



Lady Roughriders start strong at FC meet

ASHLAND — Western Reserve's girls' and Crestview's boys jumped out to fast starts Wednesday on the first day of the Firelands Conference meet at Mapleton.

The Lady Roughriders, helped by two finals wins, scored 34 points for a 16-point lead over both Mapleton and Crestview.

Monroeville posted 14 points, followed New London at eight and Plymouth, one.

Finals were contested in the discus, high jump and 3200-meter relay.

Semifinals were conducted in the 100, 100 hurdles, 200, 300 hurdles and 400 events.

Brandigan Fannin, in the discus, and the Danielle Sidell, Jessica Patrick, Caitlin Bement and Brittany Pickett, earned the top spot for Western.

Fannin hurled the discus at 132-0, while the 3200 quartet ran a 10:25.20.

"This is wonderful. I am speechless," Patrick said. "We came here and got it done (winning)."

On the boys' side, Monroeville's Josh Perry took first in the shot put at 53-11.

Crestview's Ryan O'Dell won the long jump at 21-7 1/2, while

TRACK AND FIELD

the Cougars also claimed first in the 3200 relay.

"We did not do to bad, although we had hoped to get two places in the long jump," Eagles coach Bernie Yoder said. "The rest of the prelims went about as expected. Two of our younger kids, Brett Robinson and John Wilhelm both qualified in the 110 hurdles. We think our strong point is yet to come."

Plymouth's 3200 team of Lucas Keaton, Skylar Branstool, Jeremy Rowe and Evan Fackler recorded second in the 3200 relay at 8:36.10.

"Our (boys) 4 x 800 broke the school record," coach Marty McKenzie said. "It will be a good race with Crestview at the district. We also have Mike LaCroix in the 100 and 200, but Monroeville's Nick Wise is in a league by himself. We just want to get everyone through to the finals."

New London coach Dan Olien is looking forward to Friday's finals.

"We have one in the 100 (dash finals)," he said. "Duane Berry was second in his heat. Also Brian Sheller and Brent Dearth advanced in the 400. They both won their heats. Sheller also won his heat in the 200."

Crestview has 35 points for first place, followed by Western Reserve at 18; Monroeville, 16; Mapleton, 10; Plymouth, eight;

South Central, three; St. Paul, two and New London, one.

The boys' and girls' pole vault is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. today at Crestview.

The remaining finals start at 4:30 p.m. Friday with girls' shot, boys' discus, girls' long jump and boys' high jump. Running finals are scheduled for 6 p.m.

First day final results are listed below:

GIRLS

Discus: 1. Fannin (WR) 132-0. 2. Steward (C) 121-8 1/2. 3. Pothe (Mv.) 107-10. 4. A. Patrick (WR) 107-4. 5. Manocchio (C) 106-3 1/2. 6. Bennett (M) 93-3.

High jump: 1. Douglas (Ma.) 5-0. 2. T. Patrick (WR) 4-10. 3. Watson (C) 4-10. 4. Karmhem (Mv.) 4-10. 5. Nitchman (WR) 4-8. 6. Ross (Ma.) 4-6.

3200-meter relay: 1. Western Reserve (Sidell, J. Patrick, Bement, Pickett) 10:25.20. 2. New London (Shepherd, Perkins, D. Wuensch, G. Wuensch) 10:29.80. 3. Mapleton (Meyer, Myers, Pico, Bollantz) 10:34.60. 4. Monroeville (Mastrolanni, Downing, Beck, L. Schaffer) 11:25.80. 5. Crestview (Pruner, Fulk, Kern, Hull) 12:24.40. 6. Plymouth (LaCroix, McVey, Waddles, Carter) 12:25.0.

BOYS

Shot put: 1. Perry (Mv.) 53-11. 2. Beck (C) 50-3. 3. Fink (Ma.) 49-5. 4. G. Patrick (WR) 47-1. 5. Dittman (SC) 46-8 1/2. 6. Howell (C) 44-6 1/2.

