

# Prep Sports

TSSAA SPRING FLING

## LEADING THE CHARGE

Central wins AAA;  
Austin dominates  
D2 sprint races

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**MURFREESBORO** — A fresh Calvin Austin is bad news for the rest of the state.

Austin, a Harding Academy junior, was the standout performer during Friday's Division 2 track meet at MTSU. He swept the sprints, winning the 100 (10.81 seconds), the 200 (21.76) and the 400 (49.63).

Austin's 100-meter time was the fastest in any of the three classifications and his sweep matched his performance at last week's West Region meet.

"We practiced Monday and Tuesday and then had Wednesday and Thursday off," Austin said. "My legs still felt good after every race."

Austin also anchored Harding's 800-relay team, which had the top time before being disqualified on a lane violation.

"Me and (teammate) Nick (Martin) had been disqualified at state before," he said. "I just felt bad for the other guys."

While Austin was fresh, Central's Rashad Haynes was exhausted. But he still had enough in the tank to help the Warriors repeat as AAA champs.

Haynes won the AAA 100 in 11.01 — just ahead of Memphis football commitment Timothy Taylor of East — and finished second in the long jump.

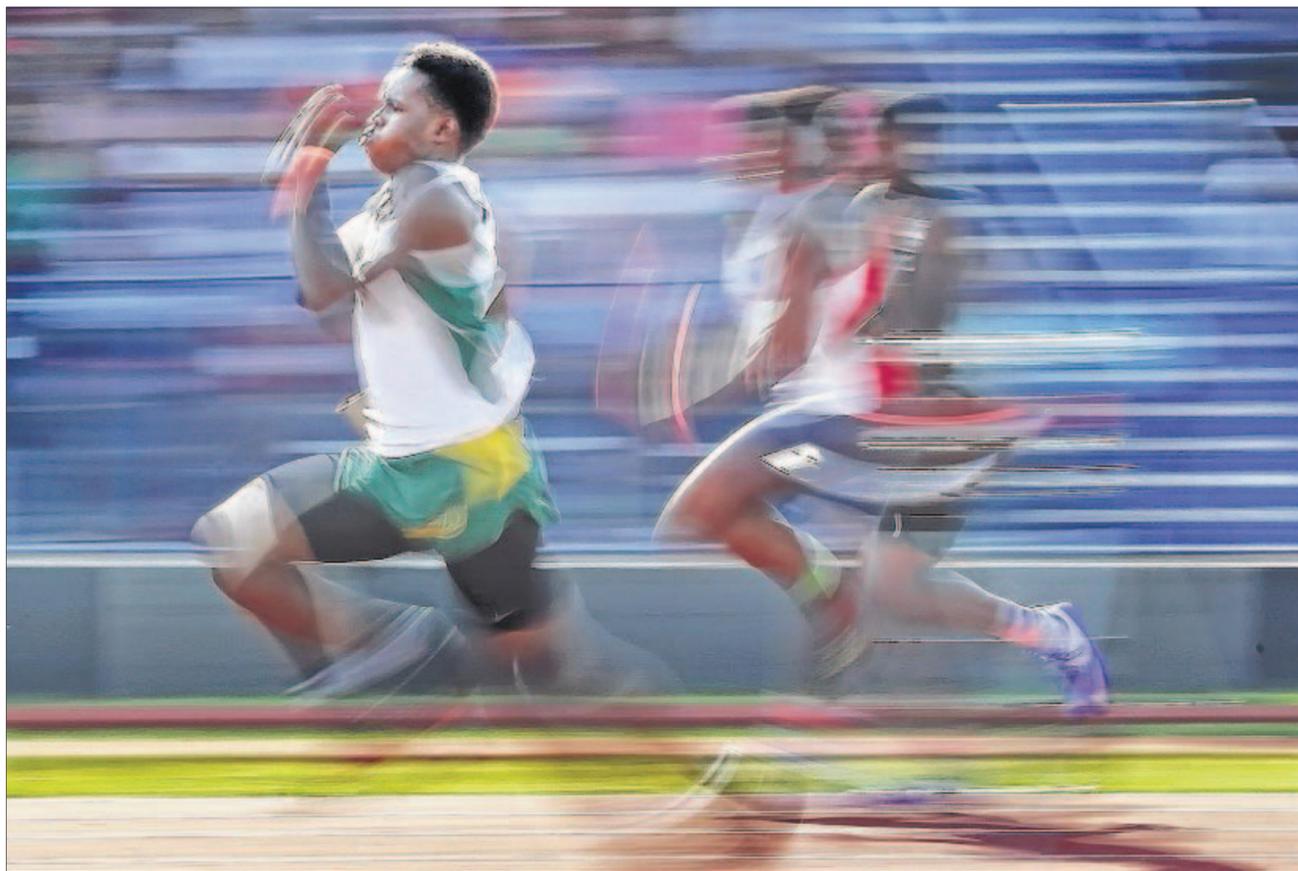
"That was a bad race," said Haynes after the 100. "I was exhausted from the decathlon (where he finished third earlier in the week). I did 10.61 there. I just had to push through."

