

McCallum leads Northville track girls to runner-up finish in Spartan Classic

Brad Emons, hometownlife.com Published 1:16 a.m. ET April 30, 2018 | Updated 12:22 p.m. ET April 30, 2018

McNamara also stars as Mustangs take second behind Rockford



(Photo: SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Senior Erin McCallum notched a first-place finish in each of her four events in leading the Northville girls track and field team to a runner-up finish in the Spartan Classic hosted by Michigan State.

Rockford won the team title with 156 points, while Northville was second with 147.5.

"It was a big day for our girls team," Northville coach Tim Dalton said. "I could not be happier for Erin. She is one of the hardest working kids on the team. She believes in what we are doing here at Northville. Overall, our kids showed they are progressing nicely. These next three weeks are vital if we want to find success in late May and early June."

McCallum, also an All-Stater in gymnastics this season for the Mustangs, captured the long jump with the second longest leap in school history at 17 feet, 11 inches.

She sits only second all-time behind teammate Clare McNamara's mark of 18-5.25 set last spring. McNamara, a junior, was runner-up in the same event with a leap of 17-6½.

"It was a monster jump," Northville long jump coach Tom Brown said of McCallum. "She hit the board just right and took off and she got some extra height. She was really surprised and excited."

McCallum also added a victory in the 100-meter dash (13.13) and ran legs on two victorious sprint relay events.

She teamed up with Savannah Manley, Yasmine Affes and McNamara for first in the 800 relay (1:44.74), while the foursome of Claire Wan, Melanie Sarafian, Lauren Marshall and McCallum, who has the anchor leg, also won the 400 relay (50.21).

"Erin led the way with an outstanding all-around performance," Northville sprint coach Brandon Love said.

Other top finishers for Northville included McNamara, first, 400 (57.71); Affes, second, 200 (26.98); fifth, 400 (1:00.92); Ana Barrott, second, 1,600 (5:10.86); fourth, 3,200 (11:10.25); Abby Dunn, third, 300 hurdles (49.40); seventh, 100 hurdles (17.38); Elise Daniel, third, pole vault (9-0); Barbara Davis, third, discus (106-6); Emily Gordon, fifth, 800 (2:27.39); Manley, fifth, 200 (27.62); Delaney Hopkins, fifth, discus (101-2); Olivia Harp, fifth, 1,600 (11:19.38); sixth, 1,600 (5:22.58); and Sara Ismail, seventh, discus (95-9).

Northville's 1,600 relay team of Dunn, Manley, Affes and McNamara crossed the line first in 4:02.37, while the quartet of Harp, Barrott, Gordon and Mansi took third in the 3,200 relay (9:55.91).

Newcomer Melanie Sarafian, a junior, also was a pleasant surprise in her invitational debut scoring in the 100- and 200 dashes, as well as the first-place 400 relay.

Mustang boys fourth

Junior Brandon Kearney led the way as the Northville boys scored 54 points to wind up fourth at the same Spartan Classic.



Northville junior Brandon Kearney (right), at a meet earlier this year, won the 200-meter dash at the Spartan Classic. (Photo: SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Rockford captured the team title with 129.5 points followed by Okemos (71.5) and Traverse City Central (67) in second and third, respectively.

Kearney captured the 200 dash with a personal best 22.27, while also finishing third in the 100 with another personal best (11.55). He also anchored the third-place 400 and 1,600 relay teams with times of 44.18 and 3:29.48, respectively.

"Brandon is the real deal," Dalton said. "He has found great success this spring. I would not want to go up against Kearney on the anchor leg of any relay. He will turn himself inside out to get to the finish line first. As a coach, watching Brandon leave it all on the track each time the gun goes off is all I can ask for. He has committed to making this team the best it can be. Like Erin, he is a kid who has bought into our system."

Junior Demetri Zervos was also a strong contributor for Mustangs placing sixth in the 200 (23.83), seventh in the long jump (19-7¹/₄) and eighth in the 100 (12.2). He was also part of the third-place 400 relay along with Kearney, Zack Phillips and Trevor Kelterborn.

The third-place 1,600 relay team consisted of Mike Gruianu, Nick Couyoumjian, Nolan Knight and Kearney.

Other top individual finishers for Northville included Couyoumjian, second, 800 (1:57.11); Patrick Long, fourth, discus (129-9); and Knight, fifth, 400 (52.02); seventh, 200 (23.98).

Northville's 3,200 relay team of Alex Jund, Alex Beloiu, Raymond Jiang and Couyoumjian added an eighth (8:40.67).

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