Post Sports & Recreation

Judgement call brings Cleland effort down

A funny thing happened to the Sandy track team, and in particular one member of it, at the state high school track meet in Springfield last week.

Except it wasn't really funny at all.

The five Sandy girls and two boys who qualified for the state competition finished out of the money at the meet, which was moved from Hayward Field in Eugene to the Springfield High School track.

But for Sandy sophomore Michele Cleland, who placed first in the javelin, discus and shot at the Coast-Valley meet two weeks ago, throwing the javelin farther than any of her competitors in the state meet wasn't good enough.

Cleland entered the meet with the second longest javelin throw for a high school female in the country. But she was disqualified on all three of her efforts last Friday by judgment calls of the officials who claimed the throws were flat.

Sandy track coach Randy Hutchinson, who was standing alongside the javelin are during the competition, was outraged at two of the three calls.

"Two of those throws were good," Hutchinson said. "There's no doubt in my mind about that.

"There were five other coaches standing around there and they all saw it and they protested the calls too," he said.

"I don't want to make this sound like a sour grapes story," Hutchinson added. "But it was obvious that two of the throws were definitely good."

Cleland's first throw went further than the first place distance which won the event. Cindy Clayton of Barlow was awarded first in the meet with a distance of 146' 3".

Cleland's threw the javelin 149' 8" for first place in the district meet the week before.

"I know that two of the throws were good," Cleland said. "The first and the second were not flat.

"The judges really didn't seem to care about that," she said. "They were joking and laughing about the whole thing."

Cleland was outdistanced in the discus also neld Friday. And her shot put mark in that competition Saturday was not good enough to place her in the point standings.

In other competition at the meet, Christie Elliott set a new school record in the 400 at 59.9. She broke the record she set the week before at the CVL meet.

Jackie Layng, who was disqualified in the 100 because of two false starts in the district meet, ran a 26.4 in the 200.

The girls mile relay team of Elliott, Layng, Esme Jensen and Lee Ann Madison finished last in their heat.

On the boys' side, Kevin Peterson leaped "way over 22 feet," on his first attempt in the long jump, according to Hutchinson. But he scratched by less than an inch on the attempt.

His second and third jumps were not good enough for a placement. His best mark was 21' 4".

Kevin Leader, who won the district meet in the pole vault with a mark of 13' 3¼", failed to make the opening height Saturday in pouring rain.

Despite the sub-par performances, and the bad luck "judgment" call on Cleland's javelin throws, Hutchinson feels the experience gained at the state meet will help the team in the years to come.

All seven Sandy athletes who competed in the state event are underclassmen and will be back next year.

"Next year when we go down there we'll be better prepared," he said.

The official high school track season is over for Sandy now but the workouts and competition will continue through the summer.

Next week: a wrap-up of the past season and look at summer track activities at the school.

Joggers raise funds for club

What's an easy, legal way to earn money?

Hmm, that doesn't include robbing banks. Besides, that's not too legal, anyway.

How about running?

That's what members of the Gresham Track Club and Powell Valley School students came up with and that's what they were doing Tuesday evening.

Before that, though, they went out and collected pledges to make their running worthwhile. And that's where the money comes in.

About 50 children were making laps in the back forty of Powell Valley School Tuesday and club coach Ron Cogdill figured 20 more would resume such activities Wednesday night.

The reason for the money-raising jog-a-thon is to raise funds so that Gresham Track Club athletes can attend national meets.

Many of the track club members will be involved in the state meet at Madison High School Saturday, which starts at 9 a.m. (see story on page 4).

Meanwhile, Cogdill said the top three winners of the jog-a-thon would earn portable radios for the effort.

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Gayle Roth

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4 from Sandy qualify for state AAU meet

Four Sandy upper grade students have qualified for the state AAU Junior Olympics Track and Field meet to be held Saturday at Madison High School in Portland.

And a fifth competitor, who fell in the qualifying district meet in the 880, also has a chance to go.

Donna Nelson and Gayle Roth have qualified for the state meet in the girls' competition. Tom Rutledge and Ray Vincent have qualified for the boys.

Nelson, a seventh grader, took first in the district meet on May 5 in the 880 with a time of 2:36.8 to qualify for that event at the state meet.

Roth, in the eighth grade, took first in the 220-yard dash at the district meet with a time of 28.0. She will also attempt to qualify in the 100 and 880 at another qualifying meet before the state competition.

A third girl competitor, Laura Stringham, fell down in the 880 and finished in fifth place to put her out of the running for the state qualifying. She will try to make the state AAU competition in the second qualifying meet this week in Portland.

Rutledge and Vincent have reached the state meet for the boys in the shot put and discuss, respectively.

Rutledge, an eighth grader took second in the district meet with a heave of 40 feet 7 inches.

Vincent, also in the eighth grade, took first in the discuss with a toss of 128 feet 8 inches.

Ray Vincent

Tom Rutledge

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'Inner switch' in fish is difficult to reckon with

Fishing pressure seems to be light around the Sandy and tributaries these days. There doesn't seem to be as great a supply of stocked fish as in past years.

I've heard of a few people taking three or four in a day's effort. Local lakes have been producing a fair amount of fish mainly from trolling flashers and worms.

xxxxx

Fish seem to have a built-in clock which regulates their feeding habits. But it sometimes malfunctions, at least from an angler's point of view, providing a fruitless day's efforts.

Hook 'N' Sinker

by Dennis Luse

There are times when trout will not take a lure, worm, fly or anything else no matter how they are fished. Then suddenly, as if turned on by an inner switch, they begin a feeding frenzy that will fill the creel in a matter of minutes.

This phenomenon can especially be observed while fishing a lake. Between dawn and the time the sun's rays leave the water, there are obviously periods when the lake seem void of fish. There are no shouts of "I've got one" or tell-tale rings of feeding fish. Just a peaceful serenity.

So where do the fish go during these non-action-packed moments?

One theory has it that atmospheric conditions have a direct impact on the trout's feeding instincts. A popular sporting magazine lists a lunar table which predicts the best days and even the exact hour and minute when the fish are expected to be in their prime feeding time.

I've tried this method for a few days but it seems the fish hit better on the day and hour the table said it would be lousy.

I'm sure this could be an effective table if used on a long-term basis. However, most of us don't have 31 days to fish and compare our results with the table.

I was fishing with a visiting friend, Gil Burns, on Trillium Lake a few years back and neither of us could explain what happened that day.

Slipping the boat into the water at 5:30 that cloudless morning, we didn't see a fish rising anywhere on the lake. A light mist swirled across the water at the north end where the fishing usually is best. Both of us trolled an F-4 flat fish back and forth across what I thought was the most productive area.

Two hours went by without a single strike. We were using the same gear we had used a few days before which brought quite a bit of action. So we decided to troll around the lake in hopes of finding the fish. But two rounds later and we still had empty creels.

At 10:30, we decided to head back to the north end of the lake and try our luck again. We made about two passes which brought a few strikes but no fish.

I remember looking at my watch an hour later at 11:30 when Gil brought in the first fish. We both cast out again and began trolling only to have both our lures nailed by 12-inch trout.

Gil brought his in first and was trolling again before my fish was boated. As I reached to net him, Gil had hooked another. The action continued until we had gotten our limits and had to go ashore. In 45 minutes we had accomplished what we couldn't do in six hours.

So there is a definite time when the fish start going for your offering. But the time will vary from one day to the next. If one were to go back to the same spot on Trillium Lake at 11:30 the following day, he could very well have missed the action at 9:30.

There is no set pattern when the fish will bite. So be patient and work for the reputation as a "persistent cuss." You'll eventually get your game.