

MIFFLIN COUNTY TRACK AND FIELD

Huskies bring an all-around package

Continued from Page 20

Those relays will be a source of pride for the Huskies this year, after putting up a stellar showing a year ago, Gantz expects.

“All the way around, 4x100s, 4x400s and 4x800s, we have some pretty solid relays. I think coach (Scot) Sechler” — he handles the 400 and 1,600 — “is licking his chops right now.

“And with some of the kids we have in distance, the 4x800’s going to be a force to be reckoned with also.”

But it’s not just those six events that make Mifflin County look like a contender this spring. It’s the sprinters, jumpers — and especially the distance runners, who have also proven themselves in cross country at the district and state levels.

“With Zach (Moon), Marissa (Long) and Jon (Colwell) — just basically the whole group — we’re looking forward to what they can do,” Gantz said. “Last year it was probably one of our strong suits (at Indian Valley), and definitely one for the Lewistown boys.

“You look at the field events, you see some good things that are going to happen,” he continues. “Jump-wise, you have Harry (Lowber) back for the boys, you have Madi (Walters). You have a whole slew of people in every event.”

As a measure of quantity or quality, Gantz can only be happy when he sees the turnout for track — 125



Sentinel photo by BUFFIE BOYER

Members of the Mifflin County High School girls track and field team are, from left, front, Megan Becker, Sam Peters, Ashley Shawver, Jenn Lake, Madilyn Walters, Marissa Long, Erika Shawver and Alexis Daubert; second row, Cameron Hassinger, Kaylee Weaver, Miranda Hummel, Mary Havice, Whitney Strohecker, Emily Landis, Elle Harpster, Lauren DeArment, Makenna Pollock and Hannah Miller; third row, Jessica Miller, Britnie Wright, Corrine Collins, Latasha Yoder, Bryce Papp, Kezia Loht, Kelly Hain, Michele Lake, Becca Rhoades and Sara Leonard; fourth row, Halle Fisher, Sydnee Treaster, Logan Snyder, Felicia-Renee Britt, Anna Habbershon, Ann Bielski, Karilyn Elder, Anne Harshbarger, Kaitlyn Yearick and Brooke Cherry; fifth row, Taylor Himes, Rebecca Peachey, McKenna Smith, Kristi Velez, Krystin Osborne, Katie Specht, Makayla Pearce, Makala Rearick, Anna Aurand and Taylor Everly.

signed up for the team.

“It’s kind of deceiving coming into the season. You’d think that our numbers would be astronomical — beyond what we could handle. But really they’re not much different that what we had whenever we were coaching at Indian Valley,” he said. Still, he said, “That’s something that we didn’t have in the past. We had the numbers but we didn’t have the quality, and that’s what we have now.

“That is a big, big plus for us.”

It should be no surprise that future league rival State College and Altoona are the biggest threats to dampen the Huskies’ parade at the end of the season.

“It’s something that we’ve never backed away from. We’ve always wanted

to run against the best, and in our area, State College and Altoona perennially have been the best. They’re the top of the pile,” Gantz said. But we’re used to seeing them — a lot of the invitationals we go to, they’re there. Our kids know their kids and they know what to expect whenever it comes time to run them dual-meet wise.”

A late add to this year’s slate is the Tim Cook Invitational, now the opener on March 31. It will give the team a chance to see the kind of competition it will face a year from now going into the Mid-Penn Conference.

“Years down the road here we have our work cut out for us,” Gantz said. “We’re going to have to be more than good. We’re

going to have to be great.”

For this season? The invitationals and the postseason are on the checklist.

“That’s always been one of our focuses, get as many kids as we can to the state meet and pull as many medals as we possibly can,” he said. “That’s what it’s all about.”

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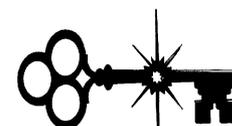
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