

Sand from 1B

points for first place. While Gabe has clenched the U.S. title with his wins, younger brother Jackson will go into the final three world tour events — in Brazil, Peru and Chile — well ahead of the the rest of the competition.

But still only one point ahead of Gabe.

“It’s as close as it can possible be,” said Lon Beale, owner of Sand Master Park and a sponsor of the tour.

In addition to the Jackson brothers, Oregon was also represented by husband and wife sandboarders Jesse and Bekah Austen, and second-year instructor Logan Livingston, who claimed his first top spot on the podium in the amateur men’s division.

Livingston tied for the overall U.S. amateur title with veteran men’s champion Rolland Cox of Portland, but the first-place spot at the Xwest Huck Fest was owned by Livingston.

Current junior division champion Diego Chaves, 13, was bumped up to the men’s division this year, where he easily claimed second place on Saturday with flawless grabs and landings.

“We expect to see more and more of the same from this fine young athlete,” said Beale.

Bekah Austen, a Sand Master Park instructor, has ruled the women’s division for a number of years and, in some competitions, has competed very successfully in the men’s division when there were no women’s competitors to challenge her reign.



Sand Master Park’s Logan Livingston (above) claimed his first event title; Mary Rose Walker of Portland placed in the women’s amateur division.



LON BEALE PHOTOS/SAND MASTER PARK

On Saturday, however, challengers Mary Rose Walker of Washington and Jess Leuenberger of Portland brought their best jumps in hopes of claiming this year’s crown.

Austen answered, taking the gold and adding another first place title to her long list to lock the U.S. Women’s Amateur title for the third consecutive year.

“Bekah is more than worthy to compete on the world scene,” said Beale.

Sand Master Park has hosted two annual events on the World Tour since its opening in 2000, when Beale, the uncontested creator of competitive sandboarding, acquired his nickname

“Doctor Dune.”

“The Oregon dunes are definitely breeding a world-class level of sandboarders,” said Beale. “It seems like all top sandboarders gravitate to Florence at one time or another, spending weeks and sometimes summers here.

“It definitely raises the bar.”

In 2016, Beale and the park will mark the 50th sandboard event in conjunction with the 20th annual — and longest running — sandboard competition in the world, the Sand Master Jam.

“This will be a double honor and a huge piece of sandboard history, right here in Florence,” said Beale.

This year’s Huck Fest was

sponsored by Xwest Clothing Company for the 16th year, along with Sand Master Park, Venomous Sandboards, ICM Restaurant, The Sand Ranch and Kavu.

For more information about sandboarding or the world tour, visit www.sandmasterpark.com.

Final results from this year’s Xwest Huck Fest:

- Amateur Women’s Division:**
 1st — Bekah Austen
 2nd — Mary Rose Walker
 3rd — Jessica Leuenberger

- Amateur Men’s Division:**
 1st — Logan Livingston
 2nd — Diego Chaves
 3rd — Rolland Cox

- Pro Men’s Division:**
 1st — Gabriel Cruz
 2nd — Jackson Cruz
 3rd — Jesse Austen

- Trick of the event:**
 Pro — Jesse Austen
 Amateur — Diego Chaves

Fishing from 1B

WILSON RIVER:

Steelhead, Chinook, cutthroat

Summer steelhead fishing is slow. Fishing for cutthroat trout should be fair. Use lighter gear for best results as the water is extremely low and clear. Spring Chinook fishing closed July 31. All angling is closed after 2 p.m. above tidewater until further notice.

YAQUINA RIVER:

Cutthroat trout

Cutthroat trout fishing is slow to fair. The best opportunities are coming in the early mornings when river temperatures are the coolest. River conditions are very low and warm for this time of year. The mainstem Yaquina and Big Elk Creek are good places to try casting small spinners or spoons as well as bait fishing near the head of tide.

UMPUQA RIVER, SOUTH: *Steelhead*

The South Umpqua River, including all tributaries, is closed to fishing for trout, steelhead, and salmon from 2 p.m. until an hour before sunrise. The mainstem South Umpqua upstream to Jackson Creek Bridge opened to fishing on May 23, with trout fishing being strictly catch and release. Catch and release trout fishing in South Umpqua tributaries below Jackson Creek Bridge also opened on May 23, with fishing restricted to the use of artificial flies and lures.

Smallmouth bass fishing, which remains open under normal rules, should be productive especially in the morning and late afternoon/early evening.

COOS COUNTY LAKES/PONDS: *Largemouth bass, bluegills*

Fishing for largemouth bass and bluegills has been good in many of the Coos County lakes. Fishing for bass will be best in the mornings and late evenings. Fish for bluegills around structure like submerged logs and weed lines.

TENMILE BASIN: *Trout, largemouth bass, yellow perch*
 Streams in the Tenmile Basin are open for trout although there is a 2 p.m.

fishing closure for trout, salmon, and steelhead in streams above tidewater. Most of the larger rivers will be too warm for trout and the water level in many of the smaller streams is extremely low. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures in streams above tidewater.

The water level in Tenmile Lakes is extremely low and boat anglers should use caution when boating in the lakes. Tenmile Lakes is open all year for trout but trout fishing has been slow.

Bass anglers have been catching several largemouth bass in Tenmile Lakes. Bass can be found this time of the year in shallow water near structure like logs or weed lines.

WINCHESTER BAY:

Bottomfish, perch

Fishing for bottomfish in the Triangle and South jetty has been successful. Perch fishing has been productive in the bay, and it was reported that good size striped perch were being caught along the jetty.

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