

Novi boys race past rival Northville

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Published 2:05 a.m. ET April 12, 2017 | Updated 7:34 p.m. ET April 16, 2017

Landy wins two events in 86-51 dual meet triumph



(Photo: JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Novi may have not put its best foot forward in Tuesday's 86-51 boys track and field win over host Northville, but the Wildcats came away with a lot of satisfaction.

And, of course, it's really early in the 2017 season coming off spring break.

"It was good," Novi coach Marsha Reid said. "There's still some things we need to work on obviously early in the season. We need to shore up some of those relay exchanges."

Novi took firsts in 12 of 17 events, including three of four relays. The Wildcats could have made it a clean sweep in the relays only to drop the baton on the final hand-off after building a big lead.

The Wildcats were led by Aric Landy, who captured the 800-meter run (2:05.16) and 3,200 (10:09.78).

Other first-place finishers for Novi included Brendan Ireland, who tied for first in the long jump (18 feet, 8.75 inches); Scott Sawyer, pole vault (13-0), John Stefan, 110-meter hurdles (16.11); Hunter Joy, 300 hurdles (43.66); Nathan Hankerson, 100 dash (11.56); Leon Chen, 200 (23.93); and Gabe Mudel, 1,600 (4:27.38).

"Pretty impressed with Leon Chen, a sophomore who has come on really strong in the sprints," Reid said. "Our distance guys ran fantastic today and were probably the difference in the meet. Our pole vault guys did really well today and swept that. That was nice to see as well. Nate Hankerson did a nice job in the sprint areas. It's funny. I could name the distance guys as a group. They were the difference in our meet today."

Under blustery conditions as temperatures dropped, Sawyer cleared his opening height in the pole vault (13 feet), but the two-event school record holder had to drop out of the high jump after starting at 6 feet.



Novi's John Stefan placed first in the 110-meter hurdles. (Photo: JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

"Scott tweaked his calf a little bit and I pulled him," Reid said. "It wasn't worth it, cold weather and everything. He kind of planted wrong and the spike didn't come off the ground. He went to jump and his knee twisted this way and his foot went another way. We scratched him and said, 'No, we're not doing that.' He had an off day on pole vault. Nothing is given in track. You have to work every time that you do it."

Northville's Ja'Quan Crawford swept the shot put (41-11.5) and discus (108-5), while other individual wins came from Alec Hopkins in the high jump (6-2); Giuliano Daniel, 400 (53.29); and Ben Shuart, who tied Ireland in the long jump.

"I thought it would be close and we were in it until the 200 at the end," Northville coach Tim Dalton said. "It's about what I expected."

Dalton was pleasantly surprised by one performance, even though it didn't count toward the final score.



Novi's Scott Sawyer clears his opening height at 13 feet en route to a win in the pole vault. (Photo:

"In the high jump, Gustaf (Tjernberg), an exchange student from Sweden, he was JV today, but would have been third if labled as a varsity kid," the Northville coach said.

Despite being outscored 27-2 in the 800, 1,600 and 3,200, Dalton is confident his distance group can make an impact going forward.

"We still bring back Ben Cracraft, Evan Ferrante, Nick Couyoumjian, Peter Bejin and Jacob Blackmore, so those kids are going to have to carry the weight for us in 4 x 800 (relay), two mile, mile and 800," the Northville coach said.

DUAL MEET RESULTS

April 11 at Northville

Shot put: 1. Ja'Quan Crawford (N'ville), 41 feet, 11.5 inches; 2. Anmol Multani (N'ville), 41-6; 3. Jordan Castleberry (Novi), 39.7.5.

Discus: 1. Crawford (N'ville), 108-5; 2. Jacob Genaw (N'ville), 101-7; 3. Multani (N'ville), 96-0.

High jump: 1. Alec Hopkins (N'ville), 6-2; 2. Caleb Sheehan (N'ville), 5-8; 3. Andrew White (Novi), 5-8.

Long jump: 1. (tie) Brendan Ireland (Novi) and Ben Shuart (N'ville), 18-8.75 each; 3. Blair Mayes (Novi), 18-5.

Pole vault: 1. Scott Sawyer (Novi), 13-0; 2. Joshua Brucker (Novi), 10-6; 3. Edmund Shaheen (Novi), 10-6.

110-meter hurdles: 1. John Stefan (Novi), 16.11; 2. Brian You (Novi), 16.92; 3. Shuart (N'ville), 17.33.

300 hurdles: 1. Hunter Joy (Novi), 43.66; 2. Jacob Pichler (N'ville), 45.62; 3. Alvin Li (Novi), 45.67.

100 dash: 1. Nathan Hankerson (Novi), 11.56; 2. Leon Chen (Novi), 11.67; 3. Trevor Kelterborn (N'ville), 11.7.

200: 1. Chen (Novi), 23.93; 2. Giuliano Daniel (N'ville), 23.99; 3. Sean Pitcher (Novi), 24.02.

400: 1. Daniel (N'ville), 53.29; 2. Zach Stroud (N'ville), 54.52; 3. Aaron Baird (Novi), 54.68.

800: 1. Aric Landy (Novi), 2:05.16; 2. Nathaniel Wood (Novi), 2:07.94; 3. Blake Maday (Novi), 2:07.95.

1,600: 1. Gabe Mudel (Novi), 4:27.38; 2. Scott MacPherson (Novi), 4:29.18; 3. Ben Cracraft (N'ville), 4:36.50.

3,200: 1. A. Landy (Novi), 10:09.78; 2. Trey Mullins (Novi), 10:12.12; 3. Peter Bejin (N'ville), 10:15.79.

400 relay: 1. Novi (Hankerson, Pitcher, Chen, Stefan), 45.04; 2. Northville, 49.01; **800 relay:** 1. Northville (Benair Covington, Nolan Knight, Kelterborn, Zach Stroud), 1:40.59; 2. Novi, 1:42.74; **1,600 relay:** 1. Novi (Baird, Vincent Ma, Wood, MacPherson), 3:44.67; 2. Northville, 4:06.67; **3,200 relay:** 1. Novi (A. Landy, John Landy, Wood, MacPherson), 8:41.0; 2. Northville, 8:50.0.

Dual meet records: Novi, 1-0 overall, 1-0 KLAA Central Division; Northville, 0-1 overall, 0-1 KLAA Central.

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