**2018 Season Recap: Pole Vault**

Wow! What an exciting season we had.  With the worst weather in the last 15 years in the state, we came out and competed hard and still had a lot of PRS.  With two pole vault meets cancelled with the weather at or below 35 degrees Fahrenheit, it was tough to get in competitions or practices.  We made it through!  We had 4 girls at 8' or above this year which is fantastic!  Claire Barenie represented the pole vaulters at the state meet in Charleston becoming the 6th Oswego pole vaulter in the history of the school to make the state meet.  She vaulted 10' in prelims but unfortunately did not make the finals on Saturday.  She is only a junior and will be back to make history next year as a senior!  Battling through the cold, her best vault of the season was 10'6".  Finding the right pole next year will be key to her success.  Ellina Butolph, only a sophomore vaulted 8'3" at the sectional meet and opened at an official PR height!  There are big things to come for her.  During sectional practice week, Claire and I had some fun with Ellina by putting the bar up for her at different heights and with the standards zeroed, she cleared 8'9"!  This is HUGE and should be a big confidence boost for next year.  Our two seniors this year were Ali Sanders and Emerson Bella.  Ali is a four year vaulter and Emerson just came out to try it out her senior year!  Ali ends her career with 7'0" as her PR and Emerson decided to tie that as well her first year vaulting!  They will be missed on the pit and their contagious, positive attitudes are always welcome back at practice! Brooke August, a junior this year has big things  coming for her!   Showing herself as a leader at the vault, and everywhere else on the track, she PRd this year at 8'0"!  Staying injury free was huge this year and paid dividends when she scored at conference even when competing two other events.  I share her with hurdles(100 & 300) and triple jump which she volunteered to try this year!  I love multi-event athletes!  Brooke also came and helped out at every single middle school meet and encouraged others to come out for track!  One of those was Hannah Baker, a first year junior who cleared 7'0" at the Minooka Invite!  Her drive to compete and get better is contagious and I can see her clearing over 8'0" her senior year, and just her second year vaulting!  From her first practice and meet, she is probably the most improved vaulter on the squad this year from start to finish.  Brie Ruggerio is also a first year vaulter as a sophomore.  Coming to us as a national level hockey player, Brie wanted to try going upside down.  She ended the season clearing 6'6" at a meet, but unofficially, with a bar and standards zeroed at practice, she cleared 7'3" at the end of the year.  This is HUGE!  We had quite a freshman group this year, Jessie Schane, Olivia Solis, Grace Davis, and Julianne Wilmont were great!  With the exception of a certain boys pole vault bag put on the bus for a girls invite, ahem Jessie and JuJu, they followed every direction, did every little thing to get better, and came to practice and worked hard!  It payed off in the end as Jessie vaulted 8'0" at the Naperville Central Invite, Olivia vaulted 6'6" at a meet but 7'0" in practice, Grace vaulted 6'9", and JuJu vaulted 5'9".  Grace also happens to be on our varsity 4x1 and 4x2 squads and did not get to finish the season vaulting due to her running too fast, haha, but already, as I write this in the summer, she is back with a vengeance to get better and clear higher heights.  Olivia is my lone high jumper pole vaulter combo and she excels at both!  a 5'0" high jumper, she learned to bend the pole at the end of the season in this jumping event which has started her soaring up to heights she didn't think imaginable last summer!  A very hard worker, Julianne "Juju" got a stress fracture the last month or so of track and was not able to finish the season.  Hopefully, once it heals she will be back and starting to vault again!  In an attempt to gain more vaulters and interest in the vault, we had a loan middle school vaulter this year, Jiselle (Gigi) Cano.  In her only meet she was able to compete in, she cleared 6'0"!  I still remember the look on her face of disbelief when she cleared her opening height of 5'0" and her happiness that entire day.  I am looking forward to her vaulting the next four years!

This has been a great year.  As we move forward, it is my hope that the pole vaulters can gain confidence in each other, their vaulting, and the program.  We are strong, confident young ladies and will go far in both life and athletics!   Congratulations on a great season girls!

~Coach Zimm

**SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

So many things to be proud of this week but the most important is that after a 23 year drought, and never winning the SPC ever (It was the Little 7 conference back then) the Panther Oswego Girls Track and Field Program won it's first SPC conference championship!

In the pole vault...

Claire Barenie won her first conference title, worth 10 points, with a vault of 10'0"

Ellina Butolph scored 6th for 1 very important point with a vault of 8'0". (We won by only 5 points, every point matters!)

Brooke August scored 3rd on JV with a vault of 7'6" to earn 6 points for the team!

For our IHSA Sectional Meet Claire and Ellina will continue on and compete in Rock Island on Friday May 12th.

Season Best So Far...

Barenie                                                          10' 6"

Butolph                                                           8' 0"

August                                                            8' 0"

Schane                                                           8'0"

Baker                                                              7' 0"

Bella                                                               7'0"

Davis                                                               6' 9"

Ruggiero                                                         6' 6"

Sanders                                                          6' 6"

Solis                                                                6' 6"

Wilmont                                                           5' 9"