

Track Team looks to improve throughout season

SEAN PEBLER

Staff Reporter

Getting better each day is the main goal for the Track Team this year according to Head Coach Joe Cerny. The Lions have high expectations for some of their athletes who go above and beyond to gain an edge on the competition by training during the off-season.

"It's exciting to work hard and accomplish your goals," Cullen Wannarka, sophomore, said. Wannarka runs the 800 and 1,500 meters, but one of his ambitions is to run the 3,000 meters. He trains all off-season, doing more volume running than in-season and a lot of core workouts. He also just came off of a successful cross country season.

One of the things that most coaches stress is the importance of staying busy and playing another sport in the off-season. Many of the distance runners were also on the Cross Country Team in the fall.

"I can't really compare the two; I like them equally because they are different types of running," Wannarka said. He only started running competitively in seventh grade, and he already has aspirations of going to State this year.

On March 11, they held a practice meet in order to gain experience and in order for coaches to decide who would compete on Varsity.

In their first meet against Clackamas, the boys lost 92-53 and the girls fell 105-39. However, the Lions had strong showings from many of the athletes.



The Lions warm up before their inner-squad practice meet on March 11. They held this event in preparation for their first meet against Clackamas on March 18, where both the boys and girls teams fell short.

Photo by Mark Poppert

senior, in the javelin, Zachary Valentine, junior, in the high jump, Andre Armattoo, junior, in the pole vault, and Ian Markstaller, senior, in the triple jump. Second place finishers included Armattoo in the high jump and Markstaller in the long jump.

First place finishers for the girls included Maria Green, freshman, in the 100 meters in the freshman/sophomore race, Erin Morrow, sophomore, in the 800 meters, and Taylor Nowlin, senior, in both the 1,500 and 3,000 meters. There were many second place finishers including Kendall Brooke, sophomore, in the 400 meters, Kelsey Guerins, junior, in the 1,500 meters, and Danica Jungerman, junior, in both the 100 and the 300 meter hurdles. On the field, Sarani Chatterjee, sophomore, and Mallory Griffith, junior, both made strong showings. Griffith placed third in both shot put and discus, while Chatterjee took second in the discus.

Cerny expects the team to improve each day and to be competitive in each meet.

"Clackamas has a large number of people, and Oregon City is also a very tough team, but all of the teams are tough," Cerny said of the competition. He also believes that every dual meet provides an important step in order to be ready for Districts on May 14. The team has some strong returners for the boys and girls.

"We have a strong distance crew, strong boys javelin, and a returning state placer, Bryce Baker, in the hurdles," Cerny said.

The distance crews are filled with sophomores looking to gain a Varsity spot.

"We have a really good girls' long distance program. They were 10th at State with viruses, so I expect them to be very competitive this season." John Linman, distance coach, said.

The next home meet, one of only two for the season, will be held today at 4 p.m. against Rex Putnam.

Undersized Equestrian Team scores big

ASHLEY SHERON

Staff Reporter

Although the Equestrian Team has only eight members, they are ranked fourth in the entire District. The team has beat out five other schools with twice as many riders.

"Since there are a lot of new people, the team's goal is to include them and make sure they have a good year," Karleigh Vroman, senior, said.

