



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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Collins High School, Shelbyville, KY  
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### **Eastern Relays.**

The Running Titans traveled to the University of Louisville on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> to compete in the Eastern Relays. Both boys' and girls' teams were out to set the record straight on the somewhat "soft" school records in the distance medley relay (DMR). The girls school record of 15:15.92 was set at this meet back in 2019. Sophomore Katelynn Gaddis got the baton moving on the opening 1200 leg splitting a 4:12. Eighth grader Faith Nelson took the baton next and sped the 400 leg in 1:08. Nelson gave the baton to sophomore Grace Evans who ran a 2:44 800 leg. Sophomore Emma Kendall anchored with a fast closing lap (1:21) to clock a 5:20 for her 1600 leg. This was enough margin to destroy the previous school record by a whopping 1:51, as the girls went 13:24.43. They scored, finishing in sixth place among some of the finest teams in this part of the country. The Titan girls' time is currently the third fastest in the state. Only one other Kentucky team beat them in this race.



*The Collins girls demolished the distance medley relay school record at the Eastern Relays. (L to R) Katelynn Gaddis, Faith Nelson, Grace Evans, Emma Kendall, and Head Coach George Sanderlin pose with their favorite baton "Pinky."*

Then it was the boys' turn. The previous DMR mark of 12:20.92 was in serious jeopardy. Sophomore Chase Delaney got the action started when he led off with a strong 3:39 1200 leg. Sophomore Nathan Janes got the baton and sped a 55 for his 400 meter leg. He passed the baton to junior Melbyn Velasquez who went 2:10 in heavy traffic (22 teams) for the 800. Junior Jack Fuhrmann anchored with a 4:53 giving the Titans a new school record by 43 seconds. Their 11:37.59 placed them 11<sup>th</sup> out of 22 teams.



*The Collins boys also broke the school DMR record at the Eastern Relays. (L to R) Chase Delaney, Nathan Janes, Melbyn Velasquez, Jack Fuhrmann, and Coach Sanderlin.*

Senior Captain Makayla got her second longest put of her career by heaving the four kilo shot 29-8 for seventh place in the open competition. This is the second longest throw in Collins history and only 1.5 inches off the school record she set as a sophomore.

On the next day, two Collins athletes put in stellar performances as Kendall came in second in the most exciting race of the day – the girls' 800. After going through the first lap in 1:06, she bided her time in third and made a big move with 170 to go. She took the lead down the home stretch and had to lean at the tape, only to be nipped by multiple time state champion and University of North Carolina commit Ciera O'Shea. O'Shea (2:15.20) out-leaned Kendall (2:15.27) for the win. This was the fastest 800 run in Kentucky this year. The top nine finishers all made the US National Silver Standard (2:20). Kendall's time is number three on the Collins all-time list behind both her and Gabby Karas' 2:14.66 state meet wins.



*The Eastern Relays girls 800 was a doozie. It featured the fastest runners in the state and surrounding area. Right before the finish are (L to R) University of North Carolina commit and Madison Central senior Ciera O'Shea (1399), Assumption junior Reagan Gilmore (white), Collins sophomore Emma Kendall (551), Lexington Catholic sophomore Caroline Beiting (blue – shoulder # 1), and Manual senior and University of Tennessee commit Jessica Secor (632).*



*The lunge at the tape in the Eastern Relays 800 as O'Shea (1399) barely edges out Kendall (551) for the win.*





Sophomore Katelynn Gaddis was trying to get a qualifying mark for the 2000 meter steeplechase to be able to compete in post-season national meets. She needed to get 7:50 or better. Head Coach George Sanderlin set her race target accordingly at 7:49 (1:33 per lap). She went out faster than normal (1:27) and this set her up for even paced laps two through four. She closed with a fast 1:33 for a 7:48.64 clocking for a sixth place finish and a national qualifier.



*Collins' Katelynn Gaddis pulls ahead of Oldham Co. senior Courtney Wayland in the Eastern Relays steeplechase. Gaddis got a national qualifier in the race.*

Collins Head Coach George Sanderlin said, "We set the DMR teams up to not only break but demolish the school records. They both did just that. Then with Emma running the second fastest time of her career in one of the most competitive 800s ever run in the state was very exciting. I told Katelynn she needed to get out faster than normal and she did. She continues to bring down her time in the steeple with a 21 second PR. There is more there because her hurdle technique got a little lax on the last two laps. Although her water jump has improved substantially."

The Running Titans will be in action next at St. Xavier in Louisville in the Brother Borgia / Coach Cooper Inv. on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

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