

CROSS COUNTRY



CANTU'S CAREER SWEEP

Kennedy cross country star runs off with championship

Kennedy's Kaylin Cantu leads the pack in the 3A/2A/1A-SD2 District 2 girls cross country championships at Bush's Pasture Park in Salem on Oct. 27. Cantu won the race and became the first runner from the Mt. Angel school to win the district championship in all four years of high school. PHOTOS BY ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL

BILL POEHLER
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Kaylin Cantu completed the career clean sweep.

The senior cross country star from Kennedy High School won the Class 3A/2A/1A Special District 2 championships on Friday by completing the 5,000 meter course at Bush Pasture Park in 19:08.5.

She became the first runner from the Mt. Angel school to win the district championship in all four years of high school.

And Cantu helped Kennedy to win its third consecutive district championship, this time with a commanding 25 points while St. Paul was second with 81.

Kennedy dominated as junior Alejandra Lopez placed second (19:31.6), senior Azaris Velazquez was third (21:45.4), junior Clarissa Traeger was seventh (23:23.3) and Cassie Traeger was 12th (24:05.4).

Cantu and Kennedy's girls cross country team next runs Nov. 4 in the OSAA Class 3A/2A/1A state cross country meet at Lane Community College in Eugene.

In the boys meet, Kennedy sopho-



Kennedy's Azaris Velazquez finished third in the 3A/2A/1A-SD2 District 2 girls cross country championships.

more Luke Hall placed third in 17:39.5 and also qualified for the state meet.

In Thursday's Mid-Willamette Conference district meet at Willamette Mission State Park in Brooks, Silverton junior Haile Stutzman placed fourth to lead Silverton to a fifth-place finish in the boys.

In the girls, Silverton junior Jori Paradis placed sixth in 19:40.3 and the Foxes placed fourth.

Stutzman and Paradis both qualify for the Class 5A state cross country meet, also Nov. 4 at Lane.



Kennedy's Kaylin Cantu leads the pack at the start of the championship race.

POWER RANKINGS

Central quarterback soars after big outing

STAFF REPORTS
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Each week, Statesman Journal reporters Bill Poehler, Gary Horowitz and Pete Martini rank the best high school football players in Salem and the Mid-Willamette Valley.

Quarterbacks

Few players have the experience, pose and ability to do what Peter Mendazona does.

The Central High School senior passed for 182 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for the game-winning touchdown in last week's 41-35 win against Silverton to move up to No. 2 in the Statesman Journal Top 10 power rankings for quarterbacks.

Sprague quarterback Spencer Plant, who passed for 166 yards and one touchdown in last week's win against West Albany, retains the No. 1 spot.

Quarterback top 10 power rankings

1. Spencer Plant, Sprague. Oct. 20 result: Beat West Albany 42-14.
2. Peter Mendazona, Central. Oct. 20 result: Beat Silverton 41-35.
3. Levi Nielsen, Silverton. Oct. 20 result: Lost to Central 41-35.
4. Grant Thies, West Salem. Oct. 20 result: Beat South Salem 55-3.
5. Holden Smith, St. Paul. Oct. 20 result: Beat Regis 60-0.
6. Erik Barker, McNary. Oct. 20 result: Beat North Medford 40-20.
7. Quinn Legner, Cascade. Oct. 20 result: Lost to North Marion 10-0.
8. R.J. Veliz, Blanchet Catholic. Oct. 20 result: Lost to Sheridan 17-0.
9. Tristan Fergus, Dayton. Oct. 20 result: Lost to Scio 26-20.
10. Brad Milton, Willamina. Oct. 20 result: Beat Taft 56-14.



Central's Peter Mendazona (10) fumbles the ball while being taken down by Silverton's Zach MacBean (68) at Silverton High School on Oct. 20. Mendazona moves up to No. 2 in the Statesman Journal Top 10 power rankings for quarterbacks. ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Running backs

There have been two prolific running backs in the Greater Valley Conference this season, and they are performing at high levels on drastically different teams.

Sprague senior running back Noah Mellen has rushed for 1,207 yards and 21 touchdowns on 144 carries for the 7-1 Olympians, who run a balanced run-pass, pro-style offense. North Salem senior running back Rigo Padilla has rushed for 1,390 yards and 12 touchdowns on 175

carries for the 2-6 Vikings, who run a run-heavy, wing-T offense.

Top 10 running back power rankings

1. Noah Mellen, Sprague. Oct. 20 result: Beat West Albany 42-14.
2. Rigo Padilla, North Salem. Oct. 20 result: Beat McKay 20-9.
3. Dru Cook, Scio. Last weeks' result: Beat Dayton 26-20.
4. Jacob Denning, West Salem. Oct. 20 result: Beat South Salem 55-3.
5. Hunter Meissner, Silverton. Oct. 20 result: Lost to Central 41-35.
6. Evan Courtney, Dallas. Oct. 20 result: Lost to Crescent Valley 31-21.

7. Justin Herberger, St. Paul. Oct. 20 result: Beat Regis 60-0.
8. Brody Davidson, Santiam. Oct. 20 result: Beat Kennedy 30-16.
9. Ethan Coffey, Cascade. Oct. 20 result: Lost to North Marion 10-0.
10. Brandon Piete, Regis. Oct. 20 result: Lost to St. Paul 60-0.

Wide receivers/tight ends

There is one mistake teams make when trying to defend Anthony Gould: playing soft defense against the West Salem High School speedster. With seconds left in the first half of the Titans' 55-3 win against South Salem last week, Gould caught a pass from quarterback Grant Thies in the flat and burned the soft coverage for a 59-yard touchdown. For the season, he has caught 27 passes for 538 yards and six touchdowns.

Top 10 receiver/tight end power rankings

1. Anthony Gould, West Salem. Oct. 20 result: Beat South Salem 55-3
2. Alek Altringer, Sprague. Oct. 20 result: Beat West Albany 42-14
3. Spencer Clements, Silverton. Oct. 20 result: Lost to Central 41-35
4. Jaidyn Jackson, St. Paul. Oct. 20 result: Beat Regis 60-0
5. Gage Hazelton, Salem Academy. Last week's result: Beat Jefferson 18-12
6. Teagan Quitarano, Sprague. Oct. 20 result: Beat West Albany 42-14
7. Max Long, Sprague. Oct. 20 result: Beat West Albany 42-14
8. Isiah Abraham, Central. Oct. 20 result: Beat Silverton 41-35
9. Andres Delgado, South Salem. Oct. 20 result: Lost to West Salem 55-3

See RANKINGS, Page 2B