hortin ended his night placing in the top 30 overall with a time of 9:37 pushing thru tight legs in the final lap on a cold evening. They will make the trip north towards Chicago this coming Friday and will miss the St. Joseph Invite to compete in a much anticipated 1600-meter at the 55th Annual Joe Wanner Boys Invite in Prospect, Illinois.

Tuscola's baseball team's offense not enough for win

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's baseball team put 35-runs on the board last week in a 3-game stretch but it was not enough to scratch out a win. The Warriors offense put up 24 in a loss to Central A&M in a shootout and then tacked on 5-runs against a very good Shelbyville squad on Wednesday and 6 more on Sullivan on Friday.

A&M put 5 on the board in the top of the first only to watch the Warriors push 8 across in the bottom half to take the lead in a back and forth contest in which the black and gold simply ran out of pitching late. Cooper Lyons took the loss giving 11-runs, 6 earned in 4-innings of work. The freshman went 3 for 5 at the dish, pushing 3-across while scoring 3 times himself.

Colton Musgrave led the way offensively on what is a season stat sheet for some.

The senior went 4 for 5 in the game with 2-HR's, a triple, 5-runs scored and 6-RBI's. Austin Cummings was 4 for 5 as well with 4-runs scored and 3-RBI's while Jacob Waugh in first game back from injury reached 4 of 6 times notching 4-RBI's and 2-runs scored. JJ Reynolds hit his first round tripper of the season and Nate Thomason drove in 2 on 2-hits.

Tuscola put 5 on the board in the 3rd inning against Shelbyville Wednesday on the road but the Rams had more than enough firepower to overcome the big frame winning the Central Illinois Conference affair. Isaac Halverson had control issues early and took the loss on the hill for coach Caleb Englehardt. Musgrave homered for the 2nd straight game going 2 for 2 on the evening while scoring once and driving in 3-runs. Cummings and Aid-

en Devlin were the only two other Warriors to record a base hit in the contest and both scored.

Sullivan put one up in each of the first 3-frames and 3 in the 4th but the Warriors chipped away with 1 in the 3rd and 1 in the 4th before a 4-run bottom of the 5th sent the two teams into the 6th knotted at 6 apiece. Devlin was credited with the loss in relief giving just 2-runs both earned. The sophomore tried to help his own cause at the man going 2 for 2 on the day as the DH delivered his first HR of the year in a 2 for 2 effort that included a double, 2-runs scored and an RBI. Lyons doubled as well and Musgrave went 2 for 3 on the night. Waugh, Thomason, and Caden Russo all added base knocks to their season stat sheet in the contest.



CAIDEN RUSSO SLIDES ONTO THE BASE during the 5th inning during the April 21 game against the Sullivan Redskins. Tuscola lost 11-6. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Lady Warriors track team shows off during annual meet



By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's defending state champion Lady Warriors girls track team showed off in front of their hometown fans this past Friday evening running away with first place hardware in the 16-team 37th Annual Tuscola Open. Coach Drew Sterkel's squad outscored their nearest opponent by over 50-points putting a 125-points on the board to secure the title.

Lia Patterson, Kenna Clodfelder and Kate Foltz led the way, having a hand in nearly 100-points alone. Foltz was

at the top of the list scoring in 3-open events and 1-relay. The freshman won both distance races crossing the line first in the 1600 clocking in at 5-minutes and 19-seconds and the 3200 while setting a personal and new school record delivering a 12:21. She found her way to 2nd place points in the pole vault and combined with Riley Vanausdoll, Chloe Bowden and Mia Hausmann for 1st place points in the 4x400-relay.

Hausmann, Bowden, and Vanausdoll then took the baton from Clodfelder who led

off a 2nd place finish in the 4x100-relay. Clodfelder donated another 18-points to the cause collecting 1st place honors in the triple jump with a leap of 32.32-feet and then took home runner up hardware in the long jump touching the sand at 16.11-feet. Vanausdoll added 2-points to the mix with a 5th place finish in the long jump while Belle Notaro picked up 2-points with a 5th in the pole vault.

Patterson swept the hurdles and won the 200 as well collecting 30-points and 3-gold medals breaking

the tape 100-high hurdles in 15.85, the 300-low hurdles in 52.90 and the open 100 in a personal best 12.65-seconds. Reese Davis scored in the 800 finishing 5th with a PR of 2:48.

Natalie Hasting found her way onto the podium twice placing in both throwing events. She won the discus spinning it 116.73-feet and took 2nd place in the shot put with a toss of 33.83-feet. Olivia Wallace added to the precious medal haul securing bronze in the shot put helping the Lady Warriors to another invite title.

May 2023

Tuscola Baseball

- Tues., 5/2 vs St. Teresa 4:30 p.m.
- Wed., 5/3 vs Monticello 4:30 p.m.
- Thur., 5/4 @ Central A&M 4:30 p.m.
- Mon., 5/8 vs Unity 4:30 p.m.
- Wed., 5/10 vs Salt Fork 4:30 p.m.
- Thur., 5/1 vs Arcola 4:30 p.m.
- Mon., 5/15 IHSA Regionals Begin
- Sat., 5/20 IHSA Regional Championship
- Wed., 5/24 IHSA Sectionals
- Sat., 5/27 Sectional Championship
- Mon., 5/29 IHSA Super-sectional
- Fri., 6/2 IHSA State @ Peoria

Tuscola Softball

- Tue. 5/2 vs St. Teresa 4:30 p.m.
- Wed. 5/3 vs Villa Grove 4:30 p.m.
- Thur. 5/4 @ Central A&M 4:30 p.m.
- Mon. 5/8 @ SJO 4:30 p.m.
- Tue. 5/9 @ Unity 4:30 p.m.
- Thur 5/11 vs Cumberland 4:30 p.m.
- Fri. 5/12 @ Georgetown 4:30 p.m.
- Sat. 5/13 vs Salt Fork 10 a.m.
- 5/15 IHSA Regionals
- 5/20 Regional Championship
- 5/23 IHSA Sectionals @ Home vs TBA
- 5/26 Sectional Championship @ Home vs TBA
- 5/29 IHSA Super-Sectional
- 6/2 IHSA State @ East Peoria

BELLE NOTARO RUNS UP FOR A POLE VAULT JUMP during the 37th Tuscola Open meet on April 21. Notaro jumped 8 feet high, beating a personal record. Photo by Tracy Hornaday.