

Eagle girls break record

Written by Deb Egenberger
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SUTHERLAND—It's been a work in progress for almost a year.

Ever since the Brady girls 4x100 relay team set a new school record at the state meet in Omaha last spring, the girls have had their sights set on another one.

The accomplishment came during the Sutherland Invite on Friday.

Shaylin McClellen, Valerie Most, Autumn Hild and Megan Polt won the relay in 52.3 seconds, more than a second faster than second-place Sutherland and almost a second faster than the previous record of 53.26 seconds.

"And it could have been better," said Eagle coach Rich Britten. "We've been struggling with the handoff between Val and Autumn. It was better but still not great."

Sutherland had posted a better time than Brady going into the meet, Britten said, and the Sailor team beat the Eagles at the Hershey Invite in March.

"When I look at the times, we're leading our district right now," the coach said. "Still, we have to get our handoffs down and we can't try to be safe. It just has to be automatic."

The new record made Brady's win in the girls competition all the more sweet.

The Eagles scored 105 team points with North Platte St. Pat's in second with 95.

"I knew we had the ability to be in the hunt with those bigger schools but some of those teams have quite a few more girls," Britten said.

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Other gold medalists for the girls were Polt in the 200-meter dash and Josie Palmer in the high jump.

The Brady boys were fourth as a team behind winning St. Pat's, runner-up Paxton and third-place Chase County.

"We did well in the field events," Britten said, "but we couldn't manage many points in the running events."

Senior Sawyer Burke earned a pair of gold medals in the long jump and high jump while junior Bryley Roper was first in the triple jump.

"It seemed like Perkins County and Hershey were loaded in the sprints," Britten said. "We just have to keep working to improve."

The Eagles will compete next at the Sandhills Conference meet in North Platte on April 26.

"If we come out and compete the way we should, we have a good chance to win both the girls and the boys," Britten said. "We've got to stay healthy and focused."

The meet is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. at North Platte High School.