



JEREMY HOGAN | HERALD-TIMES

Brown County's Dylan Allen celebrates with coach Rob Abraham after a recent race. Allen is one of the better long distance runners in the area, but has excelled in the sprints this season as well.

Brown County's speed racer

Eagles' Allen has flourished as a sprinter this season, but still stands out as a distance runner

By Jim Gordillo

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Dylan Allen's brief fling with the sprints this spring was a torrid affair.

The Brown County senior likely got some second looks when the cross country star and distance ace, who helped the Eagles' 3,200 relay break sectional and school records last year en route to the state finals, settled into the starting blocks for the 100, 200 and 400 in some early season meets.

But after struggling in the mile in the

opener and showing similar problems in the next meet, thanks to pains from a growth spurt and a balky knee, coach Rob Abraham found another way for Allen to ease the pounding and still score points for his team.

All Allen did was post the fastest times in the area up until this week, going 11.2 in the 100, 22.9 in the 200, 1:58.35 in the 800 and breaking a 20-year-old school record with a 49.3 in the 400. And he was also on the 1,600 relay that had posted an area best 3:33.80.

"I don't know if I actually expected that," Allen said. "I expected to be the No. 2 or 3 guy on the team sprintwise. I was surprised at myself. I still consider myself a distance runner, since I only did the 100 and 200 a couple of times."

But all that running must have made sprints the equivalent of a six-hour work day. It also didn't hurt that Dylan's father, Greg, was a standout sprinter and long jumper at Columbus North.

"I think the endurance (Dylan) had from cross country, running all those miles, all those 800s last year, helped tremendously," Abraham said. "He always had the footspeed. Almost every year, he's been one of our fastest kids."

But just as the distance was good for his sprinting, he's found the reverse to be true as well.

"It's the best of both worlds," Allen said. "I do have more of a kick at the end of distance

SEE ALLEN | PAGE B4

ALLEN Eagle excels at sprints, too

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

events, too.”

As his recent outing at South attests. He started off with an 11.43 in the 100, posted his 49.30 in the 400, a 22.9 in the 200 and finished with an under-52 split in the 1,600 relay.

“I felt good going into it,” Allen said. “I had in my mind going for the 400 record all day. I knew I was on pace, because I knew because I was pretty far ahead and coach was still screaming at me to, ‘Go! Go!’ So I knew I had to kick it in gear.”

“I’ve never had a distance runner with 11.2 speed,” Abraham said. “It’s amazing to see that he had that type of range.”

But Allen has no solid plans to run at the collegiate level. He is already enrolled at IUPUI as a

planned double major in Spanish and business (he enjoyed Mexico so much as a foreign exchange student he’d like to go back and work there). He’s heard the Jaguars, who offer cross country, may add track to their athletic lineup and would sign up if given the chance.

For now, it’s time to leave the 100 and 200 behind and chase down two more school records — the 1,600 relay (3:27) and the 800 (1:55.28) — in addition to the three he already has. Individually, that means focusing hard on the 400 and 800. But which is his best?

“It’s hard to say,” Allen said. “I don’t know which one I’m better at.”

And Allen knows he can go even faster after turning in a 1:56 split in the 3,200 relay at the Franklin Central Showcase in mid-April.

“Absolutely,” Allen said. “The competition will push me to do what I can do.”