

# Third time not charm for Smart

By Rick Szabrak

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COLUMBUS — Three may have been the magic number for the Colonel Crawford girls track team, but for Plymouth's Todd Smart the third time wasn't the charm.

While the Eagles three-peated as Division III state team champions, Smart's third trip to Columbus didn't turn out as well as he had hoped.

Smart, the defending Division III champion in the 300 meter intermediate hurdles, failed to repeat as champ, placing third in the event.

But Smart did place high in another event. Smart was the state runner-up in the 110 meter high hurdles. After posting the quickest time in the preliminaries last Friday, he finished with a time of 14.25 Saturday, barely getting beaten by Fremont St. Joseph sophomore Kevin Huntley (14.20).

Huntley has a history of placing just ahead of Smart. At the regionals this season, Huntley crossed the line in 14.6 seconds, once again topping Smart's mark of 14.7. Huntley also placed fifth in last year's state meet (14.94), while Smart finished sixth (15.03).

"I'm pleased with the 110's," Smart said. "I ran pretty well. I didn't know if I could go that fast."

Smart, who won the 300's last year with a time of 38.73, crossed the line this year with a mark of 38.96. Warren Kennedy's Tim McNeil won the intermediate's (38.63), while Ivan Fulton of Cincinnati Wyoming was second (38.65).

"I ran a good first part of the race," Smart said of his 300's performance, "but on the second to last hurdle I caught my foot. Then I took the last hurdle on my wrong leg. The other guys got me on the second to last hurdle. I was hoping for more, but I'm satisfied."

Smart is planning on going to Columbus again next year as a student at the Ohio State University. He's going to try to make the track team as a walk-on.

"I have a good time running," he said, "but if I can't run with the big boys, I'll pursue other interests. I'd like to think I can compete."