

Youthful Lady Billies pose a threat on the track

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

The Williamsville South girls indoor track team only has four seniors but that doesn't mean they are not running with maturity.

In the Lady Billies' first meet of the season, an A/B division meet on Dec. 7 at Buffalo State College, South won four events, had three second place finishes and placed six others in the top six. South followed with five first place finishes last Friday in an B/D division meet at Lancaster High School.

"It shows our maturity even though we're young," said South coach Sam Hasan. "Plus, it shows we have team depth. I'm real excited about the season."

Some of Hasan's top athletes on the girls side are underclassmen. Sophomores Allie Van Buren, Jenny Mooney and Amanda Breymeier are returning New York State Championship qualifiers.

Van Buren is the returning section champion in the 55-meter hurdles; Mooney broke her own school record at sectionals to place second in the 1500 racewalk. Breymeier high-jumped 4-10 at sectionals for second place.

Van Buren has gone to the state meet since seventh grade. She took second in the 55 hurdles and 300 at Buffalo State. She also won the 50 hurdles at Lancaster in 7.7.

In addition to the racewalk, Mooney will run the 1000, 1500 and 4x800 relay. Mooney took third in the racewalk at Buffalo State and first at Lancaster.

Besides the high jump, Breymeier, a tri-captain, is also a threat in the 600, 1000, 55 hurdles, high jump, and 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800 relays. She opened the 2007-08 season after winning the high jump in 4-10 at Buffalo State. She was also third in the 55 hurdles. She won the high jump at Lancaster with a leap of 5-1.

Other sophomores who should perform well are Rachel Zucker (4x400 relay, 600, Rachelle Moyer (4x200 relay up to 600), Meagan Munroe (4x800 relay, 600, 1000) and Skye McCullen (55 dash, 300, 4x200 and 4x400 relays).



Senior Colleen Hurtubise, far left, sophomore the Williamsville South indoor track team. **Amanda Breymeier** and junior **Ashley Ferenczy** captain

Photo by Joe Eberle

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Returning upperclassmen include juniors Ashley Ferenczy and Laura Johnston and seniors Colleen Hurtubise and Jennifer Lopez.

Ferenczy, a tri-captain, missed the state cut time in the 600 last year by eight hundredths of a second, finishing fourth at sectionals. Ferenczy will also be doing the 4x400 and 4x800 relays and possibly the 1000. She has the top 600 time in Section VI this season after posting a first-place 1:45.3 at Buffalo State. She also took fifth in the 300.

Johnston, a three-year runner, can compete from the 4x800 up to the 3000. Hurtubise, a tri-captain, is strong in the 1500, 3000 and 4x800 relay. Lopez, whose specialty is the shot put, is back on the team for a sixth year. She won the event at Buffalo State.

Kristina and Kailyn Arcury make their debuts. Kristina, a senior, has the top 55 hurdles time in the section with a 9.22 at Buffalo State. She was also second in the 55 dash. She can also run the 4x200 relay and high and

long jump. Kristina is coming off winning a section all-around title in girls gymnastics.

Kailyn, an eighth-grader, took fourth in the hurdles at Buffalo State. She is a state qualifier in gymnastics in vault, bars and balance beam. Like her older sister, Kailyn can run the 55 dash, taking third in the event at Buffalo State. She was sixth in the high jump.

Nine girls qualified for sectionals after the Buffalo State meet. They are Kristina Arcury (55 hurdles, 55 dash), Kailyn Arcury (55 hurdles, 55 dash), Van Buren (55 hurdles, 300 dash), Breymeier (55 hurdles, high jump, missed 1000 by three hundredths of a second), Ferenczy (600) and Mooney (racewalk).

Boys

The strength of the boys team will come from a group of athletes.

Included in the mix are senior Alex Podvezko, juniors RJ Grampp, Nick Hoffman, John Stark, sophomores Peter Galbo, Bruce Hibler and Reed Corbett and freshman Nick Helmick.

Podvezko, a four-year runner, can run anything from 800 up to the 3200 and also the long jump.

Hoffman and Grampp, each first-year runners, run the 55 hurdles, 55 dash, 4x200 relay and long jump. Stark and Galbo can run from the 400 up to the 1600. Hibler can race the 600 and 1000.

Helmick runs the 55 hurdles, 55 dash, 300 and 4x200 relay. Corbett can long and triple jump.

Also on the team is freshman Sammy Hasan, a sprinter and long jumper.

Coach Hasan is seeing improvement from the boys and girls teams.

"Everyone is working hard and

improving," said Hasan. "Their work ethic is great. It's a good young team and fun to be around. They're starting to bond and its feeding off each other. They want to do well."

Hasan said if both teams stay healthy and continue their steady improvement, they will have success.

Hasan is assisted by Dan Syracuse.

South races Friday at 4:30 p.m. at Buffalo State College. They will then compete in the Marine Corps Holiday Classic Dec. 27 at the Armory Track and Field Center in New York City. Hasan and North coach Julian Blake will each bring 22 athletes to the meet.

