

Butte Falls Charter School News

High School Track & Field Grows by Leaps and Bounds

The Butte Falls Track & Field team had a very successful year. Lead by head coach Chase Ellis, this small, but cohesive group of six athletes worked and played hard while building skills, camaraderie and friendship. The team was young and consisted of just 9th and 10th graders. Examining each athlete's marks over the course of the season, it is clear that their growth was phenomenal. For example, in the shot put freshman Mycala Patereau improved by over 5'; in the discus she improved by over 11' and was the only freshman in the league's top 10. In the javelin Mycala is the first girl in Butte Falls to throw the javelin. She tossed an impressive 95' 4" in the District meet at North Bend HS, placing 3rd, one place out of State qualification. The closest other freshman placed 22 spots behind. Another example of some impressive growth comes from sophomore Dakota Merrifield who threw the shot put and discus. He finished the season in the shot put with a near 4' improvement and in the discus he finished with a throw close to 20' better than in his first meet. Austin Harvey, another freshman javelin and discus thrower, beat his marks by 20' and 21', respectively. He moved up the school record list to 2nd all time in the javelin. The season ended on a high note on May 20th in Eugene. Sophomore Jimmy Kinyon, who, at the beginning of the season barely made the league's top 20 in the javelin, exploded into the top 3 at Districts and qualified on a wildcard for the State Track at the University of Oregon. Though his performance at the meet was below his personal expectations, Jimmy was able to throw in front of over 5,000 fans and athletes and represent his community, school and family. Community members and family were also on hand to add support. Congratulations to a successful and competitive season and we look forward to seeing our athletes in action next year.

Middle School Track and Field

The 2016 Butte Falls Middle School Track & Field team had 12 participants ranging from 5th through the 8th grades. There are many opportunities in Track & Field that calls to an individual. Some of which are the great camaraderie between teammates, the weekly effort in trying to beat one's last record, and the fact that there are 17 events (16 at BF). There is something for everyone: sprinting, long distance, throwing, jumping and hurdling. Our team did very well internally as well as measured against other local schools.

By the end of the season, our team set five new school records and 17 grade level records. Our 5th grade girls were very impressive. Gwen Lomas, who started out last in Southern Oregon after her first meet in the Shot Put and Discus, ended the year being the farthest 5th grade thrower in this part of the State, and 7th in Oregon for all 5th grade girls in the discus, while setting an impressive school record of over 43'. Our other 5th grade girl, Andi Sparks, set an overall school record in the 100 meter dash, winning her last race by over 10 meters. She scratched her last long jump attempt by 1/2" which was two feet farther than the school record and would have landed her 3rd in the State. We look forward to their return. We also had a strong 6th grade class of boys. With only four athletes on the team, in five events, these boys placed in the top 12 in Oregon compared to all other 6th graders at all classifications. For most of the season we had two top 4 placings and a 1st. This group set an overall school record in the 4x100m relay by almost five seconds. And competing at the All-School 6th grade conference meet in Ashland, took 4th out of 14 schools in Southern Oregon, many of whom had as many as 30 athletes. Our 7th and 8th graders slowly chipped away at the records as well, moving up the board in the Shot Put, Discus, 100m, Long Jump and Javelin. Just like any athlete who is improving, they are hungry for Spring's return. This was a very productive and formative year for our young athletes and we look forward to seeing what is in store for them next year.