



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Released to: *Titan E-News & Sentinel-News*
Collins High School, Shelbyville, KY
[Track & Field 1-29-24](#)

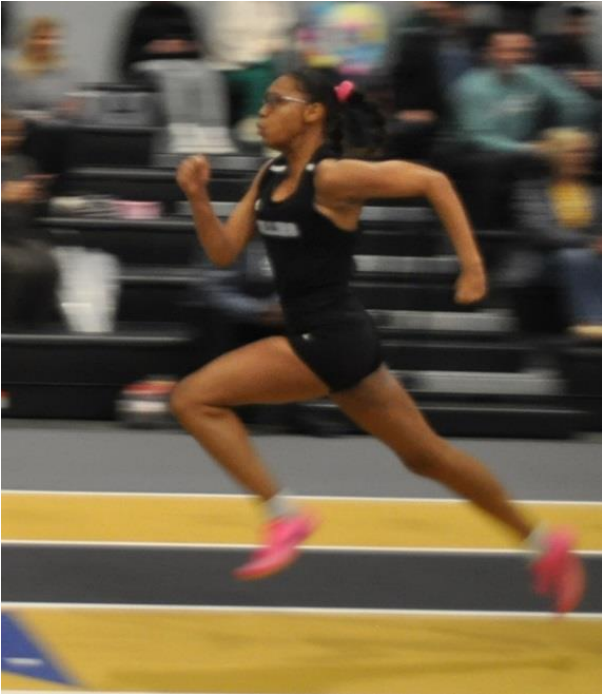
5-Way Border Battle

The Collins track & field team got the indoor season off to a flaming start. They took a torch to the indoor school record book at the first ever 5-Way Border Battle at the new Lisa H. Owens indoor 200 meter track at Centre College in Danville. As meet hosts, the Titans racked up five school records and one state best. They also established records (previously nobody had competed in those events) in seven other events. It was a strong meet overall as eight "elite" (US Silver Standard) were achieved.

The girls' got out of the blocks fast as sophomore Maleah Wilson chipped a tenth of a second off her school record in the 60, going 8.55 for seventh place. Next up was senior newcomer Lauren Janes. This was Janes' first-ever track race and it just so happened to be a technical event, the 60 meter hurdles. She ran all five hurdles clean and leaned at the tape to go 11.76 which chopped a huge 1.06 seconds off the previous record which had stood since 2019.



Lauren Janes (R) breaks the school record in her first 60 hurdles race.



Maleah Wilson approaches the finish in her school record breaking 60 meter dash

In the field events, the girls broke two school records. Sophomore Ziara Taylor, triple jumping for the first time, broke Hannah Cleary's ('18) six year old school record by a whopping two feet and three inches going 30-11.5 for third place. Junior Claire Turpen upped her own school record in the high jump by soaring 4-6 for fourth place. Junior Grace Evans got a season best of 10-0 in the pole vault for third. Shelby County senior Maddi Reed won the event at 10-6.

The event of the day on the girls' side was the 1000 meter run. Junior Emma Kendall dogged Bourbon Co. senior Bethany Simpson for three laps and then dropped the hammer. She blew by Simpson and widened her lead in each of the last two laps. As she came off the final turn, it was clear that the current state best of 3:13 was in serious jeopardy. Kendall sprinted to the tape finishing in 3:06.18 to win with a new state best, as well as the US Silver Standard. Senior Grace White ran a strong race and finished behind Simpson for third. After the race, Kendall said, "This was my first-ever 1K race and I just wanted to stay behind the leader for three laps then see what I could do on the last two. I was able to execute this plan well due to my training and support from my coaches, family, and teammates. The facility was great to run in."



Emma Kendall (3) dogged Bourbon Co. senior Bethany Simpson much of the race...



...But at the end, Kendall was all alone with the win and a new State Best of 3:06.18 for the 1K run.

Other Titan girls placing well included senior Hannah Rosenow in the shot put with a personal best of 26-4.75 for fourth and the 4 X 400 relay of Sofia Leon, Grace Evans, Luci Renda, and Emma Kendall. The 4 X 400 relay team placed fourth. Their time of 4:27.04 was the second fastest in school history.

On the boys' side, sophomore Casey Vaughn broke the school record in the 200 by almost three seconds, going 26.55. Nathan Janes won the 1000 in 2:46.08 to establish the school record. He cleared an indoor PR of 11-6 to finish third. George Diakhate (600) and Chase Delaney (3000) also established school records (new event).



Casey Vaughn nears the finish of his school record 200 meter dash.

Collins Head Coach George Sanderlin said, "This was the best season opener I have had as a coach. Five school records and one state best. It does not get much better than that. We were excited to host this 5-Way Border Battle which pitted ten teams against each other. This meet was historic for Kentucky as it was the first non-invitational meet held on a 200 meter track in Kentucky high school history. Indoor Track and Field is now a KHSAA championship sport, so this positions us well for the rest of the indoor season."

The Titans' next indoor meet is the Louisville Indoor Games on Feb. 3rd at the Norton SportsPlex in Louisville.

Contact:

George Sanderlin
Director of Track and Cross Country
Collins High School
404-312-0945
georgesand@aol.com