

# Track teams zero in on District

By Charlie Kanzig  
Correspondent

The Wally Ciochetti Invitational at Cottage Grove on Friday, May 5, gave the Outlaws track and field team one last chance to tune up before this week's two-day Sky-Em District Championships, scheduled Thursday and Saturday at Sutherlin High School.

Sabrina Reifschneider came away with two individual wins, including a career best in the 300-meter hurdles in a time of 47.51. Her performance pushed her ranking in the event up to second place among 4A girls. Desirae DeRosiers of Molalla leads the rankings with a very fine time of 45.78. Earlier in the meet Reifschneider won the 100 hurdles 16.25 and ran a leg on the victorious 400-meter relay with Ryliereece Morgan, Erynn Ricker, and Mandy Calavan. That foursome now ranks sixth among 4A teams, with a mark of 50.94.

Morgan came up with a runner-up finish in the long jump with a leap of 15 feet 8 inches and Calavan ran a season best in the 200 meters (27.20). Anna Bartlett had a busy night on her two personal bests. She finished third in the 1,500 meters (5:18.22) and fourth in the 3,000 (11:46.49).

Freshman Jade Anaya increased her personal record to 31 feet 8 inches to place sixth in the triple jump.

"This is a great meet with deep talent, and I felt [that] many of the girls really met

the challenge," said Head Coach Jeff Larson.

Highlights for the boys team included Keegan Greaney's second-place finish in the 300 hurdles, where he went head-to-head with Hunter Comyford of North Valley, who placed second in last year's State Meet. Comyford crossed the line in a 4A best of 39.64, while Greaney finished in 40.61. The pair holds the top two times among 4A boys this season.

Keaton Green continued his rapid ascent in the 800 meters, where he lowered his best time to 2:05.61, which earned seventh place.

The only other scorers for the Outlaws came in the final event of the evening when Korbin Sharp, Jose Luquin, Keaton Green and Greaney put together a third-place finish in 3:36.43.

Looking forward to the District meet, Sisters has quite a number of athletes who will be contending for top two finishes, which earn berths to the OSAA State Championships the following week. The Outlaws sport league-leaders in nine of the 17 events and have many others in the top four, which makes them favorites to defend their team title as well.

Seniors Sam Garbrecht, Keegan Greaney, and Sam Lewis appear to be in the best position for state berths, but others have potential to move up as well, including both relay teams.

"One thing's for sure at District," said Larson, "every single event is exciting."

# Commentary... Of a certain age...

By Sue Stafford  
Columnist

Forty-two years after his parents came west on the Oregon Trail, and 50 years before my birth, my paternal grandfather, then a young adventurer 20 years of age, spent part of the summer and fall of 1894 tramping along the spine of the Central Oregon Cascade mountains from Diamond Peak to the North Sister, in the company of Judge John Waldo, Oregon's version of naturalist and conservationist John Muir. Entries from his trail diary describe his time in "my neighborhood."

*Tuesday, September 25*  
*We were camped for the night at an elevation of about 7500 ft. on the north eastern side of the "Three Sisters" with but a single fir tree and an old stump for shelter. Otherwise every thing was lava with not a sign of vegetation.*

*Wednesday, September 26*

*We descended the mountains all day, and crossed a great many streams, the Judge and I on foot as both our saddlehorses were gone. After traveling about fifteen miles we came into a beautiful level country covered with a pine forest. There was plenty of good grass and water, so we camped on a small creek called "Trout Creek", having left the storm and rougher part of the Cascades behind us.*

*Thursday, September 27*  
*Left camp at 11.30 A.M. and traveled through beautiful pine forests. At 1.30 P.M. we came to the first wagon road we had seen since leaving old lady Rigdon's. Here Potter left on horseback for "Camp Polk" six miles distant for a few supplies and the mail that Mrs. Waldo was to send from home. The Judge & I kept on due north, with the pack train, until we struck the Lebanon road, where we turned west. Here we saw the first house since Rigdon's. This place was called Graham's Ranch.*

One hundred and ten years later, a long-held dream became reality when I moved from Seattle to Sisters to live in the shadow of the very mountains my grandfather had explored as a young man.

From the moment my dream surfaced to become reality, one step flowed easily into the next, from the sale of my home in Kirkland in one day, to finding my home on the creek in Sisters. The people who bought my home in February were in no hurry to move and allowed me to remain until May when my new home in Sisters would be available. The planned improvements were scheduled to take three weeks and there was not one delay. When I moved in on May 25, 2004, my new home was ready and waiting.

"But what are you going

to do when you get there?" my disbelieving friends queried when I announced I was leaving Seattle after 33 years and returning to the state of my birth.

"I don't know," was my reply. "I'll find out when I get there."

My leap of faith, the result of following my heart, has indeed been rewarded with meaningful employment in a variety of settings, from Redmond Hospice to the Sisters Folk Festival to freelance writing for *The Nugget* and *The Bulletin*. Each of these jobs came to me rather than my seeking them out. Everything in which I have been engaged has drawn on my storehouse of life experiences, allowing me to use my various talents in new and rewarding endeavors.

Since arriving in Sisters, my life has felt ordained by a force outside myself. The ease and joy of the last 13 years have been confirmation that following my dream was meant to be. Call it predestination, synchronicity, magic, blind luck, or informed decision-making – it was the right thing to do and the rewards have been many.

When I look up at those magnificent snow-covered peaks west of my home, I imagine my grandfather as a young man discovering the magic of this special place and feel his spirit here with me.



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