

DOMINANT REPEAT

Lady Fish are stunning at state track meet



Photos by David Ball/For the Daily Astorian

Astoria sophomore Darian Hageman, the high-point athlete of the state meet, holds another team trophy for the Lady Fishermen.

Fishermen score points in all seven events

By DAVID BALL
For The Daily Astorian

EUGENE — Astoria's Kaylee Mitchell came 'round the final turn in the 800-meter final at the same time that teammate Darian Hageman took a little hop and started down the runway for a record-setting effort in the triple jump.

The two teammates ran almost side-by-side in front of the boisterous Hayward Field grandstands. In a flash, the Fishermen had put 18 points on the scoreboard.

That was the story at Saturday's Oregon School Activities Association state track championships for an Astoria team that had too many athletes in too many events. It wasn't a matter of whether Astoria was going to win the 4A team title again, it was only a matter of how many points they would put up.

MORE WINNERS

Other student athletes from Clatsop County bring home trophies.
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"We were fortunate enough to get people spread out across many events and some in multiple events," Astoria coach Garrett Parks said. "All coaches are nervous on Day 1 because you have to get kids through to finals, and the girls did a great job with that. At the end of the day it's just nice to see the kids celebrate."

Astoria finished with 109.5 points to blow out runner-up Siuslaw by almost 40 points.

Marshfield topped the leaderboard coming into Day 2 of the meet, but Astoria would take charge in dramatic fashion when Saturday's

first racing final went into the books.

Astoria was expecting a tight race in the 400-meter relay finale, but Phoenix went into the final exchange two strides ahead of the pack. But a dropped baton caused mayhem coming off the corner, and Astoria's Natalie Cummings took full advantage snatching the metal tube from teammate Kaylee Mitchell and sprinting away. She hit the finish line a full two strides ahead of anyone else.

"I saw everyone closing in and it was nerve-racking, I knew I just had to get the baton and go," Cummings said. "I saw Phoenix drop it out of the corner of my eye, and I just kept pushing myself. My team deserved a gold medal, and I wanted to do my part to get it."

Astoria won the tag-team race in 50.12 seconds and surged past Marshfield by a point on

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LEFT: Astoria's triple crown winner, Darian Hageman, competing in the triple jump and long jump. She also won the high jump with a school record leap. RIGHT: Junior Natalie Cummings was the winner of the 100 meters, and took second in the 200 meters.



Warrenton girl drowns off Klipsan Beach

12-year-old was likely in the water more than 30 minutes

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — A 12-year-old Warrenton girl drowned on Sunday evening while playing in the waves in the Klipsan Beach area.

"These just make me sick. It's like they never end," Pacific County Sheriff Scott Johnson said shortly after the girl was pronounced dead at Ocean Beach Hospital. Local ocean waters have claimed the lives of numerous inexperienced swimmers in recent years.

According to Johnson, details of the incident are still emerging, but responders believe the girl and her family may have been visiting local friends. She and a friend were reportedly swimming or playing in the tide near 196th and N streets when she ran into trouble just before 7 p.m.

"It sounds like the adults were maybe down the beach, or at the house," Johnson said.

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
A month-old double-crested cormorant at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast.

Thousands of birds abandon their nests

Cormorants left eggs vulnerable to predators

By CASSANDRA PROFITA
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Officials say thousands of cormorants abandoned their nests on East Sand Island in the Columbia River and they don't know why. Reports indicate as many as 16,000 adult birds in the colony left their eggs behind to be eaten by predators including eagles, seagulls and crows.

The birds' mysterious departure comes after the latest wave of government-sanctioned cormorant shooting. It's part of a campaign to reduce the population of birds that are eating imperiled Columbia River salmon.

Amy Echols, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the contractors who monitor the birds for the Corps reported May 16 that the East Sand Island colony had been significantly disturbed.

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Warrenton teacher, coach is a master of much

Teacher, coach, fisher, overseas traveler, singer and guitar player. Lynique Oveson, remarkably, is all of the above.

Her current work address is Warrenton High School.

Oveson is wrapping up her first year of teaching at Warrenton, and, just this weekend, took a handful of athletes to the state track meet in Eugene, as the Warriors' track coach.

This summer, she will be back in Alaska, resuming her job on a fishing boat.

For a person who believes "everything happens for a reason," Oveson's coaching story alone is unique.

Technically, her time on the sidelines started when she was



just a child.

"My dad coached at Wallowa High School (football, basketball and track), and I have pictures of me and my identical twin sitting on the bench, when we were 3 years old. Coaching is in our blood."

After coaching the Warrenton junior varsity teams in volleyball and basketball last fall and winter, "I was trying to not coach this spring, and focus on teaching," she said, "but that

didn't really happen."

In her days as an athlete, Oveson competed in track La Grande High School, and later at the University of Portland.

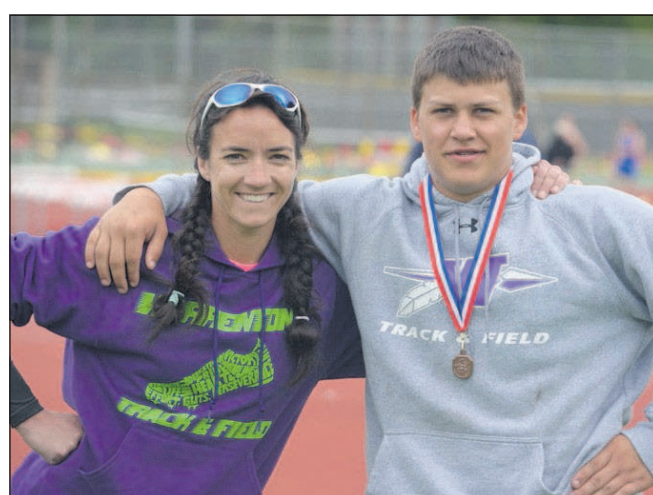
"I did a little bit of everything, but my two main events were the javelin and 800. I hated the 800, but I was good at it."

She was diagnosed with a heart condition her freshman year at Portland — which began her transition from athlete to coach.

Heart condition

The heart condition "turned out to be a blessing in disguise," she said. "I started

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Submitted Photo
Warrenton teacher and coach Lynique Oveson, left, with one of her state-qualifying track athletes, Eli Petersen, following the district meet.

