

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS | FACEBOOK.COM/EOSPORTS

B1

RECORD BREAKER

Hermiston's Caden Hottman throws the discus 178 feet to set school mark

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Track and field athletes can spend four years trying to break school records in their specific events, but very few succeed.

Hermiston's Caden Hottman needed just three high school track meets to eclipse the school record in the discus, powering a throw of 178 feet to move past Tre Neal's mark of 169-2 that was set on April 15, 2016, at the Oregon Relays.

Hottman's record came exactly five years to the day that Neal set his.

"It was surreal," Hottman said of the record. "I knew I would eventually have a chance to get it, but I didn't think it would be this soon."

Hottman, a junior, burst onto the track scene on April 1 with a throw of 160-3 in his first meet. The following week, he had a winning toss of 158-3.

Then came his throw of 178 feet, which he hit at a Mid-Columbia Conference meet at Richland High School in Washington.

"I knew when it landed that it was a school record," said Hottman, whose throw had surpassed the 170-foot line on the sector. "I just didn't know by how much."

Hermiston throws coach David Faaeteete said he is not surprised by Hottman's performance.

"He's put up pretty big numbers since he was in middle school," Faaeteete said. "He came out his sophomore year and we were going to (do) big things, then COVID hit. He's a coach's dream. He likes to work hard, he is very technical, and he likes constructive criticism. He likes to be coached."

If you are wondering where Hottman was his freshman year, one only needs to head to the baseball field.

"I have always loved baseball," Hottman said. "I picked up track in middle school and quickly became really good at it. But if there was a choice between baseball or track, I would go to baseball."



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Hermiston's Caden Hottman throws a discus during practice at Hermiston High School on Thursday, April 22, 2021. Hottman broke the school's record in the discus with a throw of 178 feet to eclipse the previous school record of 169-2 that was set by Tre Neal on April 15, 2016.

If not for an elbow injury in the seventh grade, Hottman may never have pursued track.

"To be honest, I didn't really like track," he said. "My seventh grade year I tore the UCL in my elbow and I didn't know if I would be able to play baseball. I finally caved in."

In the eighth grade, Hottman had the top throw in Oregon for middle school throwers, which got him wondering if maybe track was his future.

Baseball was back on his schedule his freshman year of high school, but he had a change of heart that summer.

"I did track in the summer (with the Tri-City Thunder) and it was fun," Hottman said. "I went to nationals between my freshman and sophomore year. I finished like 26th, but it was a great experience."

He had good intentions to be part of the track team his sophomore year, but the COVID-19 pandemic washed the season away.

"It came to a point where I was going to hit the next level in throwing and I had to make a decision," he said.

While Hottman excels at the discus, he's not as proficient at the shot put.

"It's growing on me," he said. "Me and Ryker McDonald compete against each other. I've had to step up my game to one-up him. It's a weekly feud."

Faaeteete said it's just a matter of time before Hottman masters the shot put.

"He's never been a big shot put guy until this year," Faaeteete said. "He's just not connecting with the shot put like the discus. He doesn't have the timing down yet. If we can get him connected with his feet, he could go 55 feet."

A good foundation

While baseball was his first love, Hottman's dad, Gavin, was a track guy.

Gavin Hottman threw the shot put and discus at Kalama High School in Washington, and at Eastern Oregon University.

Gavin Hottman is ranked fifth on the Mountaineers' all-time list for discus throws with a mark of 158-3, set in 1997.

At Kalama, he placed second at the Class B Washington state meet in 1994 in the shot put (51-11 $\frac{3}{4}$), and was third in the discus (150-11).

See Record, Page B2

Quinn earns Offensive Player of the Year honors

Former PHS quarterback named top offensive player in Frontier Conference

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — Former Pendleton High School standout Kai Quinn led a potent Eastern Oregon University football team during the shortened spring season, and the senior quarterback was recognized with Frontier Conference Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Quinn led the Mountaineers' offense that averaged just over 30 points per game. Through the air, he completed 73 of 115 passes for 811 yards and had eight touchdowns. On the ground, Quinn had 53 carries for 244 yards and two touchdowns. He guided an EOU offense that averaged 404 yards of offense per game.

