



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press



TOP LEFT: Colby's Lissa Mazanec started to throw the discus Saturday at the state high school track meet at Wichita State University. Mazanec, a junior, won the event last year, and placed second this year with a distance of 127-3. Jenna Koch of Smoky Valley won the meet with a distance of 127-10. **TOP RIGHT:** Colby Scott McCoy, left, took off after receiving the baton from Eli Robert, far right, during the 4x100 relay Friday at the state track meet. Colby placed fifth with a time of :44.51. **LEFT:** Golden Plains senior Liz Staats crossed the finish line Friday in the 400 during the 1A state high school track meet at Wichita State University. Staats finished in 1:03.05 but did not qualify for finals. A time of 1:00.38 won the event. **RIGHT:** Golden Plains' Tate Bruggeman cleared the bar in the high jump Friday at the 1A state track meet at Wichita State University. Bruggeman tied for fourth with a height of 6-2.

Colby places five

By John Van Nostrand
Free Press Publisher

Colby High's track team's performance at the state meet last weekend is an indication that another good year is on the horizon according to its coach.

"We placed five and I am really happy with that," said track coach Gordon Rasmussen. Colby sent 10 to the 4A state meet at Wichita State University.

"And Darren Sporing was the only senior," Rasmussen said. "We have an awful lot of good young kids who did well."

Of the 10, eight were boys and two were girls.

Junior Lissa Mazanec finished the highest of all those who placed. She finished second in the discus, an event she won last year. Mazanec's best throw was a 127-3, seven inches behind first place winner Jenna Koch of Smoky Valley.

"It's hard to be disappointed for second place," Rasmussen said. "But she had a chance for first."

Mazanec had more than the other girls to deal with. Minutes after the discus event started Saturday, heavy rain fell which caused meet officials to delay the entire meet until the rain stopped. The discus girls didn't return to action until about 2:30 p.m., about a three-hour delay.

"The rain delay, then coming back to a wet circle was tough," Rasmussen said. "But she'll be back."

Last year, Mazanec won with a distance of 135-5.

The other Colby girl at state was freshman April Gee. She competed in three events, the 100, 200 and triple jump.

Gee finished fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 35-7.25. First place distance was 37-1.

In the 100 preliminaries, she finished 16th out of 16 in :13.15. The top eight times qualified for finals. About .5 of a second was the difference between first and eighth place. A time of :12.24 won the preliminary race. The winning time in the finals was :12.42.

In the 200, Gee finished 15th out of 16 in :27.35 in the preliminaries. The top eight times qualified for finals. A time of :25.42 was first place in the finals.

"To have a freshman in three events at state is really good," Rasmussen said.

Gee and Mazanec managed to score 12 team points to put Colby in 19th place. Concordia won 4A girls with 82 points.

Junior Josh Baden led Colby with two top five finishes. He placed third in the 3200 meter run in 9:46.42, 10 seconds behind first place.

In the 1600, Baden finished fourth in 4:29.98, four seconds behind first place.

"Baden did well in both," Rasmussen said. "He knocked off time in both events."

Last year at state, Baden finished sixth in the 3200 in 10:16.

Baden was not alone at state this year in the 3200. Colby sophomore Breck Arnberger placed 16th in 11:02.49.

The 4x100 relay team of Eli Robert, Scott McCoy, Heath Stephens and Mitchell Tuma finished fifth in :44.59. The winning time was :43.34.

In the preliminary event, Colby finished seventh in :44.80. The top eight times qualified for finals.

"The 4x1 team did extremely well," Rasmussen said, "in the prelims and the finals. There was not much difference in their time and you figure there are factors like the weather and other events those kids do."

Robert and Tuma are juniors. Stephens and McCoy are sophomores.

"I think they will do well next year," Rasmussen said.

Tuma finished 14th in :11.54 in the preliminary of the 100 meter. A time of :11.09 won the race in the finals. Tuma also placed 16th in the javelin with a distance of 152-4.

Ethan Stover was also in the javelin. He finished 12th with a distance of 164-5. A distance of 208-7 won the event.

Colby scored 13 points to place 17th among 4A boys. Andale won the meet with 48.5 points.

Golden Plains

Golden Plains sophomore Tate Bruggeman tied for fourth in the high jump with a height of 6-2. He tied with sophomore Sonny Lee of West Elk. A height of 6-6 won the event.

Golden Plains senior Brett Spreser placed sixth in the shot put with a distance of 48-7.5. A distance of 54-6 won the meet.

Bruggeman and Spreser's efforts gave Golden Plains boys a 32nd place finish with 5.5 points. Rawlins County-Atwood won the 1A boys meet with 58 points.

Liz Staats, another Golden Plains senior, finished ninth in the preliminaries of the 400 in 1:03.05. The top eight times qualified for finals. The eighth best time in the preliminary race was 1:02.95.

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