

Lady Bulldogs Win Regional Championship By Judy Rogers

The Golden Palms Lady Bulldogs won their first ever Regional Track Meet at the Colby Regional on May 18. The girls earned 62 points for the title, edging past runner-up Northern Valley with 61.33 points.

Junior KayCee Miller won the regional championship in all four of her events. She placed first in Long Jump by jumping a personal best of 16' 8.25" to extend the school record she had set earlier in the season. Miller also set a PR of 26.28 in the preliminaries of the 200m dash and ran a 26.81 in finals for first place. "I am very proud of my performance at Regionals," said Miller. "I have never been a regional champion before and it feels great to be a champ in all four of my events! I'm excited to be headed back to Cessna for my third year in a row!"

She also claimed the regional championship with both the 4 x 100m relay and 4 x 400m relay teams. The 4 x 100m Relay team of Miller, Brooke Stoll, Ashley Stoll, and Mabel Lugo set a new PR of 52.13 for the title. These girls have placed in the top four of every meet this season.

The same four girls ran 4:18.82 for the 4 x 400m relay championship. They have placed first at every meet this season and are looking forward to competing in Wichita. "This season has had a lot of personal bests and winning regionals as a team reflects how hard my team and I have worked," added Miller. "This season has been really fun but we aren't done yet!"

Ashley Stoll also qualified for state in the 400m by placing second with a time of 1:01.79. She also ran the 200m dash qualifying for finals with a time of 27.51 and running 27.79 in finals. Brooke Stoll qualified for state in the 800m with a second place time of 2:36.49. She also ran the 100m in 14.00 seconds.

Mabel Lugo also qualified for state in the 400m with a fourth place time of 1:03.03. This will be her second trip to state as she placed third in the 400m last season. Lugo also ran the 100m hurdles. She qualified for finals with a 17.27 run in prelims and placed fifth with a time of 17.50 in finals, just missing out on state qualification. Jennifer Esparza threw shot put for the Bulldogs and finished her season with a 30' 11.5" toss.

"This regional title is the culmination of a lot of hard work that these girls have put in this school year," said Coach Travis Smith. "Their work is not done as they head to Wichita this weekend. If we can continue to compete as they have all year, they could bring home a lot of hardware. They have been a great group to work with. I appreciate their hard work and the competitive nature they bring to practice and competition each and every day."

The girls will have a busy state tournament schedule. On Friday, May 25, prelims will be run beginning at 2:55 with the 4 x 100m relay. At 3:35, Ashley Stoll and Mabel Lugo will run the 400m prelims. At 5:15 pm, KayCee Miller will run prelims for the 200m dash, and the 4 x 400m prelim will begin at 5:55 pm. KayCee Miller will long jump at 1:15 pm on Saturday, and Brooke will run the 800m at 5:05 pm on Saturday along with finals in qualifying events.