

Costello:

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been snowing and the floor in the bus was wet. It was so cold it froze and it was like a skating rink.”

Thanks, mom

Costello graduated from South Albany High School in 1974. He went to Pacific University where he played baseball. He later got his teaching degree at Western Oregon University.

Between his college stints, he worked at the Albany Boys Club.

“I thought that’s where I was going to be,” he said. “We had great programs, then we had someone come in and cut most of the programs. Poof. I retired at 23 and went back to school and got my teaching degree.”

Costello’s mom was a business manager at the Education Service District in Albany when he got out of college, and she was hell bent on getting her son a job.

“She sent my resume out all over the place,” he said. “One day, I found out I had a job interview in Boardman. That was 1985.”

The interview was for a job at Sam Boardman Elementary School. He got the job, which included teaching classes at A.C. Houghton Elementary in Irrigon.

“I worked there for 15 years as the PE teacher, and taught reading for one year at Columbia Middle School,” he said. “From 2001 to now, I have been the PE teacher at Riverside.”

In 2007, students at Riverside had the option to stay, or attend the new high school in Irrigon.

Irrigon had shut down its original high school in 1959, and all the students went to Riverside.

“My basketball kids stayed and we placed third at the 3A state tournament,” Costello said.

The 2007 season is one Costello remembers fondly.

“We had Robert Turner

and we had to play the No. 1 team in the state to open things,” he said. “We beat Clatskanie by about 10. You remember those times. We had two communities, Irrigon and Boardman. When Irrigon left, it was like losing a brother. With them, you had a chance to win. It took its toll for a while in sports.”

In 2006, the Pirates were one game away from going to state. A loss to Sherwood derailed their plans.

“We had teams that were pretty good, but we couldn’t get past teams like Horizon Christian,” he said.

Costello coached a handful of players who went on to play at the college level.

“We’ve had some pretty good kids come through here,” he said. “When you are from a small school, it’s tough to get in there. I always told them to try. Kyle Killingbeck played at (Oregon Institute of Technology), and Kevin Baker was there too. He was the (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II) National Player of the Year when they won. Keith Baker played basketball at Lane for a year, then went to Alabama for track. He was a decathlete, and he was pretty good.”

When it comes to small schools, coaching more than one sport is not unusual, but there was one sport Costello never saw himself doing.

“I coached volleyball from 2012-16,” he said. “There were only two girls back from the year before and the coach had left. We had some girls who said they had never played before. I said, ‘great, I haven’t coached before.’”

Retirement plans

Costello said he and his wife, Cheryl, don’t have anything extravagant planned once retirement hits. Cheryl, who is Dirksen’s secretary, also is retiring.

“We might go on a vacation or two,” he said. “We might move to Boise where our daughter Carly is, and she has our only grandchild. I think we will stay put for a while until we figure things out.”

Highlights:

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“No better time than now,” Young said. “I don’t have any more throws. It’s nice to end it on a high note.”

Young won the discus title May 14 with a throw of 120-1, and teammate Eseta Sepeni was second at 114-5.

The Hermiston girls, with a bulk of their points coming from the field events, finished second in the team standings with 128 points. Walla Walla won with 142.

In the boys’ meet, Ryker McDonald added another gold medal to his stash as he won the 200 meters May 14 in a personal best time of 22.49 seconds. He won the 100 meters May 13.

“It was fun today,” McDonald said. “It felt really good. It was really nice having the 200 on a different day than the 100 and 4x100. You have a little more gas in the tank for that race. Most times, you have already run two races and thrown the shot. You are mustering up whatever you have left for that race.”

McDonald also placed second in the shot put with a PR throw of 50-8, finishing behind teammate Caden Hottman who had a winning throw of 56-4.

Hottman’s throw moves him to third on the Hermiston leaderboard behind Faafiaula Ena (56-8) and Tre Neal (56-7).

5A Intermountain Conference Championships — Senior Andy Oja swept the hurdle events, and ran legs on both relay teams that qualified for state as the Pendleton boys ran away with the team title May 14 for the second consecutive year.

Oja won the 110 hurdles in a time of 15.40, and will be joined at state by teammate Drew Reyburn (16.98), who finished fourth. In the 300 hurdles, the Bucks took the top three slots, with Oja turning in a winning time of 40.45, followed by Thaiden Cannin (41.79) and Reyburn (42.72).

Sam Jennings demolished the javelin field with a toss of 210-2 — more than 31 feet further than the next man.

The Bucks’ 4x100 relay team of Gabe Browning, Brock Mackey, Oja and Jennings finished first in a time of 43.60.

In the girls meet, Pendleton’s Reilly Lovercheck was named MVP of the meet after qualifying for state in four events.

Lovercheck won the triple jump with a leap of 37-1 ½, and placed second in the 100 hurdles with a PR



Rod Bragato/Contributed Photo

Hermiston’s Bailey Young competes in the shot put at the Mid-Columbia Conference District Track and Field Championships on Friday, May 13, 2022, at Kennison Field, Hermiston. Young won the event with a mark of 47-1.

time of 15.81. She then placed second in the 300 hurdles with a time of 47.02, just a nose behind winner Jillian Bremont of Redmond, who clocked a 47.0. She also placed second in the long jump (16-4).

3A Special District 3 Championships — Riverside freshman Pedro Chavez earned a trip to state after winning district titles May 14 in the 200 (23.63), 400 (51.26) and the high jump (5-6) at LaPine High School.

In the girls meet, Riverside’s Julie Magana won the 300 hurdles (50.04), and finished second in the 100 (13.31). Teammate Crystal Sanchez was second in the long jump (14-4).

Umatilla’s Taylor Durfey won the shot put with a mark of 38-8. She also was second in the discus (110-0 ½) and the javelin (101-0 ¾).

Greater Oregon League Championships — McLoughlin German exchange student Luis Wolf punched

his ticket to state after winning the high jump (6-0) and long jump (20-5) at Baker High School.

In the girls meet, Kadey Brown won the discus with a mark of 99-8, and picked up a second-place finish in the shot put (28-8 ½). Star Badillo was second in the discus (85-4).

Madi Perkins had a PR throw of 111-1 to win the javelin.

1A Special District 3 Championships — Freshman Ellery Flerchinger was the lone Griswold athlete to earn a trip to state after she placed second in the discus at South Wasco County High School in Maupin.

Flerchinger threw a personal best 92-2. Sophie Hulke of Sherman won the title with a throw of 106-11.

The lone boys 4x100 relay team of Thomas Rudolf, Gary Walls, Martin Medina and Cedrick Dayandante finished second in a time of 49.11 seconds to earn a trip to state.

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