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HOMETOWN REPORT

Barnett heads to track nationals

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Astorian

The NAIA has officially announced the complete entry list for the upcoming track and field national championships, and the list includes a former Astoria Fisherman.

Tim Barnett, a freshman at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, is one of a school-record 14 athletes from OIT who will make the trip to nationals, scheduled to run Thursday through Saturday.

This year's NAIA championship meet will take place at Mickey Miller Blackwell Stadium in Gulf Shores, Alabama, where approximately 127 schools will compete for the national title.

Oregon Tech will be represented by seven men and seven women athletes, while Barnett is one of three freshman who will compete for the Owls.

The former Astoria athlete had a busy two days in the recent Cascade Collegiate Conference championship meet, May 10-11 in Ashland.

His best finish was in the shot put, where he had a toss of 14.34 meters (just over 47 feet) for fourth place and five team points.

Barnett added a fifth-place showing in the discus (44.90 meters, or 147 feet, 4 inches), and seventh in the javelin (53.96).

And it was the javelin in which Barnett qualified for nationals, where he will be seeded 27th going into the meet.

OIT also happens to have the defending national champion in the javelin, in sophomore Hunter Drops.



Oregon Institute of Technology
In his first year at OIT, freshman Tim Barnett will throw the javelin in the national championship track meet for the Owls.

an overall score of 302. He earned Willamette's low round of the tournament with a 71 in the second round, and carded a 77 in the first, third and fourth rounds.

Senior teammate Kenneth Sheldon, from Ilwaco, shot 315 during the championships. Sheldon shot 77, 81, 79 and 78.

The final round included two eagles for Willamette, both by the local golfers. Sheldon recorded a three on the par-5, 552-yard 14th hole. Hinton, who had an eagle on the 14th hole in Thursday's round, added an eagle three on the par-5, 515-yard sixth hole Friday.

Besides Barnett and Hinton, other locals competing at the collegiate level this spring:

Astoria

Jackson Arnsdorf, sophomore, Corban baseball: Started three games for the Warriors, and finished his sophomore season with a 3-4 record, with two saves.

Natalie Cummings, sophomore, Portland State track.

Fridtjof Fremstad, sophomore, Linn-Benton baseball: In 34 games, hitting .304 (31-102) with 24 runs scored, four doubles and 16 RBIs. As a

first baseman/third baseman, has a .976 fielding percentage and assisted in 13 double plays, with a team-leading 175 putouts. Was recently named second team all-conference.

Darian Hageman, freshman, Oregon State track: Not competing this spring, but Hageman had three of Oregon State's top seven jumps in the triple jump in the indoor season, including a 36-4 in the Don Kirby Classic.

Trey Hageman, freshman, Linn-Benton baseball: Batting .255, with 12 hits (three doubles) and eight RBIs. Splits time at first base with Fremstad.

Halie Korff, junior, Western Oregon track.

McKailyn Rogers, freshman, Mt. Hood softball.

Kyle Strange, freshman, Lane CC baseball.

Seaside

Jackson Kunde, freshman, SW Oregon golf.

Brad Rzewnicki, sophomore, Gonzaga track.

Danielle (Willyard) Buhler, junior, NW Christian track.

Laura (Sibley) Lovell, Linfield assistant track coach.

Warrenton

Niqui Blodgett (Jewell HS), freshman, George Fox softball.

Knappa

Reuben Acosta Cruz, freshman, Linn-Benton baseball.

Devin Lewis-Allen, senior, Eastern Oregon track: At the recent Cascade Collegiate Conference championships in Ashland, Lewis-Allen led the EOU men's team with a second-place finish in the 400 meters, despite running with a sore calf muscle. He crossed the finish line in 49.20 seconds to earn all-CCC honors.

Kaleb Miller, freshman, Clark baseball.

Dale Takalo, freshman, Blue Mountain baseball: Has made 15 appearances on the mound for the Timberwolves, with a 9.17 earned run average. Has allowed 25 hits and 18 runs in 17.2 innings pitched, with seven strikeouts and six walks.

Ilwaco

Kenneth Sheldon, senior, Willamette golf.

Hinton helps Bearcats to record finish

Seaside graduate Sam Hinton, now a senior at Willamette University, tied for 32nd overall in the individual standings of the NCAA Division III men's golf championships at the Keene Trace Golf Club in Nicholasville, Kentucky. Final round action took place May 17.

Willamette finished 13th in the team standings, in its first trip to the NCAA Division III championships. It was also the best-ever finish at a national championship event for the Bearcats in men's golf.

