

Bobcats excel at home

BY BETH LUTGEN

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Western Dubuque opened the outdoor season with a strong showing at its own Bobcat Early Bird on March 30 where the Bobcats won two events.

"We had a great night with many guys stepping up and performing well," coach Tom Jasper said. "This was a great opportunity for all of our guys to get multiple events."

Spencer McDermott, Mitchell Kramer, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard teamed up to win the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 44.37. Carter Pins, Dalton Kramer, Tommy Kane and Drew DeSollar placed fourth (46.28). Anthony Kluesner, Conner Burk, Nick Lembezeder and Alex Merten placed eighth (47.96).

Tyler Johnson earned first place in the shot put with a throw of 51-10. Will Mayne was fourth (45-0), Billy Blaser seventh (42-0) and Jake Westhoff eighth (40-7).

WD's shuttle hurdle relay squad of Ben Burds, Danny Recker, Alex Kauffmann and Nolan Baumhover placed second (1:02.46).

In the 400, Matt Simon placed second (55.35), Jake Feldmann fifth (57.70) and Dylan Ambrosy eighth (58.43).

The Bobcat 4x200 team of Pins, Merten, Dalton Kramer and Max Steffen placed third (1:37.93). Kane, Burk, Ross Wedewer and Danny Recker placed sixth (1:39.68).

DeSollar finished third in the 100 (12.00).

WD's 4x800 team of Alex Behnke, John Fagerlind, Ethan Hammerand and Isaac Connolly placed fourth (8:48.19).

Chaz Bergfeld placed fourth in the long jump (19-2.75) and Anthony Kluesner was seventh (18-7.5).

Devyn Hoeffler placed fourth in the discus (120-1) and Westhoff was seventh (116-10).



Beth Lutgen • Staff Photo

Danny Recker runs the second leg of WD's shuttle hurdle relay. The Bobcats placed second in the event at their own Bobcat Early Bird on March 30.

Rys Huehnergath placed fifth in the 3,200 (12:02.72).

Joe Freiburger finished fifth in the 1,600 (5:03.55) and Isaac

Hoffman was seventh (5:15.69).

In the 800, Ambrosy placed fifth (2:22.12), Isaac Hoffman sixth (2:25.19) and Huehner-

gath seventh (2:29.09).

DeSollar and Wedewer tied for eighth place in the high jump with a height of 5-2.

Bobcats win Fearing Relays

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Western Dubuque earned a team title at the Anamosa Fearing Relays on April 11 tallying 147 points to top the field of 11 teams.

Anamosa placed second (111), Mount Vernon third (109), Cascade fourth (76), Wahlert fifth (67.5), Monticello sixth (64), West Delaware seventh (37), Maquoketa eighth (32.5), Maquoketa Valley ninth (30), Calamus-Wheatland and Springville 10th (11).

"This was a total team effort scoring points in each event," coach Tom Jasper said. "The boys had good competition to push them along and it was a great team victory."

Isaac Connolly earned a first-place finish in the 3,200-meter run with a clocking of 10:01.83.

Brandon Beard raced to first place in the 200 with a time of 23.42 and Spencer McDermott placed third (23.63).

Tyler Johnson earned a first-place finish in the shot put with a heave of 53-9. Billy Blaser was fifth (45-1.5).

Spencer McDermott, Mitchell Kramer, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard teamed up to win the 4x100 in 44.21. That same quartet won the 4x200 with a time of 1:32.36.

WD's 4x400 team of Ben Burds, Ross Wedewer, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard placed first in 3:32.13.

Alex Kauffmann earned a second-place finish in the 110-high hurdles (15.97) and Danny Recker was seventh (17.46).

Mitchell Kramer placed third in the 100 (11.80) and Drew DeSollar was fifth (11.87).

The Bobcat 4x800 team of John Fagerlind, Alex Behnke, Wedew-



Beth Lutgen • Staff Photo

WD's Isaac Hoffman competes during the 1,600 at the

er and Ethan Hammerand placed third (8:47.18).

