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**San Marcos Academy Bears Take Third at State TAPPS 4-A Track Meet**

With only four athletes competing in seven events, the San Marcos Academy boys track team overcame 20 other 4-A schools to take third place at the TAPPS state track meet at Baylor's Hart-Patterson Complex in Waco May 7-8.

Going in to the meet as the 4-A South Regional champions, the Bears started off well in Friday's field competition, as senior Brady Wickersham took second in the high jump. Wickersham, who placed third at state in 2009 and 2008, took the silver medal this year with a leap of six feet, two inches.

Wickersham also took fifth place in the 110 meter hurdles and was a member of two relay teams that competed on Saturday. He joined forces with junior Josh McIntyre, sophomore

John Nealon and senior Michael Latham for a sixth place finish in the 4 x 100 meter relay and a fourth place finish in the 4 x 440 yard relay.

Latham became the state champion in the 200 meter dash with a time of 22.07. Nealon placed second in the 400 meter dash, turning in a time of 52.75, and McIntyre had a second-place finish in the 300 meter hurdles. McIntyre's race was heart-breakingly close, with a time of 40.079 compared to the winning time of 40.073.

"I am really proud of how well the guys did this weekend," Athletic Director Toby Wade said. "To place third in state in TAPPS 4-A with only four runners is an amazing feat. What makes them so good is they are ultra-competitive. They were actually disappointed that they didn't get second place. I think now that they have had time to reflect on this weekend, they now realize and fully appreciate how much they really accomplished."

*Caption*

With the finish line of the 400 meter dash in sight, San Marcos Academy Bear John Nealon presses on to take second place at the state 4-A TAPPS track meet May 8. Nealon was one of just four athletes on the SMA team that wound up in third place overall. (SMA photo by Shelley Henry)

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