

Wildcat track teams improve at Redbud Relays



Louisburg junior Chloe Renner lands in the sand pit during an attempt in the long jump Friday at the Redbud Relays in Wellsville. In the 14-team team meet, both Wildcat track teams finished seventh overall.

WELLSVILLE – It may not have shown in the team standings, but the Louisburg High School track and field teams made strides in different areas during the Redbud Relays on Friday in Wellsville.

Both the boys and girls teams finished seventh in the 14-team meet with 34 and 25 points, respectively, but the Wildcats had several athletes who earned medals.

The Louisburg boys saw a pair of freshmen sprinters run toward the top of the pack with a couple strong showings. Freshman Brandon Cooper was the top finisher on the track as he was second in the 100-meter dash in 11.44 seconds.

Fellow freshman Chris Williams turned in his best time of the season in the 400-meter dash. Williams came in third in 51.14 and was just edged out for second by Baldwin's Dakota Helm by .02 seconds.

Freshman hurdler Jonathan Ventre also hung in with some good competition. Ventre ran a 42.74 in the 300-meter hurdles to

finish fourth and a 17.11 in the 110-meter high hurdles to come in seventh.

"I thought we competed a lot better this week as it was a tough meet," Louisburg boys coach Gary Griffin said. "Chris ran a great race and I think he still has better races ahead of him this year. Brandon ran a good 100 meters and competed really well. I am looking for him to put together a better 200 this week.

"Jonathan is running well right now. I think he is gaining confidence and that will only help him in the next couple of weeks."

The 4×400-meter relay of Quinn Rigney, Chris Williams, Blue Caplinger and Michael Minster ran a time of 3 minutes and 38 seconds to finish fourth and lead the three relay teams.

Cooper, Williams, Ben Minster and Rigney ran a 45.37 to come in sixth in the 4×100 relay, while Wyatt Reece, Michael Minster, Ben Hupp and Tanner Belcher ran a time of 9:06 to come in eighth in the 4×800 relay.

Ben Minster (24.47) and Michael Minster (2:10) came in seventh in the 200-meter dash and 800-meter run, respectively.

In the field events, senior Jarod Woodward continues to thrive in the shot put as he threw over 50 feet once again. Woodward's best toss of 51 feet, 1 inch was good for third overall.



Freshman Chris Williams (left) races down the track in the final stretch of the 400-meter dash Friday at the Redbud Relays in Wellsville.

Junior T.J. Dover also had one of his better days of the season in discus as he took fifth with a toss of 141-7 and teammate Garrett Lowry was eighth at 125-9.

"Woody got off a nice shot put and T.J. is starting to put it together in the discus, which is really good to see," Griffin said.

Cooper, who ran well on the track, also recorded a season best mark in the triple jump. Cooper had a leap of 39-2 to take fifth overall.

Sophomore Kristopher Light was sixth in the high jump after he cleared 5-6. Freshmen Ian Combs (10-6) and Caplinger (10-0) were seventh and eighth, respectively, in the pole vault.

On the girls' side, sophomore Isabelle Holtzen had the Lady Cats' highest finish of the day as she continues to score well in the pole vault. Holtzen cleared 9-6 to come in second overall.

"I thought the girls did a great job competing with the other girls," Louisburg girls coach Greg Darrington said. "It was

our first meet with prelims and finals so this will help us in the next couple of weeks.

"Isabelle is still competing well and should be making improvement as she keeps working on her new pole."

Junior Chloe Renner came in fourth in the high jump after she cleared 4-8 and freshman teammate Eileen Benne was fifth at 4-8 as well. Renner also came in seventh in the long jump (14-6.75) and triple jump (31-2).

Sophomore Kaitlyn Urban (30-9.75) and senior Morgan Strumillo (31-10) finished eighth in the triple jump and shot put, respectively.

The Lady Cats' 4×400-meter relay of Mikayla Quinn, Megan Lemke, Kaitlyn Gaza and Reilly Alexander had their best day of the season as they shaved nearly eight seconds off their previous best time to take fourth in 4:24.

Gaza, Lemke, Hanna Becker and Jordon Leach helped the 4×100 team to a time of 54.45 to take fifth, while Shaylor Whitham, Lauren Becker, Liz Hildreth and Holtzen ran a 9:06 to take eighth.

"I thought all our relay teams did well," Darrington said. "The 4×100 will do better with more practice on their hand offs. The 4×400 and 4×800 relays are getting better each week. All the girls are finally getting out of their comfort zones and should get better."

Junior Klara Riester had a good day as she took fifth in the 100-meter hurdles in 17.76 seconds and seventh in the 300 hurdles in 51.95 seconds.

Hildreth also earned points for the Lady Cats in the 800-meter run in 2:38 and Quinn was sixth in the 400-meter run in 1:05. Leach made the finals in the 100-meter dash and finished eighth in 13.69.

Louisburg returns to the track Thursday when it travels to De Soto for the Frontier League meet. Field events are set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

"I'm excited to see how we will compete at league this week," Darrington said. "That will tell me who is ready for our regional meet."

Other Wildcat results are:

GIRLS

100 dash: Hanna Becker, 17th, 14.15

200 dash: Kaitlyn Gaza, 12th, 29.11; Jordon Leach, 13th, 29.23

400 dash: Gaza, 10th, 1:06; Reilly Alexander, 11th, 1:07

800 run: Lauren Becker, 14th, 2:54

1,600 run: Shaylor Whitham, 18th, 6:25; Madelynn Yalowitz, 20th, 6:33

3,200 run: Whitham, 10th, 14:17; Yalowitz, 13th, 14:42

Long jump: Megan Lemke, 13th, 13-11; Kaitlyn Urban, 21st, 12-10.25

Discus: Lexie Reece, 11th, 90-10; Ellie Katzer, 13th, 90-5

Javelin: Paige Buffington, 12th, 84-6; Zoie Gilliland, 14th, 80-10

BOYS

100 dash: Ben Minster, 10th, 11.80

200 dash: Brandon Cooper, ninth, 23.94

400 dash: Blue Caplinger, 16th, 56.48; Scott Murphy, 18th, 56.88

800 run: Tanner Belcher, 11th, 2:12

1,600 run: Wyatt Reece, 15th, 5:04; Tim Smith, 18th, 5:06; Eddie Murphy, 32nd, 5:24

3,200 run: Devyn Small, 18th, 11:49; Reece, 23rd, 12:15

Shot put: T.J. Dover, 10th, 45-7; Bradley Trageser, 26th, 36-10

Discus: Mason Koechner, 13th, 121-0

Javelin: Dustyn Rizzo, 13th, 128-3; Jacob Jensen, 16th, 126-9

Wildcats earn solid marks at Gardner meet



Louisburg freshman Jonathan Ventre clears a hurdle during a meet earlier this season. Ventre placed in both the 110-meter and 300-meter hurdles Monday at the Trailblazer Invitational

in Gardner.