Tyler Johnson placed third in the discus (131-9) and Devyn Hoefler was fourth (124-7).

Ben Burds finished third in the 400 (53.63). Chaz Bergfeld was third in the long jump (19-7).

Kauffmann placed fourth in the 400-hurdles (59.02).

WD's shuttle hurdle squad of

Ben Burds, Tommy Kane, Danny Recker and Kauffmann placed fourth (1:13.41).

In the distance medley, Kane, Max Steffen, Matt Simon and Isaac Connolly placed fifth (3:53.56).

Behnke finished fifth in the 1,600 (4:52.37) and Hammerand was sixth (4:55.12).

John Fagerlind placed sixth in the 800 (2:10.64) and Behnke was

seventh (2:14.64).

DeSollar was seventh in the high jump (5-8).

On April 10, the Bobcats competed in the Beckman Co-Ed and placed sixth.

"This was a great meet to see many great performances from our younger guys," Jasper said.

Anamosa won the boys team title with 158 points. Northeast was second (123), West Delaware third (120.33), Beckman fourth (88.33), Cascade fifth (69.33), Western Dubuque sixth (57), Ed-Co seventh (34) and Waterloo Columbus eighth (26).

Johnson swept the throwing events. He won the discus with a top throw of 152-6 and took top honors in the shot put with a heave of 53-3.

Carter Pins was third in the 200 (24.68) and Alex Merten was eighth (25.42).

Will Mayne placed third in the shot put (44-1). Billy Blaser was fourth (43-5) and Jake Westhoff eighth (38-9), although they weren't able to earn team points. (Only the top-two finishes from each team were scored in the individual events).

Pins placed fourth in the 100 (12.07).

Isaac Hoffman finished fifth in the 1,600 (5:18) and was seventh in the 800 (2:23.26).

Devyn Hoefler placed fifth in the discus (19-10).

Kinzel Pulley, Thomas Griner, Andy Zweibohmer and Alex Merten placed sixth in the 4x100 (50.04).

Griner, Jake Feldmann, Calvin Vize and Dylan Ambrosy placed seventh in the 1,600-medley (4:19.66).

Rys Huehnergath placed eighth in the 3,200 (11:45.20).

Ben Lenstra placed eighth in the 110-high hurdles (19.46).

Bobcats move on to Drake Relays

BY BETH LUTGEN

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The Bobcat boys track and field team earned three berths to the Drake Relays. Western Dubuque advanced in both the 4x100 and 4x200-meter relays, along with the shot put.

Brandon Beard, Kenny Beard, Mitchell Kramer and Spencer McDermott teamed up to qualify in the 4x100 with a time of 44.21.

McDermott, Ben Burds, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard recorded a season best time of 1:31.11 to advance in the 4x200.

Tyler Johnson has been bettering his shot put throw all season long and qualified to compete in Des Moines with a distance of 55-9.5.

Additionally, the Bobcats had strong performances at two meets last week.

On April 16, WD placed fourth at the Harold Sweet Invitational at Dubuque Senior.

"What a great night," coach Tom Jasper exclaimed. "The guys performed at a high level against great competition. This was a great opportunity to compete at

our district site and also against many of the teams we will compete against at the district/state level. We were thrilled with our performances on the night, but were reminded that much work needs to be done."

Cedar Rapids Kennedy won the team title with 129 points. Hempstead was second (109.5), Cedar Rapids Washington third (90), Western Dubuque fourth (83.33), Cedar Rapids Jefferson fifth (80.83), Cedar Rapids Prairie sixth (72), Dubuque Senior seventh (64.83), Cascade eighth (33.5), Wahlert ninth (20), Burlington 10th (13) and Beckman 11th (6).

Johnson led WD with a first-place finish in the shot put with his Drake Relays qualifying distance of 55-9.5. Billy Blaser was fourth (46-8.5).

WD's 4x100 team of McDermott, Kramer, Tommy Kane and Drew DeSollar placed second (44.6).

