

# Student travels Down Under for athletics

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

This summer tribal member Jacoba Smith had a chance to do something that many athletes only dream of.

Smith, who is going into her senior year of high school, traveled to Australia to compete in the Down Under Sports Tour with a team of students from Oregon and Arizona—including two other students from Madras High School, Freddy Hernandez and Mark Wunsch.

The daughter of Jason and Snuffie Smith of Warm Springs, Smith competed in track and field in three events during her time in Australia: high jump, triple jump and long jump.

Three hundred athletes from the United States and around 100 from Australia and New Zealand formed teams to compete in the events.

Teams from the fifty states competed against the athletes from Australia and New Zealand in a two-day international meet.

Smith placed eighth in high jump, although at 5 feet 9 inches tall, she was one of the shortest jumpers in the event.

Though she isn't sure what she placed in triple jump, Smith said she was in the top eight for long jump.

Wunsch, the other Madras High School student, placed first and second in the javelin. Hernandez, a cross-country runner, traveled two weeks after his fellow athletes to compete in a cross-country meet, where he finished in the top 10.

The Oregon and Arizona teams lacked enough members



Photo courtesy of Jacoba Smith

Jacoba Smith, daughter of Jason and Snuffie Smith, was one of three Madras High School students to recently travel to Australia for an athletic competition.

for a full team from each state, so Smith said the two states combined athletes to form a larger, 12-person team.

Before traveling to Australia, the team went to Hawaii for four days.

"We went to Hawaii first so we could have team bonding and get to know our team," Smith said. "It was like a vacation, you did whatever you'd like."

She added, "We went snorkeling. We were boogie boarding. We swam and spent a lot of time in the ocean and shopped."

Hawaii, Smith added, was her favorite part of the trip.

After their quality time in

Hawaii, the team traveled to Australia where they spent several days practicing their sports and competing.

But Australia wasn't without its fun times.

While they had limited time for sight-seeing, Smith said, they went to a zoo in Australia.

"We got to pet kangaroos and we got to hold koala bears," she said.

The three Madras High School athletes had to raise money for their trip Down Under, and did so through car washes, bake sales, raffles, sponsors, and donations from community members, among many other methods.

The trip was Smith's first out of the country.

Athletes for the competition are chosen based academic and athletic ability.

Smith, a student with an A and B average in high school, is still unsure of how she ended up in Australia.

"I'm not sure how I got selected or who selected me," she said.

According to the website for the Down Under Sports Tour, a student must be on a posted honor list or be nominated by a coach.

The Down Under Sports Tour annually hosts students from 10 different sports for a six-day trip to Surfer's Paradise on the Gold Coast of Australia.

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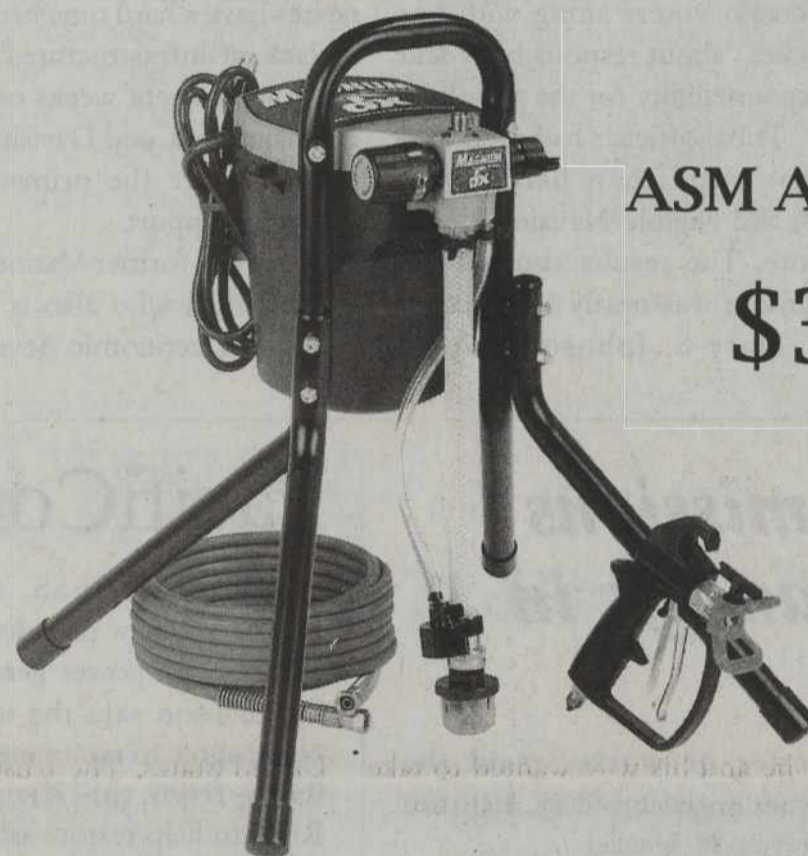


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## Births

Kara-Lynn LoRae Renfor

Winterdawn Selam and Brian Renfor are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Kara-Lynn LoRae Renfor, on June 28, 2006.

Maternal grandparents are Joseph Winishut of Warm Springs and Carolyn Winishut of Yakama.

Paternal grandparents are Carolyn Johnson and the late "Skip" Renfro of Warm Springs.

Tommy Robert Ball Jr.

Tommy Robert Ball and Shawna Irene Queahpama are pleased to announce the birth of their son Tommy Robert Ball Jr., born August 4, 2006. Tommy Jr. joins three brothers.

The father's parents are Norma and Robert Ball of Madras. The mother's parents are Madeline Queahpama-Spino and Richard Craig, of Warm Springs.

Inorah Kyrene Phifer

Shawn Phifer and Trisha Stradley-Phifer are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Inorah Kyrene Phifer, born July 20, 2006.

Inorah joins one brother, Logan.

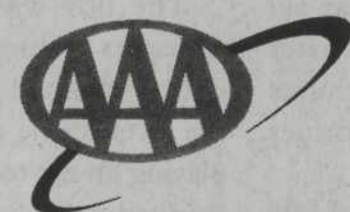
Father's parents are Carl and Angie Phifer of The Dalles. The mother's parents are Rick and Marissa Stradley of Warm Springs.

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