GARDNER – Rain and thunderstorms forced the Louisburg track and field team to make two different trips to Gardner to compete in the Trailblazer Invitational.

Field events took place for an hour Friday before the meet was postponed to Monday. Several athletes couldn't return due to previous engagements, but the Wildcats still scored in several events.

Louisburg got a season-best performance from junior T.J. Dover in both the shot put and the discus. Dover finished third in the discus with a toss of 143 feet, 11 inches and later took fourth in the shot put with a toss of 44-11.

"I really thought our best performances on the day were from T.J. and Tim Smith in the distance races," Louisburg coach Gary Griffin said.

Smith didn't score points in those races, but he improved his times in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs. Smith was 11th in the 3,200-meter run in 10 minutes and 57 seconds and was 14th in the 1,600 run in 5:03.

Freshman Jonathan Ventre scored points in both hurdle events on the day. Ventre finished fifth in the 110-meter hurdles in 17.67 seconds and sixth in the 300 hurdles in 44.46 seconds.

Fellow freshman Brandon Cooper had a strong showing in the triple jump as he took seventh with a mark of 39-1.5. Cooper was also sixth in the 100-meter dash in 11.83 seconds.

Chris Williams earned points for the Wildcats in the 400-meter dash. Williams finished fourth in 52.65 seconds. The Wildcats 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams each took fifth.

Overall, the Wildcats were seventh in the team standings with 36 points.

Many varsity members of the girls track team competed in Thursday's Prairie View Invitational, but sophomore Isabelle Holtzen made the trip to Gardner and tied her season best in the pole vault. Holtzen was fourth overall after clearing 9-6.

Louisburg returns to the track Friday when it travels to Wellsville for the Redbud Relays. Field events are set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Other results from the meet are:

Boys

100 dash: Ben Minster, 11th, 11.96; Quinn Rigney, 13th, 12.10

200 dash: Brandon Cooper, 11th, 24.38; Minster, 12th, 24.43; Rigney, 14th, 24.75

High jump: Kristopher Light, 11th, 5-4

Triple jump: Light, 14th, 33-7.5

Shot put: Garrett Lowry, 16th, 39-1.5

Discus: Lowry, 11th, 117-9

Javelin: Dustyn Rizzo, 15th, 122-1; Lyndon Smith, 16th, 117-2

Girls

200 dash: Julianne Finley, 15th, 30.47

400 dash: Finley, 13th, 1:08

800 run: Isabelle Holtzen, 13th, 2:47

Long jump: Shae Murphy, 13th, 27-1

Javelin: Melia Rice, 16th, 47-9

Lady Cats win Prairie View Invitational



Louisburg junior Madelynn Yalowitz leads a pack of runners in the 1,600-meter run during a meet earlier this season. Yalowitz and the Lady Cats won the Prairie View Invitational last Thursday with 97 points.

LA CYGNE – Going into the final event of the night, the Louisburg girls track and field team found itself just out of first by a handful of points Thursday at the Prairie View Invitational.

The Lady Cat 4x400-meter relay team of Megan Lemke, Reilly Alexander, Kaitlyn Gaza and Mikayla Quinn had an opportunity to put the team on their back and get Louisburg's first team

title of the season.

They did just that.

Lemke, Alexander, Gaza and Quinn blew away the field by more than five seconds to win gold in 4 minutes and 33 seconds and vault ahead in the team standings to give Louisburg the team title with 97 points and finished 10 points ahead of runner-up Kansas City-Lutheran.

"The 4x400 team really came through with a good performance when we needed it and got us a win, which was great to see," Louisburg coach Greg Darrington said.

Although the relay was the only event the Lady Cats won on the day, Louisburg scored points in 16 of the 18 events.

The Lady Cats got several points on the track and Quinn was second in the 400-meter dash in 1:05.63 and Gaza was right behind her in third in 1:05.73. Alexander came in fifth in 1:08.

Also in the sprints, Jordon Leach had a strong day as she took fourth in the 200 dash in 29.22, Gaza, was fifth in 29.26 and Hanna Becker came in sixth with a time of 29.46. Leach finished fifth in the 100 dash in 13.88 seconds.

In the distance races, Liz Hildreth was fourth (2:40) in the 800-meter run. Madelynn Yalowitz (14:10), Shaylor Whitham (14:27) and Alex Miller (14:57) finished fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 3,200-meter run. Yalowitz also scored points in the 1,600 run as she took sixth (6:26).

Klara Riester placed in both hurdle events as she came in fourth in the 300-meter hurdles in 53 seconds and was fifth in the 100 hurdles in 18.07. Teammate Lilly Mick also scored points in the 300 hurdles as she took fifth in 56.04 seconds.

The 4x800 relay team also scored some big points as it came in second in 10:59 and the 4x100 squad was third in 54.79.

"I'm really proud of our runners for competing and scoring in just about all our events," Darrington said. "We may not have placed many in the top three but almost all of the running events we scored in. I really think Klara has a chance to be a state qualifier if she keeps improving in the hurdles."

Junior Chloe Renner had a big day for Louisburg in the jumps as she scored points in all three of her events. Renner finished third in the high jump (4 feet, 8 inches) and long jump (16-0). Later she took fifth in the triple jump (31-4.5).

Sophomore Kaitlyn Urban led the way in the triple jump and finished third (31-8.5). Freshman Eileen Benne was fourth in the high jump (4-8) and Lemke came in sixth in the long jump (13-10.5).

In the throws, Lexie Reece scored points in the discus with a throw of 86-0.50 to take fifth and Zoie Gilliland was sixth in the javelin with a toss of 85-10.