Haynes had the only first-place finish for Central, but the Warriors had enough depth in every event they entered to win the championship with 74 points. It was the same formula they used in 2015, but coach Rashad Haynes hesitates to call it a formula.

"It works for us," he said. "It's the best recipe we have. We just have a bunch of pieces that fit together and competition brings out the best in us."

After repeating as girls champion Thursday, Whitehaven finished second in AAA boys, scoring 55 points to record its best finish in school history.

Thirty of the Tigers' points came in the relays, where they won three times in school-record fashion. Keidrin Jefferson, Jaylin Davis, Ray Booker and Johnny McGlue — running as



PHOTOS BY JIM WEBER / THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

In this long exposure, Central's Rashad Haynes turns on the afterburners on the final straight during the AAA 400-meter relay Friday during Spring Fling at MTSU in Murfreesboro. Central finished second to Whitehaven in the event but won the team championship for a second straight year.



Rodney Williams from Germantown makes a successful attempt at 6 feet, 6 inches after clinching the state title by clearing 6-4 in the D2 boys high jump.

a team for the first time — won the 800 in 1:27.06 before Ayrton Thompson, Davis, Booker and Jefferson won the 400 in 41.89.

Davis then provided the night's most exciting finish as he ran down Central's anchor in the stretch to win the 1,600 in 3:20.65. That team also included Terry Keller, DeShawn Grant and McGlue.

"It's a combination of good

coaching and talent," Davis said.

MUS senior Terrell Jackson also had a big meet. He repeated in the D2 800 in 1:50.84 while anchoring the Owls' winning 3,200 (8:08.33) and 1,600 (3:20.89) teams.

"I was definitely pushing it," said Jackson of his 800. "I did OK; I came through like I wanted to."

Kobe Hill won the first-ever



Bryan Puckett from Central High School competes in the Class AAA boys long jump during the State Track and Field Championships Friday at MTSU in Murfreesboro. The Warriors won their second straight state title.

state championship for Memphis Business Academy, taking the A-AA 400 in 48.48.

Shelby County had two high jump winners earlier Friday. Dayton Leach of Briarcrest cleared 6-4 to win in D2 while Germantown's Rodney Williams cleared a personal-best

6-6 to win in AAA in his first year as a jumper.

"We didn't get a state championship in football or basketball so I wanted to get one," Williams said. "It took a lot of hard work because I was behind on (learning) technique. I don't really think it's hit me yet."

TSSAA SPRING FLING

## Whitehaven wins 2nd straight AAA girls track tourney

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**MURFREESBORO** — Sequels often aren't nearly as good as the original. But "Whitehaven State Champs Part 2" earned rave reviews.

The Tigers dominated in the sprints and won their second consecutive AAA girls track and field championship Thursday at Dean A. Hayes Stadium on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University. They scored 98 points, far outpacing runner-up Ravenwood's 63.

And they did it with a boost from last year's star, current Tennessee stand-out Maia McCoy.

"We had a group chat and Maia got on there," said coach Yusuf Sharif. "She told them just how proud she was of them and just to keep it going. We're a family; you're always going to be part of the family."

"This group won the right way; they kept their mouths closed and they were humble. They dug deep and believed and trained all year to get to this day."

