

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

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SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



Hermiston High School/Contributed Photo
Hermiston's Caden Hottman, left, placed second in the shot put with a throw of 57-9 at the 3A State Track and Field Championships on Saturday, May 28, 2022, in Tacoma, Washington. Ryker McDonald, right, placed fifth with a mark of 48-7 3/4. With them is throws coach David Faateete.

Hermiston brings home three gold medals from state

Young wins two titles, while Hottman wins the discus

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

TACOMA — Caden Hottman put an exclamation point on Hermiston's trip to the 3A State Track and Field Championships at Mt. Tahoma High School.

Hottman won the discus with a toss of 169 feet, 3 inches on Saturday, May 28, adding a gold medal to the silver he won in the shot put on Thursday.

"It feels amazing," he said. "It has been on my mind for three years now. I'm thankful for everyone in Hermiston who kept us involved through everything happening in the world."

Hottman led the competition from the start with a throw of 159-5. Four of his five legal throws would have won the competition. It wasn't his best series of the year, but the weather wasn't exactly ideal.

"We threw in the rain, then you add in the cold weather and the wind," Hottman said. "It adds another element to the throw."

The Hermiston boys finished tied for ninth in the team standings with 22 points — all of which were earned by Hottman and Ryker McDonald, who placed fifth in the shot put (48-7).

Walla Walla won the team title with 66 points.

"We are putting Hermiston back out there," Hottman said. "In the throws world, Hermiston is the real deal. That comes from the coaches."

Washington State University is the next stop for Hottman, who leaves Hermiston with the discus (182-1 1/2) and shot put (57-9) school records. He also holds the school hammer record at 203-4 1/2, which he threw at the Oregon Relays on April 22.

ON THE SLATE

Schedule subject to change

TUESDAY, MAY 31

Prep softball

5A state semifinals: Dallas/Falls City at Pendleton, 4 p.m.

"I have all the school records I can have," he said.

McDonald is second in the Hermiston record books in the 100 meters at 11.08 seconds, and eighth in the shot put at 51-1 1/4.

Senior Bailey Young, who won the state discus (134-5) and shot put (46-8 3/4) titles, finished 16th in the javelin with a throw of 102-8.

Young earned all 20 of the Bulldogs' points, and finished tied for 10th in the team standings. Capital won the team title with 54 points.

Young, who has signed to throw at Eastern Washington University, leaves Hermiston with the school record in the shot put at 47-1, and is ranked third in the discus at 134-5.

Softball

PENDLETON — Pendleton punched its ticket to the 5A state semifinals Friday, May 27, with a 10-0 six-inning win over The Dalles.

"In all honesty, we didn't swing the bats well in round one (Wednesday), but we did well with timely hits with two outs today when we really needed it," Pendleton coach Tim Cary said. "I thought we played very well today."

The top-ranked Bucks (26-2) will host Dallas/Falls City on Tuesday. The Dragons defeated Silverton 3-1 to advance.

Pendleton pitcher Sauren Garton never gave the Riverhawks a chance to get their offense going. She threw a one-hit shutout, striking out 16.

"She was absolutely lights out today," Cary said. "She was focused. She was bound and determined today. She got it done."

BRANCHING OUT

Vanguard University is the next stop for Heppner's Finch

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

H EPPNER — Life moved pretty fast for Hannah Finch during the week of May 16.

The Heppner senior signed a letter of intent to run at Vanguard University on Monday, and on Friday, she won the 2A state 800-meter title in a school record time of 2 minutes, 24.52 seconds at Hayward Field in Eugene.

"I'm still trying to process it all," she said. "I came into high school thinking I was a sprinter. If you told me I would be winning a state title in the 800, it was something I didn't think I would do. Cross-country has prepared me for long distances."

Finch had her fair share of success in the 800 during the season, but the 400 was her signature event.

"At the beginning of the year, my main focus was the 400, and I wasn't even thinking about the 800," she said. "When I first broke the (800) record, I wasn't even concerned about that. I got close in the 400. I ran a 1:01.20 and the school record is a 1:00.30. I was disqualified at district for a false start. It was very disheartening, but it opened the door to the 800. It was a blessing in disguise."