"I was really proud of Renner and Urban as both girls really competed well," Darrington said. "My throwers had a rough day, but they are going to keep working hard to improve."

Although many of the varsity boys didn't attend the meet, the Wildcats still scored points in a few events.

Freshman Ian Combs led the way as he took runner-up in the pole vault after he cleared 10-6 and senior Bradley Trageser was fourth in the shot put with a mark of 42-8.75. Senior Marshall Rooney was sixth in the triple jump (35-10).

The 4x400 relay came in fourth in 3:52 and the 4x800 relay was fifth in 9:38.

Louisburg will return to the track Friday when it competes at the Redbud Relays in Wellsville. Field events are set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Other results from the meet are:

Girls

100 dash: Hanna Becker, 10th, 14.34; Grayson Anderson, 15th, 14.95

800 run: Lauren Becker, 8th, 2:58

1,600 run: Shaylor Whitham, 7th, 6:35

High jump: Makenna Allen, 7th, 4-4

Long jump: Kaitlyn Urban, 10th, 12-6

Triple jump: Eileen Benne, 11th, 28-3

Shot put: Ellie Katzer, 11th, 30-0.75; Morgan Strumillo, 13th, 29-5.25; Zoie Gilliland, 21st, 23-4.75

Javelin: Paige Buffington, 9th, 77-7

Boys

100 dash: Austin Moore, 14th, 12.63; Jackson Ewalt, 16th, 12.65; Will Ridley, 17th, 12.66

200 dash: Moore, 9th, 25.25; Ewalt, 11th, 25.54; Ridley, 13th, 25.67

400 dash: Blue Caplinger, 9th, 57.40; Scott Murphy, 11th, 58.03; Owen Staver, 14th, 59.17

800 run: Eddie Murphy, 13th, 2:22; Austin Raetzel, 16th, 2:26

1,600 run: Jacob Benne, 16th, 5:42

3,200 run: Jacob Benne, 14th, 12:41

4×100 relay: seventh, 48.47

Pole vault: Caplinger, seventh, 10-0

Long jump: Marshall Rooney, 12th, 16-2.5

Shot put: Nathan Allen, 14th, 36-3.75; Kiefer Tucker, 16th, 32-10

Discus: Dalton Ribordy, 9th, 107-6; Bradley Trageser, 15th, 100-9; Matt Holloway, 18th, 96-3

Javelin: Holloway, 10th, 112-3; Allen, 12th, 97-0; Ribordy, 13th, 96-7

Wildcats run away with home meet crown



Louisburg freshman Brandon Cooper is all smiles after winning the 100-meter dash Thursday at the Louisburg Invitational at Wildcat Stadium. Cooper finished with four medals on the day and helped the Wildcat team to a first place finish.

The Louisburg boys track and field team is filled with several young and inexperienced athletes, but that youth didn't show during the Louisburg Invitational on Thursday.

Louisburg won its second meet of the season as it racked up 151 points to pull away from the rest of the competition. Blue Valley Southwest was second with 121 points and Prairie View was third with 96 points in the 8-team meet.

"It was a good all-around meet as a team," Louisburg coach Gary Griffin said. "We got good performances in all areas and most of the kids had personal records in at least one of their events."

One of those personal records came in the shot put. Senior Jarod Woodward beat his personal record by almost three feet as he won the shot put with a toss of 53 feet, which ranks as one of the top 10 throws in the state.

"His throw of 53 feet is a big time throw," Griffin said. "That puts him up there with the state leaders."

Woodward was one of three Wildcats to win a field event Thursday.

Junior T.J. Dover won his first event of the season as he captured the discus title with a throw of 137 feet, 6 inches and he also took sixth in the shot put with a toss of 43-2. Sophomore Garrett Lowry was third in the discus with a toss of 134-0 and junior Mason Koechner was fourth at 119-0.



Junior T.J. Dover finished sixth in the shot put Thursday at the Louisburg Invitational. Dover also won the discus with a throw of 137-6.

Sophomore Kristopher Light also had a big day as he won the high jump after he cleared 5-8 and Marshall Rooney came in fifth at 5-4. Freshman Ian Combs was fifth in the pole vault at 10-6.

"I really thought our throwers like Jarod, Garrett, T.J. and Mason all had a good day," Griffin said. "Kris Light keeps scoring points in the high jump as well, which is great."

Freshman Brandon Cooper won his first of four medals on the day in the triple jump with a mark of 37-3 and teammate Dalton Knipp was sixth at 36-3.

Cooper burned up the track in the sprints as he won the 100-meter dash in 11.19 seconds and later finished runner-up in the 200 dash in 23.81 seconds. He also helped Quinn Rigney, Ben Minster and Chris Williams to a gold in the 4x100 meter

relay in 45.38 seconds.

Williams, another freshman, came up big for the Wildcats as he won three gold medals. Williams won the 400-meter dash with a season-best time of 52.23 seconds.

He also helped the 4x400 team of Michael Minster, Ben Minster and Rigney to a first place finish in 3:36. Williams also took fifth in the 200 dash in 24.28 seconds.

Rigney also scored points in the sprints as he took third in the 200 dash (23.91) and fourth in the 100 dash (11.69).



Freshman Ian Combs clears a height in the pole vault Thursday. Combs finished fifth in the event.

In the hurdles, freshman Jonathan Ventre had two strong races as well. Ventre was runner-up in the 300-meter hurdles in 43.72 seconds and third in the 100 hurdles in 17.42.

"Our freshmen continue to perform well," Griffin said. "Brandon and Chris kind of dominated the sprints, along with Quinn. Jonathan keeps bringing his time down in the 300 hurdles and is figuring some things out in the high hurdles as well."

The Wildcats' 4x800-meter relay team of Wyatt Reece, Ben Hupp, Michael Minster and Tanner Belcher ran a solid time of 9:03 to

finish second overall and several other distance runners scored points for Louisburg.

Michael Minster was third in the 800-meter run in 2:12, Tim Smith came in fourth in the 3,200-meter run in 11:11 and Reece was fifth in the 1,600-meter run in 5:09.

Louisburg will compete in two different meets later this week, as part of the team will travel to the Prairie View Invitational on Thursday, while other will go to the Gardner Relays on Friday.

