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## Cleve Hill's Eldridge heading back to states

Cleveland Hill sophomore Taylor Eldridge is a seasoned veteran when it comes to making trips to the track and field sectional and state championships. She fulfilled part one of her before-season goals last weekend, capturing the Section VI crowns in both the discus and shot put events to qualify for this weekend's New York State Public High School Athletic Association championships.

Eldridge is looking to add another state title to her already impressive track and field resume. Last year, she won both the discus and shot put championships. In 2006, she was a NYS runner-up in both events.

At Jamestown's Strider Field Friday, Eldridge won the Division II girls shot put event with a combined hurling distance of 38 feet, 8 and 1/2 inches. On Saturday, the sophomore captured the discus title with a distance of 132'4".

Cleve Hill girls track and field coach Ken McCracken praised throwers coach Bonnie Aschenbrenner for her work in developing Eldridge. McCracken added that Eldridge is just performing to her potential.

"It is unbelievable," McCracken said when describing Edlridge's third straight states appearance. "It appeared that she had a chip on her shoulder this season. She had a focal point of getting to where she wanted to go. She's really at her peak now. She was a little nervous going into this year, but she's attained what she wanted to."

Eldridge's older brother, Zach, a senior, is also heading to states after finishing second in the Division II boys shot put event Saturday with a distance of 50' 5 and 1/4".

Also on the boys' side, junior Rhakeem Wiggins was a dual winner at sectionals in the 100- and 200-meter dashes Saturday, recording state-qualifying times of 11.67 seconds and 22.37 seconds, respectively. Other Eagle athletes performing well at sectionals included senior Bob Radlich (third at sectionals in 800-meter run with time of 2:01.88), senior Mike Golombek (second in discus, 147'7") and senior James Griffin (third in discus, 140'7").

John F. Kennedy junior Andy Wrazen (junior) is heading to states after winning the Division II 110- meter hurdles Saturday with a time of 15.61 seconds. He also finished third behind Wiggins in the 200- meter dash at 23.11 seconds.

JFK senior Mike Bartoszek came oh-so-close to making states after finishing second in the Division II pentathlon event (score of 1,766) and shot put (12.57 meters), the 110-meter hurdles (17.34 seconds) and long jump (20' 1 and 3/4"), as well as third in high jump. The top three finishers in each event (Division I and II winners and top overall runner-up) make states.

Maryvale junior Aaron Ryan won Friday's Division I long jump event with a personal-best distance of 22'1" to head to states. He also finished second in Saturday's high jump event with a leap of 6'3".

Depew senior Mike Wilkowski is going to states after capturing Saturday's 400 hurdles with a time of 56.9 seconds.

Also, on the girls' side, Depew senior Kristen Angierski won Friday's Division II triple jump event with a distance of 35' 8 and 1/2", while Maryvale senior Kate Hergott finished second in the Division I triple jump with a distance of 34' 2 and 1/2".

Other Lady Wildcats making an impact at sectionals included junior Jamie Wasielewski (tied with JFK's Kaitlyn Wiess for third in long jump at 15'11") and eighth grader Kim Obermeier (third in 400-meter run at 1:01.84). Depew's 4x100 relay team- comprised of Obermeier, Angierski, junior Katie Wild and freshman Jill Sosnowski- finished third at 50.77 seconds. The Lady 'Cats' 4x800 squad- comprised of Angela Franjoine, junior Jenna Majka, sophomore Liz Budzinski and Maria Walter- also finished third at 10:11.93.