



May 15, 2008

Cleve Hill dominates Little 4 Championships

By winning 11 of 17 events at Saturday's 36th Annual Little 4 Track and Field Championship at John F. Kennedy High School, the Cleveland Hill boys' and girls' squads cruised to landslide victories.

On the boys' side, the Eagles racked up a score of 234, topping fellow Cheektowaga schools Maryvale (111), JFK (86) and Cheektowaga Central (75).

Juniors Rhakeem Wiggins and Cory Burroughs captured dual titles in the 100 and 200-meter runs, as well as the 400-meter hurdles and 3,200-meter steeplechase run, respectively. Senior Bobby Radlich also won two events, the 800- and 1,600-meter runs.

Wiggins captured his events with times of 10.9 seconds and 22.2 seconds, while Burroughs clocked in at 104.5 and 10:43, respectively. Radlich's winning times came at 209.7 and 4:36.

Wiggins, along with senior Joe Sanders and juniors Joe Puntiero and Peter Westbrook, comprised Cleve Hill's winning 4x100 team. Radlich, Sanders, Burroughs and Brent Peterson comprised the 4x400 relay squad that was victorious.

Other Cleve Hill winners included seniors Zack Eldridge (shot put, 50 foot, three-inch throw) and James Griffin (discus, 144 feet, 2 1/2 inches).

JFK's 4x800 team, comprised of senior Jeff Lelonek, eighth grader Ryan Bogdan, senior Steve Blenker and freshman Nathan Odrobina, won first place.

Maryvale junior Aaron Ryan was a triple winner, capturing the high jump, long jump and triple jump events with distances of 6 feet, 2 inches; 21 feet, 1 inch (a meet record); and 42 feet, 5 inches. Ryan's long jump performance topped the old record of 20'10 and 1/2" set in 1979 by David Wagner of JFK.

Maryvale's Sean Harvey won the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 17 seconds. Central's Matt Hornung captured the pole vault with a distance of 10 feet, 6 inches.

On the girls' side, Cleve Hill's score of 171 topped Central's 148, to go along with JFK's 122 and Maryvale's 57.

Lady Eagles sophomore Taylor Eldridge shattered two meet records, including the shot put (40 feet, 4 inches) and discus (123 feet, 1/2 inch). Other Cleve Hill winners included senior Lauren Habermehl (100 hurdles, 16.4 seconds) and Tahriqa Fareed (meet record of 8 feet, 6 inches in the pole vault).

Eldridge, senior Emily Diem, Keyanna Houston and Ashley Thomas comprised the Lady Eagles' victorious 4x100 relay team.

Central's top performers included Melanie Grzebinski (winner of 1,500- and 3,000-meter runs with times of 5:15.8 and 12:17.6, respectively) and senior twins Margo and Taylor Pagano. Margo captured the 200-meter run with a time of 27.4 seconds, while Taylor won the 800-meter run at 2:34.9.

Renee Valentino of the Lady Warriors won the 400 hurdles with a meet-record time of 1:11, while teammate Alexis Whelan took first in the triple jump with a 34-foot performance. Also, Central's 4x800 relay squad- comprised of Taylor Pagano, Grzebinski, Hannah Field and Alyssa Kozakiewicz- shattered a meet record with a first-place time of 10:42.1. The Lady Warriors' 4x400 relay team also took first.

Maryvale eighth grader Mikayla Pearce also set a pair of meet records in the 100-meter run (12.6 seconds) and long jump (17 feet, 11 and 1/2 inch) events.

JFK sophomore Krissy Wojtusiak took first in the high jump event with a distance of 4 feet, 10 inches.