McCoy definitely would have been proud if she'd been there in person. Ceirra Tate won the 100 in 12:16, edging out teammate Kirstin Jones. But the freshman came back to win the 200 in 24.19, with Tate tak-



PHOTOS BY JIM WEBER / THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Southwind's Angelica Lightfoot lands an attempt in the AAA long jump. Her best effort of 18 feet, 4 inches took the state crown.

ing third and Kiara Rhodes grabbing fourth.

"I'm happy," said Tate after the 100. "My coach just told me to run all the way through to the top of the curve and that's what I did."

Rhodes got a victory in the 100 hurdles while Whitehaven also had wins in the 400 and 800 relays. The only interloper in the shorter races was Houston's Felecia Phillips, who won the 400 in 55.27 and also took second in the 200.

"I think I could have run a little faster," said Phillips, who seemingly had the race under control from the

opening gun. "I wanted to do my first 200 in 25.8-ish and finish the last 200 in around 28."

In A-AA, Dominique Chatman put an exclamation point on her outstanding career at Mitchell. The future University of Memphis runner won her third straight 400 title in 56.50.

"I was going for 55 but it's my last year and I just wanted to come out on top," she said. "I feels great; I want to set an example for my teammates to follow."

Shelby County ended up sweeping the 400 as Savanna Owens of Briarcrest ran down Jasmine Jefferson of

Knoxville Webb to win in 56.08 in Division 2.

"She ran a really good race, but I got her at the end," said Owens, who later finished second in the 200. "I was so tired but I was thinking 'I have to get this.' It's all I wanted."

Alyssa Neuberger gave the Saints and retiring coach Bill Doss another reason to celebrate; she won her second straight 300 hurdles championship in a time of 44:48.

"This year I was a lot more experienced," she said. "And there was no way I was going to lose in coach Doss' last year. He's



Harding Academy's Antoinette Lewis (right) gets a hug from Briarcrest's Alyiah Wells after Lewis threw nearly 40 feet to win the D2 girls shot put state championship on Thursday at Spring Fling in Murfreesboro. Lewis won with a throw of 39-9.

been incredible."

Harding's seniors also went out on top as Imani Harris and Cami Bea Austin teamed with Abigail Howell and Nia Bowley to win the 800 relay in 1:43.90. The same group also finished third in the 400 relay.

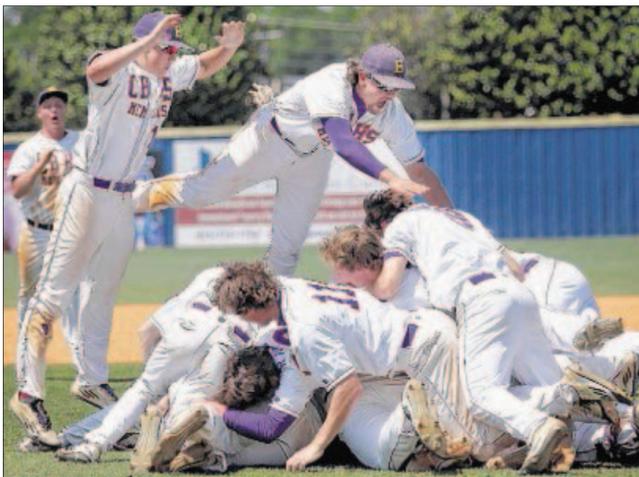
"We've been running together for two years now," said Austin, whose brother Calvin is expected to be one of the standout performers in Friday's boys finals. "All the 400s and 200s we ran (in practice). And especially for Imani and me as seniors to set the

school record."

In the field events, Southwind's Angelica Lightfoot won the long jump in 18-4.5 and also finished second in the 100 hurdles to help the Jaguars finish in third place. Harding's Antoinette Lewis won the shot put with a throw of 39-9.

Morgan Hunt finished second in the discus and third in the shot for Briarcrest, which finished fourth in the team competition behind Harpeth Hall, Ensworth and Brentwood Academy. Harding took fifth.

# Prep Sports



CBHS players pile up to celebrate their 6-1 D2-AA baseball championship win over Brentwood Academy on Thursday at MTSU in Murfreesboro.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL

## Baseball champs

CBHS 6, BRENTWOOD 1

By J.T. Mullen

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For CBHS pitcher Michael Feather, Thursday's D2-AA state championship game was the finale of his prep career.