Hinton finished in a six-way tie with



Jackson Arnsdorf,
Corban



Niqui Blodgett,
George Fox



Danielle (Willyard)
Buhler, NW Christian



Natalie Cummings,
Portland State



Sam Hinton,
Willamette



Halie Korff,
Western Oregon



Jackson Kunde,
SW Oregon



Brad Rzewnicki,
Gonzaga

Trail Blazers' cohesiveness helped them to conference finals

Coach Stotts signs multiyear contract; Lillard in line for supermax extension

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**
Associated Press

PORTLAND — The Portland Trail Blazers faced a number of challenges on the journey to their first Western Conference finals in 19 years.

But there was one they couldn't overcome: The Golden State Warriors.

Portland's run in the playoffs, which captured fans' imaginations after Damian Lillard's buzzer-beating 3-pointer to clinch the opening-round series over the Thunder, ended with a sweep by the defending champions.

"We put together a great season and we put ourselves in position to go to the Finals," Lillard said. "I think every other team in the league would wish they could be in our shoes; not only making the playoffs but playing for an opportunity to get a chance to go to the Finals. We just ran up on a team who has been there the last four years."

Portland was coming off two straight seasons that ended with first-round playoff sweeps. The team, which had surprisingly little turnover over those years, came



AP Photo/Craig Mitchell/Idler
Warriors guard Stephen Curry, right, and Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard talk at the end of Game 4.

into the season unified and determined to take the next step.

But before the first game was played, the Blazers were hit by the death of owner Paul Allen after a battle with non-Hodgkins lymphoma. The co-founder of Microsoft was a hands-on owner and a familiar face at the Moda Center, and Portland dedicated its season to him.

Injuries would challenge the Blazers down the stretch. Lillard's backcourt partner CJ McCollum missed 10 games with a knee injury.

But it was center Jusuf Nurkic's injury that caused the most con-

cern going into the playoffs. Portland's 7-foot big man broke his left leg after crashing awkwardly in an overtime victory at home over the Brooklyn Nets on March 25.

Nurkic was averaging 15.6 points and 10.4 rebounds a game and many considered Portland's playoff prospects dim without him.

Fortunately, the Blazers were able to turn to Enes Kanter, who was waived by the New York Knicks following the trade deadline and signed by Portland for the rest of the season. Kanter averaged 13.1 points and 8.6 rebounds in 23 regular-season games with the Blazers, including eight starts.

Portland finished 53-29 and clinched the third seed in the Western Conference, earning home court for the first round — and a series with the Thunder. The Blazers wrapped that series up in five games — capped by Lillard's walkoff 3-pointer.

But even in the playoffs the Blazers couldn't escape misfortune. Kanter separated his left shoulder in the final game against Oklahoma City. He was questionable for the conference semifinals against Denver but played, although he often winced in pain.

Jonathan Yim, Portland's video coordinator and player development coach, was in a serious car accident before the series with the Nuggets. The Blazers coaching staff wore bow ties in his honor in Game 2.

That series went to seven games, with the Blazers sealing their date with Golden State on Denver's home court.

The Warriors were simply too much for the Blazers, climbing back from double-digit deficits in each of the final three games. Lillard played with separated ribs in the final two.

The team's on-court leader, Lillard averaged 25.8 points and 6.9 assists and earned his fourth All-Star nod during the regular season. He averaged 33 points in the opening round against the Thunder, but his production fell against Den-

ver and Golden State when he was double-teamed.

Lillard said the past few seasons of relative stability — after four of Portland's five starters moved on to other teams in 2015 — have bonded the team.

"Each year we've come back with the right attitude," Lillard said Tuesday. "We've been able to stick together through a lot of adversity and I think just what we've hung our hats on, what we've believed in, our culture, the togetherness, we've been able to truly build on that. And I think we should be encouraged."

Lillard could be in line for a hefty raise in the offseason. If he is named to one of the post-season's All-NBA teams, he'll qualify for a supermax contract extension worth \$191 million. Lillard has two years remaining on his current contract.

Asked about the prospects of a big extension, Lillard laughed and said: "I don't understand why that's even a question."

Coach Terry Stotts already benefited from the team's run in the playoffs, signing a multiyear contract with the team that was announced at exit interviews. Terms of the deal were not released.

"The guys in the locker room are special, it's been a special season," Stotts said. "Always tough to lose the last game of the year, but I couldn't be more proud of the group that we've had."