

COMEBACK PLAYERS

BY ROB HUNT
THE HERALD BULLETIN

Detling's big return carries Eagles on

The Frankton Eagles entered sectional play with a 20-3 record and seemed to be poised for another deep tournament run.

Then, on Feb. 26, the day the Eagles were set to face Monroe Central at Elwood to open their postseason, those hopes for another title seemed to be dashed before the run could even start.

Senior center Rylan Detling was rushed to the hospital that day for an emergency appendectomy. The surgery began at about the time the Eagles were to take the court that evening. Although they were able to dispatch the Golden Bears in the first round and Sheridan in the semifinals, a much tougher Wapahani

team awaited them in the championship game.

But there was Detling, just four days after surgery, warming up with the team in pregame and in the starting lineup against the Raiders. In the game, he scored 13 points, grabbed eight rebounds, and was 7-of-9 at the foul stripe, helping lift the Eagles to a come from behind 53-50 win and a sectional championship.

For this remarkable turnaround, the Frankton senior has been named the 2018-19 THB Sports Awards Boys Comeback Player of the Year.

Detling, a career 1,000-point scorer at Frankton, will continue his academic and basketball career in the fall at Hanover College.

After 2 seasons away, Hays back on course

When she entered high school, Riley Hays brought with her a love of running and a desire to be a part of the highly successful cross country program at Pendleton Heights.

But as a result of a diagnosis of pectus excavatum and the multiple surgeries that followed, Hays was unable to compete as a sophomore and junior. Despite long odds, Hays was able to return to the course this year and was a strong contributor to the PH team that advanced to semistate, earning her the 2018-19 Girls Comeback Player of the Year.

The condition, which came on during a middle school growth spurt, involves the breastbone sinking into the

chest. In the case of Hays, it was putting pressure on her heart and causing her to pass out. She had surgery in 2015 to reposition the sternum, but it was unsuccessful, requiring a second procedure in 2017, prior to her junior season.

This year, despite still running with a titanium rod in her chest, Hays ran strong. She placed 20th at the Pendleton Heights sectional and 24th at the Delta regional, as she and the Arabians advanced on to the New Haven semistate. There, Hays placed 98th, scoring in 74th position as PH placed ninth.

The lone senior along with a talented roster of freshmen, Hays was looked to for leadership as well as placing.

JOHNNY WILSON AWARDS

Kishpaugh's incredible journey

BY GEORGE BREMER
THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — Negesse Kishpaugh and his brother, Borru, nearly were late to Liberty Christian's first boys soccer regional game in 2017.

The pair arrived at Taylor High School in Kokomo just in time to participate in warmups with their teammates. But they had a good excuse.

The Kishpaughs spent the morning competing in the cross country regional in Muncie, then drove 53.5 miles to take part in a little school history on the soccer pitch.

It was an incredible athletic feat to be sure. But it wasn't even the most interesting trip the family made that year.

That would be their first trip home to visit their mother in Ethiopia.

"They really missed us," Negesse said of his family in

Africa. "So it was cool to see."

It's all part of the amazing story that led Kishpaugh to be named the 2019 boys winner of the Johnny Wilson Award.

Kishpaugh arrived in America with his brother as an 11-year-old. His biological father died when he was very young, and his mother couldn't raise his many siblings alone.

So she made the extremely difficult decision to put Negesse and Borru up for adoption. They spent time in three orphanages before Jeffrey and Sherry Kishpaugh adopted them and brought them to the U.S.

When they came to Anderson, they spoke no English and had never before experienced electricity.

"We started playing with the lights, turning them on and off," Kishpaugh said of his first day in his new home.

"(Our parents) thought we were crazy."

He began picking up a few words by watching TV commercials, but it was sports that made him feel at home.

Kishpaugh was running routine tests during physical education class as a fifth-grader when

the daughter of Liberty Christian's track coach took notice.

Upon returning home that night, she reported extensively about the new kid in class who could run forever.

Intrigued, the coach asked Kishpaugh if he'd like to join the track team.

"What's track?" he replied.

As a senior, he won a sectional championship in the 800 meters and qualified for semistate in cross country. And he ended his career with the Lions with five school records in track and cross

country events.

Soccer — his third sport — came more naturally. It was the one game he and Borru had some experience with from their native land.

He came to high school determined to deliver a championship to Liberty Christian. As a junior, he was a key scorer during the soccer program's first sectional title.

"That was amazing," Kishpaugh said. "That was our aim every year. I always wanted to win some kind of championship."

Kishpaugh is the first athlete from Liberty Christian to win a Johnny Wilson Award.

"I'm so blessed," Kishpaugh said before learning he was named the winner Tuesday night at the Paramount Theatre. "Just being a part of it, sharing that connection (with other area stars) is just an honor."



Lane runs into Elwood record books

BY ROB HUNT
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Kaylee Lane was bitten by the running bug early, and the sport has continually fed her competitive nature throughout her athletic career.

As largely individual sports, cross country and track and field have been the perfect formats for Lane to compete. She hates to see a competitor in front of her and will move heaven and earth to move toward the front.

For the most part during her four-year career at Elwood, she did not have to pass many runners to get to the front.

She was usually already there.

The owner of multiple school and conference records as well as a superior postseason

career, capped by a second straight trip to the state girls

track finals, Lane is the girls winner of the 2019 Johnny Wilson Award, honoring athletes who compete in at least three sports.

"That (is) awesome, that (is) up there on the (career) highlights of course," Lane said. "(That) means a lot because I've worked so long and so hard for all of this. For it to pay off for something ... That is a good way to finish high school."

Lane wasted little time making an impact on the area.

As a freshman, she was All-CIC, All-Madison County and qualified for both regional and semistate in cross country. All were feats she repeated every year at Elwood as well as

becoming the school's record holder.

A softball player as a child, a coach convinced her in sixth grade to give cross country a try. It was a move that has paid off.

"I ended up doing well at it, and then went ahead and ran track,"

Lane said. "I really liked it, and I started out in distance (events) and no sprints. Over the years, I've come into the sprinting."

Her resume of achievements for the Elwood track and field team is just as impressive.

She is the CIC and school record holder in the 200 meters as well as the 400-meter relay and also holds the Elwood mark in the 400 meters. She was a sectional champion in the 400

meters in 2016, 2018 and 2019

and in the 400 relay in 2017. Lane is a four-time Madison County champion in the 400 meters, obviously her signature event. She capped her athletic career by setting school records in both the 200 and 400 meters at the 2019 state meet, including an eighth-place finish in the 400.

She also swam for Elwood for four years, an effective method of staying in condition during the offseason for running.

But Lane's legacy at Elwood will be all about the running.

"A lot of people know me because of running, they'll stop me because of my running," Lane said.

Lane plans to study nursing and run track at Southern Indiana University in Evansville.



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