

Abbott made track at Northville her personal lab

Brad Emons 4:14 p.m. EDT June 14, 2016



(Photo: BRAD EMONS)

Nobody could argue that Chloe Abbott leaves Northville High as the most decorated runner in school history.

The senior, headed to Purdue University, put an exclamation point on her career with a memorable performance in the MHSAA Division 1 state finals June 4 at Hudsonville.

Abbott broke an all-class MHSAA record in the 400-meter dash with a time of 53.1 and came back to win the 200 in 24.03.

"It is easy to say natural talent equals success, but most people do not get the chance to watch Chloe practice," Northville coach Tim Dalton said. "Her achievements are a direct result of her commitment and attention to detail. She will be greatly missed next year."

Abbott also teamed with Morgan Kloosterman, Yasmine Affes and Lindsay Walters for a victory in the 1,600 relay (3:50.58) and helped the Mustangs to fourth in the 800 relay (1:41.31).

"She came to us and said, 'Coach, I want to run the relays. I'm not just about being a state champion individually, I want the team to be a state champion,'" Dalton said. "I think she really set the tone, not only for talent, but how to be a great teammate and how to represent Northville athletics."

Abbott also sparkled at the Milford regional last month, figuring in four first-place finishes, taking the 200 (24.34) and 400 (54.95), as well as anchoring the victorious 800 (1:42.87) and 1,600 (3:52.37) relays.

At the Kensington Conference meet, Abbott set new individual records in the 200 (24.32) and 400 (55.18), as well as anchoring the Mustangs to meet records in the 800 relay (1:42.57) and 1,600 relay (3:53.81).

"I remember as a sophomore, I finally said, 'Chloe, you've got these long legs, you don't have the acceleration out of the blocks, you're going to run the 400 for us,'" Dalton said. "She actually cried a little bit, but I think the results speak for themselves, not only on the track and her times, but being a great teammate."

First team

Lexa Barrott, Sr., Northville: She earned Division 1 all-state recognition in two events, taking fifth in both the 1,600 and 3,200 runs in 4:58.27 and 10:47.91, respectively. She was also a member of the Mustangs' fourth-place 3,200 relay (9:20.65).

Bound for Indiana University, Barrott also was regional champion in the 1,600 (4:57.33) and 3,200 (10:52.47). She was the Kensington Conference champion in three events: the 1,600 (5:00.63), 3,200 (11:12.1) and 3,200 relay (9:36.73).

Barrott also ran in Saturday's Midwest Meet of Champions at Ohio Wesleyan University, representing Michigan with a fifth-place finish in the 1,600 (4:59.55).

"Lexa has done everything we asked of her during her track career at Northville," Dalton said. "Since joining us as a sophomore, she has been a mainstay in the 4 by 800 relay, 1600 and 3,200. Lexa has a plethora of personal achievements, but always put the team first. Her positive attitude and leadership will be missed."

Mallory Barrett, Jr., Milford: She junior earned Division 1 all-state with fourth in the 800 run (2:12.46) and helped the Mavericks place third in the 3,200 relay (9:18.94).

At the regional, Barrett took first in the 800 (2:15.61), while also taking Lakes Conference titles in the 800 (2:16.95) and 1,600 (5:06.26). She was the Oakland County champ in the 1,600 (5:02.39).

"Mallory possesses a cool calm in chaos, an extremely rare diamond under pressure that has shown some wondrous flashes of brilliance," Milford coach John Fundukian said. "When she decides to let out all that is inside of her, she will become pre-eminent."

Reina Troxell, Sr., Lakeland: She captured all-state honors in the Division 1 discus with a throw of 126-10 after taking third at the regional (116-8).

Troxell also place third at the regional in the shot put (34-8.5) and was discus champ in the Lakes Conference (120-4). She was also third in the shot put at the Lakes and Oakland County meets. She was fifth in the discus in the county (117-9).

“Reina had to take last year off due to surgery for ligament damage in her her knee,” Lakeland coach John Kababik said. “This year, she took her throws to a whole new level in spite of wearing a huge brace on her knee. She is Lakeland’s best thrower ever.”

Grace Stark, Fr., Lakeland: She placed seventh in the Division 1 100 hurdles (15.51) and was ninth overall in the 100 dash (12.78).

Stark was regional champion in the 100 (12.09) and runner-up in the 100 hurdles (school record 14.64). She was also Lakes Conference champion in both events. At Oakland County, she won the 100 (12.05) and took third in the 300 hurdles.

“Grace is the fastest girl in Lakeland history and I’ve seen them all,” Kababik said. “Outdoor, she was undefeated in dual meets in the 100 and 100 hurdles. She recorded the fastest 100 time in Michigan in athletic.net (11.84). If this is what Grace can do as a freshman, only great accomplishments await her the next three years.”

Victoria Heiligenthal, Fr., Milford: She made Division 1 all-state with seventh place in the 1,600 run (4:59.31) and was also a member of the Mavericks’ third-place 3,200 relay (9:18.94).

At the regional, Heiligenthal was runner-up in the 1,600 (4:58.78) and was a member of Milford’s runner-up 3,200 relay (9:22.5). She also took third in the 800 (2:18.73) and second in the 1,600 (5:06.63) at the Lakes Conference meet. She was second in the 1,600 (5:04.13) at Oakland County.

“Most freshman would be happy finishing second in the conference, regional and county in addition to being all-state in three events,” Fundukian said, “but I have bad news for her competition. It’s like they just woke up an angry bear, so you better run really fast, because she is coming to chase you down.”

