

## BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

# Mustangs uses Drake Relays to prepare for stretch run

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DES MOINES — The PCM boys' 4x100-meter relay team has been focused on trying to figure out the order since the beginning of the season.

Gavin Fenton has been the group's anchor and starter and even ran the second leg, too.

The rest of the foursome though has agreed that the team's lone senior should be the starter and the Mustangs ran the order they expect to be in the rest of the season during the Drake Relays on April 29.

PCM came into the classic annual track and field meet seeded 61st out of 96 teams and the Mustangs placed 64th with a time of 44.79 seconds.

"It doesn't matter what time you come in at, there's always a chance to go faster," Fenton said. "That's a pretty good time. It's not a PR but it is what it is."

"I like starting. I think the guys want me to start because I'm older and better out of the blocks."

The Mustangs' foursome for the Drake Relays was Fenton, Adrien Robbins, Griffin Olson and Gabe Hobbs. Robbins replaced Evan Jones, who could not run because of a strained calf muscle.

"I was pleased with how we ran," PCM head boys track and field coach Logan Bieghler said. "This was the first time this particular group was together. It takes a village and more than four guys to compete in a season. We had some tired and fatigued legs from this past week with having two meets and a Senior Trip and prom last week."

Fenton and Olson both ran on the 4x100 relay team at last year's Drake Relays. Hobbs was part of last year's state meet, but Robbins was competing on the blue oval for the very first time.

Robbins spent most of last season out with an injured hip.

"It was really fun. I'm definitely glad I got to experience this with the guys," Robbins said. "It's really nice to see how far we've come since last year. I think we have the order figured out. It's just a matter of getting faster and having smoother handoffs."

PCM's fastest time of the season is 44.27. The Mustangs' 64th-place finish and 44.79 time was fast enough to finish before conference rival Greene County (45.35).

The PCM boys' 4x100-meter relay team at the annual Drake Relays featured (from left) senior Gavin Fenton, sophomore Adrien Robbins and juniors Griffin Olson and Gabe Hobbs. The Mustangs placed 64th in the 96-team field.

Troy Hyde/PCM Explorer



PCM sophomore Adrien Robbins, center, hands the baton to junior Griffin Olson during the Drake Relays on April 29. The Mustangs finished 64th in the event  
Troy Hyde/PCM Explorer

The Mustangs will be at a Class 2A state qualifier this month. Joining them will be Shenandoah (44.08), Red Oak (44.2) and Clarinda (45.15) and that trio finished 32nd, 35th and 74th, respectively, at the Drake Relays.

Cedar Rapids Washington won the Drake Relays 4x100 title with a time of 41.71 seconds. It was the only group to finish faster than 42 seconds.

"It was a fun experience. It was better than being in the last heat," Olson said. "It gave us the chance to see our competition for districts. We just need to focus on handoffs now."

Hobbs said the Drake Relays felt more high profile than the state meet.

"It was a lot of fun. We are surrounded by great athletes from a lot of different universities," Hobbs said. "I think our team likes where we are, but we can still tweak a few things."

### Mustangs finish second at home meet



Wendt

MONROE — The strength of PCM's team shined through during the Mustangs' home meet on April 27.

Despite an exhausted group of seniors who returned from their Senior Trip just a few hours before, the Mustangs scored 135 points and finished second at the PCM High School Boys Invitational.

PCM won three sprint relays, finished second in the shuttle hurdle relay by a mere .23 seconds and edged Pleasantville in the final standings on Senior Night.

Knoxville scored 197 points at the top. PCM (135) was eight points clear of Pleasantville (127) and Chariton (93) and North Mahaska (73) round out the top five. Wayne (48), Melcher-Dallas (33) and the PCM junior varsity (18) completed the eight-team field.

The Mustangs won four events and ended up top three in 10 total. The lone individual win came from Mark Bus-

san in the shot put. Bussan and Kaden Clark finished 1-2 in the event with throws of 43-8 and 42-5, respectively.

The winning sprint medley relay included Robbins, Jacob Wendt, Hobbs and Caden Bouwkamp and their winning time was 1:40.69.

An exhausted Fenton and August Stock finished their nights in the 4x100. They were joined by Hobbs and Wendt and that group won the race in 45.3 seconds.

Jones, Robbins, Olson and Hobbs won the 4x200 in 1:35.02 and the shuttle hurdle relay team of Fenton, Olson, Stock and Gavin Van Gorp finished second in 1:04.56. Pleasantville edged the Mustangs with a time of 1:04.33.

The 4x800 relay finished third with Carson Hansen, Joe Shaver, Riley Graber and Gavin DeRaad. They were clocked in 9:10.06.

Jones, Bouwkamp and Olson all were third in an individual event and the Mustangs grabbed double points in the shot put, discus and 400 hurdles.

Jones finished third in the 100 (11.51) and fifth in the 200 (23.19), Bouwkamp ended up third in the 400 in 53.76 and Olson was third in the 400 hurdles in 1:00.12. Fenton scored points in the event, too, as he was fifth in 1:00.89.

Bussan and Clark finished 4-5 in the discus with throws of 100-4 and 100-2, respectively. Coby DeRaad ended up fourth in the 3,200 with a time of 11:56.86 and Van Gorp came in fourth in the long jump with a leap of 18-8.

### One win leads Mustangs to sixth at EBF

EDDYVILLE — One victory and two second- and third-place finishes highlighted PCM's day at the EBF Rocket Relays on April 25.

The Mustangs won the 4x200 relay, grabbed the silver medal in the distance medley relay and scored 76 points in sixth place.

Due to their Senior Trip, the Mustangs did not have the services of their seniors for this meet.

PCM's 4x200 relay team included Wendt, Robbins, Olson and Jones and they finished in 1:34.37.

The runner-up distance medley relay team featured Carter Burns, Jack Jungling, Gabe Hobbs and Joe Shaver and they completed the race in 4:04.95.

Robbins, Jones, Wendt and Hobbs teamed up to finish third in the sprint medley relay. They finished in 1:39.97.

The Mustangs scored double points in the long jump and shot put.

In the long jump, Gavin Van Gorp was second in 19-7 and Wendt placed fifth in 18-1.

Bussan (42-8 1/2) and Clark (41-6 3/4) were 4-5 in the shot put, Van Gorp finished third in the 110 high hurdles in 16.12 seconds and Riley Graber ran 57.6 in the 400 to place fifth.

Host EBF edged Pella Christian to win the meet championship with 128 points. The Eagles were second with 124 and the rest of the top five was Chariton (107), Davis County (106) and Knoxville (99).

PCM (76), East Marshall (56) and Colfax-Mingo (35) completed the field.

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