



# HOOKING SILVER

## LOCAL MEDALS WITH TEAM USA

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The very first World Championship Fly Fishing competition held in the U.S. took place on the waters around Jackson Hole, Wyoming in 1997. The event had been around since 1981, but this was the first time the U.S. had hosted “the Olympics of fly fishing.”

Jackson Hole, Wyoming. That would be home court advantage USA?

Nope. The USA finished dead last.

It’s taken 18 years to live that down, and a fly fisherman from Enterprise was on the comeback team.

This year, the World Champion Fly Fishing Team USA took its first team medal, a silver, at the 2015 World Championship in Bosnia. Spain claimed a team gold, Bosnia/Herzegovina took the team bronze — and Devin Olsen of Enterprise, a member of Team USA, took an individual bronze.

The event was held June 16–21 on the rivers and lakes of Jajce, Bosnia. Fifty countries participated in the 2015 event with five entries from each country.

Olsen’s medal is the second individual medal won by an American. Jeff Currier, of Victor, Idaho, took the first individual bronze in Spain in 2003.

Olsen made the USA Team by competing in two to three regional competitions per year and a weeklong national competition every other year. He made the team in 2006 and went to his first World Championship in 2009.

Olsen started his odyssey toward Olympic-style fishing when he was just 9 years old.

“My dad put a fly pole in my hand when I was 9 and for me it became a personal pursuit,” he recalls.

His first fly, with which he caught his first fish, was the



Behold, the ant. This tiny dry fly, technically a CDC Flying Ant, is not only the one that won Devin Olsen a bronze medal at the 2015 World Championship Fly Fishing competition in Bosnia, it is identical to the one on which he caught his very first fish at age 9.

same one he won the medal with — a humble flying ant.

He undertook his journey to excellence in the way that suited him best, by watching others and emulating them — but he hurries to point out that there are dozens of ways to learn and none is better than the other.

“I’ve known lots of people who learn to fly fish in many different ways: guided

lessons, watching videos, trial and error,” he said.

“The thing that people need to realize is that it does require a higher level of ability and it does take time. Most of the people I know that do really well at fly fishing do it all of their free time.”

Olsen, who is a fish biologist out of the Joseph Nez Perce Fisheries office in Jo-

seph, does just that — fishes all of his free time.

“I consider all of my days on the water to be practice fishing,” he said. “I try to fish at least once to twice a week and try to have a specific goal each day I’m out; something I want to get better at, or a technique or situation I want to work on each time I go out.”

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Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Steve Kominsky, of Bend, turned in a time of 1:12:34 and took last place in the 5K walk — but he won father of the year in some folks’ eyes.

# Over-40 crowd rules the road in LRR 10K

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Lostine River Run saw fewer entrants this year, possibly because of both conflict with the 4th of July celebrations elsewhere and the expected extreme heat. That heat held off for the morning, however, and runners had a beautiful day for it.

By the end of sign-up 151 racers had pledged to test their mettle on the scenic and winding road outside of Lostine and another 19 in the 14-and-younger category intended to sprint the mile in town.

The family-friendly race has many return runners from year to year and this year was no different with Timothy Vandervlugt, 50, of La Grande, winning the 10K again with a time of 37:37. Javin Berg, 47, of Dixie, Wash., took second with a time of 38:53. Third went to Ben Calabretta, 37, of Moscow, Idaho, with a time of 40:26.

The fastest two women in the 10K were Emily Sheahan, 41, of Enterprise, with a

time of 43:49 and an overall 9th place, and Kara Gordon, 36, of Walla Walla, with a time of 46:22 and an overall 11th place.

The oldest male runner in the 10K was James Cornelison, 70, of Walla Walla, with a time of 53:05 and an overall 27th place finish. The oldest female runner was Janice Schermer, 65, of Portland, with a time of 58:49 and an overall 15th place finish.

A total of 47 runners started the 10K, 24 of them women, and all finished. The average pace was 8:28 per mile.

Returning runner Robert Bonderant, 44, of Chiamacum, Wash., made his trademark 5K warmup out to the start of the 5K race and then turned in a 19:26 run for sixth place. But the top places in the race belonged to the young. Alex Graffunder, 15, of Cove, took first with 17:12; Andrew Johnson, 24, of Union, took second with 17:41; and Harris Lackey, 17, of La Grande, turned in an 18:37 run for third place.

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# Sister, brother have yen for golf

By Rob Ruth  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Spring 2016 may seem a long way off, but local fans of high school golf should go ahead and make a mental note anyway of the name “Suto.” After all, it’s likely to be heard repeatedly in the coming years when listing top or near-top finishers.

At a June 25 junior golf tournament at the Pendleton Country Club, Victoria Suto, 14, of Alder Slope, completed the course in 100 strokes, good for first place in her age 12-14 division. That same day, her brother Blade Suto, who is 10, also earned a first-



Rob Ruth/Chieftain

Suto siblings Victoria, 14, and Blade, 10, practice July 1 at the Alpine Meadows driving range.

place honor, shooting 49 in the age 9-11 division. The kids’ parents, Enter-

prise chiropractors Dr. John Suto and Dr. Billie Kaska-Suto, have been taking them to Enterprise’s Alpine Meadows Golf Course for years, but John said they significantly increased the frequency of these outings last year, enabling Victoria and Blade to kick up the intensity of their golf game a few notches. Before last summer was out, the siblings entered tournament play with the Northeast Oregon Junior Golf Association (NEOJGA), and this year they’re back at it.

After they both took firsts June 25 in Pendleton, Blade had another first-place finish while Victoria was second

in her division at NEOJGA’s Tuesday, June 30, tournament at Baker City’s Quail Run. Blade carded a 60 and Victoria a 103.

Victoria sounded less than satisfied with her performance at Baker City, but she values every bit of experience she gains playing on different courses and she’s eagerly looking forward to her upcoming freshman year at Joseph Charter School. Come spring, “I will be on a golf team for the first time,” she says, referring to the combined JCS/Wallowa High School squad coached by Marvin Gibbs.

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# Buffalo hunt raffle benefits schools

Tickets in a drawing for a buffalo hunt will be sold until July 17, announced Friends of the Wallowa School District, the group benefiting from this fundraiser. The winner will be drawn during the Tamkaliks Celebration.

The hunt will be a guided hunt this fall with guide Andy Plew on the Water Canyon Ranch, which offers over 20,000 acres for hunting.

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### Wallowa County sunrise and sunset July 9 - July 15 (from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

Thursday, July 9		Friday, July 10		Saturday, July 11		Sunday, July 12		Monday, July 13		Tuesday, July 14		Wednesday, July 15	
Rise	5:10	Rise	5:11	Rise	5:12	Rise	5:12	Rise	5:13	Rise	5:14	Rise	5:15
Set	8:38	Set	8:38	Set	8:37	Set	8:37	Set	8:36	Set	8:35	Set	8:34

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