

## Grandview boys claim state track titles

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By CANDACE BUCKNER / The Kansas City Star

Grandview's Dapo Akinmoladun (left) beat John Burroughs' Ezekiel Elliott and the rest of the field and won the 300-meter hurdles after finishing second in the 110 hurdles Saturday.



JEFFERSON CITY | On Saturday, Grandview junior

Dapo Akinmoladun experienced the agony of near-misses throughout his time at Dwight T. Reed Stadium. He was second in the 110-meter hurdles and second as a member of Grandview's 800-meter relay team.

Although Akinmoladun eventually reached the top of the medal podium after winning his 300-meter hurdles, he was left unfulfilled. So Akinmoladun proclaimed that only a team state title would erase the stain of his personal second-place finishes.

"Most importantly, the biggest thing hasn't been won yet," Akinmoladun said after receiving his individual gold medal. "We want a team state title. That has been the goal all year. It's been set in motion. ... If we win the championship as a team, everything else is forgiven."

Hours later, all was forgiven and disappointment turned into delight as Grandview won the Class 3 state team championship. It was the program's first title since 1990 and only the second time a Bulldogs athletic team had won state in the history of the school.

"These kids are so mature," Grandview coach Andy Leech said. "They're getting it done in the classroom, they're overcoming things that people said they couldn't do. It's just, wow! I'm so proud."

Grandview needed the sum of their 15 athletes to knock off the favored McCluer South-Berkeley team. Besides Akinmoladun's individual state title, senior Romy Reaws gave Grandview a boost by winning the pole vault and setting a personal record by clearing 14 feet, 6 inches.