

Howard, Marshall advance to states

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OBSERVER Staff Report



JAMESTOWN - Dunkirk's Eddie Marshall and Chautauqua Lake's Craig Howard each won individual events at the 2011 Section 6 Track and Field Championships at Strider Field on Friday to punch their ticket into the state finals.

Dunkirk's Eddie Marshall leaps his way to a first-place finish in the triple jump at the Section 6 championships at Strider Field. Photo by Scott Reagle

Marshall jumped his way into states in the triple jump, taking first place with a leap of 43-feet-3 inches. His previous best was 41-9.

"He put it together," Dunkirk coach Kurt Warmbrodt said. "He had watched a new video and I have to credit that. We had no track this year so he only practiced a few days this year on a runway."

Meanwhile, Howard continued his amazing season by winning the pole vault. He cleared the bar at 14-9. Two other local athletes qualified for the State Championships in the pole vault as Silver Creek's Sean Richardson (13-3) and

Gowanda's Marcus Hoffman (13-0) placed fourth and fifth, respectively and cleared the state qualifying standard of 12-9.



Chautauqua Lake's Craig Howard soars to a first-place finish in the pole vault at Friday's Section 6 high school track and field championships. Photo by Scott Reagle

Dunkirk's Jeremy Kozlowski's hopes of a trip to states are still in place after taking eighth in the 400-meter run and seventh in the 200. He will compete in both finals today.

In the pole vault, Tyler Gajewski had a personal best, soaring 11-6.

"They have been very hard workers and they have pushed themselves," Warmbrodt said of his athletes.

"Eddie is esthetic. He just couldn't believe it. He jumped for joy. His parents were there to witness it. It was special."

Today, Marshall will compete in the long jump and Kozlowski in the 400. Meanwhile, the 4x400 relay team of Marshall, Kozlowski, Chris Gajewski and Ken Dill will to clinch their ticket to states.

For the girls, Luisa Bonilla finished ninth in the 800 with a time of 2:25.67. The time set a new school record, beating the previous record of 2:25.9 set by Katrina Mackowiak in 2000.

"Luisa has been our leader for the last three years, so for her to get this record in her last race means a lot to the entire team," Dunkirk coach A.J. Burnside said. "She had the ability last year, but just couldn't break the 2:26 mark. This year, her times have been in the low 2:30's. She dropped nearly eight seconds (Friday) to break the record. I couldn't think of a better way to end the season and for her to end her high school career. "

Christian Igielinski of Gowanda added a seventh-place finish in the 400 hurdles (1:00.92).



The Fredonia Lady Hillbillies had several strong performances from underclassman as eighth grader Lauren Reyda took fifth in the 3,000 with a time of 10:55.

Reyda's time is five seconds off the school record. She will compete in the 1,500 today.

Sophomore Nicole Woleben placed 11th in the 100 hurdles, finishing at :17.7 while Ashley Skelly ran in the 400 meter and had a time of 1:04 to take 12th place. Michaela Tramuta finished the 3,000 in 14th place with a time of 11:35.

For the boys, Dylan Cassidy qualified for today's finals in the 400 hurdles. He currently sits as the No. 2 seed with a time of :57.85. In the 110 high hurdles, he is the No. 7 seed with a time of :16.35.

In the finals of the 3,200, Josh Szukala placed 11th with a time of 10:22.16 while Chris Mulkin placed 12th in the finals of the triple jump with a leap of 39-2.

In the 800 finals, Alex Crise placed 15th, finishing at 2:07.85. Tyler Cassidy was 16th in the event with a time of 2:10.88.

"Anyone who makes it to Sectionals, it's a great accomplishment," Fredonia coach Bob Ball concluded.

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