

Golden Plains Qualifies Six for State By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Track Team qualified six individuals for the state track meet during the regional meet in Colby on May 20. Athletes qualifying include Ethan Weiner, Emma Weiner, Breanna Rath, Anette Hernandez, Rayna Taylor, and Sidney Taylor with Ava Brantley as an alternate.

Senior Ethan Weiner is the only boy to qualify for this year's state meet. He placed third in the 3200m run with a time of 11:05.54. His best time this season is 11:02.86 ran at the Colby Invitational. Ethan holds the school record of 10:37.96 ran at the state meet last year. Ethan also ran the 1600m with a time of 5:23.45 for seventh place. His career best time in this event is 5:08.44 ran at Regionals last year. "It was nice to see Ethan qualify again this year in the 3200," said Coach Travis Smith. "He has a great chance to medal. He's going to have to go out there and give it his all and be relentless. He most definitely can medal."

Sophomore Emma Weiner also qualified for state in the 3200m run with a time of 12:35.59. Her season best time of 12:22.88 was run at the Colby Invitational as well. Emma has won this event each time she ran it this year. She holds the school record of 11:41.75 ran for state runner-up last year. Emma also qualified for state as the regional champion in the 1600m run with a time of 5:45.33. Her season best time of 5:37.88 was run at the Ness City Invitational. Emma won this event at state last year with the school record time of 5:26.24.

"It felt good to get back on the track!" said Emma. "I can't wait to go back to Cessna with these girls and Ethan, but I know we have work to do in practice this week to make sure we're ready." "It was great to see her finally close to healthy," added Smith. "She won easily and wasn't pushed in either race. Having to sit out three weeks set her back, but she is back on the right track. Emma has a great shot of being a double state champion but it's going to take work."

Also qualifying for state in the 1600m run is freshman Anette Hernandez. She placed as regional runner-up behind Weiner with a season/career best time of 6:03.53. Anette did a fantastic job yesterday in the mile," said Smith. "I'm very proud of her performance. She improved 8 seconds to earn regional runner up. She too has yet to reach her peak. She can go out and give it her all on Saturday."

Junior Breanna Rath won the regional championship in Triple Jump and another trip to the state meet with a career best 36' 0.5" jump. Rath has won the triple jump at every meet this season. She placed 7th at state last year with a 33' 1.5" jump. "I have worked hard all season to improve my jumps at each meet," said Rath. "Thirty-six feet has been a goal for me since the beginning of the season and I am so excited to have met it. I'm ready to practice hard this week for State and to see how much more I can improve."

"Breanna had a mixed bag of success and setbacks at regionals," added Smith. "She now has the second best triple jump in 1A by earning regional gold with a 36' 1/2" jump. On the other side of it, she has been battling a chest cold that kept her from being 100% for her races on the track. The good thing is she is only a junior and has a great chance to battle back next year in those races."

Rath just missed out on state qualification in Long Jump as she placed fifth with a 15' 2.25" jump. Her career best jump is 16' 1.5" at St. Francis earlier this year. She finished 7th at Regionals in the 100m hurdles with a 17.81 run and placed sixth in 300m hurdles at 53.42.

The final event to qualify for the state meet was the 4 x 800m relay run by Emma Weiner, Rayna Taylor, Sidney Taylor, and Anette Hernandez with Ava Brantley as alternate. The girls placed third at Regionals with a 11:01.39 run. Their season best time is 10:56.94 at Ness City. Ava has run in place of Emma the past four meets and will serve as alternate at state. “They have yet to hit their peak,” added Coach Smith. “We ran into some sickness Friday and didn’t quite finish with a time I know we can run. They, too, have a great chance to medal. They have to push hard in practice this week to set the tone for this weekend.”

The girls team finished in fourth place at Regionals. Additional team members competing included Kassie Miller who made finals in both Shot Put and Discus. She placed 7th in shot with a 33’ 2” throw and 8th in Discus at 97’ 0”. Sidney Taylor also ran the 800m placing 8th at 2:53.32.

Additional girls’ events included Mariah Barnett who ran a personal best time of 14.57 in the 100m dash and jumped 13’ 2.5” in Long Jump. Morgan Wark threw the Shot Put 31’ 0.75” and the Discus 88’ 2”.

In the boys events, Ashton Schiltz qualified for finals in Shot Put placing 8th with a career high 42’ 9” throw. Landon Meier placed 8th in the 1600m run at 5:32.90 and Ethan Shea ran the 800m in 2:20.75, and Garrett Carter threw Discus 97’ 0”. Jose Mendoza ran the 200m in 26.25 seconds and the 400m in 58.85. The boys 4 x 800m relay was run by Ethan Weiner, Jose Mendoza, Landon Meier, and Ethan Shea in 9:39.87.

Competition at the state meet begins on Friday, May 27, at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.