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Three Marauders heading to state meet

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Dunkirk's Alex Gonzalez pulls away from the pack during his race in the 3,200-meter race, at the Section 6 Indoor Track and Field Championships, held Saturday, at Steele Hall. Submitted photo

Three members of the Dunkirk boys' indoor track and field team will be heading to Cornell next weekend to compete in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association's indoor track and field championships, after qualifying Sunday at the Section 6 championships, which were held at the Steele Hall Fieldhouse on the campus of SUNY Fredonia.

"It was another wonderful time to get it done, I'm happy to see the kids excell at the end of the year," Dunkirk boys' coach Kurt Warmbrodt said. "It's hard to do sometimes."

Alex Gonzalez qualified to run in the 3,200-meter after finishing second in a time of 10:03.12 while teammate Calvin Stallworth took first in the high jump after winning a jump-off at 5-feet, 11-inches.

"Alex stayed with the pack for the first mile," Warmbrodt said. "He ran a 5:00 first mile and then, with 600 meters to go, he just left about four guys."

Dunkirk's third qualifier, Jeremy Kozlowski, earned a spot on the Section 6 distance relay team after finishing third in the 300, in a time of :38.47. Kozlowski also helped anchor the Marauders' 4x200 relay team to a new school record time of 1:39.90, shaving .08 off the mark the quartet set at a meet last month, at RIT.

"There was no question in what they ran," Warmbrodt said of the time ran by Edwin Gomez, Ken Dill, Tyler Gajewski and Kozlowski. "Absolutely no question."

Gonzalez also finished fifth in the 1,600, crossing the finish line in 4:50.80 while Stallworth took third in the triple jump (41-10 1/4) and fifth in the long jump (21-3). Also for the Marauders, Gajewski finished 12th in the pole vault, finishing with a height of 9-6.

For the Dunkirk girls' team, the 4x400 relay quartet of Hailey Griewisch, Lisa Dunbar, Luisa Bonilla and Calan Pogorzelski finished eighth overall, finishing in a time of 4:41.22, breaking a previous school record, which was held by Bonilla, Griewisch, Kristen Bunge and Becca O'Dell. The previous record of 4:42.3 was set in 2009.

Bonilla finished the 1,000 in a time of 3:17.5, which was good enough for seventh overall while Dunbar finished the pole vault tied for 10th, clearing the bar at 7-6.

"It's been a lot of fun coaching the group of athletes I have for the indoor season," Dunkirk girls' coach A.J. Burnside said. "Every meet they find a new way to amaze me. They were 10 seconds off the 4X400 record, but told themselves to go for it. That was a tough record to break. With most of them coming back for the outdoor season, our program is looking real strong."



For Fredonia, Josh Szukala took fifth in the 3,200, finishing in 10:28 while Lauren Reyda took fourth in the 3,000 in a time of 11:19, which was good enough for a new school record. Brigette Boettcher finished 10th in the pole vault, finishing with a height of 8-0.

"They came on strong toward the end of the season and I expect good things from them next year," Fredonia coach Mike Marshall said.