

# Outlaws track teams get season underway

By **Charlie Kanzig**  
Correspondent

Most track coaches expect a slow start to the track season, as athletes are still rounding into competitive form for the first month of the season. Sisters High School Coach Jeff Larson got some pleasant surprises in the team’s first outing, a dual meet at Bend High School on Wednesday, March 16.

“I am very pleased with the outcome of our first performance,” said Larson. “We had not planned on a dual meet with Bend, but they were willing to host us at the last minute.”

The change in plans came when Mountain View High School changed its traditional Icebreaker meet into a relay event, which neither Sisters nor Bend felt was the best way to introduce the season.

“The dual meet was just right because it allows everyone to get a low-pressure start to the season, while establishing initial marks and sort of getting into the groove about the order of events and everything,” he said.

With a mix of veterans and newcomers he did not know exactly what to expect from an early season meet, but he felt nearly everyone on the

team gained valuable experience and confidence.

“A few of the kids really surprised themselves with positive performances right out of the gate,” said Larson.

Among those was sprinter Sam Garbrecht, who established a career-best for 200 meters (23.65) after also winning the 100 (11.63). Cody Martin picked up second place in the 200 in 24.77.

Garbrecht, the top scorer for the Outlaws on the day, also ran a leg of the winning 400-meter relay with teammates Cody Martin, Jacob Allen, and Keegan Greaney. The foursome clocked 45.91.

Sophomore Jordan Pollard also established a career-best on his way to third place (55.47) in a very competitive 400 meters in which the winner ran a blistering 50.53. In his “hobby” event, he chucked the javelin 121 feet 3 inches, which was the fifth-best throw of the day among boys.

Pollard returned later to win the 3,000 meters in 10:18, which he ran alone from the gun.

In the 110 hurdles, Seth Larson picked up first place in 19.20. He also tossed the javelin 135 feet 2 inches, which was less than two feet short of his personal best.

Jadon Bachtold and Izaak Kanzig each picked up second-place finishes to start their senior campaigns. Bachtold ran a solid 4:18.29 in the 1,500 meters, while Kanzig, in his first track race on American soil after two years in South Korea, took the runner-up spot in the 800 meters in 2:09.87.

In his first go at the 300-meter hurdles, Keegan Greaney also picked up a second-place with a time of 43.08.

On the girls side, veterans Tessa O’Hern and Sabrina Reifschneider led the way for the Outlaws.

After a first-place finish with a modest mark of 13 feet 1 inch in the long jump, O’Hern established a lifetime best in her signature event, the pole vault, with a clearance of 10 feet.

Reifschneider placed second in the 100 hurdles (17.67) and won the 300 hurdles (52.55) while also providing invaluable leadership in helping her new teammates through the warm-up process prior to their races, according to Larson.

Junior Julianne Meeter started the season off with a bang by uncorking a lifetime best in the javelin of 115 feet even, four inches further than

her best from last season.

Other highlights of the meet included wins by freshman Amy Hills in the 800 (2:44.58) and Megan Calarco in the 3,000 (13:23.26). The 400-meter relay team of Macadia Calavan, Erynn Ricker, Mandi Calavan, and Katie Aryanfard also won (52.50).

Tenth-grader Rylee Weber turned in a solid 400-meter time of 1:05.41 in her first high school meet to finish second, less than half a second behind the winner.

Things bode well for both the girls team, which overwhelmingly won the district title last year, and for the boys team, which hopes to improve dramatically over its fifth-place finish at district a year ago, according to Larson.

“We had several key athletes who either sat out the meet or who chose to ease into the season by competing in a limited number of events,” said Larson. “At full strength, we’ll be able to not

only cover all 17 events contested in a track meet, but compete at a high level. Our 17 freshmen will greatly contribute to this effort and are a wonderful addition to the team. They provide a nice bookend to our 20 seniors.”

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— Jeff Larson

Larson is assisted by Jim Anderson, Carlos Garcia, Wes Cook, and Eden Miller.

The Outlaws return to competition after spring break when they travel to Elmira for a Sky-Em League meet against the Falcons, and Sweet Home on Thursday, April 7.

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