

## MCC TRACK AND FIELD

# Caden Hottman caps strong spring season

Hermiston thrower named the MCC boys Field Athlete of the Year

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Before the track season began, Mid-Columbia Conference throwers didn't know who Caden Hottman was.

After a sensational spring, Hottman will be hard to forget. The Hermiston junior was named the MCC boys Field Athlete of the Year.

Hottman had a monster throw of 178 feet in the discus on April 15, which broke Tre Neal's Hermiston school record of 169 feet, 2 inches, set in 2016. He also had a season



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

Hermiston's Caden Hottman prepares to throw the discus at the MCC track and field championship on May 6, 2021, at Fran Rish Stadium in Richland, Wash. Hottman took first with a throw of 165 feet even.

best 50-6 in the shot put.

A junior, Hottman won MCC

titles in both events, winning the discus with a mark of 165 feet, and

the shot put with a toss of 49-8.

"He was quite the surprise," Hermiston coach Emilee Strot said. "In class the other day, he said he was surprised he won. It was fun to see him find out and be excited about that. I reminded him he broke a school record, was a two-time MCC champ and he has one of the best throws in the nation. He had a really great year."

Hottman is joined on the first team by the Bulldogs' 4x100 relay team of Deryk Anderson, Thomas Reagan, DJ Wilson and Riley Clark. The team won the MCC title with a school record time of 42.85 seconds.

Clark also was named to the first team as a long jumper (22-5½) and triple jumper (44-6). He won MCC titles in both events.

"Riley came out and had fun," Strot said. "He is a competitive young man and he wants to be great.

To be able to see him continue his career (at Western Oregon University) is great. I don't think he has tapped his potential."

The Bulldogs' 4x400 relay team, comprised of the same runners on the 4x100, earned second-team honors, as did Anderson in the 200 meters (22.74), Wilson in the triple jump (42-2¼), and Garrett Hendon in the long jump (19-11¾).

Kamiakin's Isaac Teeple was named the Track Athlete of the Year. He was the top man all year in the 800, 1,600 and 3,200.

Walla Walla's Eric Hisaw was named Coach of the Year for the boys and girls.

On the girls team, Hermiston senior Kaylee Young was a first-team selection for long jump. She won the event in all five meets,

See Track, Page A13

## PREP BASKETBALL

# LOCKED AND LOADED

Pendleton girls return six key players, have good depth from 16-7 team last season

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — When Kevin Porter looks at his roster, he likes what he sees.

The Pendleton girls basketball coach returns six key players from last season, and will add three talented players from the junior varsity team to add depth and size.

"The bulk of our scoring came from the sophomore class last year, and we return all of those kids," Porter said. "Natalie (Neveau) and Sami (Spriet) will be missed. Sami was a great leader for us, and Natalie was a three-year starter."

Spriet graduated last year, while Neveau decided not to play this season.

Pendleton opens Intermountain Conference play on Tuesday, May 25, at Crook County. The Bucks will host defending IMC champion Ridgeview on May 27.

Returning players for the Bucks, who finished 8-2 in IMC play and 16-7 overall last year, include senior Josie Wilson and juniors Jaden Samp, Brie Youncs, Chloe Taber, Daisy Jenness and Muriel Hoisington.

"Muriel is an outstanding player, and Chloe is our sixth person last year," Porter said. "She was a second-team all-conference player coming off the bench. Daisy will be our premier post player, but she is a hybrid player we can move out to the wing. These three juniors have played three years of varsity ball. They understand the pace of the game and what you need to do at this level."

Coming up from the JV team, and expected to have an immediate impact, are juniors Olivia Corbett and Lindsey Parena Little Sky, and senior Jordyn Murphy.

"Olivia will be a two guard," Porter said. "She sees the floor well and has a high basketball IQ. Lindsey is an



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Pendleton's Chloe Taber (20) puts up a shot against the Panthers. The Pendleton Buckaroos defeated the Redmond Panthers 74-25 at Pendleton High School on Feb. 4, 2020.

outstanding soccer goalie and she is kind of a hybrid post. She is a bigger bodied player, which I like down low. She doesn't mind the contact. It's her time to show she belongs."

With softball and track ending last weekend, Porter has not had the luxury of having his entire team together at one time for a structured practice. He had practice times scheduled for May 23 and May 24.

