

Crossing the finish line

La Grande athletes rank high at state championships

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

EUGENE — It was a productive day for several La Grande High School track and field athletes at the 4A state championships at Hayward Field, Eugene. The two-day event started on Friday, May 20, and concluded on May 21.

The Tigers scored 32 points on the girls side to place eighth, while the boys in attendance scored 18 points to place 17th.

The distance duo of sophomore Emily Tubbs and freshman Cecilia Villagomez-Edvalson got things started on a strong note in the 3,000 meters. Tubbs placed second in the race, clocking in at 10 minutes, 32.79 seconds. Villagomez-Edvalson earned a fifth place finish, crossing the line at 10:41.86.

Junior Myer Whitmore competed admirably in the shot put, garnering a top-three finish. Whitmore threw 45 feet, 5.75 inches to place third overall.

In the pole vault, senior Maxon Huxoll placed eighth with a height of 12-6.

Day two saw a slew of athletes take the track for La Grande, with several podium finishes.

Senior Jarom Huntsman and freshman Kayle Collman were busy, competing in four events each. Collman placed fourth the 100 meters (12.82) and fifth in the 500 meters (26.79).

Huntsman saw his best performance in the javelin, in which he placed third overall with a throw of 170-8. In the triple jump, the senior placed fifth with a leap of 41-8.75.



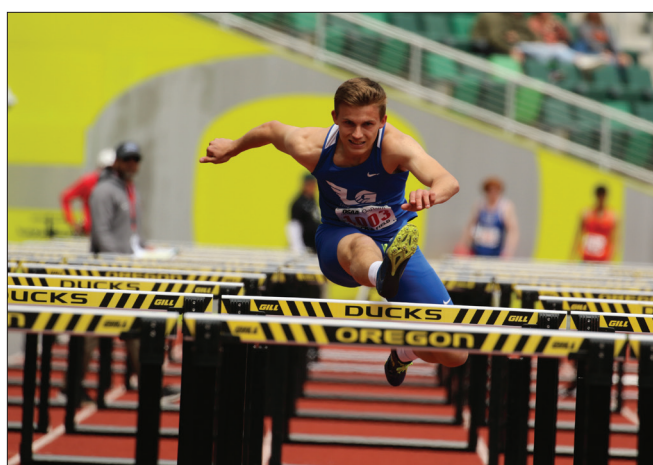
Suzanne Collman/Contributed Photo

La Grande's distance duo of sophomore Emily Tubbs, left, and freshman Cecilia Villagomez-Edvalson compete on Friday, May 20, 2022, in the 3,000 meters at the OSAA 4A State Championships at Hayward Field in Eugene.

Tubbs rounded out a strong overall performance at state in the 1,500 meters, placing fourth. The sophomore completed the distance event with a time of 4:55.36.

The La Grande girls 4x100 relay team — Kylie Brown, Nicole Zollman, Lexi Price and Kayle Collman — earned a podium finish, placing third overall with a time of 51.28 seconds.

The state championships wrapped up a productive season for La Grande, with both the boys and girls teams coming off a second place finish in the Greater Oregon League.



La Grande's Jarom Huntsman leaps over a hurdle during the 110-meter hurdles at the OSAA 4A State Championships at Hayward Field in Eugene on Friday, May 20, 2022. The senior competed in four events over the two-day championship. Suzanne Collman/Contributed Photo



Suzanne Collman/Contributed Photo

Imbler's Nathan Bingaman leaps into the sandpit during the 1A OSAA State Championships triple jump competition at Hayward Field in Eugene on Saturday, May 22, 2022.

Powder Valley, Enterprise boys place 2nd at state

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
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EUGENE — Numerous local athletes represented Union and Wallowa counties admirably at this weekend's track and field state championships in Eugene.

Powder Valley senior Kaiden Krieger stole the show in the boys 1A championships, winning three individual titles en route to a second-place team finish for the Badgers.

Enterprise's Zac Knapp continued his dominant season in distance events, winning the 3,000 and 1,500 during Enterprise's second-place finish in the boys 2A standings.

At the 1A level, the Powder Valley boys team placed second with 52.5 points, Joseph took third with 49, Cove placed seventh at 25, Imbler finished ninth with 22 points and Elgin placed 36th with two points. On the girls side, Cove placed ninth with 22 points, Imbler finished 11th with 21, Elgin placed 23rd at six points and Powder Valley finished 28th with three points.

In the 2A championships, the Enterprise boys team scored 49 points to take second overall, while Union placed ninth with 27 points. On the girls side, Enterprise placed 13th with 20 points.

Knapp started things off strong on the first day, winning the 3,000 meters with a time of 8 minutes, 40.32 seconds. The senior's weekend was far from over, with an impressive showing in the 1,500 meters to come on day

two.

