

TIGERS

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 your all to finish the race," White said of racing against teammates with guaranteed state berths on the line.

T.J. Clay also posted two individual victories, edging teammate Zach Wiggins in a jump-off in the high jump after both cleared 6-foot-0 for a 1-2 finish, and out-leaning another teammate, Callum Ebel, in a 1-2 finish in the 110 hurdles. Clay crossed the line in 16.54, and Ebel followed in 16.59.

Nathan Reed, just four months removed from surgery to repair a broken leg, won the 300 hurdles as part of a 1-2-3 finish for La Grande in the event.

"It's amazing the grit that kid has," Bodfish said about Reed. "The courage to come back from such a severe injury — he's the toughest kid I know."



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Katie Brown, left, won both the 100 and 200 for the Tigers on Saturday as they took second.

The junior came across in 42.21, with Ebel (43.54) and Clay (43.60) following in second and third.

The Tigers also had a 1-2-3 finish in the long jump from Youngblood (21-feet-2-1/2), Tsiatsos (21-feet-1) and Wiggins (19-feet-9-

1/2), and 1-2 finishes by Keith Oswald (157-feet-6) and Kreutz (145-feet) in the javelin and Westin Blake (2:05.50) and Eli McLean (2:06.90) in the 800.

Rounding out La Grande's automatic qualifiers were Tsiatsos winning the triple

jump (43-feet-1), Zollman winning the 100 (11.45), Bennett Welch taking first in the 3,000 (9:21.78) and second in the 1,500 (4:08.54), and Oswald in second in the shot put (40-feet-2).

White said the fact that the Tigers have at least one athlete going in all 17 events puts them in the running to claim another state title next week.

"Hopefully it's going to make us stronger with points," he said.

The LHS girls overcame a double-digit deficit in scoring in the final events to give themselves a shot at the team title before falling just short to Baker. The Bulldogs finished with 82.5 points, just ahead of La Grande's 79-point day.

"We had a couple athletes who didn't have the best days, but we had other people step up. I figured there was about a 10-point spread

between Ontario, us and Baker," Bodfish said.

La Grande put itself in position to be in the championship mix with a 1-2-3 effort in the 3,000 led by Rachael Keniry (11:56.02), Abby Crews (12:00.72) and Corbyn Sexton (12:07.17). The performance, which included a 26-second PR by Sexton, pulled La Grande within 1.5 points of Baker with just the 4x400 relay to go.

Baker, though, snagged the win in the relay in 4:17.51. La Grande's team of Katie Brown, Cece Aguilera, Alexys Chamberlain and Jacki Martini finished in 4:22.71 for second.

"The girls are all phenomenal individually. We all tried to put 100 percent out there," Brown said. "It's awesome to be a part of."

Brown turned in the top day individually for the Tigers, winning both the 100 (13.04) and the 200 (27.05),

and doing so just two weeks after overcoming a bout with pneumonia.

"This was kind of my comeback, and it felt great trying to win them both," she said.

Martini led a 1-2 finish for the Tigers in the 1,500, edging Keniry down the home stretch to finish in 5:04.49, just ahead of Keniry's 5:05.16. Martini also placed second in the 800 (2:36.05) to earn a state spot.

Anna Green added two individual state berths, winning the javelin (109-feet-2) by nearly 10 feet and coming in second in the discus (99-feet-6). The Tigers' final automatic bid to state was from Madison Hanson, who was second in the 300 hurdles in 49.47.

In all, the LHS girls landed 11 automatic state berths, equal with Ontario for tops in the GOL.

The 4A state meet begins Friday in Gresham. ■



Angi Schmitt photo

Geoy Greenlee helped the Elgin Huskies boys track and field team win the Special District 4 title.

HUSKIES

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 in 16.81. Wildcards in 1A are given to the top three non-automatic-qualifying marks in each event across the state.

Joseph grabbed three victories and four second-place efforts — plus four wildcards. The Eagles collected wins by Justin Rodgers in the 800 (2:04.74), Tyler Homan in the 300 hurdles (41.02) and T.J. Grote in the pole vault (13-feet-0). Grote, in fact, led a 1-2-3 finish for Joseph, with Kade Kilgore following in second at 11-feet-0 and Carsen Littlepage in third at 10-feet-0. Homan and Grote enter state as the top seeds.

Henry Coughlan tacked on two second-place efforts in the 1,500 (4:16.47) and in the 3,000 (9:31.26), and Jonah Staigle was second in the discus (114-feet-10).

In addition to Littlepage's wildcard, Bayden Menton collected a wildcard by taking third in the 800 (2:07.77) and both relay teams got into state as wildcards. The 4x100 team of Homan, Rodgers, Littlepage and Trey Wandschneider was fourth in 46.64, and the 4x400 group of Menton, Rodgers, Wandschneider and Homan placed third in 3:39.65.