Louisburg girls shine at home meet



Louisburg sprinter Jordon Leach races down the track in the 100-meter dash Thursday during Louisburg Invitational. Leach finished second overall and the Lady Cats finished runner-up in the team standings.

For the second week in a row, the Louisburg High School girls track and field team found itself toward the top of the team standings and it picked a good time to do it.

The Lady Cats put on a good show in front of their home fans

Thursday during the Louisburg Invitational. Louisburg finished second overall with 139.5 points and won three events during the 8-team meet at Wildcat Stadium.

Blue Valley Southwest won the team crown with 168.5 points and Spring Hill was third with 96 points.

"I was very proud of the girls this past week," Louisburg coach Greg Darrington said. "It felt really nice to see a bunch of different girls step up."

One of those girls was sophomore Isabelle Holtzen who earned points for the team in four events. The big event for Holtzen was the pole vault as she cleared 9 feet to win gold and captured her second consecutive title.

Holtzen, along with Liz Hildreth, Shaylor Whitham and Lauren Becker, helped the 4x800-meter relay to a runner-up finish in 11 minutes and 3 seconds. Holtzen later finished fourth in the 800-meter run in 2:45.



Louisburg's Liz Hildreth leads a pack of runners in the 800-meter run Thursday at the Louisburg Invitational.

"Isabelle is another strength of our team and keeps scoring points and improving each week," Darrington said. "I know she does a lot with the pole vault and 4x800 along with the open 800. I know at some point his season she will need to just focus on a couple of events."

Another improvement for the Lady Cats has been Klara Riester in both hurdle events. Riester won the 100-meter hurdles for the first time all season in 17.96 seconds and later took third in the 300 hurdles 52.25 seconds.

Lilly Mick also scored points in the 300 hurdles to finish fourth (54.55) and McKinley Mathews was fifth in the 100 hurdles (21.61)

"Klara is really doing a great job," Darrington said. "She keeps getting better each week and she is a very competitive person who just goes out and does her best. Klara is working harder at practice which is really helping her at the meets."

The Lady Cats also fared well in the sprints as the 4x100 relay team of Kaitlyn Gaza, Hanna Becker, Megan Lemke and Mikayla Quinn won in 54.36 seconds.

Jordon Leach also got some big points for Louisburg as she took second in the 100-meter dash in 13.54 and third in the 200 dash in 28.7. Gaza also ran a strong 200 dash as she took second in 28.6 seconds and Quinn was fourth in the 400 dash in 1:07.

Louisburg's 4x400 relay of Gaza, Lemke, Reilly Alexander and Quinn also ran well to take second in 4:36.

"I really feel that our relay teams are beginning to come together," Darrington said. "I believe the 4x400 is one of the strengths of our track team. The 4x800 keeps improving with the girls getting better in each leg of the race."

In the distance races, Hildreth finished high again in the 800

run. The Louisburg junior was third overall in 2:37 and Alex Miller was sixth in 2:48.

Madelynn Yalowitz (14:02) and Whitham (14:05) ran fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 3,200-meter run.



Junior Ellie Katzer launches the discus Thursday during the Lady Cats' home meet. Katzer was second overall.

The Lady Cats also scored several points in the field events and Chloe Renner helped out in that regard as she came in second in the high jump after she cleared 4-10. She also finished third in the high jump with a mark of 14-6.5 and fifth in the triple jump with leap of 29-7.

Junior Ellie Katzer finished runner up in the discus with a toss of 99-0, while sophomore Sophie McMullen came in fourth with a toss of 95-11. McMullen also took sixth the javelin with a throw of 91-8.

Mathews was third in the pole vault (8-0), Kaitlyn Urban was fourth in the triple jump (29-11), Makenna Allen took fifth in the high jump (4-6) and Lexie Reece came in sixth in the discus (92-3) to round out the Lady Cat point scorers.

Louisburg will split off into two meets this week as some will travel to the Prairie View Invitational on Thursday, while

others will go to the Gardner Relays on Friday.

Youth leads Wildcat boys track at Anderson County



Louisburg's Kris Light lands in the pit to get a mark in the long jump competition Thursday at the Anderson County Invitational in Garnett. Light finished second in the high jump and fifth in the triple jump. As a team, the Wildcats took second overall.

GARNETT – Experience has been something the Louisburg High School boys track team lacked coming into the season, but following the Anderson County Invitational on Thursday, the young Wildcats seem to be coming into their own.

Louisburg finished second in the team standings with 105 points behind champion Spring Hill, which had 150.5. The Wildcats also won three events, including two from a pair of freshmen.

"I was pretty happy overall how we competed," Louisburg coach Gary Griffin said. "Just like every meet we had some good and not so good, but I think all the runners are making some strides and the jumpers had a lot better day overall than last

week."

Freshman Brandon Cooper had his best day of the early season as he racked up four medals, including three on the track.

One of those was in the 100-meter dash as Cooper sprinted to a gold medal in 11.55 seconds, while teammates Quinn Rigney (11.71) and Ben Minster (11.72) came in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Cooper continued his success in the 200-meter dash as he was third in 24 seconds and helped the 4x100 team of Minster, Rigney and Chris Williams run a season-best time of 45.84 seconds to finish second.

"Brandon had a very good day and he improved on all of his events," Griffin said. "He is very talented and has a very high ceiling and he will keep improving as his practice habits improve."

Another freshman, Chris Williams, also finished strong on the track as he won the 400-meter dash for the first time this season in 53.02 seconds. Fellow freshman Jonathan Ventre came in fourth in the 300 hurdles in 44.25.

"The times for the sprinters are gradually getting to where they need to be and that comes with warmer weather," Griffin said. "Chris has consistently performed well this year and his time was very good for a freshman."

Louisburg also had a pair of medalists in the distance races. Wyatt Reece ran a 5:03 in the 1,600-meter run to finish third and Tim Smith was fourth in the 3,200 run in 11:30.



Senior Bradley Trageser follows through on an attempt in the shot put Thursday in Garnett.

Reece, Tanner Belcher, Michael Minster and Ben Hupp ran a season-best time of 8:57 in the 4x800 relay to come in third, while Rigney, Williams, Michael Minster and Scott Murphy took third in the 4x400 relay in 3:43.