The senior was 8-0 and his team, which had faced adversity early in the season, was on a roll, winning 30 of its last 33. The last step would be bringing home the D2-AA title for the second straight year.

Brentwood Academy struck first, scoring in the second inning on a single to left field. CBHS struggled to find its footing at the plate through four innings, but that changed quickly in the top of the fifth when junior left fielder Hayden Leatherwood connected for a two-run triple to right field.

The Purple Wave (35-10) went on to score four more runs through the final three innings, defeating the Eagles 6-1 for the program's 13th state

Feather's pitching lifts Brothers to 13th championship

baseball championship on Thursday at MTSU's Reese Smith Field.

"It's just ending my baseball career on a really great note — going back-to-back with this group of seniors," Feather said. "It really means a lot to just be able to play with these guys and end out on top."

Feather pitched a complete game, allowing one run on seven hits with three strikeouts.

CBHS coach Buster Kelso said his team never stopped battling.

"It's difficult to repeat," he said. "We started 1-4 and we didn't think we'd be in this position. But the kids worked hard. They are a pretty gritty bunch and I'm very proud of them. I'm very impressed by what they did in the last month. I think we won 23 of the last 24 games we played. That's hard to do."

Leatherwood led CBHS, going 2 for 4 with two tri-

ples, three RBIs and one run scored.

"We have been working very hard over the course of the season. At the beginning of this game, I thought it was going to be a rough start for us. Then after the fourth inning, we had a couple people on base and I decided I was going to take control of this game. I was going to take whatever that pitcher gave me," said Leatherwood.

### LIONS FALL TO FRA IN D2-A CHAMPIONSHIP

Harding fell 8-1 to Franklin Road Academy in the D2-A title game.

The Lions, who fell in the first round of the tournament to Davidson Academy 9-0, battled back for their fourth state runner-up finish.

"It's been familiar territory for us," Harding coach Al Stevens said. "I told them the possibilities. They believed that and got back to this point. There was no pressure. I wasn't surprised. We got a good group and they supported one another, so it didn't surprise me to get back to this point."

TSSAA DIV. 2 SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

## RELENTLESS

Waggoner's saves in shootout help CBHS win title

By John Varlas

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MURFREESBORO — Michael Waggoner wasn't going to lose Thursday. And thanks to an amazing performance in goal, he didn't.

The CBHS senior stopped a remarkable five straight penalty shots in the shootout as the Brothers won the D2-AA state championship over Montgomery Bell Academy at Siegel Soccer Park. The two teams battled through 110 grueling minutes and finished tied at 1 before the Brothers won the shootout 4-3.

CBHS now has 10 state championships, the most of any boys soccer program in the state.

David Alba got the winner and Waggoner said he gave him an earful before he took the kick.

"I told him he better not miss," the senior said. "I wasn't going to lose. Not this year."

After Alba scored, Waggoner came through with this fifth save to finally put MBA away. CBHS had trailed 3-1 in the shootout before Waggoner's heroics.

"I just kind of read (the shooters)," he said. "They were looking in the opposite direction (of where they intended to place the ball). They were trying to fake me out."

Nick Buoni scored in the seventh minute to give CBHS the lead and it stayed that way until five minutes from the end of regulation when MBA scored on an own goal to send it into overtime.



JIM WEBER / THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Christian Brothers goalkeeper Michael Waggoner celebrates after blocking the last penalty kick in a shootout to clinch the D2-AA state championship over Montgomery Bell Academy on Thursday in Murfreesboro.

Complicating things for the Brothers was the fact that they were down to just 10 men after Cole Cannon received a red card three minutes from the end of regulation. But they still had Waggoner, who also converted his team's first penalty.

"I looked forward to taking it," he said. "Our midfield did a great job keeping it together and holding possession after the red card. We were getting tired."

Buoni and Kyle Snyder also scored in the shootout for CBHS, which will be the only soccer state champion from Memphis this spring.

### EAGLES FALL TO WEBB

ECS went into overtime of the second consecutive day, but this time, the Eagles weren't able to finish the job.

Knoxville Webb scored twice in the 20-minute extra session to win 2-0, denying the Eagles their first state title since 2011.

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