

¹⁶ Small School Track and Field



Margaret Byle competes in the 400 at state last year.



Shaunasi Hardy throws the javelin at a recent practice.

Team Rundown:

With three schools and two teams, there is plenty of excitement in track and field at the area small schools.

In Elkton, the Elks return state competitors Margaret Byle and Sadie Olson from last season. Byle, a sophomore this year, finished fifth in the 100, seventh in the 200 and sixth in the 400 at last year's state meet. Olson took ninth in shot put at state last year.

This season Elkton also has sophomore Trystn Woody who is currently leading all of 1A in the high jump after clearing six feet in his first meet.

In Yoncalla, where the Eagles team up with North Douglas for track and thus

compete at the 2A level, the team returns just one state competitor in senior javelin thrower Shaunasi Hardy. Hardy finished in eighth place at state last year.

"She's stronger. I'm predicting top four for her. Not to put any pressure on her, but we've talked about goals and that's where she sees herself, too. And there's no reason she can't be right there," said Yoncalla head coach Eric Sprinkle.

For the rest of the team, Sprinkle is hoping some of his athletes catch fire and have a successful season.

"The sky is the limit, really," he said. "Just seeing what this group can do. There's so much potential."

One-on-one with Shaunasi Hardy:

How did the snow effect the start of the season?

I don't know if it set us back. We had the snow that first week so we didn't get that first week, but I don't think it affected us too much. We work hard anyway.

When did you start throwing javelin?

In eighth grade. That was the first time I did track.

I loved it the first year but it's also the small, plastic turbo javs. I was throwing 60 feet. And every year since my eighth grade year I've PR'd by at least 10 feet. So I'm looking forward to almost 120 this year.

After finishing eighth at state last year in javelin, what are your goals for this season?

Well, I think, if I'm going to be real and keep the reality, I think that definitely fourth is a possibility. I don't want to sell myself short and I don't want to act

too confident either, but I don't know, if things are going the way they're going I could see maybe fourth.

Who do you think will do well on your team this year?

I think Rilie-Jo for discus and I know she can do well with her 200. Jake did well with discus last year and there were a lot of others. And Brian Allen, he's a sophomore and he did really good in javelin last year. And he does really good at long jump.

How is it co-opting with North Douglas for track and field?

It's definitely – I don't think there's any pettiness as far as that goes. During other sports when we're not combined we're definitely really petty. We talk a lot of smack but as soon as they're coming over here, we're all really welcoming and they all see open. There's never a problem as far as rivalries go.

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