

Ready for states

Athletes prepare for track & field finals

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Submitted Photo

Fredonia's Dylan Cassidy, left, and Dunkirk's Eddie Marshall will compete at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Track and Field finals beginning today.

On most occasions, the Fredonia Hillbillies and the Dunkirk Marauders are the fiercest of rivals.

At the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Track and Field Championships, however, Fredonia's Dylan Cassidy and Dunkirk's Eddie Marshall will be cheering each other on in their pursuits of bringing home a state title.

The two athletes will be representing Western New York today at the State Championships. Both young men have dominated the competition this season, but will be up against the best high school athletes in New York State.

Fredonia's Cassidy will be competing in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles.

Cassidy earned a Chautauqua Cattaraugus Athletic Association title with a time of :57.08 seconds. In his attempt to become Section 6 champion June 5, Cassidy was edged at the finish line and settled for a second-place finish and a spot in the state meet. His time of :54.94 broke his own school record by more than a second and a half.

"Dylan bringing down his own school record even more is great," Fredonia coach Bob Ball said at the time. "He blew it out of the water."

Dunkirk's Marshall will be competing in both the long jump and the triple jump.

Marshall garnered a CCAA title in the triple jump with a leap of 40-feet-9.75-inches. His long jump of 20-0 was good enough for a second-place finish at the county meet.

He came back with a vengeance in the sectional meet, eclipsing his previous personal records in both events. His triple jump of 43-3 earned him a Section 6 title and added roughly 16 inches to his previous best. In the long jump, his leap of 21-feet-3-3/4-inches again added over a foot to his previous best and left him tied for



first place. He ended up second after the tie-breaker, which used each athletes' second best jump of the day. Still, the jump earned him a spot in the state meet.

"We had a couple good days of practice," Dunkirk coach Kurt Warmbrodt said. "At this point, you can overtrain and run your legs out from under you. You have to be careful and watch that. No matter what he does, it's a great step."

Marshall briefly ran on the track Thursday to get a feel for what he will be up against today.

"The runway felt comfortable to him and he is excited and we are ready for (today's) competition," Warmbrodt added.

Joining the two at the State Championships will be a trio of local pole vaulters.

Chautauqua Lake's Craig Howard leads the group. Howard soared to a first-place finish at the Section 6 Championships with a height of 14-9. He will be competing with Silver Creek's Sean Richardson and Gowanda's Marcus Hoffman, who earned spots in the state meet by clearing 13-3 and 13-0, respectively, at Sectionals.

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