McDermott finished second in the 200 (23.15) and Kramer was sixth (24.09).

In the 4x200, McDermott, Burds, Kenny Beard and Brandon

Beard placed second with their Drake Relays qualifying time of 1:31.11.

Kramer placed fourth in the 100 (11.6).

Ross Wedewer finished fourth in the 400 (53.84).

In the 110-high hurdles, Nolan Baumhover was fourth (16.20) and Alex Kauffman was fifth (16.28).

Baumhover, Brandon Beard, Burds and Kauffmann placed fourth in the shuttle hurdle relay (1:00.45).

Kane, Max Steffen, Matt Simon and John Fagerlind teamed up for a fifth-place finish in the 1,600-medley (3:48.98).

Isaac Connolly placed fifth in the 3,200 (10:13.41) and was seventh in the 800 (2:06.58).

Devyn Hoefler finished sixth in the discus (125-10).

The Bobcat 4x400 team of Wedewer, Burds, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard placed sixth (3:29.11).

DeSollar tied for seventh in the high jump (5-6).

Ethan Hammerand was eighth in the 1,600 (4:50.61).

WD opened the week with

a sixth-place team finish at the Gordy Yuska Relays in Waterloo on April 14.

Cedar Rapids Kennedy won the relays with 145 team points. Cedar Falls was second (118), Fort Dodge third (89), Hempstead fourth (80), Cedar Rapids Washington fifth (63), Western Dubuque sixth (62), Dubuque Senior seventh (43.5), Waverly-Shell Rock eighth (35), Waterloo West ninth (31), Waterloo East 10th (25.5) and Mason City 11th (9).

Johnson won the shot put with a throw of 54-8 and was fifth in the discus (138-5).

The Bobcat 4x100 team placed second in 44.66.

In the 4x200, WD placed third (1:32.17).

WD finished fourth in the 4x400 (3:31.83).

McDermott finished fourth in the 200 (23.51).

DeSollar tied for fifth in the high jump (5-6). Kauffmann was fifth in the 110-high hurdles (16.02).

Western Dubuque finished fifth in the shuttle hurdle relay (1:01.42).

Johnson finishes fourth in Drake Relays

BY BETH LUTGEN

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Tyler Johnson led the area at the annual Drake Relays at Drake Stadium in Des Moines, April 23-25. Johnson, a Western Dubuque senior, threw to a fourth-place finish in the shot put with a distance of 54-7.75. Clay Meinders, of AGWSR, won the event with a throw of 59-5.5. Keegan Tritle, of Lisbon, was second (55-10); Nathan Winters, of Knoxville, was third (55-7).

"We were really pleased with how Tyler shook off some early nerves and fought back for fourth place," coach Tom Jasper said.

Spencer McDermott, Ben Burds, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard ran to a 21st-place finish in the 4x200-meter relay in 1:32.33.

"In the 4x200 we realized that there is still improvement that needs to be made before the state meet," Jasper said.

WD's 4x100 crew of McDermott, Mitchell Kramer, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard placed 23rd (44.14).

"In the 4x100 we ran a relay best on this season's previous mark," Jasper added.

Western Dubuque won its own Bobcat Relays on April 23 with 108 points. Central DeWitt was second (106), Maquoketa third (60), Beckman fourth (51) and Wahlert fifth (44).

"This was a hard fought victory for our guys and they really showed perseverance throughout the meet as it was up and down. Many boys stepped up and performed fantastic," Jasper said.

Alex Behnke won the 3,200 with a time of 10:28.57. Isaac Connolly finished first in the



Don Carpenter • Staff Photo

Tyler Johnson throws to fourth place with a distance of 54-7.75.

1,600 (4:48.14), Joe Freiburger was fourth (5:03.97) and Isaac Hoffman sixth (5:21.25).

