

Track: Astoria girls finish second in 4A

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She finished as the high scoring athlete among 4A girls with 32 points.

Meanwhile, rookie teammate Sophie Long was at the starting line for the 800-meter final. Siuslaw's Hannah Ranow pushed the pace the entire way with Estacada's Stepanka Erbertova, an exchange student from the Czech Republic, giving chase. Behind them was Long, who stayed on Erbertova's heels as the lead trio built a gap on the rest of the field.

It remained that way into the bell lap, with Long waiting until the final corner to make her move. She sped past Erbertova in second place and comfortably held that spot through the finish line for eight team points.

"I wanted to stick right behind the leaders and rely on my kick. Once you see the finish line, it's easy to sprint to the end," Long said. "It's really close right now, so getting those big points goes a long way."

Closing the gap

In a matter of minutes, Astoria overtook five teams and sat in second place, 10 points behind Marshfield with four events remaining.

The quickest way to pick up 10 points — win an event.

That's exactly what junior Kes Sandstrom did quietly out beyond the walls of the stadium in the discus ring. She fouled her first attempt, but went 125-10 on her next try, which proved good enough for the win.

"I had knots in my stomach on my first one and winged it way out of bounds, but once I got a fair mark in I knew I'd be OK," Sandstrom said. "We had people moving around cheering for each other all day, and I definitely felt my team there for me today."

Sandstrom would extend to a best of 128-10 on her next attempt for the official winning mark.



Photos by David Ball/For The Daily Astorian
Astoria coaches place the first-place medal around Kes Sandstrom's neck after her win in the discus, while Seaside's Gretchen Hoekstre finished second.



Astoria's Tim Barnett gets ready to fire the javelin during his third place showing in the event.

While Sandstrom was wrapping up her win, Marshfield was getting the decisive team points on the track, where Ravyn Miranda clocked in at 26.38 to finish fifth in the 200-meter final — three notches above her prelim seeding.

Marshfield ended the day with 60 points — five more than the three-time champion Lady Fishermen.

Astoria kept itself within reach with some big early performances, including Tay-

lor Cosner's fourth-place effort in the javelin on Friday. She came up with a throw of 123-2 on her final preliminary attempt not only to make the finals (top nine), but move past seven other throwers into fourth place.

"We had some girls pick up points when they weren't forecasted to score — we all did great — we were so close," Sandstrom said.

Hageman started Saturday's session with an intim-



Former Seaside track and cross country coach Neil Branson — serving as meet volunteer — points to Rafi Sibony's fourth-place spot on the scoreboard after Saturday's 800-meter final.

idating challenge in the pole vault.

Five vaulters remained when the bar moved to 10 feet, 6 inches — three of them were Pirates wearing the Marshfield skull and crossbones. Hageman would hang horizontally higher than a basketball hoop before letting go of her pole and falling to a third-attempt clearance at the height. Two of her fellow vaulters, includ-



Astoria senior Darian Hageman kicks up some sand on her way to a win in the triple jump where she turned in the four best marks of the competition.

ing one of the Pirates, dropped out of the competition, ending Marshfield's chance for a rare 1-2-3 sweep at state.

"I knew going in that it was a big event for them," Hageman said. "I've been consistently jumping 10-6 and 11 feet, so I was wondering what was happening. I'm thankful the bar stayed up. I'm not used to vaulting in the morning when it's still cold."

Hageman would fall out of the competition at the next height to place third, leaving Marshfield with a 1-2 finish and 23 points in the event.

Hageman was second in the high jump (5-4) and in the long jump (17-1), beating out Marshfield foes in both of those events.

Astoria finished Friday's session in first place with 21 points — six ahead of Scappoose.

Seaside junior Gretchen Hoekstre won the shot put with a throw of 42-3.75 in the first round of throws. She would land the metal ball past the 40-foot line three more times during the competition.

"I felt good right from my first throw," Hoekstra said. "It just shows the work from hundreds of hours in the weight room and working on my form."

Runner-up Kenna Woodward out of Crook County was

the only other thrower to pass that line. She did it once.

Hoekstra took second in the discus later in the day.

Boys finish strong

On the boys side, Astoria senior Tim Barnett scored 16 points in the throws with third-place finishes in the discus and javelin to go along with a fifth-place effort in the shot put. A heave of 168-4 at the end of prelims moved him past three other throwers into third place in the javelin.

Seaside senior Rafi Sibony left it all on the track in his 800-meter final, surging into the lead halfway around the final turn. He would hold onto first place for a few strides before Gladstone's Konnor Hathaway responded with a burst of his own to run away with the win.

"I'd rather race for first place and leave it all out there, than to shoot for second or third and know I had more in me," Sibony said. "I wasn't close enough to the finish to think about winning — we were stride-for-stride on the corner."

Sibony came through the finish line in fourth place and tumbled into the arms of a meet official, who offered physical and spiritual support while pointing to his personal-best time showing on the Hayward scoreboard.

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