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Bears shock Dutchmen; Lady 'Cats win division

Injuries and ineligibility issues with athletes have taken their toll on the John F. Kennedy boys track and field team this spring, making for a difficult overall season. However, showing some of the resolve and pride from the past couple of seasons, the Bears pulled off a huge upset win on May 13, defeating Holland, the defending league champion.

Senior Mike Bartoszek and junior Andy Wrazen led a shorthanded Kennedy squad to a 74-67 victory against the Dutchmen in Erie County Interscholastic Conference-V action.

Wrazen won both the 100- and 200-meter dashes, breaking the school record in the 200 run with a time of 22.10 seconds. The performance shattered the old Kennedy mark held by Mark Slomba. Bartoszek captured the 110-meter high hurdles event, adding a secondplace finish in both the high and long jump events.

Wrazen and Bartoszek accounted for 26 of Kennedy's 74 points.

However, the duo received help from freshman Nathan Odrobina, who won the 1,600-meter run and placed second in the 800-meter run. Also, junior Derek Krzemien, senior Chris Scharf and sophomore Ryan Fraser finished 1-2-3 in the shot put, respectively. Krzemian and Scharf finished first and second in the discus, respectively.

Third-place finishes were recorded by senior Steve Blenker (400- and 800-meter runs) and juniors Josh Klyczek (400 intermediate run) and Travis Johns (triple jump). Eighth grader Ryan Bogdan won the 3,200- meter run, while sophomore Ken Carlucci placed third in the same event.

At Saturday's 9th Annual Rush- Henrietta Invitational, Odrobina (1,600-meter run) and Blenker (800- meter run) qualified for the Section VI championships, bringing the Bears' total of sectionalists to nine. Sectionals take place June 6-7 in Jamestown.

"It's really amazing to think that we have some elite athletes around here in Section VI, but Rochester, which is Section V, has an abundance of sprinters from all parts of Rochester," stated JFK head coach Pete Szymanski. "In order to be the best, one has to compete against the best. We are indeed trying to fine-tune some things before we head into championship week."

JFK concludes its league schedule Tuesday at Alden with a 4:30 p.m. meet.

In other local boys track and field action, Depew enters its final meet of the season (Tuesday at Lancaster) with a record of 4-2.

Senior co-captain Mike Wilkowski has qualified for sectionals in the 110-meter high hurdles and 400 intermediate hurdles. Provisional sectional qualifiers include juniors Brian Schork (high jump, 400-meter run), Ryan Storms (100- and 200-meter runs) and Dave Geary (pentathlon), as well as senior Blake Milbrand (shot put).

Depew head coach Brian Wilson stated that his team's youthful distance team has been led by sophomore Nate Godson and freshman Ryan Koch.

In local girls' action, JFK senior Melissa Schultz took second place in the discus event at the Rush- Henrietta Invitational, breaking her own school record by hurling a total distance of 107 feet, 3 and 3/4 inches.

Team-wise, Depew recently captured the league title in ECIC-IV, finishing undefeated after a 78-63 win against East Aurora Tuesday.

Lady Wildcats senior captain Kristen Angierski won the long and triple jump events, as well as the 200- meter run, and anchored the team's victorious 4x400 relay team. The 4x400 squad, which was also comprised by junior Katie Wild, freshman Jill Sosnowski and eighth grader Kim Obermeier, recorded a school-record time of 51.3 seconds.

Obermeier also recorded sectional qualifying times in the 100- and 400-meter runs at 12.8 seconds and 61.2 seconds, respectively. Senior captain Brittany Bless captured the 400 hurdles and high jump events, while Maggie Needham recorded a sectional-qualifying distance throw of 33' 3" in the shot put.

Stephanie Latoszek won the 100 high hurdles, while junior Jamie Wasielewski contributed secondplace finishes in the long, triple and high jumps, to go along with the pole vault.

Depew will face local, non-league rival Lancaster on the road Tuesday.