Long jump: 1. O'Dell (C) 21-7 1/2. 2. Chaffin (WR) 19-7. 3. Clinker (C) 19-7. 4. Robinson (Mv.) 19-6 1/4. 5. Stoll (SP) 19-4 1/2. 6. Ray (SC) 19-0 3/4.

3200 relay: 1. Crestview (Metzger, Fulk, McCarron, Ringler) 8:31.10. 2. Plymouth (Keaton, Branstool, Rowe, Fackler) 8:36.10. 3. Western Reserve (Zimmerman, Marz, Stoll, Cammarn) 8:45.80. 4. Mapleton (Myers, Pakish, Gipson, Webb) 8:48.80. 5. Monroeville (B. Wilhelm, Siesel, K. Wilhelm, K. Schaffer) 8:52.0. 6. New London (Sendelbach, Cramer, Dvorak, Kamm) 8:54.0.



LOU REDA/REFLECTOR

Western Reserve's Brandigan Fannin, shown throwing the discus in the New London High School-Bob Knoll Invitational, claimed first in the event Wednesday during the first day of the Firelands Conference league meet at Mapleton.

Schafer to wrestle at ONU

MONROEVILLE — Drew Schafer had a tough choice for where he would continue his academic and athletic career.

The final two choices were Ohio Northern and Ashland.

In the end, ONU won out as Schafer will go there starting next season.

"At first, I didn't think anything of it," the Monroeville senior said of ONU. "I met the coaches at the sectional tournament."

"I went to visit and went on an overnight visit. After the overnight visit, I knew I wanted to go there. Both are pretty close to home."

The Polar Bears are coached by Ron Beaschler with assistance from Matt Dermalan.

"I like the coaching staff a lot," Schafer said. "They seem interested in the kids."

Schafer is heading to a program that finished 6-8 overall, 5-1 in the Ohio Athletic Conference (which tied for first in the regular season) and placed seventh in the OAC Championships last season.

The 2003-04 roster included three seniors of 13.

WRESTLING

Sophomore Ty Klofta advanced to the Division III national championships and went 1-2 at the 125-pound weight class to post a 23-15 record for the season.

Schafer will likely wrestle at 141. Among the participants on the roster is junior Nathan Shearer, a Clyde graduate.

"He'll probably be my drill partner," Schafer said. "They have a pretty solid recruiting class."

Schafer, who was a four-time state qualifier for the Eagles, knows there will be an adjustment period.

"It will probably be the same thing with my first year," he said. "I'll be fine by the middle of my first year."

Eagles coach Scott Bauer believes ONU is a good choice for Schafer.

"It's nice to see him utilize his talents," Bauer said. "Any college would have been successful."

Although there will be an adjustment process, Schafer has participated in big tournaments

over the years.

He was a state placer three times, including second at 119 as a junior; third at 130 as a senior and sixth at 103 as a freshman.

Schafer also competed in a national tournament in April, going 4-2 at the Cleveland State Convocation Center.

"That helped me the most because it was tough," he said. "It's the most important tournament as far as confidence and physicalness. That was like a college tournament."

Schafer said he wants to major in exercise physiology and work in the medical field and coach someday.

He holds the Monroeville school record for wins at 164, single-season record at 49-1 and takedowns in a season at 178.

Schafer's career high school record was 164-13.

Schafer has one big tournament scheduled this summer.

Competing for the Ohio Falcons, Schafer and his teammates will be going to the Disney Duals in Florida from June 20 to 26 to go against competition from all over the nation.



LOU REDA/REFLECTOR

Monroeville senior Drew Schafer (front middle) is heading to Ohio Northern College next season to continue his academic and athletic career. He is scheduled to wrestle for the Polar Bears. With Schafer are (from left) Ron Schafer and Gaylynn Schafer; back row — Monroeville coach Scott Bauer and athletic director Ben Paul.

