

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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A10

Jennings hits best throw in the nation at La Grande Invite

Pendleton javelin thrower breaks own school record

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — Pendleton's Sam Jennings unleashed a throw of 209 feet, 5 inches to win the javelin event by more than 70 feet on Friday, April 8, at the La Grande Invite.

The throw was the best in the nation this spring, and Jennings also broke his own school record of 198-11, set on April 30, 2021.

"He was throwing into the wind and still threw 209," Pendleton coach Larry Brizendine said. "He hit that on his first throw. It was 40 to 50 feet out of the flagged-in area."

Jennings said it was all about timing the wind.

"It would stop blowing for like 30 seconds," he said. "Once the wind gets a hold of it, you aren't getting it back. I



Pendleton's Sam Jennings had a winning javelin throw of 209 feet, 5 inches on Friday, April 8, 2022, at the La Grande Invitational. Jennings' mark is the longest in the nation this spring.

Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

was hoping for a little more, but the conditions weren't ideal for big throws. I was happy to get over 200 feet."

The Pendleton boys won the team title with 152 points,

followed by Baker (73), College Place (65) and host La Grande (62).

"We had a fantastic day," Brizendine said. "It was a cold, windy day and they

still did a whole bunch of good stuff."

Starting with senior Drew Reyburn, who won the 300 hurdles in a time of 43.76 seconds. He also was fourth

in the 110 hurdles (18.65).

"Drew just absolutely exploded today," Brizendine said. "He was really good in the 300s. We were really strong in the hurdles today."

Sophomore Nathan Neveau won the shot put with a mark of 45-7 1/4, and was second in the discus (137-2). Both marks were personal bests.

Pendleton's Brock Mackey won the 200 (23.66), was third in the 100 (11.73), and ran the second leg on the 4x100 relay team (46.51) that placed second to Baker by a half step.

Nolan Mead of Pendleton cleared 6 feet to win the high jump, and had a leap of 18-5 3/4 to finish second in the long jump. Teammate Ben Jennings was third in the long jump (18-3 3/4) seventh in the triple jump (36-3 1/2).

James Thatcher added a second-place finish in the 800 (2:06.38) for the Bucks, while Trey Boston was second in the 400 (53.69).

Mac-Hi's Johnny Koklich ran a personal best 11.70 to

place second in the 100, and was seventh in the 200 (24.55).

In the girls' meet, Pendleton won the team title with 122.5 points, followed by Baker (95.5) and La Grande (88).

Pendleton's Reilly Lovercheck won the 100 hurdles (17.09), the 300 hurdles (48.58) by almost 4 seconds, and soared to victory in the long jump with a mark of 16-2 — a foot better than teammate Muriel Hoisington, who was second.

Kelsey Lovercheck won the 200 (27.32), and led a parade of three Pendleton pole vaulters with a height of 9 feet. Julia Naughton (8-0) was second, and Shaelynn Silva (7-6) was third.

Pendleton's Jamie Gau won the high jump at 4-10.

Stanfield/Echo's Jacque Kerns had a busy, yet productive day. She placed second in the high jump (4-8), was third in the 400 with a personal best time of 1:05.54, and she finished fifth in the long jump (14-6).

NO HOLDING HER BACK

Jenness to play volleyball at Thiel College

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — College volleyball didn't look too promising for Daisy Jenness after she missed her senior year at Pendleton High School.

The 5-foot-11 middle/outside hitter tore her ACL on June 17, 2021, during the third quarter of a basketball game against Redmond and did not return.

She had surgery, went through months of rehab, and was able to play the last few games of her senior year of basketball.

"At first I didn't think I would be able to play college sports and I kind of lost myself for a bit," Jenness said. "I was determined to get back for basketball season. I think I played five games. The doctor said I wouldn't be able to come back for basketball, but I got to. I was excited to be back."

College sports are now a reality for Jenness, who recently signed to play volleyball for Thiel College in Greenville, Pennsylvania.

"They found me through a recruiting app I have," Jenness said. "The head coach (Tyler North) reached out to me. I did a lot of research when I got his text."

Jenness made a visit to the campus in December. It felt like home, she said, minus the Pendleton Round-Up.

"It was really nice, but it was cold," Jenness said. "It was really pretty. I am going so far away to go to a town just like Pendleton."

Thiel College is a private



Pendleton's Daisy Jenness (9) leaps to hit the ball during the first set against Hermiston on March 11, 2021. Jenness has signed to play volleyball at Thiel College in Pennsylvania.

East Oregonian, File

liberal arts school with an enrollment of about 800 students in the heart of scenic northwest Pennsylvania. Volleyball is one of its 25 NCAA Division III varsity and club sports.