The Powder Valley Badgers were fourth with 76

second overall with 124 points and landed 11 state qualifiers. Sophie Pettit returns to state in the events she won a year ago, taking first in the 100 (12.68) and the long jump (16-feet-3) and moving into the top seed in the state in the 100 in the process. Pettit also teamed with Rachel Baird, Alisa Fox and Austin Kendall to win the 4x100 relay in 52.88.

Kendall and Fox each placed second individually, Kendall in the 100 hurdles (17.16) and Fox in the 1,500 (5:36.62), and Allie Best was second in the javelin (111-feet-8).

The Leopards also added five wildcards: Fox placed third in the 800 (2:37.59), Rylie Overton took third in the javelin (105-feet-4) and the discus (96-feet-6), and in the high jump, Kendall was third (4-feet-10) and Best was fifth (4-feet-8).

The Elgin Huskies just edged the Joseph Eagles for fourth, with Elgin netting 72.5 points and Joseph 71.

Aaliyah Burton turned in a solid effort to lead the Huskies, taking first in the 100 hurdles (16.03) and the 300 hurdles (48.20), and will head into state as the top seed in both events. She was also second in the 100 (12.85). Teammate Jocelyn Palmer placed second in the 800 (2:35.20), and Maddison Harvey qualified for state as a wildcard in the 100 hurdles, taking third in 17.33.

The Eagles dominated the distance races, with Ellyse Tingelstad and Ella Coughlan going 1-2 in the 3,000, Tingelstad in 11:27.36 and Coughlan in 12:02.49. Tingelstad also took the top spot in the 1,500 (5:07.41) and Coughlan won the 800 (2:23.61). The Eagles head into state seeded first in each of the three races.

In addition to the distance races, Joseph took the top spot in the 4x400 relay as Sabrina Albee, Haley Miller, Tingelstad and Coughlan won in 4:20.60. Miller was also second in the pole vault at 7-feet-9, and the Eagles' 4x100 team of Albee, Ca-

points, winning the 4x400 relay as Reece Dixon, Roper Bingham, Case Olson and Kaden Krieger completed the race in 3:34.44, and getting a second win from Dixon in the 400 in 52.52. Dominick Grende also made state by taking second in the high jump at 6-feet-0. The Badgers also landed four wildcards with Dixon taking third in the triple jump (39-feet-8-1/2), Krieger fourth in the 300 hurdles (43.72), and both Krieger and Ethan Stephens in the high jump at 5-feet-8.

Tim Stevens won both the 1,500 (4:12.48) and the 3,000 (9:06.49) to lead the Cove Leopards, who placed seventh with 51 points. Jack Silveira added a second-place showing in the 800 (2:06.89), and both Cove's relay teams qualified as wildcards: the 4x100 team of Camren Chrusoskie, Blake Witten, Silveira and Stevens took third in 46.34, and the 4x400 team of Quinn Dobbs, Witten, Silveira and Stevens placed fourth in 3:41.48.

The Imbler boys took ninth with 26 points, with the top effort a fourth-place finish in the javelin by Calvin Martin (142-feet-10). The Panthers missed out on having a state qualifier.

The Cove girls took

mille Crenshaw, Coughlan and Kylee Braden was fourth in 55.01 to claim a wildcard.

The Powder Valley Badgers, who were sixth with 39 points, earned three state qualifications, all by wildcard. Both the Badgers' relay teams — Keanna Bingham, Megan Bingham, Belle Blair and Sonora Blair in the 4x100 (54.78) and Brooke Allen, Keanna Bingham and the Blairs in the 4x400 (4:29.84) — placed third and took home wildcard spots, as did Allen with her fourth-place finish in the javelin.

The Imbler Panthers, who were ninth with 18 points, left with one state qualifier in Erin Coston, who won the pole vault at 8-feet-3.

The 1A state meet begins Friday in Monmouth. ■

BLAZERS

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 It was just about regrouping."

The Blazers were down 48-39 at halftime and trailed by just a point head into the fourth quarter.

That's when the Nuggets' hopes of reaching their first Western Conference Finals in a decade died with a 7-of-24 shooting performance, including 3 of 10 from Jokic, who tearfully blamed himself in the locker room for the loss.

Nonsense, said his coach, Michael Malone, who said Jokic proved to the world in these last 14 playoff games that he's the best big man in basketball and he only petered out at the end because the Nuggets had to rely so heavily on their

7-foot All-Star.

It was a devastating end to Denver's season after the Nuggets ended a six-year playoff drought and earned the second seed in the Western Conference bracket.

"I'm not going to allow Game 7 loss to take away from a magical year," Malone said, "and it doesn't feel that way right now but when I reflect, and when our players reflect, on what we were able to accomplish — hell of a year, couldn't ask for anything more from our guys."

McCollum, who had 30 points in Portland's Game 6 victory, came up big on a night Damian Lillard made just 3 of 17 shots for 13 points. But two of those buckets were crucial 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. ■

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