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HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

Cole clears hurdles on way to state title

Will Cole has been working all season toward winning a state track title and breaking the Section record in the 400 hurdles. On Friday he did both.

The **Hamburg** sophomore ran a 53.34 to win the Division I 400 hurdles at the New York State Track and Field Championships in Kingston. The previous record of 53.44 had been held since 1998 by Kyma Dickinson of **Lackawanna**. Cole passed two other runners in the last 10 meters to win it.

Cole was one of four individual athletes from Section VI to earn public school state titles after the first day of competition. The event concludes today starting at 10 a.m. Similar to last week's Section VI meet, athletes competed in temperatures hovering in high 80s.

Other state champions were freshman Taylor Eldridge of **Cleveland Hill** in the shot put and discus, Blake Eaton of **Allegany-Limestone** in the discus, Melissa Kurzdorfer of **Lancaster** in the discus and the **Holland** boys 4x400.

State runners-up were: Demetrius Bailey of **Olean** in the triple jump, Taylor Kensey of **Holland** in the 400 hurdles, Catherine Lusardi of **East Aurora** in the 3,000, the Holland girls 4x400, Jake Evans of **Franklinville** in the pole vault, Kurzdorfer in the shot put and Ronson Mazany of **Panama** in the long jump.

A freshman girl won a title in the shot put, but in a surprise it wasn't Kurzdorfer. Eldridge of **Cleveland Hill** threw a personal best 39-0.25 to win the Division II title.

Kurzdorfer, the top seed and state leader all season, settled for second in Division I with a throw of 43 feet. "You know, it wasn't that bad," said Kurzdorfer. "Yeah, I'm disappointed I didn't win, but I have another shot tomorrow [in the Federation meet] against everybody. I'm not too worried about it."

Kurzdorfer came back from her disappointment in the shot to win the discus in 140-1. She entered the final in sixth place and won it on her first throw.

Eaton defended his state title in the Division II discus also coming back in the final to win by a 14-foot margin in 181-8. Rob Golebak of **Frontier** was third in the Division I discus.

The members of Holland's winning 4x400 relay were Spencer Evans, Matt Bender, Taylor Kensey and Jon Ramsey. The same foursome placed third in the 4x100.

Brianna Steel of **Newfane** leads the Division II pentathlon by 12 points.