In the field events, senior Jarod Woodward had another strong performance in the shot put as he recorded a toss of 49 feet, 8 inches to win the event by more than three feet.

Kris Light medaled in two field events for the Wildcats, including a runner-up finish in the high jump after he cleared 5-8. Teammate Andrew Goff, who took fourth in the high jump after he cleared 5-6, led Louisburg in the triple jump as he took third with a leap of 37-8.

Cooper also medaled in the event with a mark of 37-3 and Light came in fifth in 36-2.

"Kris has done a nice job in the high jump and is improving in the triple jump as well," Griffin said. "Hopefully all three

of the triple jumpers will reach the 40-foot mark by the end of the year."

Freshman Ian Combs also had a strong performance in the pole vault after he cleared 11 feet to medal third overall.

Louisburg returns to the track Thursday when it hosts the Louisburg Invitational at Wildcat Stadium. Field events are set to start at 3:30 p.m.

Other Wildcat results are:

100 dash: Jackson Ewalt, 19th, 12.65

200 dash: Quinn Rigney, 7th, 24.41; Scott Murphy, 15th, 26.14; Ewalt, 19th, 26.86

400 dash: Murphy, 7th, 56.69

800 run: Tanner Belcher, 7th, 2:16; Michael Minster, 9th, 2:16

1,600 run: Tim Smith, 7th 5:19; Eddie Murphy, 13th, 5:26; Devyn Small, 18th, 5:33; Jacob Benne, 19th, 5:34

3,200 run: Wyatt Reece, 7th, 12:04; Small, 9th, 12:25; E. Murphy, 10th, 12:26; Benne, 15th, 13:03

110 hurdles: Jonathan Ventre, 7th, 17.79

300 hurdles: Ben Hupp, 8th, 46.07

Long jump: Marshall Rooney, 14th, 16-0; Andrew Goff, 15th, 15-10.5; Kyle Allen, 18th, 15-5.25; Kris Light, 19th, 14-8.5

Triple jump: Rooney, 8th, 35-0; Allen, 9th, 34-9

Shot put: Bradley Trageser, 9th, 39-1; Mason Koechner, 12th, 37-0.5; Nathan Allen, 16th, 35-11.25

Discus: Koechner, 14th, 103-8; Dalton Ribordy, 15th, 101-11; Trageser, 16th, 101-10; Jarod Woodward, 17th, 100-7; Matthew Holloway, 21st, 94-5

Javelin: Jacob Jensen, 8th, 129-5; Lyndon Smith, 13th, 123-3; Dustyn Rizzo, 15th, 118-6; Holloway, 16th, 116-10; N. Allen, 18th, 104-0

Lady Cats finish runner-up at Garnett



Louisburg's Klara Riester clears a hurdle during the 100-meter hurdle race Thursday at the Anderson County Invitational in Garnett. Riester finished second in the 300 hurdles and third in the 100 hurdles.

GARNETT – It seemed all the Louisburg High School girls track and field team needed was a warm Spring day to get itself back into a rhythm.

The Wildcats took advantage of the nice weather and showed big improvement in several areas during the Anderson County Invitational on Thursday in Garnett.

Louisburg finished second in the team standings won three events. The Lady Cats recorded 126 points to finish runner-up behind champion Anderson County (163 points) in the seven-team meet.

The Lady Cats picked up several medalists on the day and had a good outing in the field events.

Sophomore Isabelle Holtzen had her best performance of the season in the pole vault as she cleared 9 feet, 6 inches to win the event and senior teammate McKinley Mathews was third at 8-6.

Louisburg had its best day in the discus ring as it swept the top three placings. Sophomore Sophie McMullen had a season best throw of 105-8.5 to take first place. Junior Ellie Katzer was second with a toss of 96-7.25 and sophomore Lexie Reece was third at 95-4.5.



Sophomore Isabelle Holtzen vaults over the bar during the pole vault Thursday at the Anderson County Invitational. Holtzen won

the event after she cleared 9-6.

“Isabelle just keeps getting better and I’m really excited to see where she ends this year,” Louisburg girls coach Greg Darrington said. “The discus throwers are all working hard and are finally getting into a rhythm. I really feel like they are going to begin to make some nice gains. They do have a long ways to go to catch some other girls in our league but I feel like they will get there with a couple more weeks of practice.”

In the triple jump, Kaitlyn Urban finished second overall with a leap of 31-3.5 to earn several points for the Lady Cats.

Eileen Benne (4-6), Shae Murphy (4-4) and Makenna Allen (4-4) took fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively, in the high jump. Paige Buffington rounded out the field event point getters as she finished fifth (84-0) in the javelin.

Sophomore Mikayla Quinn had a season-best time in the 400-meter dash to lead the Lady Cats on the track as she ran a time of 1 minute and 5.4 seconds to take first place. Teammates Reilly Alexander (1:09) and Kaitlyn Gaza (1:10) came in fourth and sixth.

Klara Riester had a personal-best finish in both hurdles as she took second in the 300-meter hurdles in 52.20 and third in the 100 hurdles in 18.13. Lilly Mick came in fifth in the 300 hurdles in 55 seconds.

In the distance races, Madelynn Yalowitz was runner-up in the 3,200-meter run in 13:57, while Shaylor Whitham (14:34) and Alex Miller (14:39) finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

Liz Hildreth medaled third in the 800-meter run in 2:43 for a season-best finish. Hanna Becker was sixth in the 200 dash in 29.84.

"I felt the girls on the track did a great job," Darrington said. "Liz and Madelynn did a good job and was nice to see them compete and medal. Klara is a good competitor with guts and some raw talent. It was nice to see her have some success as well."

The Lady Cat relay teams also placed high and started with the 4x800 team. Hildreth, Holtzen, Whitham and Lauren Becker finished runner-up in 11:07, while Alexander, Quinn, Gaza and Lemke helped the 4x400 to a second-place finish as well in 4:36.

Gaza, Lemke, Quinn and Hanna Becker ran a time of 54.44 seconds in the 4x100 relay to take third overall.

