

Outdoors suit Rockets just fine

Written by MITCH MAERSCH
Wednesday, 10 April 2013 19:35

Break in weather gives CB-Belgium boys chance to shine in home victory; girls take 3rd in their test

The Cedar Grove-Belgium boys' track and field team isn't at full strength yet, but you couldn't tell from the outcome of its first outdoor meet of the season April 4.

The Rockets placed first in a home quadrangular meet, edging Sheboygan Lutheran, 81-79, in a battle for the top spot.



Random Lake was third with 55.5 point, and Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah had 17.5.

Cedar Grove-Belgium won eight events and had five second-place finishes.

"The boys had solid day in winning, which was a surprise," Rockets coach Les Paul said. "We still don't have our full complement of people in events yet."

Individual winners for the host team were Aaron Chier in the 100-meter dash (11.2 seconds), Adam Chier in the shot put (38 feet, 9 inches), Arjun Sehgal in the 400 dash (57.9), Derek Arndt in the 300 hurdles (50.6), Alex Giles in the 200 dash (24.5), Logan Peterson in the triple jump (40-3) and Joe Oelhafen in the high jump (4-10).

Cedar Grove-Belgium's other win came from the 800 relay team of Brent Brochtrup, Aaron Chier, Giles and Peterson (1:40).

"Alex Giles and Aaron Chier looked real solid in their events this early," Paul said.

"There were some nice place-finishes by some of the newcomers and freshmen. There was some first-meet jitters, but they did well."

Paul expects the boys to improve each week.

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"Times and distances are solid, but we have lots of work to do to be competitive by end of the season," he said.

In the girls' portion of the meet, Cedar Grove-Belgium placed third with 44 points.

Random Lake dominated the competition with 118.5 points, and Sheboygan Lutheran was second with 72.5. Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah was fourth with 15 points.

The lone win by the Rocket girls came from the 3,200 relay of Tammi Del Ponte, Jericho Duenk, Lily Paul and Molly Ison (10:59.2).

"The girls had an OK day. There were lots of very nervous first-timers, which is a fun thing to have," Coach Paul said.

"Now they really can see where they need to work on their meet preparation. Our sprint relays are all learning to work together."

Cedar Grove-Belgium had four second-place finishes: Melike Birlik in the shot put (25-7), Nicole Veldhorst in the high jump (4-4), Del Ponte in the 3,200 run (12:04.6) and the 400 relay of Katie Krier, Hannah Reisselmann, Megan Opgenroth and Deanna Hoffmann (1:05.6).

Taking third were Opgenroth in the 100 dash (14.6), Veldhorst in the long jump (13-8-1/2), Paul in the 3,200 run (12:35.7) and Sarah Kiskunas in the 800 run (2:52.7).

"Tammi, Lily, Molly and Jericho are working to keep their (relay) efforts getting better," coach Paul said. "Tammi and Lily had good 3,200-meter runs for them this early."

Last Saturday, both Cedar Grove-Belgium teams participated in the Wisconsin State Track and Federation Association state indoor meet at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

No Rockets had scoring finishes but turned in several solid performances.

The girls' best finishes came in the 800 run, where Del Ponte placed 21st (2:29) and Paul was 56th (2:38.2). Both were season-best times.

In the boys' meet, Logan Peterson placed 19th in the triple jump (40-5), and Aaron Chier reached the semifinals in the 55 dash, where he took 13th (6.73).

The 800 relay of Aaron Chier, Giles, Peterson and Jacob Winker was 41st (a season-best 1:39).

This Thursday, Cedar Grove-Belgium will participate in the Little Chute Invitational at 10 a.m. Saturday.

On April 16, the Rockets will travel to Oostburg for a 4 p.m. quadrangular meet.

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Image Information: CEDAR GROVE-BELGIUM'S Jericho Duenk took the baton from Lily Paul in the 800-meter relay race during their team's first outdoor meet of the season April 4. Cedar Grove-Belgium won the event on way to third place overall in the four-team girls' standings.

Photo by Sam Arendt