

Eagle boys miss relay record by just two seconds

Written by Deb Egenberger
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ELWOOD—A couple of steps or maybe one deep breath is all that separated the Brady boys 4x400 relay team from a school record on Thursday.

It was the first full outdoor meet of the season at Elwood and the Eagles have already run within two seconds of the school's mile relay record.

"When the conditions are right, I think they'll get it," said coach Rich Britten.

Eric Roe, Troy Lusk, Zach Mann and Bryley Roper won the 4x400 relay in 3:37.5.

Britten said all four boys felt like they could have shaved at least a second off their splits.

"They're not feeling like they're in the best shape they could be yet," he said, "so they're already talking about getting back to state."

With one different runner, the Eagle 4x400 was seventh in Class D at state last spring.

The only other champion for the boys at Elwood was Roper in the 400-meter dash. He won in a time of 52.9 seconds, just about a half second shy of his personal best from last year.

On the girls side, sophomore Shaylin McClellan earned the only gold medal, winning the long jump with a distance of 15 feet, one-half inch.

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“The girls had a little harder time,” Britten said, “but they competed hard and they’ll continue to improve.”

Britten said he was impressed with the 4x100 relay tying for second place despite having to substitute a runner for injured Autumn Hild.

“Molly (Hannon) did a nice job for us but she’s just not quite as fast as Autumn,” the coach said. “It will be interesting to see how that relay does in meets to come.”

The Eagles compete at the South Loup Invite at Arnold beginning at 9 a.m. on Friday.

Britten expects it to be a large meet with several quality schools.