Alex Kauffmann raced to first place in the 400-hurdles in 59.17 and Conner Burk placed seventh (1:07.04). The Bobcat 1,600-medley team of Alex Merten, Matt Simon, Ross Wedewer and Behnke finished first in 3:57.23. Thomas Griner, Calvin Vize, Andy Zweihbohmer and Joe Freiburger placed fifth (4:25.91).

Ethan Hammerand earned a first-place finish in the 800 with a time of 2:12.85 and Dylan Ambrosy was fifth (2:24.08). Billy Blaser won the shot put with a top throw of 47-11.5, Will Mayne placed second (46-2) and Jake Westhoff third (42-5.5).

WD's 4x800 squad of Connolly, Simon, Wedewer and Ambrosy finished second (8:55.88).

In the 100, Drew DeSollar was second (11.79) and Carter Pins was fourth (11.99). Chaz Bergfeld leapt to second in the long jump (19-6.5) and Anthony Kluesner tied for eighth (18-0.25).

Kauffmann, Nick Lembezeder, Danny Recker and Ben Lenstra placed third in the shuttle hurdle relay (1:05.77).

The 4x200 squad of Anthony Kluesner, Max Steffen, Dalton Kramer and Tommy Kane finished third (1:38.80). Nick Lembezeder, Hunter Hancock, Kyle Cleary and Zweihbohmer placed fifth (1:45.52).

Devyn Hoefer placed third in the discus (119-4), Westhoff was fourth (117-0) and Mayne seventh (115-5). Kauffmann placed third in the 110-high hurdles (16.86) and Recker was seventh (17.86). DeSollar was third in the high jump (5-6).

WD's 4x100 team of Pins, Steffen, Kane and DeSollar placed third (46.81). Kluesner, Lembezeder, Kramer and Hancock finished sixth (48.26).

Carter Pins finished fourth in the 200 (24.90) and DeSollar was fifth (25.17). WD's 4x400 crew of Recker, Jake Feldmann, Kramer and Kane finished fourth (3:47.38).

WD places 2nd in WaMaC

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Western Dubuque's boys track and field team earned a second-place finish at the WaMaC Conference Meet in Maquoketa on May 7.

"Top to bottom we were very pleased with how the guys performed," coach Tom Jasper said. "We set a new school record in the 4x100. Our throwers continue to excel with Tyler Johnson winning the shot (and placing second in the discus).

"We were really performing at the level that is expected for this part of the season and we are excited for districts."

Center Point-Urbana won the boys track and field WaMaC title with 107 points. Western Dubuque was second (89), Mount Vernon third (76), Marion fourth (68), Solon fifth (64), Anamosa sixth (58), Williamsburg seventh (50), West Delaware eighth (43), Vinton-Shellsburg ninth (41), Beckman 10th (28), South Tama 11th (21), Central DeWitt 12th (16), Clear Creek-Amana 13th (16), Benton Community 14th (8) and Maquoketa 15th (6).

Tyler Johnson won the conference title in the discus with a top throw of 163-1 and placed second in the shot put (54-10).

Kenny Beard, Mitchell Kramer, Brandon Beard and Drew DeSollar

teamed up to win the conference title in the 4x100-meter relay with a school record time of 43.78.

The Bobcat 4x200 team of Spencer McDermott, Ben Burds, Kenny Beard and Tommy Kane placed second (1:33.4). In the 110-high hurdles, Nolan Baumhover placed third (15.93) and Alex Kauffmann was fourth (16.08). The Bobcat 4x400 squad of Burds, McDermott, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard finished third (3:26.8). WD's shuttle hurdle relay team of Baumhover, Brandon Beard, Burds and Kauffmann placed fourth (59.67).

Alex Behnke finished fourth in the 1,600 (4:42.28) and Connolly was seventh (4:44.44). Kenny Beard placed fourth in the 200 (23.18) and McDermott was fifth (23:21). Kauffmann placed fourth in the 400-hurdles (56.3).

Isaac Connolly finished fifth in the 3,200 (10:17.21). In the 400, Brandon Beard was fifth (51.44). In the 1,600-medley, Kane, Max Steffen, Ross Wedewer and Behnke placed seventh (3:49.7).