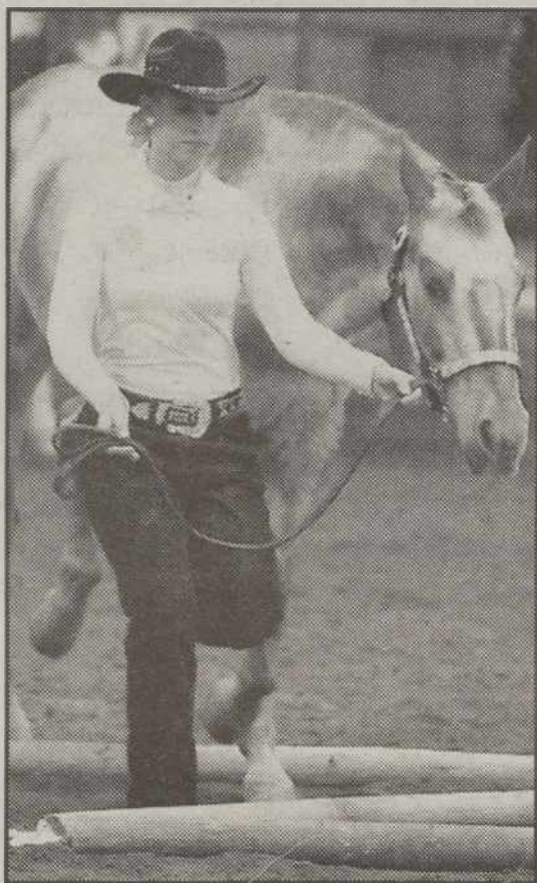
In the first meet of the season, Sydney McNaughton, junior, took fourth in Hunt Seat Over Fences and second in In Hand Obstacle Relay with teammates Vroman, Samantha Roberts, senior, and Nicole Paulson, freshman. In Hand Obstacle Relay, four riders are judged on a pattern that has multiple obstacles.

Collaborative events included Betsy Luers, senior, Carly Strasshofer, sophomore, and Austin's fourth in Team Canadian Flags. Paulson and McNaughton placed ninth in Working Pairs. Working Pairs is an event where two riders complete a pattern in unison.

"Our goal this year is to become a better team, work

together and help each other out," Luers said.

In the second District meet, Roberts placed first in Showmanship, third in Hunt Seat, second in Working Pairs with Vroman and second in In Hand Obstacle Relay with Vroman, Paulson and Kenzie



Samantha Roberts, senior, takes her horse through obstacles in the In Hand Obstacle Relay. The team of Roberts, Karleigh Vroman, senior, Sydney MacNaughton, junior, and Nicole Paulson, freshman, placed second in the first two season District meets.

Photo courtesy of Deb Roberts

Johnson, freshman. Vroman took second in Stock Seat. McNaughton placed seventh in Hunt Seat Over Fences. Paulson tied for third with Roberts in Hunt Seat.

In Steer Daubing, the rider has a stick with chalk on the tip and the rider has to make a mark on the steer's shoulder. Once they mark the steer, the rider raises her stick in the air to stop the clock. Strasshofer placed sixth in Steer Daubing for the second consecutive meet as well as placing 11th in Keyhole, where the horse is ridden through an obstacle of cones.

"I hope that the new team members enjoy this year and that they come back next year," Luers said. "I want them to have fun even if they don't do well, to make memories and improve in events."

The last District meet will be on April 15-19 at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds. State will be on May 14-17 at the Jackson County Fairgrounds.

"I don't expect too much because State is very competitive, but I'm going to do my best," Vroman said.

On the boys' side, the only first place finisher on the track was Taylor West, sophomore, in the 1,500 meters. Second place finishers included Keaton Hedman, sophomore, in the 100 meters, Jacob Gianuzzi, junior, in the javelin, Timothy Donnelly, sophomore, in the 800 meters, and rookie long distance runner Graham Frank, sophomore, in the 3,000 meters.

First place finishers on the field were Alexander Schlitt,

SHERON'S SPORTS SCOOP

Oregon Ducks Coach Bellotti takes over as Athletic Director

ASHLEY SHERON

Staff Reporter

After 14 years as head coach of the Oregon Ducks Football Team, Mike Bellotti, will become the University of Oregon Athletic Director on July 1. Offensive coordinator, Chip Kelly, took over as new head coach on March 30 for the team's first spring practice.

Before stepping down as coach, Bellotti will serve as the assistant coach to the Ducks for the spring practices. The role is only temporary in order to maximize the number of assistant coaches. He will

primarily be working with the quarterbacks on the team.

Bellotti led the Ducks to 12 bowl games in 14 seasons and a 116-55 record. The Ducks were 10-3 last season, defeated Oklahoma State in the Holiday Bowl, and finished No. 10 in the Associated Press final rankings, as well as a Pac-10 championship in 2001 and a co-championship in 2000. Bellotti is the first Oregon coach to resign after a bowl victory according to the *Statesman Journal*.

Bellotti

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