Truckers bring back key Northern Ohio League win over Tornadoes

TIFFIN — Norwalk rebounded from its loss to Bellevue Monday with a 12-7 Northern Ohio League win Wednesday.

The Truckers, who raised their record to 15-8 overall, 9-4, did all their damage in the first three innings, including five in the second.

Norwalk banged out 12 hits. Rob Osborn slammed a grand slam in the first inning.

Pat Ott hit a two-run double as part of a five-run fifth. Three more were added in the third.

Michael Biller, Christian Raymond and Hunter led the way with two hits each.

Biller scored a run and stole a base, Raymond added a run, RBI and stole three bases and Hunter scored three runs and knocked in one.

Osborn, Kyle Schaechterle,

Shane Johnston, Clay Duncan and Jacob Willis contributed one hit each. Osborn drove in four, while Johnston and Duncan chipped in with one RBI each.

Duncan and Stephen Hunter combined for the pitching win.

Duncan improved to 6-1. The freshman gave up seven runs (six earned) on six hits with two walks and two strikeouts. Hunter pitched 4 1/3 innings for the save. The junior surrendered four hits and three walks with three strikeouts.

"To go down there and win a big game on the road, I'm real proud of the team," Truckers coach Wes Douglas said.

Norwalk returns to NOL action today at Galion.

■ **Mapleton 13, St. Paul 3**

NOVA — St. Paul and

Mapleton resumed its Firelands Conference game Wednesday.

In what started April 12 and the Mounties leading 5-3 in the third inning, Mapleton bats continued its output with runs in the third, fifth and sixth innings.

Allen Rospert, Donovan Platte, Brad Mutchler, Dan Mutchler, Adam Schaffer, Corey Spaar and Josh Welfle recorded one hit each. Rospert drove in two runs, while Schaffer had one.

Brad Mutchler, Rospert and Welfle all scored a run.

Brad Mutchler took the loss. At 9-12 overall, 6-7 in the league, St. Paul concludes league action today at Western Reserve.

■ **Plymouth 7, M'ville 1**

PLYMOUTH — The long ball was beneficial for

BASEBALL

Plymouth in a six-run inning Wednesday for a Firelands Conference baseball win.

Brandon Blankenship crushed a grand slam for his fifth of the season, while Marcus Roll added a solo shot. It was his second of the campaign.

For the game, Blankenship, Mike Ball and Brad Davis led the way with two hits each.

Ball hit a double.

Davis and Steve Gillum each knocked in a run.

Davis went four innings for the win. He allowed six hits, one earned run and three walks with four strikeouts.

Jared Furr pitched the final three innings. He yielded two hits, three walks and fanned six.

"It was a well-played game," Big Red coach Chris Cullen said. "That third inning was a big inning and big lift for us. We hit the ball well after making a couple of adjustments."

For the Eagles, Derek Lavalley belted a solo home run in the third inning.

Ryan Martin collected two hits, while Tony Whitacre added one apiece.

At 8-14 overall, 5-8 in the league, Plymouth has won two straight and close the season today by hosting New London.

■ **Norwalk 7, Columbian 3**

Norwalk's jayvee baseball team improved to 6-10 overall, 4-5, Wednesday with the league win.

Tim Berry pitched 6 2/3 innings for the win. He scattered seven hits and walked one, while fanning three. Jason Higgins struck the last batter out with the bases loaded.

The Truckers broke a 2-2 tie with five runs in the bottom of the third inning.

Norwalk's hitters took advantage of 14 walks issued by the Columbian pitchers.

Berry walked three times; stole two bases and drove in two.

Higgins, Thomas Ott, Jordan Shullick and Jon Kijowski all notched a hit.

Shullick scored two runs and drove in one.

Norwalk is scheduled to host Galion at 5 p.m. today, before playing in the NOL jayvee tournament this weekend.

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