Ana Barrott, Soph., Northville: She was on the heels of her older sister Lexa all season, taking eighth place in both the 1,600 and 3,200 with times of 5:00.29 and 10:53.09, respectively, at the state meet. Barrott also helped the Mustangs to fourth in the 3,200 relay (9:20.65) at the Division 1 state finals.

At the regional, Barrott placed fourth in the 1,600 (5:03.58) and second in the 3,200 (10:53.32). She also took third in both events at the Kensington Conference meet, as well as being a member of the first-place 3,200 relay.

“We expected big things from Ana this year,” Dalton said. “She showed great promise as a freshman and did not disappoint during her sophomore season. She, like her sister Lexa, helped solidify our 4 by 800 relay, 1,600 and 3,200. I’m excited to have Ana back for two more seasons and to work with her to achieve her goals.”

Second team

Madeline Rehm, Fr., Lakeland: She just missed all-state honors in the 1,600 with a time of 5:04.96 at the Division 1 state finals after a third-place showing at the regional at Milford (school record 5:03.29). Rehm was also third in the Lakes Conference (5:09.81) At Oakland County, Rehm placed runner-up in the 3,200 (11:27.24) and fourth in the 1,600 (5:07.46).

Emma Neumann, Sr., Lakeland: She was right on the cusp of all-state honors in the pole vault with a ninth-place finish in Division 1 (11-0) following a regional title (11-3). Neumann was also Lakes Conference (11-0) and Oakland County (11-3) champion. She cleared 11-6 at the Saginaw Valley State Invitational indoor meet. She also cleared 11-6 to finish sixth at the recent Midwest Meet of Champions.

Erin Keller, Sr., Lakeland: She was one place removed from all-state after tying for ninth in the high jump (5-2) at the Division 1 state meet. Keller, who battled leg injuries, was runner-up at the regional (5-2). Keller was also fifth in the long jump at the Lakes Conference (16-0) meet.

Lindsay Walters, Sr., Northville: She was a pivotal member of the Mustangs’ first-place 1,600 relay (3:50.58) and fourth-place 800 relay (1:41.31), along with taking 10th in the individually in the 400 (57.68) at the Division 1 state meet. At the regional, Walters placed third in the 400 (57.78) and was a member of the first-place 800 and 1,600 relay teams. She was also fourth in the 400 at the Kensington meet.

Bryne Gustafson, Sr., Milford: She placed 10th in the discus (115-7) and 14th in the shot put (36-4.5) at the Division 1 state finals. At the regional, Gustafson placed first in the shot put (36-1) and fourth in the discus (114-6). She was also Lakes Conference champ in the shot put (36-4.5) and fourth in the discus (111-3).

Cayla Eckenroth, Jr., Northville: She stood out with 12th in the 3,200 run (11:03.22) and was a member of Northville’s fourth-place 3,200 relay (9:20.65) at the Division 1 state meet. At the regional, Eckenroth took fifth in the 3,200 (11:08.33) and was conference runner-up in the same event (11:12.1).

Hannah Hood-Blaxill, Soph., Novi: She contributed a 12th-place finish in the high jump (4-11) at the Division 1 state finals after winning the regional (5-2) and Kensington Conference (5-2). She was also eighth at Oakland County. In the long jump, she took second in the conference.

Jessalyn Smith, Jr., South Lyon East: She placed 13th overall at the Division 2 state finals in the discus (113-3) along with fifth at the Kensington Conference meet. She was regional champion (117-0) and was sixth at Oakland County (114-0).

Kate Prisby, Jr., Novi: She finished 15th overall in the long jump at the Division 1 state finals (16-4.25) after taking fourth at the regional (16-11). Prisby was also the Kensington Conference champion and was fifth in Oakland County.

Haley Rathwell, Jr., Lakeland: She placed 16th at the Division 1 state finals in the 300 hurdles (47.07) and was third at the regional (47.11). Rathwell also placed fourth at the Lakes Conference meet. She was undefeated in dual meets in the 300 hurdles and was also a member of the school record 800 relay.

Marisa Sailus, Jr., Lakeland: She was a state qualifier in both the 200 (16th, 26.19) and 400 (22nd, 1:00.89) after finishing fourth in both events at the Division 1 regional with times of 25.65 and 58.14, respectively. Sailus was also sixth in the 200 (25.68) at Oakland County and is a member of the school record 800 relay.

2016 ALL-AREA

GIRLS TRACK

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Chloe Abbott, Sr., Northville

FIRST TEAM

Lexa Barrott, Sr., Northville

Mallory Barrett, Jr., Milford

Reina Troxell, Sr., Lakeland

Grace Stark, Fr., Lakeland

Victoria Heiligenthal, Fr., Milford

Ana Barrott, Soph., Northville

SECOND TEAM

Madeline Rehm, Fr., Lakeland

Emma Neumann, Sr., Lakeland

Erin Keller, Sr., Lakeland

Lindsay Walters, Sr., Northville

Brynne Gustafson, Sr., Milford

Cayla Eckenroth, Jr., Northville

Hannah Hood-Blaxill, Soph., Novi

Jessalyn Smith, South Lyon East

Kate Prisby, Jr., Novi

Haley Rathwell, Jr., Lakeland

Marisa Sailus, Jr., Lakeland

HONORABLE MENTION

Milford: Sarah Ausum, Sr.; Abby Knapp, Fr.; Eve Hemingway, Sr.; Northville: Morgan Kloosterman, Soph.; Yasmine Affes, Soph.; Erin McCallum, Soph.; Olivia Harp, Fr.; Savannah Manley, Fr.; Emma Herrmann, Sr.; South Lyon East: Tiffanie Hollingsworth, Fr.; Brooke Willenborg, Fr.

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