Spilyay Sports

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Olympian shares inspiring message

By Brian Mortensen Spilyay Tymoo

Life is a series of hurdles, Mark Crear has found out, both in his professional life and in his personal life.

How appropriate that Crear's life was all about hurdles – the kind that are placed about three strides apart on a rubberized allweather track – for years at the world-class level.

Crear, 36, was one of the five speakers and evangelists at a five-day tent meeting conducted by the Warm Springs Full Gospel Church Aug. 17-21.

Crear spoke during the Aug. 18 meeting at the Warm Springs Community Center, part a of a ministry that has taken him on the road after he temporarily stepped away from the church he founded in Southern California.

But Crear is most famous for his accomplishments at the 110 meter high hurdles, in which he won Olympic medals in 1996 and 2000.

He came to speak in Warm Springs after Susie Guerin invited him to the revival.

"I wanted to support her and anything regarding the ministry," Crear said. "I'll just go out sharing my testimony, and hopefully giving someone some inspiration and encouragement."

And he showed his Olympic medals, which include a silver from the Atlanta games in '96 and a bronze from the 2000 games in Sydney, Australia.

He said he also wanted to experience a part of America he had not much experienced before. Crear said he had not spent much time with Native Americans or on reservations.

"It was very educational, and humbling," he said. "At first I was a little apprehensive," but he became comfortable the more he got to see the Warm Springs Reservation.



Mark Crear

"It was just nice to meet the people, and to see the museum and all the culture," he said. "I look forward to coming back again, when I have more time, to just appreciate the culture and the history."

Crear arrived in Warm Springs at about 6 p.m. Aug. 17 and was onstage at 7 p.m. for the tent meeting. The tent meeting lasted until after midnight, and he had a 7 a.m. wakeup call. He had a busy day Friday, which included a hot rock massage at Kah-Nee-Ta, before he introduced Rev. Leland Johnson, the "Gospel Elvis," that evening at the Community Center. He left for Southern California Saturday.

Crear is pastor of Light of the World Christian Fellowship, which he describes as an interdenominational church in Santa Clarita, Calif., about 30 miles north of Los Angeles.

Crear graduated in 1992 from the University of Southern California, where he was an NCAA champion in the high hurdles. He began studying for the ministry while he was on the professional track and field circuit.

"Track and field and being an athlete is rewarding, because in track and field our season is mainly from August to September," he said. "If you're going to go indoor, then it's year-round, but you have a lot of time. So I courses and Internet courses, and then went to Pasadena (where he studies at International Theological University)."

He said his message is based on hope.

"Mathew 7:7 says, 'Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find.' And I was challenging the members, are they still seeking? Are they asking? Sometimes you get locked into this pattern of complacency," he said. "We forget that our God keeps His word."

In addition to his church ministry and traveling speaking ministry, Crear offers his expertise as a coach through his In The Zone Performance Training concern.

"A lot of people have dreams and ambitions, but they let themselves get in the way, procrastinating, and they try to do everything," he said. "(They say,) 'I don't need help.' But everybody needs help. Tiger Woods has a swing coach. What could someone teach Tiger Woods about golf? It's not about teaching Tiger Woods anything, but it's just being there to hold Tiger Woods accountable."

Crear ended his track and field career last year, after he finished fifth at the U.S. Olympic team trials, two places short of making his third Olympic Games.

He reached Olympic limelight in 1996 in Atlanta and in Sydney in 2000.

He was the second-ranked high hurdler in the world in 1996, after being No. 1 in 1995.

He was runner-up at the U.S. Olympic Trials with a time of 13.05 and finished second in Atlanta in 13.09, to his rival Allen Johnson. Johnson finished in 12.95 seconds, which was the Olympic record until Liu Xiang of China broke it last year.

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Changes this season for reservation big game hunters

Big game hunters will ex-

perience some new restrictions and new opportunities when seasons open this fall on the Warm Springs Reservation. Most of the restrictions will be placed on deer hunters, while extensions await those who set their sights on elk and cougar.

A continuing decline in deer numbers is reflected in the 2005 hunting season on the reservation. Tribal Council has approved a shortened and more restrictive season for the upcoming fall hunt, which was recommended by the Natural Resources Branch.

The 2005 deer season runs October 1-31 with a bag limit of one buck deer (per family) having not less than a forked antler. The new regulations account for a onemonth reduction in the deerhunting season and eliminate the harvest of spike-antlered bucks.

"Deer populations have been decreasing over the last five years on the reservation and are now in serious trouble," states a report from the tribal Wildlife staff. "Game surveys indicate a significant decline in the mule deer herds with overall numbers approaching half the herd size of five years ago."

Buck-to-doe ratios are at least five percent below management objectives and fawn recruitment is approximately 26 percent below tribal goals. The current trend has raised concern among tribal biologists, and tribal hunters, as well. Even so, the council approved staff recommendations to have a buck season with the tighter regulations attached.

"Although numbers are down we believe a season for bucks is biologically sound," states the Wildlife staff report. "The change to forked-horn or better bucks is recommended to reduce the potential for mistakes in taking anterless deer."

Another change to the deer season affects those seeking designated hunter tags. A hunter will not be allowed to possess a designated hunter tag unless he has filled his general-season deer tag. Only one designated hunting tag is issued per hunter.

Designated hunting tags will only be issued to elders and handicapped persons. The elder or handicapped person must acquire the tag personally or provide a written request for the tag to be issued to a designated hunter.

The most noteworthy change to the elk hunting scene is the inclusion of an archery season, which runs September 1-30. A total of 40 tags are issued for the first-ever archery season on the reservation and the bag limit for tag holders is one elk.

Equipment requirements for bow hunters is a long, recurve or compound bow developing a minimum 50 pounds of pull. Firearms are not allowed in hunter's possession while archery hunting. In fact, no firearms are permitted in the hunter's vehicle or nearby proximity while archery hunting.

The rifle season for elk includes an additional 15 days of hunting and runs Oct. 15 through Nov. 30 with a bag limit of one antlered elk per family or one anterless elk per family. Hunters must choose between a bull tag or anterless tag. There is no designated hunting for elk.

New and extended hunting

opportunities for elk reflect a stable herd that has reached the tribal management objective. The reservation elk herd is estimated at between 800 and 1,000 animals.

The 2005 bear hunt is split into two seasons. The first season runs the entire month of September and is open only to hunters holding a reservation archery tag. September bears must be harvested using a bow and arrow.

The second season for rifle hunters is open the months of October and November. The bag limit is one bear per month per family. Cubs and sows with cubs are protected.

Cougar hunting is now open the year-around. The bag limit is one cougar per month per family. It is unlawful to kill spotted cougar kittens or female cougars with spotted kittens.

Cougar tags are issued through the Natural Resources Branch office. Any tribal member taking a cougar must notify the Natural Resources Branch and provide the carcass for inspection and biological sampling within 48 hours of taking the animal.

Bird hunting regulations are unchanged from the previous season. Bird hunting opens Sept. 1 and closes Dec. 31.

Daily bag limits on the reservation for birds are three grouse, 10 quail and 10 chukar. One turkey per month may be harvested. Pheasants are protected. Ducks, geese and mourning doves may be hunted following state and federal regulations.

was able to take some home

Little League meeting Sept. 12

Jefferson County Little League will have nominations and voting for the upcoming Jefferson County Little League Board. This will be on Monday, September 12 at 7 p.m. at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds kitchen. If you are interested in

seeking a position on the Little League board, mark your calendar and attend this important meeting. This will be your chance to be your child's voice. For more information call Sena at 553-3243 or Sarah at 553-2293 ext. 408.





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