

DISTRICT MEET: Sweep of titles is school first for Outlaws

Continued from page 1

his sights on them with 500 meters to go even though the leader of the two had a 70-meter lead on him at that point.

But in what may long be remembered as the Kanzig Kick, Izaak took off in hot pursuit. He picked off one Falcon with 200 meters to go and catapulted around the corner to catch the next one. With 50 meters to go Kanzig blew past to finish in seventh place (17:58).

“We didn’t really envision Izaak taking out their number-two guy,” said Nordell. “But we sure needed that.”

All eyes then turned to senior Dyut Fetrow, who placed third at last year’s District Meet and had run at State in all three of his previous seasons, but had been beset with injuries and other setbacks all season. His chore was straightforward: run conservatively at the start and move up as much as possible during the race.

Fetrow executed the plan to perfection, starting near the back of the pack at the start and picking off one runner at a time on his way all the way to 12th place (18:20). The fifth scorer for the Outlaws,

sophomore Cole Pade, hoped that he would be able to run near his best for the season despite suffering a late-season onset of painful shin splints. Pade ran steadily throughout the course and actually finished in 19:04, which was good enough for 18th place and the win for the Outlaws.

“I made it through the course all right, but boy do my shins hurt now,” he said after the race.

His pain was overshadowed by joy when news spread through the crowd that Sisters had managed to pull off the upset of Elmira 44-45 (low score, based on placings, wins).

Coach Nordell had tears in his eyes when he heard the news.

“We did it!” he shouted, with is voice cracking, in the team circle after the meet concluded.

Junction City placed third with 63 points. Sweet Home placed fourth (102), Cottage Grove fifth (117), and Sutherlin sixth (164).

The girls outcome was expected, as the team ran under control in preparation for the bigger test: the state meet. Sisters scored just 23 points, easily outdistancing Junction City which placed second with 54 points. Sutherlin placed third (94), followed by Sweet Home (106), Cottage Grove (125) and Elmira (129).

In addition to Borders victory, Anna Bartlett placed third (21:12), Megan Calarco fourth (21:14), Amy Hills seventh (21:55), Macadia Calavan eighth (21:55.5), Mary Stewart ninth (22:18)) and Serena Salisbury 10th (22:18.4).

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— Josh Nordell

“It’s pretty impressive to me that the girls put all seven runners in the top 10,” said Nordell. “Our strength is our depth, so if the girls can stay close to one another and run the way they have run all year they will do very well next week.”

The Outlaw girls have been ranked among the top three all season in the coaches’ poll and will face the biggest challenges from the Siuslaw Vikings and Molalla Indians next week, according to Nordell.

A simple goal for the boys team is to place in the upper half among the 14 teams, according to Nordell.



PHOTO BY HARRY POLLARD

Sophie Borders took the title for the girls, leading them to a team victory.

A total of 14 4A teams will toe the line Saturday for both the girls and the boys races and Nordell believes there is more excitement yet to come this season.

“The state meet is always unpredictable,” said Nordell, “but our preparation and overall consistency give me confidence that the girls and boys will perform well.”

The girls will race at 11:15 a.m., followed by the boys at 11:50 a.m. The top four teams will earn trophies. The meet includes all classifications. Ticket information and the full schedule are available at <http://www.osaa.org>.

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