

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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A10

## SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

### Girls shot put steals the spotlight at Kiwanis Invite

#### Hermiston's Young shatters own school record

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The girls shot put event stole the show at the Kiwanis Twilight Invitational on Friday, April 29, at Kennison Field.

Hermiston school record holder Bailey Young bettered her own mark with a throw of 46 feet, 10 inches.

Mid-Columbia Conference nemesis Katelynn Gelston of Hanford finished second with a personal record and school-record throw of 43-4, and Pilot Rock's Emily Lambert finished third, breaking her own school record with a heave of 39-4. She ranks second in Oregon among 2A throwers.

Young's mark in the shot put ranks her 13th in the nation this spring. The future Eastern Washington thrower also placed second in the discus with a PR throw of 122-10, and second in the javelin (111-7).

Gelston, who has signed to throw at Oregon State University, won the discus (153-9), the javelin (131-11) and the hammer (95-5).

The Hanford girls won the team title with 199 points, just edging Hermiston (197.5).

The Bulldogs got a win in the 100 from Alondra Risueno, who turned in a

personal best time of 13.13 seconds. Risueno was second in the 200 (28.02), and ran a leg on the winning 4x100 relay team (51.50), that also included Izzy Simmons, Estephany Diaz and Dalia Cervantes.

Umatilla's Taylor Durfey finished second in the hammer (95-5), fourth in the shot put (36-5 1/2) and javelin (104-9), and seventh in the discus (96-4). She earned all 20 of her team's points.

In the boys meet, Hermiston's Caden Hottman was a triple winner for the Bulldogs, winning the shot-put (55-1), discus (170-7) and hammer (189-9). He was the high-point earner for the boys meet with 30.

Hermiston's Ryker McDonald won the 100 (11:35), was second in the shot put (45-5 1/2) and placed third in the 200 (23.53). He also ran the anchor leg on the 4x100 relay team (Gio Gonzague, Landon Shilhank, Horacio Zurita) that finished first (44.32).

Jayden Rodriguez won the 1,600 for the Bulldogs in a personal best time of 4:30.71, which ranks fourth among freshmen in Washington.

James Thatcher of Pendleton won the 800 in a time of 2:00.51, just edging Trevor Nichols of Heppner (2:00.65).

The Hermiston boys won the team title with 209 points, beating Hanford by one point.

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## Taking the next step

### Mac-Hi's Leber and Rhoads headed to WWCC for basketball

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — Bobbi Hazeltine has coached the Walla Walla Community College women's basketball program for 23 years, with a good deal of success.

That comes from recruiting the best players, and ones that are a good fit for the program.

McLoughlin's Emma Leber and Darby Rhoads fit that bill, and Hazeltine is happy to bring them aboard.

"They've shown interest in us since their junior year, especially Emma," Hazeltine said. "Emma's mom and I work together, so I am aware of her. They have put up good numbers and it's always nice to have local kids. They came and played with us a couple of times and they seem to fit in well. It just made sense to offer them spots on the team."

Leber said she had a few other offers, but going to WWCC was her top choice.

"I had a bunch of other offers (Blue Mountain Community College, Everett Community College, Lower Columbia College), but Walla Walla was my first choice," Leber said. "I like the program over there, and



Chris Bryant/Contributed Photo

McLoughlin's Darby Rhoads (left) and Emma Leber have signed letters of intent to play basketball at Walla Walla Community College.

Bobbi is amazing. Staying at home and saving money is good right now."

Rhoads, who was on the fence about playing college ball, now is excited for the next chapter.

"I'm so excited," Rhoads said. "For a little bit, I thought about playing volleyball, but basketball is where my heart is. I settled down and put my mind to it. She (Hazeltine) had come to watch Emma play, saw me play and she reached out to me. That gave me a lot of confidence."

WWCC also has a top-notch nursing program, which sweetened the deal.

"It kind of worked out perfectly for me," Rhoads said. "I want to be a nurse and they have a really good program. I get to stay home, save money and get my degree."

Mac-Hi coach Chris Bryant said he is excited for what lies ahead for his players.

"It's really cool to have Darby and Emma meet Bobbi's threshold to come in there," Bryant said. "They are good players, good students and good people. It's nice to see them rewarded for that."

Leber and Rhoads may have letters of intent in

hand, but playing time will depend on how quickly they make the move from the high school to the college level.

"We return some pretty good players at their positions," said Hazeltine, who also picked up four transfers. "It might be a matter of playing against these players for a year. I tell our kids that the biggest difference between high school and college is strength. That will make them better. I told them they would be playing behind some pretty good kids. If they can contribute, great, if not, they eventually will."

#### It's good to be tall

Leber, a 6-foot-1 forward, led the Pioneers with 12.5 points a game, along with 8.5 rebounds, three blocks and 1.8 steals. She earned first-team Greater Oregon League honors.

Her favorite part of the game is blocking shots, but to compete at the next level, she knows she needs to get stronger and maybe put a couple of pounds on her lanky frame.

"I know I need to get bigger and stronger," Leber said. "I'm going to work out a lot more in the summer and get into a lifting program. It's a struggle. I eat a lot, I just can't gain weight. It's hard."

Hazeltine said she'd like to see Leber take the steps to get stronger.

"We talked about the fact that she needs to get in the

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