On May 4, Western Dubuque took top honors at the Marion Invitational with 98.5 team points.

Center Point-Urbana was second (83), Mount Vernon third (82), Marion fourth (71), Anamosa fifth (60.83), Solon sixth (60.5), Vinton-Shellsburg seventh (57), Monticello eighth (53.33), West Delaware ninth (51.33),

Central DeWitt 10th (48), Benton Community 11th (17), Maquoketa Valley 12th (11) and North Linn 13th (9).

"We performed at an outstanding level all night long," Jasper said. "There were many PRs set and the guys really stepped up and excelled against formidable competition."

Johnson earned a first-place finish in both the discus and shot put with top throws of 152-8 and 55-5.5, respectively. Kenny Beard, Kramer, Brandon Beard and DeSollar teamed up to win the 4x100 relay in 44.22. WD's 4x200 team of McDermott, Kane, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard placed first in 1:32.27.

Kauffmann placed second in the 400-hurdles (56.54) and was third in the 110-high hurdles (16.21). Behnke placed second in the 1,600 (4:36.99). Burds finished third in the 200 (23.48). WD's shuttle hurdle team of Baumhover, Brandon Beard, Burds and Kauffmann placed third 1:00.62.

Baumhover was fourth in the 110-high hurdles (16.31). Kane, Baumhover, Behnke and Connolly placed fourth in the 1,600-medley (3:49.07). In the 100, DeSollar was fourth (11.77) and McDermott fifth (11.78). In the 4x400, Wedewer, Ben Burds, McDermott and Kenny Beard placed fifth (3:33.36). Billy Blaser finished eighth in the shot put (47-0.5).

WD advances to state in 10 events

BY BETH LUTGEN

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Western Dubuque's boys track and field team earned 10 entries into the Class 4A State Meet after a solid performance at the state-qualifying meet on May 14 in Dubuque.

"What a great night to compete," coach Tom Jasper said. "Our guys could have made the choice to be negative due to poor weather conditions, but we decided to make the best of them and they thrived."

"We were able to send 10 events to the state meet, which is fantastic. We had three meet champions and one runner-up. We couldn't have been prouder of the guys for their performances and we look forward to even better ones at state."

The Bobcats earned four automatic berths to state (by placing first or second at the state qualifying meet).

Tyler Johnson dominated the throwing events. He won the discus with a throw of 155-10 and took first in the shot put with a distance of 55-5.5.

Drew DeSollar won the high jump with a height of 5-10.



Doug Hummel • Staff Photo

Ben Burds gets the baton from Spencer McDermott during the state-qualifying meet in Dubuque.

Billy Blaser placed second in the shot put with a throw of 52-0.

WD moved on to state based on time in six events.

Kauffmann earned a state berth in the 400-hurdles with a time of 56.17 and a third-place finish.

WD's 4x100 team of Kenny

Beard, Mitchell Kramer, Brandon Beard and DeSollar placed third and advanced with a time of 43.54.

In the 4x200, Spencer McDermott, Ben Burds, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard placed third and moved on with a tie of 1:31.19.

Burds, McDermott, Kenny

Beard and Brandon Beard teamed up for a third-place finish in the 4x400 with a state-qualifying time of 3:26.13.

WD's shuttle hurdle relay team of Nolan Baumhover, Brandon Beard, Burds and Kauffmann earned a state berth with a third-place time of 58.95.

Alex Behnke advanced in the 1,600 with a seventh-place time of 4:38.93.

WD also placed in several events that did not move on to the state meet: 110-high hurdles — Kauffmann (sixth, 15.85) and Baumhover (eighth, 15.96); 100 — Mitchell Kramer (seventh, 11.53); long jump — Chaz Bergfeld (sixth, 19-7) and Nick Lembezeder (seventh, 19-6.5); 1,600-medley — McDermott, Tommy Kane, Ross Wedewer and Isaac Connolly (fifth, 3:47.23); and 3,200 — Connolly (eighth, 10:20.86).