Louisburg returns to the track Thursday when it hosts the Louisburg Invitational at Wildcat Stadium. The meet is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Other Louisburg results are:

100 dash: Grayson Anderson, 11th, 14.86

200 dash: Mikayla Quinn, 9th, 30.08; Anderson, 10th, 30.66

400 dash: Megan Lemke, 7th, 1:11

800 run: Isabelle Holtzen, 9th, 2:57; Lauren Becker, 10th, 2:58

1,600 run: Madelynn Yalowitz, 8th, 6:29; Shaylor Whitham, 9th, 6:31; Alex Miller, 10th, 6:32

Long jump: Lemke, 9th, 13-6; Eileen Benne, 15th, 12-11.5; Kaitlyn Urban, 16th, 12-8; Shae Murphy, 19th, 11-0

Triple jump: Makenna Allen, 9th, 27-10.5; Benne, 10th, 27-7.5

Shot put: Morgan Strumillo, 9th, 28-4.5; Ellie Katzer, 10th, 28-4; Zoie Gilliland 20th, 25-7.5; Ainsley Vance, 24th, 18-11.5

Discus: Holly Turner, 10th, 77-6; Ryann Kramer, 14th, 69-9.25

Javelin: Kramer, 8th, 83-5; Gilliland, 9th, 82-0; Turner, 12th, 69-3; Lexie Reece, 17th, 63-10

Wildcats face tough competition at Paola Invite



Louisburg senior Megan Lemke hands the baton off to sophomore Mikayla Quinn during the 4x100-meter relay Thursday at the Paola Invitational. The Louisburg girls finished sixth overall with 42 points and the boys were fifth with 38 points.

PAOLA – Usually this far into the season, the Louisburg High School track coaches can start to get some sort of an idea of what they have and who fits best in a certain event.

Now they are almost three weeks into the season and there are still plenty of questions to be answered thanks to Mother

Nature. In the three meets the Wildcats have competed in, they have run, or thrown into a stiff, brisk wind each time.

During the Paola Invitational on Thursday, it was much of the same as the Wildcats faced tough competition to match the rough weather.

The Louisburg boys finished fifth in the team standings with 38 points and the Lady Cats took sixth with 42 points in the 11-team meet. Paola won the boys team title with 139.5 points and the girls with 215 points.

"I thought overall we kind of took a step backwards in some events," Louisburg boys coach Gary Griffin said. "I didn't think we competed great. We have not had a good day yet for a meet so we are still trying to figure out what we have. I think overall our runners are improving and we will find out how much when we get a good day. Our young kids are still showing improvement and that is what I would expect from everyone on the team. We just need to be more consistent from week to week."

The Lady Cats earned points in eight events on both the track and field events.

Louisburg's 4x400-meter relay led the way as Megan Lemke, Kaitlyn Gaza, Reilly Alexander and Mikayla Quinn finished runner-up in 4 minutes and 34 seconds. Alexander was a late addition to the team

"Reilly Alexander did a great job stepping in with only five minutes to warm up and ran a great leg for the conditions in the 4x400," Louisburg girls coach Greg Darrington said. "She showed me she had a lot of guts and earned some respect from her teammates."

The Lady Cats 4x800 relay of Liz Hildreth, Lauren Becker, Isabelle Holtzen and Shaylor Whitham came in fourth in 11:41. It would be the first of three events that Holtzen scored in.

Following the relay, Holtzen went on to finish third in the pole vault after she cleared 9 feet, which was her best of the season. The Louisburg sophomore also took fifth in the 800-meter run in 2:47.

“I really believe our best performer this meet was Isabelle, who came home with three medals,” Darrington said. “She did well in the pole vault and 800 run. She was very instrumental in the 4X800 relay to finish third.”

Along with Holtzen’s mark in the pole vault, the Lady Cats also scored points in the discus. Junior Ellie Katzer was fifth overall with a toss of 95-7.



Sophomore Wyatt Reece (left) rounds the curve at the start of the 4x800-meter relay in Paola.

Hanna Becker, Lemke, Gaza and Quinn came in sixth in the 4x100-meter relay in 56.09. Quinn and Gaza both ran a time of 1:08 in the 400-meter dash to take fifth and sixth, respectively.

On the boys side, senior Jarod Woodward had another strong performance in the shot put. Woodward took second overall with

a toss of 49-2 to lead the Wildcat point-getters.

Freshman Chris Williams ran a strong 400-meter dash in 53.9 seconds to come in fourth. Williams, along with Scott Murphy, Quinn Rigney and Michael Minster, came in fourth in the 4x400-meter relay in 3:42.

In the high jump, Christopher Light also took fourth after clearing 5-6.

Minster, Wyatt Reece, Ben Hupp and Tanner Belcher helped the 4x800 relay take fifth in 9:22. In the 4x100 relay, Jackson Ewalt, Rigney, Brandon Cooper and Williams came in sixth (47.07).

Jacob Jensen rounded out the Wildcat point scorers as he took sixth in the javelin with a toss of 131-0.

Louisburg returns to the track Thursday when it travels to the Anderson County Invitational in Garnett. It is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Wildcats win Show Me Showdown track meet



Louisburg senior Michael Minster rounds the curve during the 4x800-meter relay at the Leavenworth Invitational on March 29.

On Friday, the Wildcat boys team won the Show Me Showdown meet at Belton High School.

BELTON, Mo. – The Louisburg High School track team crossed state lines last Friday as it took part in the Show Me Showdown, which was held at Belton (Mo.) High School.

It was the first time the Wildcats had participated in the event, but they were certainly happy they made the trip – especially on the boys side.

Louisburg finished first in the boys team standings with 167 points in the 12-team meet and held off runner-up Clinton (Mo.), which finished with 161 points.

"I was proud of the way we competed," Louisburg boys coach Gary Griffin said. "The weather was not good. It was cold and windy and our times were not great, but we competed well and scored enough points to win."

The meet was a different one for Louisburg as it competed in seven relay events, when normally it is only three. It gave the Wildcats the chance to rack up more points, however.

Louisburg finished first in the 400- and 800-meter medley relays. Will Ridley, Ben Minster, Quinn Rigney and Chris Williams won the 400 medley in 1 minute and 45 seconds, while Brandon Cooper, Minster, Rigney and Williams ran a 4:17 in the 800 medley to come out on top.

The Wildcats also had a pair of runner-up finishes in the 4×100 and 4×200-meter relays. Cooper, Minster, Rigney and Williams came in second in the 4×100 in 47.24, while Ridley, Michael Minster, Rigney and Williams finished second at 1:40 in the 4×200.