Union's Bo Ledbetter finished as runner-up in the 2A boys pole vault, posting a mark of 12 feet, 6 inches.

In the 1A boys 3,000, Joseph's Bayden Menton placed second overall with a time of 9:01.68. Cove's Eli Williams, a sophomore, placed fourth in the event with a time of 9:17.03. In the girls race, Cove senior Audrey Garlitz concluded her season with a fifth-place finish with a time of 12:13.96.

Imbler's Jeremiah Martin placed fifth in the boys shot put, throwing a distance of 40-11. In the girls discus, Imbler's Jayda Cant placed fourth with a score of 93-5.

Joseph's Reece Nelson started off a productive weekend with a third-place finish in the high jump with a height of 6 feet. Nelson was back on day one across the field in the long jump, earning bronze with a distance of 19-7.

On day two, Krieger's three individual state championships highlighted a stellar showing among athletes from Union and Wallowa counties.

Menton got things started in the 1A 1,500 meters, finishing as runner-up with a tie of 4:08.14. Cove's duo of Eli Williams, third at 4:14, and Taylor Fox, fourth at 4:18.15, finished just behind Menton. In the 2A event, Knapp stole the show and won the race with a time of 4:04.04.

In the 400 meters, local athletes stacked the results sheet. Cove sophomore Autumn Dobbs won the 1A event with a time of 1:02.34. On the

boys side, Krieger clocked in at 50.79 to win the race. Powder Valley junior Jackson Chandler (53.4) placed third and Imbler sophomore Clinton Tarvin (53.54) took fifth. In the 2A event, Levi Ortswan came in second at 51.99.

In the 1A 110-meter hurdles, Krieger won his second title of the day with a time of 15.55. Imbler sophomore Trevor Treat finished in fifth, recording a time of 18.02.

Fox earned another top-five finish for Cove in the boys 800 meters, taking fifth place at 2:04.37.

In the 1A triple jump, Nelson won a title for Joseph after leaping 43-7.25. Imbler senior Nathan Bingaman placed third, scoring 42-8.25.

In the 2A 300-meter hurdles, Enterprise freshman Neveah James won the event with a time of 48.34. In the 1A race, Imbler freshman Kiana deLint was the runner-up with a time of 50.86.

The 300-meter hurdles was highlighted by Union County athletes — Krieger won the 1A race with a time of 39.9 to round out a trio of state titles. In the 2A race, Ledbetter earned a state title with a time of 41.69.

Imbler's 4x400 girls relay team, consisting of entirely freshmen, earned a third-place finish. The team clocked in at 4:30.83 and consisted of JoJo Turner, Mikanah Browne, deLint and Paiten Braseth.

In the 2A boys race, the 4x400 relay team of Andrew Nordtvedt, Weston Wolf, Knapp and Ortswan placed first overall.

SPORTS SHORT

Eastern Oregon men's basketball team lands Division I transfer

Nate Pryor joins Mountaineers after season at New Mexico State

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon University men's basketball team gained an impactful new transfer.

Nate Pryor, a guard with two years of Division I experience,

is set to make La Grande his new home and play his senior season for the Mountaineers. Pryor is the second Division I transfer for Eastern this offseason, joining Emmitt Taylor III of Idaho State.

Last season, Pryor averaged 2.9 points per game for a New Mexico State squad that went 27-7 overall and won the Western Athletic Conference tournament — the Aggies defeated Connecticut in the first round of



Pryor

the NCAA tournament and lost a narrow matchup to Arkansas in the second round.

Prior to his season at New Mexico State, Pryor played at the University of Washington and averaged 4.1 points per game in 16 contests.

Pryor is the newest transfer to follow the Northern Idaho to Eastern pipeline, joining former teammates Phillip Malatare, Ismael Valdez and Taylor III on

this year's roster. In his sophomore year with the Cardinals, Pryor averaged 16.8 points, 4.1 assists and 2.8 rebounds per game.

It has been a busy offseason for head coach Chris Kemp and the Mountaineers, who have hauled in five transfers and two freshmen recruits for next year's team. Eastern finished last year 18-13 overall and 12-10 in conference play — the Mountaineers will be looking for sustained success in Kemp's second year as the team's coach.

ON DECK

Wednesday, May 25
COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD

Eastern Oregon at NAIA Outdoor Championships, Gulf Shores, Alabama, all day

PREP BASEBALL

Marshfield at La Grande, 4A State Playoffs, 4 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Banks at La Grande, 4A State Playoffs, 4 p.m.

Thursday, May 26
COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD

Eastern Oregon at NAIA Outdoor Championships, Gulf Shores, Alabama, all day