

Bulldogs Set Records at State By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs took five girls and five boys to the state track meet in Wichita on May 26-27. Every event in the girls placed in the top five to medal and the girls came home with eighth place overall. The boys had a tough relay but were able to get an event on the podium

Junior Emma Weiner won the 3200m championship for the second year in a row, having placed second as a freshman. She ran the race in 11:52.02, her best time of the season, just 2 seconds off her school record set in 2021. Weiner also ran the 1600m with her season best time of 5:28.44 to place fourth. She brought home three top 4 medals including the 4 x 800m relay medal this year.

“Emma, once again, had an excellent state track meet,” said Coach Travis Smith. “She became a state champion once again as she dominated the 3200 by winning by nearly 10 seconds. She has proven once again that she is one of the best long-distance runners in all classes. Emma easily outdistanced the competition in that race. With the 1600 we knew going in that it was going to be a highly competitive race. Emma battled to the very end but just came up short. She still ran a season-best time and was only two seconds off her school record. She still has a lot to accomplish as next year will be her senior year.”

Senior Breanna Rath competed at state in triple jump for the third straight year and finished on the podium for the third year in a row. She placed seventh as a sophomore and second as a junior. She jumped 36’ 1” for fifth place this year. She missed out on track as a freshman due to Covid. Rath had set the school record in triple jump twice this season and holds the record at 38’ 2.25” set at league.

“It was great to see Breanna get back on the podium for the third straight year,” said Coach Smith. “She has worked very hard to become one of the very best jumpers in the entire state, not just 1A. She has been battling an issue with her back for most of the year. It really prevented her from being able to extend on her second phase, which is probably the most important phase of the three. She battled the best she could. She was still able to get a 36’ jump in, which is an excellent jump. I am disappointed for her, but not in her. She had lofty expectations going into the meet and battled the best she could. Being up on the podium for three straight years is a great accomplishment.”

“What an incredible three years it has been to be a part of Bulldog Track and Field,” added Rath. “I was extremely blessed with the best teammates, supports, and coaches who always pushed me to be my best. I didn’t have the outcome at state that I was hoping for, but I am so pleased with the progress I have made throughout the years. I will miss this sport the most!”

The girls 4 x 800m relay team of Jordyn Fleckenstein, Anette Hernandez, Emma Weiner, and Sidney Taylor placed third at state. They ran a 10:15.8 knocking 11 seconds off their best time of the year and set a new school record breaking the record by .12 seconds set by Brooke Stoll, Ashley Stoll, Rayna Taylor, and Emma Weiner in 2021.

“The girls 4x800 ran a fantastic race,” said Coach Travis Smith. “Each runner did the job that we talked about. Jordyn ran a great first leg keeping us in contact with the main group, and then Anette took the baton and made up ground getting us all the way into second place. She ran 8 seconds faster than the week before at regionals. Emma ran a great leg getting us in a tie into the anchor leg with Sidney. Sidney ran a great leg and really battled all the way around the track

and she kept us in it all the way to the very end. Our goal this week was to set a new school record. I told the girls if they could do that, we would have a great chance of placing very well. I am very, very pleased with how they ran. Racing is just as much mental as it is physical. They overcame both to have a great state meet.”

“Going into the relay I knew the expectations were high,” continued Taylor. “We were sitting fifth with close times to the other teams. Getting top three and breaking the school record were goals from all of us, and we accomplished both of them. I am so proud of my teammates and what we were able to do this track season. I have enjoyed my three years being a part of the Golden Plains track team.” “It was a fun experience,” added Fleckenstein. “I am proud of everyone.”

“I want to thank Sidney and Breanna for all their hard work and dedication to the track team over the past three years,” added Smith. “Both of them have performed very well all three years and have been state placers multiple times. They will be hard to replace and will definitely be missed.”