

1A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

JOSEPH BOYS TAKE THIRD

Reece Nelson, of Joseph, triple jumps at the OSAA State Track and Field Championships on Friday, May 20, 2022, at Hayward Field in Eugene. Nelson won the 1A boys triple jump with a leap of 43 feet, 7¼ inches. Tom Nordtvedt/Contributed photo



Tom Nordtvedt/Contributed photo

Kale Ferguson and Reece Nelson execute a handoff during the 4x100-meter relay at the state track and field meet over the weekend.

Reece Nelson wins the triple jump title

By RONALD BOND
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

EUGENE — The Joseph boys track and field team was in the running for a 1A state championship well into the evening Friday, May 20, at Eugene's Hayward Field.

And although the Eagles were eventually surpassed by Adrian and Powder Valley in the team standings by the end of the night, the third-place finish was among the best in program history, just behind the second-place effort turned in by Joseph in 2019.

In all, the Eagles got a state cham-

pionship from Reece Nelson, two runner-up efforts by Bayden Menton and a strong effort by Kale Ferguson to help boost them to 49 points — a total that surpassed the 48 scored by the team when it took second three years ago.

Nelson had a solid weekend for the Eagles, and helped kick things off with two third-place finishes Thursday in the high jump and the long jump, when he posted efforts of 6 feet and 19-feet-7, respectively.

He saved the best for last Friday, the final day of his prep track career, by posting an effort of 43-7¼ inches on his fifth attempt in the triple jump. It

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2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Knapp part of three state titles

Outlaws power to second place

By RONALD BOND
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Zac Knapp did what everyone expected of him.

As a result, he came home with two individual state championships, a third as part of a relay team and helped the Enterprise boys get back on the podium.

Knapp swept the 1,500- and 3,000-meter runs and ran a leg of the winning 4x400 relay race, and the EHS boys finished with 49 points to take second place in the 2A state track meet May 19-20 at Hayward Field in Eugene.

The senior standout set a 2A state meet record in winning the 3,000, with his time of 8:40.32 crushing the field by more than 27 seconds. He was tested a bit more in the 1,500, but still ended up winning the event by more than five seconds with a time of 4:04.04.

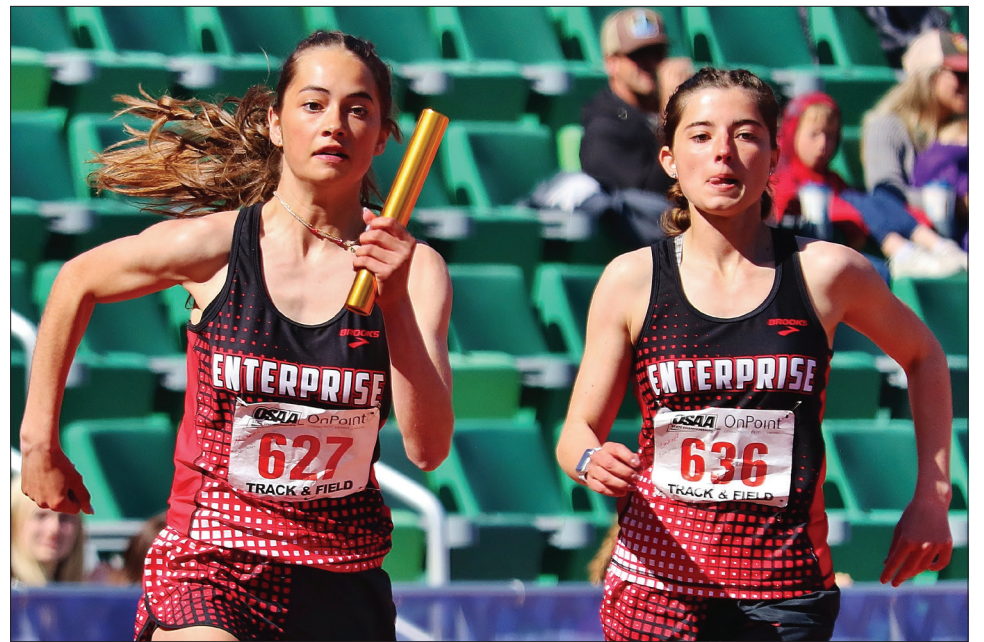
The University of Idaho signee also was with Levi Ortwam, Andrew Nordtvedt and Weston Wolfé as they wrapped up the state meet late on May 20 with a win in the 4x400 relay with a winning time of 3:36.78, edging district rivals Weston-McEwen

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Tom Nordtvedt/Contributed Photo

Enterprise's Zac Knapp won individual state titles in both the 1,500 and 3,000 meters during the state track and field meet this weekend.



Tom Nordtvedt/Contributed Photo

Enterprise's Nevaeh James, left, and Lannie Stonebrink execute a successful handoff during the 4x100 relay.

Freshman stars for Outlaws

James wins 300 hurdle title

By RONALD BOND
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

EUGENE — Nevaeh James looks as though she will be a force to be reckoned with for years to come for the Enterprise girls track and field team.

The freshman standout had a hand in all 20 points the Outlaws scored May 19-20 at the 2A state track and field meet at Hayward Field, running on two top-5

relay teams and placing twice individually, with the highlight a state championship in the girls 300-meter hurdles.

James was third in the preliminary race of the hurdles Thursday with a time of 50.18 seconds, a mark that was a personal best for the freshman.

She blew that mark away just over 24 hours later in the finals, with a winning time of 48.34 seconds that was half a second ahead of runner-up Portia Binford of Delphian.

For James, the championship capped a season that saw her improve by more

than five seconds in the event from start to finish. She never placed lower than third in the race all season, but her best time prior to the May 13 district track meet was 51.90 seconds.

She trimmed more than 1.6 seconds off that day, when she took the district crown in 50.26 seconds. She then dropped her personal best by nearly two more seconds to become Enterprise's first individual champion on the girls side since Shelby Moncrief won the 100 in 2019.

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