Cedar Falls took home the boys team title with 182 points. Cedar Rapids Prairie was second (113), Hempstead third (96), Dubuque Senior fourth (88), WD fifth (86), Waterloo West sixth (59), Waterloo East seventh (42) and Clinton eighth (25).

State Champion

Johnson earns shot put title

BY BETH LUTGEN

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Tyler Johnson earned a state championship for Western Dubuque during the Class 4A Co-Ed State Track and Field Meet at Drake Stadium in Des Moines on May 22. Johnson won his title in the shot put with a top throw of 55-8.

"This was a great weekend for state track," coach Tom Jasper said. "It was unbelievable to have a state champion in Tyler Johnson in the shot put.

"He has worked incredibly hard at his craft and has truly earned this honor."

Johnson became Western Dubuque's first boys state shot put champion and is just the third state champion in program history. (Ben Grant won the 3,200 in 2004 and Brett Featherston won the 400-hurdles in 1995.)

"It feels great," Johnson said of winning the title.

The senior was relaxed throughout the state meet, even though he entered the competition as the top seed.

"I am always relaxed when I throw. I trust my technique and all my practice. It definitely calms the nerves after throwing in the oval (at Drake Relays)," he said.

Johnson qualified for the finals with the best throw from the prelims (55-7.5) and threw his state championship 55-8 throw with his second try in the finals.

"I think on my first throw in the finals I had about a 58 feet, but I fell out (of the throwing circle). So, everything was working good and feeling good."

Johnson attributed his success to all that surround him.

"All my coaches and team-



Beth Lutgen • Staff Photo

Tyler Johnson throws to a state championship in the shot put with a heave of 55-8. **Additional photos are online at DyersvilleCommercial.com.**

mates have pushed me all year because they knew that I could do well. They definitely pushed me," he added.

The day before, Johnson

earned a third-place medal in the discus competition with a toss of 163-9.

"That was my career PR right there," Johnson said. "On

my last throw going out senior year — couldn't be better."

Johnson didn't let the un-

BOBCATS ~ turn to page 2B

Bobcats: Excel at State

seasonably cool temperatures keep him from training.

"We have been practicing every day. Even in that last week we were outside everyday, even though the weather was terrible, running drills," he said.

Alex Kauffmann placed 10th in the 400-hurdles (55.95).

"Alex ran exceptional in the 400-hurdles," Jasper said.

The Bobcat boys 4x400 team of Ben Burds, Spencer McDermott, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard placed 10th with a

new school record time of 3:24.

"Our 4x400 team broke the school record by over two seconds, which was a goal of ours," Jasper said.

Nolan Baumhover, Brandon Beard, Ben Burds and Alex Kauffmann placed 11th in the boys shuttle hurdle relay prelims (59.25).

"The shuttle hurdle relay team ran just shy of their personal best on the season by two tenths," Jasper said.

Billy Blaser placed 12th in

the boys shot put (50-9.25).

"Billy threw just under his personal record and had his second furthest throw of his young career," Jasper said.

Kenny Beard, Mitchell Kramer, Brandon Beard and Drew DeSollar ran to 18th in the 4x100 (43.73).

In the boys 4x200, Spencer McDermott, Ben Burds, Kenny Beard and Brandon Beard placed 20th (1:31.58).

"Our 4x100 and 4x200 quarters competed well against an

extremely fast field," Jasper said.

Alex Behnke placed 24th in the 1,600 (4:41.19).

Drew DeSollar was unable to clear opening height in the high jump (5-9).

"We were pleased with everyone and their performances," Jasper said. "It was a great experience for underclassmen and a fantastic way (for seniors) to end their careers."



WD's Kenny Beard hands off to Brandon Beard during the 4x200.



Alex Kauffmann, of WD, runs during the 400-meter hurdles.



WD's Alex Behnke competes during the 1,600.



Ben Burds runs the third leg of the shuttle hurdle relay.