Austin Moore, Scott Murphy, Kennedy Unthank and Jonathon Ventre came in third in the 4x400 in 4:02. Tanner Belcher, Ben Hupp, Michael Minster and Wyatt Reece also took third in the 4x800 in 9:16.

Ridley, Michael Minster, Murphy and Owen Staver came in fourth in the distance medley with a time of 13:30. All seven relays provided Louisburg with key points in its team victory.

Louisburg also racked up a lot of points in the individual track events.

Ben Minster (11.66) and Brandon Cooper (11.91) finished third and fifth, respectively in the 100-meter dash. Reece came in third in the 3,200-meter run in 12 minutes and teammate Devyn Small (12:45) was fifth. Reece (5:17) also took fourth in the 1,600-meter run.

Ventre, a freshman, ran a time of 46.29 seconds in the 300-meter hurdles to take fourth. Hupp came in right behind him in fifth. Eddie Murphy (2:29) and Austin Raetzel (2:30) rounded out the point-getters on the track as they finished fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 800-meter run.

The Wildcats also had a lot of success in the field events.

Junior Jacob Jensen won the javelin with a throw of 135-4 and teammate Dustyn Rizzo was second with a toss of 114-8.

Fellow junior Andrew Goff also earned top high jump honors after he cleared 5-8 and his teammate Chris Light was second with a clearance of 5-6.

Senior Jarod Woodward also stood out in a tough shot put competition as he took second. Woodward set a new personal record for the second time in a week as he recorded a toss of 50-8, more than a foot farther than his first toss of the season at the Leavenworth Invitational.

"Woody had another good day," Griffin said. "I think he can

get even better when the weather warms up and I believe he can get an even bigger throw."

Teammate Bradley Trageser also had a toss of 44-3.5, which was good for fourth. Sophomore Garrett Lowry came in sixth in the discus with a toss of 110-10.

A pair of freshman also scored points for the Wildcats in the pole vault. Ian Combs and Blue Caplinger came in second and third, respectively, after both cleared 9-6.

"Our young kids like Chris Williams, Austin Moore, Ian, Blue, Brandon and Tanner Belcher have all competed well so far and they are not intimidated by being in a varsity meet," Griffin said.

Girls finish strong at Belton

The Louisburg girls track team also had their fair share of highlights Friday as the Lady Cats finished fifth in the team standings with 96 points and won two events.

One of those events came in the relays when Reilly Alexander, Julianne Finley, Megan Lemke and Mikayla Quinn won the 4x400-meter relay in 4:43.

"I really believe our 4x400 is our best relay," Louisburg girls coach Greg Darrington said. "The girls are all strong in the 400 meter race. I was pleased with our competitive effort. I wish I could have taken the full team, but understand girls have choices to make during spring seasons. Otherwise, I think we could have had a chance to win the meet."

The other victory for Louisburg came in the pole vault as sophomore Isabelle Holtzen made a big improvement from just three days earlier in her first meet. Holtzen cleared 8-6 to win the event.

"I think Isabelle is a great competitor and will only get stronger as the season continues," Darrington said. "I also think I will have some freshman jumpers that will help score points as the season continues."

In other field events, sophomore Sophie McMullen came in second in the javelin with a toss of 90-09 in her first outing of the year and junior Zoie Gilliland took third with a toss of 80-02. McMullen also scored points in the discus with a throw of 92-11 to take third and fellow sophomore Lexie Reece was fifth at 89-03.

Junior Chloe Renner came in fourth in the high jump after she cleared 4-6 and Finley was sixth with a clearance of 4-4. Lemke finished fourth in the long jump with a mark of 13-5.5.

On the track, Quinn ran a 1:08 in the 400-meter dash to take fourth and later went on to take fifth in the 200 dash in 31.36. Freshman Shaylor Whitham scored points in the 800 (2:53) and 1,600-meter run (6:27) to take fourth and fifth, respectively.

The Lady Cats also finished strong in several other relays.

Carson Buffington, Finley, Holtzen and Klara Riester came in runner-up in the 800 medley relay in 5:04, while Buffington, Finley, Jordon Leach and Riester were fourth in the 400 medley in 2:14.

Alexander, Buffington, Leach and Lemke took fourth in the 4x200 relay (2:05). Quinn, Alexander, Leach and Leach took sixth in the 4x100 relay (58.5) to round out the point-getters.

Louisburg returns to action at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday in Paola for the Paola Relays.

Other Wildcat results are:

Boys

200 dash: Owen Staver, seventh, 27.09; Dustyn Rizzo, eighth, 27.23

400 dash: Austin Moore, seventh, 1:00

Discus: T.J. Dover, seventh, 107-04

Long jump: Andrew Goff, 10th, 16-00; Chris Light, 13th, 13-9.5

Triple jump: Tanner Belcher, 12th, 33-6.50; Brandon Cooper, 15th, 33-0.25

Girls

100 dash: Jordon Leach, 10th, 14.59; Reilly Alexander, 15th, 15.61

100 hurdles: Klara Riester, 9th, 19.94

Shot put: Lexie Reece, 16th, 20-8

Wildcat track starts season with positives



Louisburg junior Kaitlyn Gaza finds her stride during the start of the 400-meter dash Tuesday during the Leavenworth Invitational at Mill Valley High School. The Wildcat boys and girls teams finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

SHAWNEE – It was windy, cool and the times and distances weren't where they wanted them to be.

Those are all the markings of the first track and field meet of the season and the Louisburg High School track team fit right into that category – except for one.

Wildcat senior Jarod Woodward looked in midseason form during the Leavenworth Invitational on Tuesday. On his first throw of the season, Woodward set a personal record in the shot put with a toss of 49 feet, 7 inches to win the event and was the Wildcats' lone gold medalist on the day.

"It was great for Jarod to have a good throw like that in the first meet of the year," Louisburg boys coach Gary Griffin said. "He could have a great year if he continues to work hard. Hopefully it is a starting point to some big throws."

In the team standings, the Wildcats finished toward the bottom of the seven-team meet. Against bigger schools like Leavenworth, Topeka High, Mill Valley and Bishop Miege, the Louisburg boys totaled 34 points on the day to finish fifth.

