

DeBuhr, relay lead Grafton's Madison show

Written by STEVE OSTERMANN
Wednesday, 03 April 2013 16:48

Victories from senior sprinter, 1,600 team highlight strong performance by boys' track team at West Relays

A pair of championship performances set the pace for the Grafton boys' track and field team at the annual Madison West Relays last Saturday.

Senior Zach DeBuhr led the Black Hawks in individual events with a first-place finish in the 200-meter dash (23.17 seconds).



Grafton's other victory came from the 1,600 relay of Sam Miller, Joe Docter, Patrick Tobianski and Erick Huertas (3:35.63).

"It was nice to see us to do well in a meet like this," Grafton coach Kevin Kriegel said. "The competition was quite good, with a number of big, strong teams."

The Black Hawks finished with 39 points, good for sixth place among 21 teams that scored in the Class B portion of the meet at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

La Crosse Logan won the team title with 69 points. Rounding out the top five were East Troy (60.25), Monroe (57.5), West Bend West (42) and Merrill (39.5).

Taking second for Grafton was the 400 relay of Nic Fullington, Willie McElligott, Huertas and DeBuhr (45.54). The Hawks were edged by Monona Grove (45.46).

The Hawks' other scoring finishes were a fourth by Miller in the 400 dash (53.62), fifth by the 3,200 relay of Jamie Haessly, Docter, Alec Weinhold and Tobianski (8:45.25) and seventh by Jacob Woolf in the 3,200 run (10:44.16).

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Grafton lost potential points due to disqualifications in the 800 relay and the high jump. The relay of Jack Howman, McElligott, Huertas and DeBuhr had the fastest time in the race but was disqualified for a late exchange.

"Those kind of things are unfortunate but can happen early in the season," Kriegel said. "Hopefully we learn from them."

Lady Hawks near top in Whitefish Bay

Three runner-up finishes kept the Grafton girls' track and field team near the top of the field at the Lois Wolf Invitational in Whitefish Bay on March 26.

Placing second for the Lady Hawks were Cathy Brunette in the 55-meter hurdles (8.72), Rachel Ruona in the 3,200 run (11:59.95) and the 1,600 relay of Anya Dillahunt, Hannah Weber, Megan Pawlak and Katelyn Gallun (4:26.4).

Grafton got third-place finishes from Gallun in the 400 dash (1:03.52), Amber Ducheny in the 3,200 run (12:42.44) and the 3,200 relay of Pawlak, Katie Boehm, Ducheny and Heidi Bauer (10:51.01) and fourths from Sara Grange in the 55 dash (7.62) and 200 dash (28.07) and the 640 relay of Anya Dillahunt, Alina Dillahunt, Weber and Brunette (1:32.44).

The Hawks scored 57 points, trailing only champion Milwaukee Riverside (68) and Milwaukee King (66) in the 15-team standings.

"This was a big meet with some very good teams," said Kriegel, who noted that Riverside and King are among the top-ranked squads in the state.

This week, both Grafton teams will participate in the Wisconsin Track and Field Association state indoor meet on Saturday at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Next week, the Grafton girls will take part in the North Shore Conference indoor meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. The boys' conference indoor meet will be at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Image Information: GRAFTON SENIOR Cathy Brunette, shown in an outdoor meet last year,

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raced to second-place finish in the 55-meter hurdles at last week's Lois Wolf Invitational in Whitefish Bay. Photo by Sam Arendt