

Making his move

Waubonsie Valley's Drew qualifies in four events; Vasich makes it in both hurdles

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Boys track

CHARLESTON — Waubonsie Valley junior Tracey Drew attended East Aurora last year and, well, let's let him tell it.

"Last year I qualified in no events," he said. "This year I qualified in four. It's a big change, with the move and everything. Coach (Steve) Luke's been doing a great job with me."

Drew moved to his step-mother's house, enabling him to attend Waubonsie Valley.

Friday at the Class AA track and field meet at O'Brien Stadium, he surmounted different hurdles.

Drew entered Friday's preliminaries seeded 21st in the 110-meter hurdles and reached today's finals with a time of 14.60, joining DuPage County hurdlers Chris Vasich of Naperville Central and Adam Harris of Wheaton North.

He ran a self-proclaimed "really bad" 39.63 but also advanced in the 300 intermediates — as did Vasich, Neuqua Valley's Alvin Smith and Glenbard West's Nate Larkin.

"The 300s is really my bread-

and-butter race, but I had to focus a little more on the 110s and I came out strong, thank God," said Drew, who also ran in the Warriors' 400-meter relay that failed to qualify.

Vasich, a 2002 qualifier who was injured last season, also qualified in both hurdles events. Time made a difference for him, too.

"I was, like, frightened," Vasich said, his newly short-cropped hair dyed yellow. "And now I'm not frightened as much and I just feel that I can do it. It's a lot easier now."

Waubonsie Valley, with Durrell Williams qualifying in the 800 and Mike Bina one of 14 pole vaulters advancing, landed four finalists. That's off the trail of three-time defending state champ Thornwood with nine, and eight by both Wheaton Warrenville South and East St. Louis.

Bina got a new 15-foot pole. It worked.

"It was definitely flying me up there," Bina said.

Neuqua Valley's David Krist runs today in the 3,200 to give



JOE LEWNARD/DAILY HERALD

Waubonsie Valley's Tracey Drew qualified Friday for today's finals in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in Charleston.

the Wildcats five qualifiers. Alex "Prince" Riley joins county runners Justin Harrison of WW South and Lee McGinnis of Glenbard South in the 400 dash.

Geoff Houtman and Pat Warren both ran on qualifying 3,200 and 1,600 relays. The Wildcats ran the fastest time of their heat in the former, then were the third fastest overall in the 1,600 relay.

"Hopefully, we'll have our 'A' squad tomorrow, a fresh guy," Houtman said. "Rick Stanek's supposed to run tomorrow. He runs 1:56 (over 800 meters), and if we've got him in there we've got a real good shot."

Naperville North's Scott Pavel reached the long jump finals with a leap of 22 feet, joining McGinnis.

In a smart 800 field, Waubonsie Valley's Williams was joined

by qualifier Kyle Mikowski of Benet, plus county runners Joe Gajewski of Glenbard East and Steve Bach of Lake Park.

Benet's Mike Schubert advanced in the shot put with his throw of 56 feet, 1¾ inches. After Schubert's personal-record 57-footer at sectionals, it'll take another whopper to challenge Jacobs' Pat Whalen at 60-11½.

"I don't feel comfortable right

now at 56 because there's a lot of sorts of guys behind me. I know if I pop a PR or hit 58, I'm going to be right there."

In Class A action, St. Charles qualified 11 into today's finals. In the first Class A race, I was 3,200 relay team of Paul Harris, Matt Schmitz, Mike Kilroy and Brad Vodicka placed eighth in their heat. The Lions' 11.50 some's time of 8:35.75 was insufficient to reach the final.