The girls team also finished with 34 points and came in sixth

place during the meet that was held at Mill Valley High School.



Senior Jarod Woodward releases an attempt in the shot put Tuesday. Woodward won the event with a personal best throw of 49-7

The Louisburg boys scored points in eight different events, including all three relays, which turned out to be one of the highlights on the day.

Wyatt Reece, Tanner Belcher, Ben Hupp and Michael Minster ran a strong opening 4x800-meter relay to take third in 9 minutes and 18 seconds. The Wildcat 4x400 team of Ben Minster, Michael Minster, Quinn Rigney and Chris Williams ended the meet on a positive note as they came in third in 3:42.83.

Ben Minster, Will Ridley, Rigney and Williams ran a time of 47.42 seconds in the 4x100 relay to finish fourth overall.

Freshman Jonathon Ventre also scored some points on the track

for Louisburg. Ventre took fifth in the 300-meter hurdles in 46.56 seconds

"I was pretty happy overall," Griffin said. "There wasn't great conditions, but we competed hard and now we have a starting point and hopefully we show improvement throughout the season.

"The 4x400 and 4x800 teams both ran good times for the conditions we had and the fact that we are still not in great shape yet. I thought they competed really well and will continue to get better."

In the field events, junior Andrew Goff scored points in two events for Louisburg. Goff came in fourth in the high jump after he cleared 5-8 and later finished sixth in the triple jump with a mark of 37-3.



Junior Ellie Katzer lets the discus fly Tuesday at the Leavenworth Invitational. Katzer finished fifth overall.

Junior Jacob Jensen rounded out the Wildcat point-getters as he was fifth in the javelin with a toss of 143-9.

Sophomore Isabelle Holtzen scored points in three events to lead the Lady Cats and it started in the pole vault after she

cleared 7-0 to come in third.

During the pole vault, Holtzen had to leave to run the 4x800-meter relay along with Lauren Becker, Liz Hildreth and Madelynn Yalowitz. The Lady Cat team ran strong as they took third in 11:28.

Later in the meet, Holtzen finished fourth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:45.79.

Also on the track, Mikayla Quinn came on strong in the 400-meter dash and the Louisburg sophomore took fourth in 1:05.29. Junior Kaitlyn Gaza ran a 30.03 to take sixth in the 200-meter dash and sophomore Lilly Mick was sixth in the 300 hurdles in 55.55.

Julianne Finley, Gaza, Megan Lemke and Quinn teamed in the 4x400 relay to end the meet strong as they took fourth in 4:33.97. Gaza, Hanna Becker, Jordon Leach and Quinn ran the 4x100 relay and finished fifth in 55.58.

In the field events, sophomore Kaitlyn Urban had a good first outing in the triple jump as she took fourth at 31-11. Junior Ellie Katzer later came in fifth in the discus with a throw of 94-4.



Louisburg junior Andrew Goff clears a mark in the high

jump Tuesday at Mill Valley High School. Goff took fourth overall.

Junior Chloe Renner scored in two events for Louisburg as she was sixth in the high jump (4-4) and long jump (15-4).

"I really feel we have some good young competitive girls," Louisburg girls coach Greg Darrington said. "I really think the jumpers did well and feel good about our 4x400 team. I really feel the girls have a lot of potential and I'm excited as to where we will finish this year in the league."

Louisburg returns to the track Friday when it travels to the Show-Me Invitational in Belton, Mo. Field events are set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Other Wildcat results from Tuesday are:

Girls

100-meter dash: Hanna Becker, 15th, 15.34; Klara Riester, 16th, 15.40

200 dash: Mikayla Quinn, 11th, 30.76; Riester, 12th, 30.96; Julianne Finley, 14th, 31.09

400 dash: Kaitlyn Gaza, 8th, 1:08; Megan Lemke, 9th, 1:09; Finley, 12th, 1:10

800 run: Liz Hildreth, 9th, 2:53.27; Lauren Becker, 13th, 3:00

1,600 run: Shaylor Whitham, 11th, 6:33

3,200 run: Madelynn Yalowitz, 9th, 14:17; Whitham, 10th, 14:34

Long jump: Haley Earl, 14th, 14-6.5; Lemke, 16th, 14-2; Kaitlyn

Urban, 17th, 13-10

Triple jump: Earl, 7th, 31-1.5; Chloe Renner, 8th, 30-11

Shot put: Morgan Strumillo, 9th, 27-11; Carson Buffington 14th, 24-7; Lexie Reece, 16th, 21-6.5; Ainsley Vance, 17th, 20-2.5

Discus: Reece, 9th, 85-7; Holly Turner, 13th, 74-9; Strumillo, 17th, 65-6

Javelin: Paige Buffington, 7th, 91-9; Zoie Gilliland, 8th, 86-8; Reece, 15th, 67-2

Boys

100 dash: Ben Minster, 15th, 12.62; Will Ridley, 20th, 13.18; Jonathon Ventre, 23rd, 13.35

200 dash: Minster, 10th, 24.75; Quinn Rigney, 14th, 24.96; Chris Williams, 18th, 25.59

400 dash: Williams, 8th, 55.47; Rigney, 11th, 56.40

800 run: Tanner Belcher, 9th, 2:20.04; Michael Minster, 10th, 2:20.11

1,600 run: Wyatt Reece, 11th, 5:32.80; Devyn Small, 15th, 5:46.67; Jacob Benne, 16th, 5:49.82

3,200 run: Reece, 14th, 12:15; Small, 17th, 12:50; Benne, 20th, 13:19

300 hurdles: Ben Hupp, 9th, 48.05

High jump: Marshall Rooney, 10th, 5-2

Long jump: Andrew Goff, 17th, 17-8.5; Rooney, 22nd, 16-11;
Dalton Knipp, 23rd, 16-5; Will Ridley, 24th, 16-4

Triple jump: Knipp, 8th, 35-9.5; Rooney, 9th, 35-0

Shot put: Bradley Trageser, 11th, 41-1.5; Garrett Lowry, 12th,
39-6.5

Discus: Lowry, 7th, 118-6; Jarod Woodward, 10th, 98-0; Trageser,
12th, 90-03

Javelin: Dustyn Rizzo, 11th, 127-5