

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022

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## LOVERCHECKS CASH IN STATE

### Pendleton girls finish 5th in team standings

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East Oregonian

**E**UGENE — Reilly and Kelsey Lovercheck scored the lion's share of the Pendleton girls team points at the 5A State Track and Field Championships that ended Saturday, May 21, at Hayward Field, Eugene.

Their efforts helped the Bucks to a fifth-place finish in the team standings with 39 points, one back of fourth-place Corvallis. Crescent Valley won the team title with 67 points, one point better than North Salem.

"That was the fun part," Pendleton coach Larry Brizendine said of the girls team. "They competed out of their minds. We didn't expect that."

Reilly Lovercheck started her state meet with a fourth-place finish in the long jump May 20. The following day, she placed third in the triple jump with a leap of 36-2 1/4.

"She was second until the girl from The Dalles (Zoe Dunn) knocked her to third with her last jump," Brizendine said.

On the track, she raced to a third-place finish in the 300 hurdles with a personal best time of 45.84. She also placed



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

**Pendleton's Kelsey Lovercheck watches the bar while pole vaulting Saturday, May 21, 2022, during the 5A Oregon School Activities Association State Track and Field Championships at Hayward Field, Eugene. Lovercheck took second with a vault of 10 feet, 6 inches and also placed third in the 200 meter sprint.**

fifth in the 100 hurdles in a time of 15.88.

Kelsey Lovercheck kept pace with her twin sister, finishing second in the pole vault with a personal best height of 10-6. She cleared 10-6 on her second attempt, but missed all three attempts at 11-0 as Rhys Allen of Willamette won with a PR height of 11-3.

Lovercheck ranks second on the school's pole vault leaderboard. The school record is 10-9.

Kelsey Lovercheck also sprinted to a third-place finish in the 200 with a time of 26.10, just under her personal best of 26.05, which she ran May 20 in the prelims.

"It's just their second year

of track," Brizendine said of the Loverchecks. "They played tennis the first two years. We wish we could have had them all four years."

Muriel Hoisington added to the team points with an eighth-place finish in the 400 with a time of 1:02.30.

In the boys meet, Nolan Mead soared to new heights in the high jump, clearing a personal best 6-3 to finish second for the Bucks. He cleared 6-3 on his final attempt, then missed all four attempts at 6-4. Redmond's Nathan Wachs cleared 6-4 on his final attempt to win the title.

"I could see him from where I was, but I couldn't see what the height was," Brizendine said.

"When he went over the bar, he jumped up and went running. I knew it must be good. It was 6-3. That's a great height for him."

The Pendleton boys were hit with a little bad luck during the last day of competition.

Javelin thrower Sam Jennings, who has been battling an abdominal strain, attempted just two throws, the furthest being 151-11. He did not make the finals and finished 10th.

In the 110 hurdles, Andy Oja looked to be the favorite after prelims May 20, but he clipped the third to last hurdle and went down. He got up and finished seventh in a time of 17.70.

Oja redeemed himself

in the 300 hurdles, placing second with a time of 39.41. Teammate Thaiden Cannin was seventh with a 42.22.

"The 300 hurdles was a great race," Brizendine said. "The kid (Nathan Fields) that beat him was legit."

In the 800, James Thatcher ran a personal best 1:59.29 to finish sixth. His best time before May 21 was 1:59.50.

The Pendleton boys finished eighth in the team standings with 33 points. Silverton won the team title with 79 points, followed by Crater (69) and Wilsonville (65).

"We thought the boys might do better, but some unfortunate things happened," Brizendine said. "Our best guy was down from the beginning, that didn't help. The kids said they were sorry we didn't go out on top. It's not like they didn't give it everything they had. We had an amazing season, it just didn't turn out like we wanted. I'm still pretty proud of all of them."

In the 4A championships, McLoughlin's Luis Wolf cleared 6-0 to place third in the high jump, while Michael Doherty finished third in the triple jump with a PR leap of 42-7 3/4.

For the girls, Mac-Hi's Kadey Brown finished third in the discus with a PR toss of 107-6.

The Mac-Hi boys finished 13th in the team standings with 23 points. Marshfield won the team title with 57 points.

In the girls team race, the Pioneer were 16th with 11 points. Philomath ran away with the team title with 87 points.

### District 8 Championships

Hermiston's Ryker McDonald punched his ticket to the 3A state track meet in two events at Central Valley High School in Spokane.

McDonald, who was second in the 100 prelims May 20, came out May 21 with a personal best 11.08 to win the event. He ranks second on the school leaderboard.

He also placed second in the shot put with a personal best 51-1 1/4.

Teammate Caden Hottman won the shot put with a heave of 56-4, which equals his personal best. He also won the discus May 20.

Hermiston finished sixth in the team standings with 57 points. Walla Walla won the team title with 128.

In the girls meet, Hermiston's Jackie Garcia finished third in the 800 in a time of 2:20.33 to advance to state. She will be joined by Cydney Sanchez, who ran a PR and a school record 5:16.71 in the 1,600 to finish second.

Bailey Young, who earned trips to state in the shot put and javelin May 20, added the discus to her list of things to do, placing third with a mark of 111-6.

The Bulldogs finished third in the team standing with 75 points. Mead ran away with the team title with 157 points.

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