

Sports

OSAA

Sites selected for state track



Construction continues at the Hayward Field site, as seen here on a smoky Tuesday in Eugene. PETE MARTINI/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Hayward construction forced venue changes

Pete Martini Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

With Hayward Field under major construction, the OSAA track and field state championships will have a new setup and new venues this upcoming school year.

Instead of having all six classifications at one location during a three-day stretch, the OSAA will divide it up among multiple venues and multiple weeks.

Western Oregon University and Mt. Hood Community College will host the state track and field championships in May 2019, with hopes of moving back to the newly renovated Hayward Field in 2020.

“We were looking for facilities that we thought could handle certainly the athletes and the potential crowds. We knew that we couldn’t find one like Hayward that could host everybody, so we had already determined that we were going to split it out, so we had already determined that we were going to split it out,” OSAA Executive Director Peter Weber said. “The goal would be, if it’s available to us, we’d love to get back to Hayward —

our schools enjoy that, they like being there. I think it makes sense for everybody to make that happen.”

The Class 2A and 1A state championships will take place May 17-18 at Western Oregon, and the 4A and 3A state meet will be the same weekend at Mt. Hood. The Class 6A and 5A state championships will be held May 24-25 at Mt. Hood.

“I know my senior athletes are a little disappointed they won’t get to compete at Hayward in 2019,” longtime Kennedy track and field coach Steve Ritchie said.

“But in the long run, we know we will be going back there once the new stadium is completed,” he said.

The OSAA considered other venue options throughout the state, but logistically, it made sense to keep the meets near the more densely populated parts of the state, rather than central or southern Oregon.

“Proximity to our schools in the particular classifications was important,” Weber said. “We also looked at cost and availability of officials in the area. There are a

number of things that go into it.”

Hayward Field, the historic home of the legendary Oregon track and field team, is being rebuilt and expanded to meet requirements for hosting the 2021 IAAF World Championships.

It will be completed in time to host the U.S. Olympic Trials in June 2020, the fourth consecutive Olympic Trials hosted by Eugene.

The OSAA hopes the facility will be done in time to host the 2020 OSAA state championships, but it’s too early to determine if that’s likely.

“We don’t know if that’ll be able to work with the construction schedule,” Weber said. “We were pretty up front (with Western Oregon and Mt. Hood) that our goal would be to get back to Hayward Field.”

It’s not ideal to make changes to state championship schedules and locations during the school year, so the hope is that they’ll have enough information to make a decision on the 2020 state championships next summer, Weber said.

Ritchie said having Hayward Field host all six classifications in

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the state track meet in recent years has been a success, however, with the meet split up, it will provide a schedule more friendly to spectators and athletes.

“The Day 2 finals concluded around 9:30-10 p.m. at Hayward, and it should be much earlier at WOU since there’s just going to be the two classifications instead of six,” Ritchie said.

As for Mt. Hood, Ritchie said it should work for the short-term basis, but the high school track community’s goal is to get back to Hayward Field as soon as it’s complete.

How to bag a blackberry

 **Fishing**
Henry Miller
Guest columnist

On my first hunting trip in Oregon I bagged a blackberry pie.

My daughter, Meghan, and I foraged just down the street from my apartment the year after I arrived in Salem.

We made a pie out of the results.

As expected for a first-time effort, the crust was something that could be sold as wheat jerky, only tougher.

It was flaky in the same sense that a concrete sidewalk with too much water in the mix flakes.

But the home-made filling was sublime, sweet, juicy and fragrantly fruity.

And the juice did soften the crust a bit after a couple of days in the fridge.

OK, in the interests of full disclosure,

the Meghan pie was a second-time effort, because I couldn’t believe the first time that I made a home-made pie crust that the results could be used as flooring material.

And while I yield to no one in efforts to produce authentic scratch dishes, one must eventually surrender to those pre-made crusts in the refrigerated section at the market.

Although if you’re in need of a new biodegradable truck-bed liner, I’ve got just the ticket.

I digress.

Our most common variety of the non-native invasive species, the Himalayan blackberry, *Rubus armeniacus*, is so ubiquitous in the Pacific Northwest as to go almost unnoticed until it shows up in your yard.

But if you want to take a bite, literally, out of this invader in the best living-off-the-land, hunter-gatherer tradition,

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Henry the hunter-gatherer bags blackberries at Minto Brown Island Park. HENRY MILLER/SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL