



## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**Collins High School, Shelbyville, KY**

**Track & Field 1-25-24**

### **5-Way Border Battle Preview**

Collins High School is hosting a 5-Way Border Battle on Sat., Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. This will be first ever non-invitational meet on a 200 meter indoor track in Kentucky high school history. It also marks the first time that 10 high school teams have joined forces to form five contiguous teams. Teams competing are Team Shelby (Collins and Shelby Co.), Team Oldham (North and South), Team Fayette (Lafayette and Tates Creek), Team Central Kentucky (Boyle Co. and Lincoln Co.), and Team Bluegrass (Great Crossing and Bourbon Co.).

The meet will be held at the 200 meter track at the new Lisa H. Owens Fieldhouse at Centre College in Danville. Collins' Director of Track and Field and Cross Country George Sanderlin, who ran track at Centre in the late 1970's is the meet director. He said, "One of our objectives at Collins is to put the 'Oomph' back into track. I put together a Border Battle in track in Georgia. It was a big hit. We do it annually in cross country with Team Oldham and Team Shelby. We have just never done it in track on this scale. We will have some of the top teams and athletes in the state coming to compete on Saturday. I helped with the development of the Centre facility, so naturally we wanted to host the first high school meet there."

The meet should be a doozie and will get kick started with the distance medley relay which is seldomly run indoors. The North Oldham boys' team of Adam Patel (1200), Brendan Ruggles (400), Charlie Townsend (800), and Luke Whitlow (1600) could go under the State all-time best of 10:38.11 set in 2009 by St. Xavier. Ruggles clocked 49.21 on Vandy's over-sized track at the KYA meet for the best mark in Kentucky this year. Townsend went 4:34.76 for a PR in the mile at the MLK meet at the Norton SportsPlex.

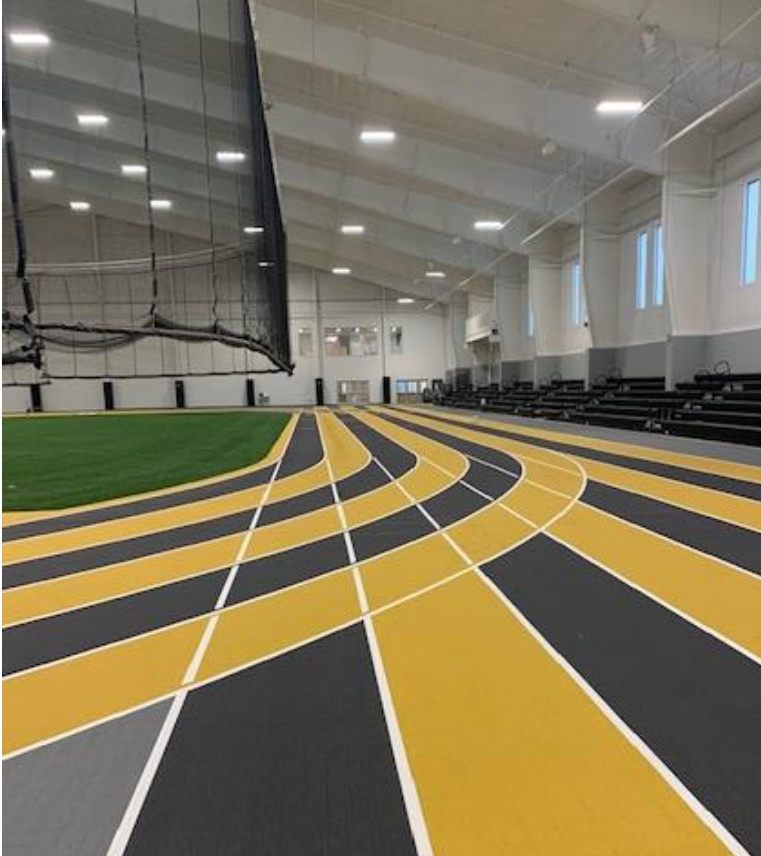
All eyes should be kept on the boys' pole vault features four athletes at twelve feet – Jacob Silver (Great Crossing), Payton Knapp (Tates Creek), Andrew Lockhart (Boyle Co.), and Nathan Janes (Collins) who just missed the podium at State last spring by one spot. Tate Creek's Wyatt Robles is just behind at 11-8.

On the girls' side, North Oldham junior Lilly Harper has a Kentucky top-10 clocking in the 60 with a 7.94. She will be pushed by Tates Creek senior Keyonna Walker.



The girls pole vault will be a battle between Shelby Co. senior and State Champion Maddi Reed (11-0), Bourbon's Ava Hernandez (11-0), and Collins junior Grace Evans (10-9.25).

Both the 600 and 1000 events will be contested. The fields are stacked, especially the girls' 1000. So, it is possible a state best could be set in any of them.



*Looking towards the finish on the new 200 meter indoor track at the Lisa H. Owens Fieldhouse at Centre College in Danville, KY.*

For more information, go to the MileSplit meet web page:  
<https://ky.milesplit.com/meets/566122-5-way-border-battle-2024/info>

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