Finch broke Madelyn Nichols' school record of 2:25.90 in the 800 on May 13 with a time of 2:25.64, then bettered her own time at state.

"I have been so focused on the 400, but maybe now I will be in the running for the 800," Finch said.

Her times from last year caught the attention of the coaches at Vanguard.

"I wasn't exactly recruited," she said. "I was getting some emails from them, and I sent in a recruiting form. I went down to visit in February. I am a preferred walk-on, but I will have the chance to get into the scholarship zone."

Vanguard University, a private Christian university in Costa Mesa, California.

The Lions compete at the NAIA



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Heppner's Hannah Finch wins the 2A state 800-meter title May 20, 2022, after passing Averie Peterson of Santiam at Hayward Field, Eugene. Finch won in a time of 2:24.52 and will continue her running career at Vanguard University.

level. The women's track team won the Golden State Athletic Conference Championship in April.

"I would hope to compete right away," Finch said. "The whole college thing is something I am feeling it out as I go along. I'm not sure if I will run cross-country. I'm still talking to the coach about that. I am thinking about being a heptathlete. It will be nice to try different things I haven't gotten to do here."

Finch also played basketball for the Mustangs, filling out her three sports seasons.

The good small-town life

Going to a small school affords students the opportunity to participate in many sports and other school activities. Finch immersed herself into whatever she could fit into her schedule.

"It's so nice living in Heppner," she said. "There are a few downsides to going to a small school, but you get to do a lot of things. I'm in the drama club. I helped write the play this year and direct it. That's something you only get to do in a small school. This year's play is an adaptation of Gravity Falls (Disney

show). I get to play the villain (Bill)."

She's also involved in the Technology Student Association (TSA) program. She is the Oregon president after serving as vice president for two years.

"It involves anything tech wise," she said. "Things you can build, and some art things."

Finch is going to Grapevine, Texas from June 26-July 1 for the National TSA Conference. This year's theme is "Discover Your Journey."

"I am doing a music production down there," she said. "I wrote a 2-3 minute song. You record it and turn it in and the judges go over it. I didn't use any real instruments in the song. I was going for a more digital feel. It was definitely a challenge to learn all that with a computer."

Finch taught herself to play the piano in the seventh grade. She also plays the saxophone, flute, viola, drums, guitar and the big xylophone.

All of that plays into her major.

"I am going to school to study writing and music," she said. "I want to write scripts and music for films and video games. My major is kind of risky."

BMCC players earn NWAC East honors

Powell, Marshall are Gold Glove recipients

East Oregonian



Marshall



Powell



Robertson

PENDLETON — Pendleton punched its ticket to the 5A state semifinals Friday, May 27, with a 10-0 six-inning win over The Dalles.

Powell, an outfielder from Athol, Idaho, had 87 putouts, three assists and just one error on the season for a 99% fielding average.

Marshall, a right-handed pitcher from Meridian, Idaho, had four putouts, nine

assists and zero errors on the season.

The Timberwolves, who finished the season 2-26 in East Region play, and 4-44 overall, did not have any players named to the all-region team.

Big Bend's Brandham Ponce was named the East Region MVP, while Ryne Webb of Spokane was named

Coach of the Year.

NWAC softball

Blue Mountain Community College freshman Kennedy Robertson was named to the East Region second team as a utility player.

An infielder from Idaho

Falls, Idaho, Robertson had a .942 fielding percentage, including 47 putouts and 66 assists. Offensively, she had a .398 batting average with 39 hits, including 11 home runs and 34 RBIs in 34 games.

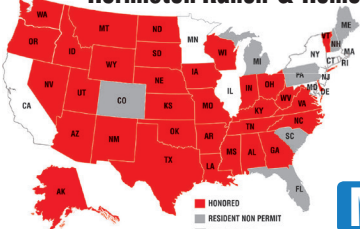
The Timberwolves finished the season 5-27 in the East standings and 5-33 overall.

Walla Walla's Kate Hopkins was named the East Region MVP, while Coach of the Year honors went to Walla Walla's Logan Parker.

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