



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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State AAA Meet

Seven members of the Collins track and field team traveled to the University of Kentucky on June 3rd to compete in the State Class AAA Meet. Sophomores Grace Evans, Luci Renda, and Emma Kendall, as well as freshmen Ziara Taylor, Maleah Wilson, and Sofia Leon made up the girls' team. The girls finished 27th out of 42 teams with 7 points.

Evans, a three-time State Meet competitor in the pole vault, jumped 10-0 to score and finish sixth. Taylor ran the fastest 300 hurdles race in Collins history as she lowered her recently minted school record by almost a full second, going 47.87 to score and finish seventh. She now owns four of the five fastest 300 hurdle times in school history. Kendall, who was the defending State champion in the 800 was fighting a virus and was a bit off form. She scored finishing seventh in the 800 (2:17.17) with the number eight time in school history and a mark that hit the US MileSplit Silver Standard.



Grace Evans got a podium finish at State as she wound up sixth with a 10-0 vault.



Ziara Taylor ran a school record in the 300H to get a podium finish (7th).



Emma Kendall (229) fights for position at the start of the second lap of the 800 at State with Addison Moore of Woodford Co. (9), Jessica Secor of Manual (8), Ellie Greenwood of Notre Dame (4), Olivia Holbrook (13), Reagan Gilmore of Assumption (116), and Tula Fawbush of Oldham Co. (2).

Taylor and Kendall teamed up with Wilson and Leon to run a "barn burner" 4 X 400 relay. Leon got out of the blocks well and put the Titans in a good position in their section. Wilson held her own and Kendall made up some ground on third leg. Taylor burned the anchor leg with a 59 second clocking and held off Oldham Co.'s Tula Fawbush. When Taylor crossed the finish line the clock read 4:10.36. This was good for a 10th place finish. Their time chopped a huge five seconds off the school record that the same quartet ran a week earlier at region to



qualify for the State Meet. This was the fourth time that the girls broke the 4 X 400 relay school record this season. Last year the record stood at 4:25.11.



The Collins girls lowered their 4 X 400 relay time for the fourth time this year at the State Meet going 4:10.36 to finish 10th. (L to R): Head Coach Sanderlin, Renda, Leon, Wilson, Kendall, Taylor, and Asst. Coach Fahey.

On the boys' side, sophomore Nathan Janes was the only State qualifier. He tied his PR in the pole vault of 12-0 to finish ninth, only one place off the podium.



Nathan Janes tied his personal record in the pole vault (12-0) at the State Meet to finish ninth.



Head Coach George Sanderlin said, "All of our athletes really stepped up and peaked at the right time. The girls took a huge chunk of time off our 4 X 400 school record. On four separate occasions (three outdoors and one indoors) they hacked a total of 15 seconds off the previous record. And with their youth (three freshmen and a sophomore), there should be even better times to come. Unfortunately, Emma was fighting a bug and could not adequately defend her 800 title. She should get another chance for a big race at Adidas Nationals. Ziara had an excellent season breaking the 300 hurdles school record several times and then smashing it at State to score. It is something special to have a freshman advance so fast in a technical event like the hurdles. Both our vaulters did well with Grace scoring in her third State Meet. Nathan also had a good outing in his first State track meet by equaling his PR in the vault."

Contact:

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