



PHOTOS BY MOLLY J. SMITH/STATSMAN JOURNAL

Kennedy's Kaylin Cantu (left) and Philomath's Meaghan Alba (right) approach the finish line of the girls 3,000m at the Meet of Champions on Saturday at McCulloch Stadium in Salem.

Wild finish at McCulloch meet

BILL POEHLER
STAYTON MAIL

Kaylin Cantu proved that she is not just a runner, she is a racer.

The Kennedy High School sophomore came from a sudden deficit in the final 200 meters to win the 3,000 meters at Saturday's Meet of Champions at McCulloch in dramatic fashion.

Cantu won the race in a personal record of 11:14.57, narrowly defeating a 11:14.60 of Philomath's Meaghan Alba.

"I really wanted to beat her at the end and get a PR," Cantu said. "I didn't really run the 3,000 last year that much. I really want to focus on that this year. I'm really glad I got a PR."

Cantu focused on the 800 and 1,500 as a freshman and it paid off as she placed third in the state in the 1,500 and fifth in the 800.

But she made up her mind she would focus on the 3,000 this year, and she wanted to make a statement at the Meet of Champions.

The race started excruciatingly slow, but Cantu decided she wanted to stay in the front so she hung with Alba in the lead.

"I feel like no one wanted to take the lead because there was a fast girl that was supposed to be in it, but she scratched," said Cantu, who also placed fourth in the 1,500.

Every time Cantu tried to take the lead — especially with two laps to go — Alba sped up and maintained her position on the inside of the track.

When Cantu and Alba came on a runner to lap with about 200 meters to go, the girl they were to lap drifted out into the corner, letting Alba dive under, but Cantu had to go the long way around her.

"I kind of felt her getting away a little bit," Cantu said.

As they came down the front stretch, Cantu continually closed in on Alba.

At the finish line, as they went to lap another runner, they collided and fell across the finish line.

Cantu won in a personal record of 11:14.57 with Alba second in 11:14.60.

"I really wanted to win because I was coming in (seeded) second so I really



Kennedy's Bishop Mitchell competes in the long jump at the Meet of Champions on Saturday at McCulloch Stadium in Salem.

wanted to beat that girl that was ahead of me," Cantu said. "She kind of like pushed me, and then she kind of like dove for the finish line. I didn't think I got her, but I guess I did."

Kennedy junior Bishop Mitchell overcame a tough schedule at the Meet of Champions to place second in the pole vault (11 feet, 6 inches) and long jump

(20-5) despite competing in both at the same time.

The football and basketball standout had an excellent regular season last year, but didn't compete at the state meet due to an injury.

He wants that experience this year.

"At this point it's just staying healthy," Mitchell said. "My hammy is

starting to catch back on again, but just trying to work out and do a lot of therapeutic work. It's my left one, my takeoff. That's what was bothering me last year."

Also for Kennedy at the meet, senior Adrian Parra placed fourth in the 3,000 in 9:37.14.

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BASEBALL, SOFTBALL STANDINGS

BASEBALL STANDINGS

MID-WILLAMETTE	CONF		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
Crescent Valley	10	2	14	2
Corvallis	9	3	11	6
Dallas	7	5	9	8
Central	6	6	8	7
Silverton	5	7	7	10
South Albany	5	7	5	11
Woodburn	3	9	6	11
Lebanon	3	9	3	14

Wednesday, April 27

Woodburn at Silverton, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 29

Silverton at Woodburn, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3

Crescent Valley at Silverton, 4:30 p.m.

2A/1A SPEC. DIST 2	CONF		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
Kennedy	5	1	10	6
Regis	5	1	6	6
St. Paul	5	2	9	3
Western Mennonite	4	2	7	5
Santiam	3	2	5	6
Central Linn	1	3	3	4
East Linn Chr.	1	4	5	8
Country Chr.	0	4	1	8
Perrydale	0	5	0	8

Wednesday, April 27

Kennedy at Regis, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 29

Kennedy at Western Mennonite, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, May 2

Kennedy at Santiam, 4:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL STANDINGS

MID-WILLAMETTE	CONF		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
Lebanon	10	0	14	1
Silverton	7	4	11	5
Dallas	6	3	11	4
Corvallis	5	4	10	5
Central	5	6	7	7
South Albany	1	8	1	11
Crescent Valley	0	9	2	10

Wednesday, April 27

Silverton at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 29

Silverton at Lebanon, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3

Crescent Valley at Silverton, 4:30 p.m.

2A/1A SPEC. DIST 2	CONF		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
Kennedy	4	0	8	3
Central Linn	3	1	6	4
Perrydale	3	2	6	3
Regis	1	2	4	4
St. Paul	1	3	3	4
Santiam	0	4	6	7

Wednesday, April 27

Kennedy at Regis, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, May 2

Kennedy at Santiam, 4:30 p.m.