

## Fairport Track Improves to 2-0 in Monroe County competition with a 25 point win against Webster Thomas

Such a strange world we live in, especially spring time in Rochester: Weather!

The third time was the charm as the old saying goes—on the 3<sup>rd</sup> reschedule of the Webster Thomas-Fairport track meet, Fairport finally was able to pull in the Webster Thomas complex and see people outside near the track, not scurrying for cover dodging lightening bolts amid claps of thunder. The dual meet got under way at 4:30 pm, nine days later than the original April 6 date, with Fairport winning 83 to 58 over Webster Thomas.

The meet had the hype and tension of a show down of league powers, which it was. The traditional strong running events for Fairport were also the strong running events for Thomas—the key was to limit the damage for each other so as not to have a large disparity in points in any one event. The field events for Fairport would have to be decisive for one side or the other.

Fairport manipulated its running events so that it held a slight edge over Thomas, 45 to 42; however, the Field events carried Fairport with a 38 to 16 one-sided advantage.

Setting the tone early in the meet was the 100m hurdles with Emily Renna, Janessa Mathews and Michelle Barnum as they swept the event. Barnum, her first time in the event, ran an eye-popping 16.8 to grab the 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Julia Sanger and Casey Slabe finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100m to neutralize Thomas' Angela Sharp's 13.4 first place finish—the 200m was an exact replica of the 100, with Sharp winning again in 27.8, on a lean over Sanger. In those two events, the differential was 10 to 8, a good exchange of points, and precisely what Fairport expected.

The 400m was a very strong event for Thomas, one that Fairport needed to just hold its own in the scoring. As it was, Thomas took the first two places, 60.4 and 61.4—though Rachel Brekovsky, 61.7, and Angie Zabloutny, 62.5, both established personal bests; they took 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Again, neutralizing Thomas outstanding runners in the 800m, this time Lauren Burke toed the line and ran a very smart race; by controlling the pace through a pedestrian first 600 meters, Burke's plan was to charge the last 200 meters, which she did. "I was surprised Shavonna Hinton and Missy Mazzo didn't want the lead and allowed me to control the pace—that played into what I wanted to do so when I got to the 500m point, I began picking it up and steadily increased my pace to the end. At the end, Burke ran 2:22.7, the leading time in Section V this season. The point spread was 5-4 for Fairport. Lauren Star, a freshman hung with the leaders, and ran a personal best of 2:31.2, fourth in the race and 9<sup>th</sup> best on the Section V Leader board.

The other two events that had a decisive edge towards Thomas were the 1500m and 3000m.

Erin Sedita of Fairport, a newcomer to this level of track, ran two brilliant races to sprint away at the end for two 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes. In the 1500m, she outran Molly Halpin, a very fast 400 and 800 meter runner, to run 5:10 and take the 2<sup>nd</sup> while Brianna Deming of Thomas ran the leading time in Section V this season, 4:58.2. In the 3000m, it was almost a replay of the 1500 with Deming running the leading time in the Section again, 10:33.1, and Sedita this time out sprinting Christina Colon in the last 250 meters to run 11:21.1, a top-five effort in the Section. In these two events the point spread was 12-6 for Thomas, as expected.

Fairport needed to win two of the three relays, which it did. The 4 x 100m relay of Emily Renna, Julia Sanger, Casey Slabe and Lauren Burke ran 52.8 in a closer-than-expected race over Thomas for the win. The 4 x 400m relay, after some rearranging of runners because of injury, ran 4:12.5, the leading time in Section V. Running very courageously in the lead-off spot was Angie Zabloutny [63.2]; handing off to Erika Schwartz [66.7 tpr], who had a goal of keeping her team in the race, which she did admirably; then the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg break the race open if she could, which she did—Rachel Brekovski, 63.7. Finally, as is her custom, Lauren Burke took the baton and ran the fastest 400 meters this season in Section V, 58.7. The time was 4:12.5. Both Zabloutny and Brekovski finished 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 400m hurdles, with Zabloutny running 70.5, a top-five effort in Section V this season.

Now for the field events...the savoir for the Fairport Track team. Showing the way were Loren and Renee Metzger, who led the charge for Coach Matt Carpenter's throwers. Both established personal bests with 31' 5.5" and 29' 11" for Renee and Loren respectively in the shot put. Kristin Rice, though not placing, had a huge personal best of 28' 2", a promise of great things to come. Reversing the order in the Discus, Loren had a season's best heave of 92' 6" with Renee's effort at 78' 4"—Fairport took a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In Ken Schaumburg's field event group, a threesome of Emily Renna, Janise Mathews and Amanda Burkey are proving to be a very formidable triumvirate as they swept the triple jump with Renna, Burkey [a personal best of 33' 10", almost a foot better than before] and Mathews. The Long Jump was almost a replay with Renna and Mathews taking the first two places. In the High Jump, add Lauren Burke to the Burkey-Mathews connection and the result was another sweep. The only event with a different outcome was the pole vault but a familiar name grabbed the 3<sup>rd</sup> place this time with Burkey valuting two feet better than before--an 8' 6" clearance.

A role call of **personal bests** would include: Jessica Barden, 100m-13.9 and 200-29.1; Kate Renna, 100m-14.2 and 200m, 30.4; Brittany Casciano, 100m-14.6 and 200m, 30.8; Rachel Brekovski, 400m-61.7; Angie Zabloutny, 400m-62.5; Erika Schwartz, 400m-66.7; Amanda Burkey, triple jump-33' 10" and pole vault-8' 6"; Renee Metzger, shot put-31' 5.5"; Loren Metzger, shot put-29' 11"; Kristen Rice, shot pu-28' 2" and discuss-71' 3"; Julia Tiberius, shot put-22' 4.5" and 65' 6" in the discus; Erin Sedita, 3000m-11;21.1; Lauren Star, 800m-2:31.2.

**Outstanding performers in the meet** would include: Loren and Renee Metzger, Erin Sedita, Erika Schwartz, Amanda Burkey, Janessa Mathews, Julia Sanger, Emily Renna, Lauren Star, Michelle Barnum, Rachel Brekovski, Angie Zabloutny, Lauren Burke, Jessica Barden, Kristen Rice, Casey Slabe and Julia Tiberius.

