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## East track creates winning environment

by **PATRICK J. NAGY** Reporter

The goal of Williamsville East's outdoor girls track program is to develop a standard of excellence and create a winning environment and attitude.

And with a number of freshmen moving up from the modified program, the chances of the goal being achieved becomes greater.

East coach Paul Pignataro debuts freshmen Madeline Torke (long jump, high jump), Sara Carver (long jump), Jessica Calzi, Lisa Saffire, and Sammi Garson (shot put/discus). The events for Calzi and Saffire are yet to be determined. Other youngsters on the roster include freshmen Jill Cutspec (long jump) and Julianna Hernandez (shot put/discus), and seventh grader Kayla Allen (400).

Pignataro said all will make the team more competitive if they can contribute at the start of the season and Allen has already. At the eighth Early Bird Track and Field meet on April 14 at John F. Kennedy High School, Allen won the 400- (1:05.60) and placed third in the 100-meters (13.78).

Pignataro returns several girls with varsity experience led by senior captains Kaitlin Roseti and Maureen McCarthy, junior Kristen Saviola, and sophomore Kendra Durden.

Roseti, entering her fourth year on the team, competes in the pentathlon for invites and the long jump, high jump, and the 800 for dual meets. Roseti was an ECIC qualifier in the long jump last year. She won the steeplechase with 1,985 points at the Early Bird Invite.

McCarthy enters her third year on varsity and was an ECIC qualifier in the long jump and the 100. She can also run the 200. Pignataro lauded her work ethic.

Saviola, back for her third year on varsity, runs the 1500 and competes in the 400 intermediate hurdles.

"She's a hard worker who is intelligent and determined to make this team better," said Pignataro.

Durden also entering her third year on the team, is a returning ECIC qualifier in the 100 who can also run the 200 and 400,

"She leads by example and is one of the top athletes on the team," said Pignataro.

Other returning athletes with varsity experience include senior Rosie McAfee with four years, seniors Lauren Burkard and Kristen Leonard, juniors Colleen Lauer, Emma Hahn, Hillary Scrivani, and Nicole Marple and sophomore Kristen Ostanski with three years, and sophomore Amy French with two years.

McAfee runs the 100, Burkard long jumps and runs the 200, and Leonard competes in the 800. Lauer runs the 1500, Hahn races the 400 hurdles, and Scrivani and Marple compete in the 3000. Marple took second in the 1500-meter racewalk (9:18.73) at the Early Bird Invite.

Ostanski is a returning ECIC qualifier in the triple jump; French returns in the 400 intermediate hurdles.

Junior Tori Mayer makes her varsity debut in the 800.

Pignataro said races where the team will be strong are the 400 intermediate hurdles and the 800.

"The students in these races have plenty of experience and want to win, which is very evident at practice," said Pignataro.