



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer, File

Joseph's Reece Nelson placed second in the high jump Saturday, May 22, 2021, at the 1A state track meet in La Grande. Nelson is among the returners with high hopes this spring for the Eagles.

Track:

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"I got some younger ones that might fill in and got some points" in the distance races, Roberts said.

In fact, the coach is optimistic of the possibility of having competitors in almost every event on the boys side, with the exception being pole vault.

"We'll cover just about all the field events," he said.

The coach answered in the affirmative when asked if he sees comparisons between

this boys squad and the 2019 team that took second in the 1A state meet.

"I think maybe we'll cover more events with this team, depending on how high up the ladder we go," he said.

On the girls side, there will be a major learning curve with several of the athletes out new to the sport.

"I think we got 10 girls, and quite a few of them haven't done track," Roberts said. "It'll be a building thing for them. The couple that have (experience), we have some hopes there in the hurdles and running, and possi-

bly a couple in the jumps."

With so many newcomers to the track, Roberts said a lot goes into trying to place athletes in the right event.

"It's just a combination of things," he said. "You can watch their form running (and) how they breathe (to place them in running events). We try them in all the jumps to see if they have any springs or not, if they don't, you move them to another event. ... Some will find an event right off the bat, and some don't."

One he knows will be in the mix this spring is Iona McDonald, who on March

18 claimed the top spot in the 300-meter hurdles and was sixth in the 1,500.

"She's a tough girl. We'll be putting a lot of workouts on her," Roberts said.

The Eagles return to the track April 1 at the Carnival of Speed in Milton-Freewater. While they don't host a meet this spring, they will be in plenty of regional events, including three in Union County and two in Baker County. The latter of those is the 1A Special District 4 meet in Baker City May 13.

The state track meet is at the new Hayward Field in Eugene on May 19-20.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Chase Homan of Joseph drives a ball at the driving range of the Alpine Meadows Golf Course in Enterprise as the Wallowa/Joseph golf team practices Monday, March 28, 2022.

Golf:

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McKee is an unknown quantity, and even the time the team has had to practice has been limited due to snow, so Gibbs is unsure of what the sophomore will bring.

"It's hard to know ... I know he has never played," the coach said. "He's going to be a work in progress."

The benefit of the small team is Gibbs will be able to work more closely with each golfer. And, even with just four, that gives Wallowa/Joseph enough to field a full team to score at tournaments.

"The less kids you have,

the more you can work with them," he said. "I was hoping for a couple more. We can be a team with four kids, we just can't do a whole lot. Everybody's gotta play good for us to score good. We don't have anybody to fall back on or pick up some slack if somebody has a bad day."

The coach said it will take a couple tournaments to have a real sense of what the team is capable of, but he is hopeful of what the group can accomplish.

"We might have a chance to do something at the district tournament," he said.

The team's next trip to the course is April 1 at the Mac-Hi Invite in Milton-Freewater.

All-state:

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range — which led the team — and 51% from the free-throw line.

Kirkland, meanwhile, finished with 8 points, 5.4 rebounds, 2.2 assists and 2.4 steals per game. The senior shot 27% from the floor, 21% from 3-point range and 45% from the free-throw line.

Athletes who are recognized in their respective leagues as first-team players are eligible for all-state, Crawford said.

2A GIRLS ALL-STATE BASKETBALL AWARDS

Player of the year: Callie Glenn, Union

Coach of the year: Jordan Klebaum-Johnston, Union

First team

Annabelle Brawley, Salem Academy

Maya Rowland, Central Linn

Katelyn Senn, Bandon

Kenna Stratton, Lakeview

Ashley Lohman, Faith Bible

Second team

Brooklynn Walters, Vernonia

Bailey Pederson, Salem Academy

Ryleigh Nofziger, Central Linn

Olivia Thompson, Bandon,

Audrey Wells, Union

Maggie Sharp, Stanfield

Third team

Taylor Masterson, Faith Bible

Olivia Haines-Hooker, Colton

Izzy Boyd, Gervais

Olivia Boyd, Gervais

Tyler McNeley, Lakeview

Honorable mention

Jada Gray, Enterprise

Savannah Greenfield, Lakeview

Lexi Herber, Salem Academy

Rilyn Kirkland, Enterprise

ZaBrena Masterston, Heppner

Maddi Reynolds, Myrtle Point

Jade Snyder, Oakridge

Sadie Snyder, Oakridge

Rachel Strober, Nestucca

Ellie Witten, Oakland

Ella Wright, Glide

Holli Vigue, Coquille

Baseball:

Continued from Page A9

of the onslaught, 10-9, but couldn't hold on.

In the tournament finale, the team had 15 hits in dominating Ontario, with three pitchers combining on a five-inning one-hitter.

Grover, Lane Rouse

and Melville each scored a pair of runs, and Grover and Spencer Decker each had two hits. Grover, Jackson Decker and Blade Suto combined on the one-hitter, and between them struck out six, walked a batter and hit a batter.

Wallowa Valley (3-3 overall) begins Special District 5 play April 1 with a doubleheader at Vale.

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Pet of the Week
MEET LACEY & SAMMY!
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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
JADA GRAY/RILYN KIRKLAND
 Enterprise seniors Jada Gray and Rilyn Kirkland got one more feather in their caps to conclude their basketball careers. Both were named 2A all-state honorable mention for their play in helping the Outlaw girls basketball team to a 15-11 record and a state playoff berth. Gray was the team's leading scorer and led the team in steals, while Kirkland was a timely scorer and facilitator.
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