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Kell holds off Walton to win Region 6AAAAA track meet

By Eric Brown

Marietta Daily Journal Sports Writer

ROSWELL - Kell High School will have to find a few extra hotel rooms during the boys track team's upcoming trip to the state meet.

A year after qualifying one runner - Jamal Johnson - for the state meet in Jefferson, the Longhorns qualified five individuals and its 400-meter relay team on the way to 101 points and the Region 6AAAAA championship at Roswell High School on Saturday.

Kell edged Cobb County rival Walton by two points. Lassiter finished third with 70 points and Wheeler rounded out the top five with 59 points. Pope placed ninth with 17 points.

"We'll run back into Marietta and McEachern, they're over in (Region 5AAAAA)," first-year Kell head coach Craig McKinney said. "We've faced them a bunch of times this year and we'll see them again at state.

"We're taking a good number of kids, so we're excited. This year, we're going to have to get some extra hotel rooms."

Johnson, who qualified for state with his second-place finish in the 110-hurdles (15.06), will have plenty of company this season.

Sprinter Jonathan Dwyer won the 100- and 200-meter dashes (10.76, 22.17), while Dequann Simmons and Jonathan Trott took won region titles in the long jump and high jump, respectively.

Justin Chambers, a freshman sprinter, won the 400 (49.44) and took second in the 200 (22.20).

"Our team is built for speed and our strength is in the sprinting events," McKinney said about Dwyer's and Chambers' contributions. "They lived up to what they were expected to do."

With the balanced scoring and depth, Kell narrowly edged out the Walton Raiders. The Raiders were paced by distance runner Jay Heller. The junior won the 1,600 (4:18.01) and 3,200 (9:35.44). Fellow distance runner Corey Hunter placed second in the 1,600 (4:21.05). Additionally, Brian David won the 300 hurdles (40.17) and the Raiders brought home a pair of second-place finishes in the relays.

"We had kids that rose to the occasion of a competitive track meet, (Kell) did also," Walton coach Tom Williams said. "In the end, there was only two points difference and that's one heck of a track meet. It's always fun to be part of it - you'd like to be on the other end of it."

While Kell and Walton battled for the top spot, Lassiter and Wheeler had respectable meets.

Lassiter, which led after the first day, qualified two athletes for state.

Thrower David Schiedt won both the discus (149-05) and shot put (50-11 $\frac{1}{2}$) competitions, while Drew Jones won a region championship in the 800 (1:57.97).

Wheeler, meanwhile, will send four representatives to Jefferson. Andrew Titus finished second in the long jump (21-7 $\frac{1}{2}$), while Alonzo Henry took second in the shot (49-6 $\frac{1}{2}$).

J.T. Tiller (47-02 $\frac{1}{4}$) and Garland Stegall (43-06 $\frac{1}{4}$) took the top two spots in the triple jump.

Pope, whose girls won the Region 6AAAAA championship last week at Woodstock, advanced one runner to state.

Miles Svoboda took second in the 3,200 (9:45.64).



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