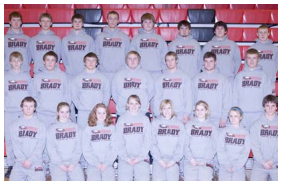

43 boys, girls to compete.

Numbers are up higher than anyone can remember in the Brady track program.

The large group of 43 boys and girls is an indication of how far things have come for the Eagles in the past 10 years.

In fact five seasons ago, there weren't enough boys to put even a single relay on the track.

Now coach Rich Britten has more participants in some events than meets allow with a limit of three entries per school.

"Having big numbers could help us, especially at some of the smaller meets," Britten said. "We might not be able to win every event but we could earn points by placing one or two kids."

On the boys side, the Eagles have three returning state qualifiers.

Senior Corbin Blede has been to state twice in the shot and qualified in discus last spring as well.

BRADY TRACK SCHEDULE

March 20—UNK Indoor at Kearney, 9 a.m.
March 27—Hershey Invite, 10 a.m.
March 30—Cozad Quad, 4:30 p.m.
April 1—Elwood Invite, 10 a.m.
April 8—Brady Invite at Arnold, 9 a.m.
April 16—Sutherland Invite, 10 a.m.
April 22—Brady/Gothenburg Invite at Gothenburg, 3 p.m.
April 29—Sandhills Conference hosted by Cody-Kilgore at Valentine, 9 a.m.
May 5—Best of the Midwest at Sutherland, 3 p.m.
May 8—Stapleton Invite at Arnold, 10 a.m.
May 12—D-10 district meet at Sutherland, TBA
May 21-22—State meet at Omaha, TBA

His winning experience combined with returning state qualifiers Brad Ward and Kyle Pohlman provide a strong base for the Eagle boys.

Ward competed at Omaha in the high jump, clearing 6-0 for a three-way tie for seventh place.

Pohlman was a qualifier in the triple jump.

“We also have a bunch of talented young kids,” Britten said. “It will be tough for them going up against juniors and seniors but if they keep with it, they could be pretty good down the road.”

Britten expects the strength of the boys team to be in the field events as well as the distance races. Relays, he said, might come together before the season is over.

With only one senior and three juniors, the Eagle girls will rely on their youth as their strength.

Britten said he feels the Brady girls will show best in the sprints and hurdle events, scoring a few points in the distance races as well.

“We have some young girls who will be coming along in the field events too,” Britten said, “but it

could take them a little while to really get into it."

Weather has not cooperated for the Eagles or any other outdoor team this spring.

With their opening meet at the University of Nebraska at Kearney Indoor Invite on Saturday, Britten said this week has been the first time runners, jumpers and throwers have been able to get outside.

"Weather hasn't been kind to us," Britten said. "The good thing is, everyone else is also in the same boat."

The indoor meet at Kearney begins at 9 a.m.

Brady's first outdoor competition is scheduled for March 27 at Hershey.

The Sandhills Conference has only one change this spring with Stapleton and McPherson County combining for sports.

With a new look for 2010, the D-10 district has many of the same opponents as the SHC.

Teams that will compete in the D-10 at Sutherland in May are Anselmo-Merna, Arnold, Arthur County, Brady, Callaway, Mullen, Paxton, Stapleton/McPherson County, Sandhills/Thedford and Wallace.

"The goal is always to get as many kids as possible to state," Britten said. "That's what we'll work toward again this year."

Members of the 2010 Brady track team are (*denotes letter winner):

SENIORS—Corbin Blede*, Shelby Diehl, Nathan Montoya.

JUNIORS—Christian Arterburn*, Jacob Bourge, Ethan Callahan*, Amanda Lunkwitz, Brittany Melcher, Kyle Pohlman*, Dalton Riedel*, Jessica Schrad*, Jeffrey Simants*, Erin Smith, Taina Taullie*, Natasha Walter*, Brad Ward*.

SOPHOMORES—Lincoln Blede, Tyler Egenberger, Tyrel Grasz, Ryan Kleinow, Tyler Kleinow, Shelby McClellen, Russel Mil-ler, Micah Most, Megan Polt, Ryan Porter, Jake Warren, Courtney Widick, Levi Widick.

FRESHMEN—Kaleb Arterburn, Brittney Christophersen, Mikaela Eckholt, Preston Franzen, Molly Hannon, Krystan Hood, Krista Kleinow, Marc Kramer-Davis, Matt Litzenberger, Zach Mann, Michael Neiman, Bryley Roper, Dakota Terry, Cole Viter.

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