"I think with just how well our offense performed, I had an idea I might have an opportunity," Quinn said of the honor. "It's a great way to



Camp



Collins



Quinn



Schubert

See Honors, Page B2

Ducks offensive line led by 3 unheralded members of 2017 recruiting class

By RYAN THORBURN
Eugene Register-Guard

EUGENE — Several members of Oregon's 2017 recruiting class, which Willie Taggart didn't stick around to coach beyond the group's first fall on campus, will be in the NFL spotlight next week.

Cornerbacks Deommodore Lenoir and Thomas Graham and defensive linemen Austin Faoliu and Jordon Scott are all expected to hear their names called during the draft, which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from April 29 to May 1.

Mario Cristobal, who was Taggart's offensive line coach before being promoted to head coach, has watched two 3-star recruits and a walk-on from the 2017 class patiently develop into starting offensive linemen for the Ducks.

George Moore, who joined the program after playing two seasons



Rick Scuteri/Associated Press, File

Oregon offensive lineman George Moore (77) during the Fiesta Bowl against Iowa State in January in Glendale, Ariz. Moore is among the offensive linemen from the 2017 recruiting class who will be expected to anchor the Ducks in the trenches in 2021.

at the College of San Mateo (California), finally emerged as the starter at left tackle in 2020.

Alex Forsyth (center) and Ryan Walk (guard) waited three years for their opportunities to crack the

starting lineup last year.

The bond the trio formed behind the scenes from 2017-19, while being thrust into action together during the 2020 season, made Moore's decision to return for a seventh season of college an easy one following the Fiesta Bowl loss to Iowa State.

"We didn't finish the way we wanted to," Moore said during a Zoom with the local media following a Tuesday, April 20, spring practice.

"Honestly, these guys here that I started with, I want to play with them as much as I can. We just worked so hard, that 2017 class with Ryan and Alex."

Walk, the former Sheldon High School standout who followed his buddy Justin Herbert to Oregon as a walk-on, said Moore gets a lot of grief in the locker room for being older than some of the program's graduate assistants.

But the 6-foot-6, 325-pound Moore is still having as much fun playing for the Ducks as any of the talented teenagers from the 2020 and 2021 classes he's sharing the field with.

"I'm kind of like a big kid. I feel like I fit in with everybody, honestly," Moore said.

"Ryan and Alex, I've been with them so long, they don't even see me as the age I am. They kind of just see me fitting in with their age group."

There were some growing pains last season as Oregon replaced all five starters on the offensive line, including 2019 Outland Trophy winner Penei Sewell. Learning and executing new offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead's playbook with limited practice time made the challenge even more daunting.

Oregon finished 49th in the

See Ducks, Page B2

SPORTS SHORT

Arsenal fans protest against owner for Super League debacle

By FRANK GRIFFITHS
Associated Press

LONDON — Several hundred Arsenal fans protested outside Emirates Stadium at the English Premier League match against Everton on Friday to call for owner Stan Kroenke to leave the club for joining the Super League.

Fans gathered on the stadium's concourse more than two hours before kickoff, banging metal screens above the main box office, lighting flares, setting off fireworks, blaring airhorns and chanting "We want Kroenke out,"

and "We want our Arsenal back."

They also hung banners over the edge of the concourse including ones that read, "Arsenal till I die. Kroenke out," and "Our club our home. Sell up Stan."

After gathering on the concourse, the fans marched down stairs to the box office and team store to continue their noisy demonstration. One fan climbed on top of the box office awning and waved banners and flags, riling up the hundreds of fans gathered in front of him and leading them in chants against Arsenal's ownership.

The protest was still in full

voice and could be heard inside the stadium as the teams took to the pitch to warm up and after the match kicked off as a police helicopter circled above the stadium. Officers didn't attempt to move in to break up the protest amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Fan anger has been brewing since Arsenal and five other Premier League clubs announced they would join a breakaway Super League last Sunday. And it hasn't subsided even after Arsenal quit the 12-team Super League project on Tuesday night in the face of a growing public backlash, and apologized to fans.



John Walton/Associated Press

Fans protest against Arsenal owner Stan Kroenke before their English Premier League match against Everton at the Emirates Stadium in London on Friday, April 23, 2021. The fans want owner Stan Kroenke to leave the club over its bid to join the failed Super League.