## **SPORTS**

# The race is on for state track and field title

### Astoria hopes to best '08 team **By GARY HENLEY** The Daily Astorian

Not since 2008 has the Astoria girls track team had this much potential at scoring points – and winning a championship in a state meet.

Which is saying a lot, because the '08 Lady Fishermen, coached by Lynn Jackson, came within one point of winning a team title that year. Henley won the very last event and finished with 66.5 points to Astoria's 66.

And now, seven years later, the Lady Fish head into a state meet looking much like they did in 2008 — athletes in several different areas who could score big points in their respective events.

Astoria is hoping it has enough points to challenge for the team title at state, which begins competition at the 4A level Friday at Hayward Field in Eugene. After all, a team that racked up 200 points in a district meet has got to be pretty good.

From a numbers standpoint, a quick look shows a two-team race in the battle for the state title between Astoria and Newport.

Astoria's projected point total is around 70, with Newport at 74. A false start here or someone's personal best there could make the difference.

"I played with the numbers a little, and it will be a dogfight between some of those teams," Astoria coach Garrett Parks said. "But weird things happen at state. We have some good chances going in, and we'll do our best.'

Parks knows something about winning state titles, after helping the Seaside boys win one in 2001.

"This (Astoria girls' team) was far more of a team than we were," he said. "We had some good standout kids, but it took every one of these girls to get all these points (at districts).'

Astoria freshman Darian Hageman could easily end up scoring more than half of her team's points in Eugene, as she is seeded high in all the jumping



**Daily Astorian File** 

Astoria freshman Darian Hageman has cleared a lot of obstacles in her first season of high school track. Now, she hopes to be a state champion.

events. She's more excited about the help she will be getting from her teammates.

"I was looking at stats from last season to this season, and it's a big jump," Hageman said, no pun intended. "We have some girls this year who are helping a lot. We really have a chance at state, I think.

"We have good distance runners. We're just not stacked like we are with some of the throwers."

Astoria's one thrower, Halie Korff, said "Our coaches really want state. Mr. Jackson was talking about one year they were 0.5 short."

A simple look at who the Fishermen had in 2008, compared to this year's squad, tells us that Astoria has the potential to score big points. In '08, Astoria was strong primarily in the jumping and throwing events.

The Fishermen have added strength on the track this season. Jumps

2008 — Charlene Harber, Jr. Won the triple jump title and placed second in the long jump. She won the triple jump title again in 2009, was third in the long jump and eighth in the shot put. Harber went on to compete at the University of Arizona and Western Oregon University.

2015 — Darian Hageman, Fr. Astoria's talented freshman is ranked first in the long jump and triple jump, fourth in the high jump and eighth in the pole vault.

"I really want to get 37 in the triple jump," Hageman said after last week's league meet. "I don't know if I will, but I'm really going to train hard for it. I'd like to get to 5-2 in the high jump.

"In the pole vault, I'd like to get higher than 10-6 (which would move her to fifth). and I'm hoping to get 17-6 in the long jump.

#### Throws

2008 — Laura Bobek, Jr. One of the most dominant throwers in Astoria history. After finishing second at state in the discus and shot put as a freshman in 2006, she won state titles in both events the next three years.

Went on to a record-setting career at the University of Oregon, where she holds the alltime record in the discus.

Also in 2008, Jamie Coggins placed third in the discus and shot put, and Lynnae Huber was fifth in the javelin.

2015 — Halie Korff, Jr. District champion in the discus and shot put, took second in the javelin. She is ranked fourth in the discus, fifth in the shot put and javelin.

Korff likes the big stage, having been at Hayward before, and is excited for another opportunity.

"I love Hayward Field," she said. "I went for discus and shot last year. I don't really get nervous."

As for her state goals, she

said, "I'm going to go with 125 for discus; 130-ish in javelin; and shot put I definitely want to hit 40 feet."

#### **Sprints**

2008 — Harber finished fifth in the 100-meter final. Those were the only points scored on the track by the 2008 team.

2015 — Natalie Cummings, So. District champ in the 100 and 200 meters. Ranked third in the 100 and fourth in the 200, and also runs the anchor leg for Astoria's 400-meter relay, ranked fourth.

#### **Distances**, Relays

2008 — Astoria's Kamila Swerdloff was 12th in the 3,000 meters. Astoria's 400-meter relay was disqualified for a dropped baton.

2015 — Kaylee Mitchell, Fr. Currently ranked first in the 800 meters and fifth in the 1,500. She is ninth in the 400, but less than a second from moving up to fifth. It could be a key race at state.

Astoria's two relay teams are ranked fourth and eighth, respectively.

Of her freshman teammate, Mitchell, Hageman said, "I love having Kaylee on our team. She's always helping people out, always cheers people on ... she's a great person to have on the team."

Parks said, "Newport is one of the top dogs, and Marshfield. (The Pirates) have some great athletes, and a little bit more to choose from. Newport has just a few kids, and Marshfield is

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Softball — Waldport at Knap-	gene, TBA	
pa, 4:30 p.m.	SATURDAY	
Track — 3A/2A/1A OSAA	Track — 4A OSAA State	
State Meet, Hayward Field, Eu-	Meet, Hayward Field, Eugene,	
gene, TBA	ТВА	

more spread out, like us. We can score points in different areas."

And let's not forget the possibility of big points being scored by Seaside's girls and boys, who will both be major factors in the race for a trophy.

"For the girls, the goal for the whole season was to get fifth or above," said Seaside coach Jeff Kilday. "As long as we have the people to go, now our goal is to just score and do well and see what happens.

"The boys we're taking are younger and inexperienced, but our goal was to get several kids there, and we did that."

All of which could make for another exciting, dramatic finish at Hayward Field.

#### **Astoria Girls Track** 2008 State Meet Finishes 1st-LAURA BOBEK (Discus) 1st-LAURA BOBEK (Shot Put) 1st-CHARLENE HARBER (Triple Jump) 2nd-Charlene Harber (Long Jump) 2nd-Hilary O'Bryan (High Jump) 3rd-Jamie Coggins (Discus) 3rd-Jamie Coggins (Shot Put) 5th-Charlene Harber (100) 5th-Lynnae Huber (Javelin)

2015 (Current rankings) 1st-DARIAN HAGEMAN (Long Jump) 1st-DARIAN HAGEMAN (Triple Jump) 1st-KAYLEE MITCHELL (800) 3rd-Natalie Cummings (100) 4th-Natalie Cummings (200) 4th-Darian Hageman (High Jump) 4th-Halie Korff (Discus) 4th-400 Relay 5th-Halie Korff (Javelin) 5th-Halie Korff (Shot Put) 5th-Kaylee Mitchell (1,500) 8th-Darian Hageman (Pole Vault) 8th-1,600 Relay

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