South 2007-08 Schedule

- 12-21 Buffalo State College 4:30 p.m.
- 12-26-27 Marine Corps Holiday Classic at Armory Track and Field Center in New York City.... TBA
- 12-28 Fredonia State College .. 9 a.m.
- 1-4 Buffalo State College 4:30 p.m.
- 1-5 Cornell University Southern Tier Invitational..... 9 a.m.
- 1-13 Varsity Select No. 1 at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
- 1-19 Buffalo State College 8 a.m.
- 1-21 Seventh, tenth grade meet at Fredonia State College.... 9 a.m.
- 1-26 Varsity Select No. 2 at Lancaster..... noon
- 2-2 RIT Invite TBA
- 2-3 Varsity Select No. 3 at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
- 2-9 Western New York Relays at Fredonia State College.... 9 a.m.
- 2-16 Section VI Team Championships at Fredonia State College9 a.m.
- 2-24 Varsity Select No. 4 at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
- 3-1 Section VI New York State Qualifier at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.

e-mail: pnagy@beenews.com

North girls

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Boys

There are a lot of new faces on the Spartan boys team but they will be led by three veterans - seniors Steve Oehler and Sean Felton (four years each) and junior Mike Thielman (three years).

Oehler runs the sprint events and hurdles, Felton long and triple jumps and runs the 4x200 relay and 55 dash, and Thielman runs the 1600 and 3200, and the 1000 on occasion. Thielman was a state qualifier in cross country. Felton is coming off a hairline fracture in his left kneecap from outdoor track.

Also returning is freshman Collin Preston, juniors Evan Hughes and Joe Seitz, and sophomores Rob Golightly and Ryan Perry.

Preston should be a contender in the triple jump. Blake thinks Preston could definitely be a 40-foot triple jumper. Preston can also long jump and run the 55 dash and the 4x200 relay.

Hughes can long jump, and run the 55 dash, 4x200 and 4x400 relays, and the 300. Seitz, Golightly and Perry, on the team since they were freshmen, give the team depth with Thielman in the 1600 and 3200.

Juniors Jacob Strom and William Jones and sophomore Tom Calandra debut in the pole vault as will sophomore Jesse Wang in the hurdles.

At the A/B division meet held on

Dec. 7 at Buffalo State College, Thielman took second and qualified for sectionals in the 3200 with a time of 10:36. Felton won the triple jump with a sectional qualifying leap of 40-11¼ (also section best) and took fifth in the long jump in 19-feet.

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- 12-21 Buffalo State College 4:30 p.m.
- 12-26-27 Marine Corps Holiday Classic at Armory Track and Field Center in New York City.... TBA
- 12-28 Fredonia State College .. 9 a.m.
- 1-4 Buffalo State College 4:30 p.m.
- 1-5 Cornell University Southern Tier Invitational..... 9 a.m.
- 1-13 Varsity Select No. 1 at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
- 1-19 Buffalo State College 8 a.m.
- 1-21 Seventh-, 10th-grade meet at Fredonia State College.... 9 a.m.
- 1-26 Varsity Select No. 2 at Lancaster..... noon
- 2-2 RIT Tigers Invitational..... 8 a.m.
- 2-3 Varsity Select No. 3 at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
- 2-9 Western New York Relays at Fredonia State College.... 9 a.m.
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Sweet Home

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Juniors Meghan Milbrand and Mackenzie Lewandowski, both 55, 300 and 4x200 relay runners, are the girls captains.

McKinney said the strengths of the girls teams are the sprinting events and the field events.

Boys

McKinney said senior Andrew Hopkins is the top returning thrower in the section and has a good shot at qualifying for the New York State Championships.

Hopkins finished third at sectionals last year with a throw of 49-10.5. He's off to a good start, winning the event at Buffalo State in a sectional qualifying throw of 49-2 and adding a first at Lancaster in 48-8.

McKinney knows the shot put real well. In 1998, he won a state title in the event with Sweet Home and took seventh in the NCAA Eastern Regional with the University at Buffalo.

Other returning athletes to the boys team are senior Mike Bakowski and junior Isaac Hagen in the 1600, 3200 and 4x800 relay and senior Dan Miranda in the 300, 55 hurdles, and high jump and juniors Matt Cross and Nick Cavalieri in the 300 and long and triple jump.

Miranda and Bakowski are the boys captains. Cavalieri has qualified for sectionals in the long jump with a fourth place finish at Buffalo State. Hagen won the 1600 at Lancaster in 5:02.9.

Sophomore Josh Blango makes his debut on the team and will help out in sprinting events. He has

qualified for sectionals in the 50 hurdles in 8.0.

McKinney said the strengths of the boys team are the sprinting events and the field events.

McKinney said the student-athletes on the relays are a work in progress. The 4x800 relay team took third at Buffalo State.

McKinney is assisted by Josh Wilmore, a 2002 Sweet Home graduate, and former Panthers' runner.

Sweet Home 2007-08 Schedule

- 12-22 Buffalo State College 8 a.m.
- 12-28 Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
- 1-5 Buffalo State College 8 a.m.
- 1-13 Varsity Select No. 1 at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
- 1-18 Buffalo State College 4:30 p.m.
- 1-21 Ninth, tenth grade meet at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
- 1-26 Varsity Select No. 2 at Lancaster..... noon
- 2-3 Varsity Select No. 3 at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
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