The Tomcats play in the Presidents' Athletic Conference, where they lost in the champion-

ship quarterfinals last fall. They finished 11-7 in PAC play and 11-19 overall.

"I liked the idea of going to a small school," said Jenness, who plans to major in biology and minor in journalism or Spanish. "It seemed like a good place to start. I got to go to an open gym

to watch the team play. I was still hurt at the time."

While Jenness played mostly middle for the Bucks, she also has played outside hitter, a position she plays for her club team Eastern Heat 18U.

"I'm playing outside for my club team, and I think he (North) wants me to play outside too. I like outside a lot better."

A three-sport star

Jenness also is a talented basketball and softball player, but volleyball always has been her favorite.

"I think volleyball has been my favorite since I've been in high school," she said. "I wanted to play in college. It will be sad not to play basketball and softball. Going to a school like Pendleton lets you be able to try different things. You can play multiple sports and not have to pick one or another."

Jenness was named a second-team Intermountain Conference middle her sophomore and junior volleyball seasons.

"She wanted to pursue volleyball and she made it happen," said former Pendleton volleyball coach Amanda Lapp, who stepped down after last season. "She's put in a lot of hard work coming back from her injury, but she's ready to dive in."

Despite missing the last three games of her junior basketball season, Jenness earned first-team Intermountain Conference honors.

This spring, she's playing her fourth year of softball for the Bucks, who are 8-1 to start the season. Jenness is hitting .346 with two doubles, one triple, one home run and seven RBIs.

"I'm really liking it this year," said Jenness, who plays center field. "We have a pretty good team."

ON THE SLATE

Schedules are subject to change

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

Prep baseball

Irrigon at Umatilla, 4 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Stanfield/Echo, 4 p.m.
Southridge at Hermiston, 4 p.m.
La Grande at Pendleton, 4:30 p.m.
Heppner at Grant Union, 4:30 p.m.

Prep softball

McLoughlin at Echo/Stamfield (2), 3 p.m.
Pendleton at La Grande, 4 p.m.
Irrigon at Umatilla, 4 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Riverside, 4 p.m.
College Place at Weston-McEwen, 4:30 p.m.
Hermiston at Kennewick, 5 p.m.

Boys soccer

Hermiston at Pasco, 7 p.m.

Prep tennis

Hermiston at Southridge, 4 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Lone/Heppner, 3:30 p.m.
Stanfield/Echo at McLoughlin, 4:30 p.m.

College softball

Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin (2), 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

College baseball

Blue Mountain at Treasure Valley (2), noon

Prep tennis

Pendleton boys at The Dalles, 3 p.m.
The Dalles girls at Pendleton, 3 p.m.

Prep golf

Echo at Burns Invite, Valley Country Club, TBD
Pendleton girls at Hood River, noon

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Prep baseball

Pendleton JV at Heppner, 3 p.m.
Irrigon at La Grande JV, 4 p.m.

Prep softball

Pendleton JV at Irrigon, 4 p.m.

Boys soccer

Hermiston at Chiawana, 7 p.m.

Prep golf

Hermiston at MCC pod, Richland, 10:30 a.m.

Prep tennis

Weston-McEwen boys and girls at Pendleton, 3 p.m.
Hanford at Hermiston, 4 p.m.
Riverside at Sherman, 4 p.m.
Stanfield/Echo at Arlington, 4:30 p.m.

Track and field

Hermiston at River City Relays, Hanford, TBD
Ione, Irrigon, Umatilla at Columbia River Invitational, Riverside, 3:15 p.m.

SPORTS SHORT

Forfeit improves Bend semipro indoor football team to 2-1

EO Media Group

REDMOND — The Oregon High Desert Storm indoor semipro football team improved its record to 2-1 after the SoCal Red Tails forfeited the game Saturday, April 9.

The Storm lost its season opener March 26 at Pasco against the Tri-City Rush

51-13, but then rebounded on April 3 at home, defeating the Washington Elite 58-20.

The Storm (2-1) play in the American West Football Conference, which this season includes six teams: the Storm, the Elite, the Rush, the Idaho Horsemen, the Wenatchee Valley Skyhawks, and the SoCal Red Tails. The Red Tails' home arena is the Grand

Arena in the City of Industry, California, east of Los Angeles.

The Storm is scheduled to play nine regular season games, the final game slated for June 18. Their next home game is against the Rush on April 30.

Tickets, a complete schedule and more information are available at www.oregonstorm.com.



The Oregon High Desert Storm's Parker Lapsley (22) runs through the Idaho Horsemen's defenders during a semipro indoor football playoff game in 2021 in Redmond. The Storm is at 2-1 in the new season after the SoCal Red Tails forfeited Saturday, April 9, 2022.

Dean Guernsey/
The (Bend) Bulletin, File