"Four of our players just ended their softball season (May 22)," Porter said. "To say I haven't seen my entire varsity roster together yet is not an understatement."

The Bucks' season also will extend past graduation and the end of the

school year. Their final game is June 18.

"There are going to be big life moments for kids like scholarship night and baccalaureate," Porter said. "How do you as a coach say you can't do those things? Some have a senior trip planned that was paid for months ago. We will play most of our season after school is out. We will make the most of what we have."

### Pendleton boys face a rebuilding year

The Bucks had an outstanding season last year, finishing 8-2 in the IMC and 19-6 overall.

See Basketball, Page A13

# Oakland A's set to come to Portland on a fact-finding mission



JOHN CANZANO

### OTHER VIEWS

The Oakland A's are visiting Las Vegas this week. A four-person travel party led by owner John Fisher will make the trip. They'll talk about relocating the Major League Baseball franchise. I expect 82-year old Mayor Carolyn Goodman will greet the baseball contingent at a private airstrip wearing a hard hat and holding a blank check.

This is a recruiting mission now.

The A's contingent will also make an official visit Portland next month. An MLB source confirmed that Fisher along with team president Dave Kaval, vice president Billy Beane and executive Sandy Dean are planning to come to Oregon to do some fact finding.

The Portland Diamond Project confirmed it all on Monday. Founder Craig Cheek and managing partner Mike Barrett issued a statement to *The Oregonian*/OregonLive that said, "PDP can confirm that we have engaged in talks with the Athletics, and plans for a visit by team officials are underway."

"PDP will have no further comment at this time."

This is an encouraging development — one that begs a comparison between the efforts in Las Vegas and Portland.

Vegas comes to play. Nobody is fooled by the lack of an organized effort

there. The city doesn't have a MLB-to-LAS group. No headquarters. No websites, bumperstickers or signatures. No stadium renderings, MLB rallies or Russell Wilson and Ciara, either. But Las Vegas has Mayor Goodman, who often gets her way.

She's the wife of former long-time Vegas mayor Oscar Goodman. He's the ex-mob lawyer who became a wildly popular mayor who won re-election over and over with more than 80 percent of the vote. Oscar left office after his 12-year term limit expired in 2011. Carolyn took over and is now on her third term. Be sure, Team Goodman dreams big, knows where the money is buried, and has a nose for opportunity.

Mayor Goodman — the wife — plays a mean poker game, too. We know because she went public immediately after the A's announced they had permission from MLB to seek possible relocation cities. Goodman said, "Las Vegas is excited." Also, the mayor claimed she had been in contact with A's representatives as early as 2019.

That last part may be technically true. But we all know nuance is served up as a speciality on The Strip. The A's have been engaged in a number of failed stadium proposals in Oakland, patience with local politicians is wearing thin, and the organization would be foolish to not stay in touch with a variety of possible relocation cities all along. Officials with the Oakland A's have also been in touch with Portland for some time, turns out.

See Mission, Page A13

## SPORTS SHORT

# Women's International Champions Cup pairings announced

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Barcelona and Lyon will meet to open the Women's International Champions Cup in August, while the host Portland Thorns will play the Houston Dash.

The winners of both matches will also meet, with the losers playing in a third-place game at Portland's Providence Park.

The tournament, to be held Aug. 18-21 and broadcast on the ESPN networks, will be the third

WICC. Last year's event was canceled because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Lyon, the 2020 UEFA Champions League winner, is the defending champion from the 2019 WICC. The Thorns qualified for the tournament as winners of the NWSL's fall series, while the Dash won last summer's Challenge Cup in Utah.

Barcelona, the 2020 Spanish league leaders, won this year's Champions League final against Chelsea.

New York-based Relevent Sports Group, which puts on the International Champions Cup for men's club teams each summer, added the women's competition in 2018. The 2019 edition was held in Cary, North Carolina, and hosted by the North Carolina Courage. The inaugural event was held in the Miami area.

Relevent plans to add two additional teams to the women's tournament next year and eight clubs in 2023.



Sean Meagher/The Oregonian, File

The Portland Thorns face the Chicago Red Stars during an NWSL soccer match on Sunday, May 16, 2021, in Portland.