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MAY 27

VIKINGS CLAIM TWO STATE TITLES

Mikaela Siegel, Joseph Dotson each brought home state gold

By the end of the two-day OSAA 4A state track meet at Hayward Field, both Siuslaw teams had finished ninth overall in the team standings, bringing home a pair of individual state titles and a second-place medal.

All told, the Vikings claimed 10 finishes among the top 10, with junior Mikaela Siegel and senior Joseph Dotson winning the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles, respectively.

Siegel, who broke her own school record in the high hurdles to claim the crown in 15.50, also leaped 15-10 in the long jump to land seventh in the event.

The Viking junior then ran a leg on the 4x400-meter relay team, joining Kennedy Pendergrass, Destinie Tatum and Magdalena Akeson in a fourth-place finish with a time of 4:11.10. It was an especially sweet finish for the team, which had entered the meet with a last-place seeding.

Meanwhile, Dotson cleared the finish in the intermediate hurdles, setting a new Siuslaw record with his time of 39.24 to claim the state title.

Dotson was also a member of the eighth-place 4x400-meter relay team with Tyler Williams, Billy Jones and Seth Campbell (3:31.92).

Back on the track, Dotson's day finished with a third-place medal in the 400-meter race at 50.86).

SAILORS LAND FIVE TOP-10 STATE MARKS
Chris Free placed sixth in the triple jump to lead Mapleton

Five Mapleton athletes competed in seven events at the OSAA 1A state track meet at

the University of Oregon's Hayward Field last week, with senior Jacob Pruett qualifying in all three throwing events.

Pruett, who was a dominant force in the throws all season, fared well against the best 1A marks in the state, finishing among the top 10 in the discus, javelin and shot put.

Pruett's high finish was in the shot put, where he threw the steel ball 39-03.75 for the meet's seventh-best mark. Pruett then went on to compete in the javelin, throwing the spear 152-02 for eighth place.

Pruett wrapped up his high school track career with a 10th-place throw in the discus at 112-01.

On the triple jump runway, senior Chris Free launched himself nearly 40 feet, landing at 39-09.25 for a sixth-place medal.

Sophomore Hunter Simington cleared 10-6 in the pole vault to land seventh place, and fellow sophomore Tyler Packebush was 12th in the 110-meter hurdles at 19.50.

The team's lone Lady Sailor, junior Hannah Rodet, did not place in the pole vault.

MAY 30

2015 ATHLETES OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Mikaela Siegel and Joseph Dotson were honored as the year's best athletes

Over the course of the last three sports seasons, 21 new school records and five individual state champions were named between Siuslaw and Mapleton high schools.

Among those athletes were 11 finalists for Athlete of the Year: Hannah Bartlett, Seth Campbell, Joseph Dotson, Tucker Ford, Chris Free, Billy Jones, Celie Mans, Carissa Oliver, Elyssa Rise, Mikaela Siegel and Destinie Tatum.

"Selecting just two individuals from a group of so many outstanding student athletes is never easy," said KCST news director Bob Sneddon. "This year was no exception.

"All of these athletes contributed to their teams' successes while accomplishing their own achievements, on and off the field.

"We're proud to recognize these outstanding student athletes."

At the close of the evening, this year's Athletes of the Year were announced, calling forward senior Joseph Dotson and junior Mikaela Siegel.

Both were standout, three-sport athletes who demonstrated excellence on the field as well as in the classroom.

AUG. 8

LOCAL BROTHERS HEAD TO WORLD SERIES

Trey and Brogan Cornish advance with Lumberjacks

Florence residents Trey and Brogan Cornish will be on the baseball diamond in Klamath Falls, Ore., competing with the South Coast All-Star Babe Ruth team for a chance to be Senior Babe Ruth World Series champions.

The brothers are the only Florence players on the 18-player Lumberjacks roster, with the rest of the team made up of players from North Bend, Marshfield and Brookings. The Cornishes were chosen from 50 players, between ages 16 and 18, who tried out for the 18-player All-Star lineup.

Two weeks earlier, the Lumberjacks won the Oregon State Championship, also in Klamath Falls, to qualify for the World Series.

The Lumberjacks will be competing against nine other teams from around the country.

VIK FOOTBALL CAMP TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS
Siuslaw football coach Tim Dodson started the program

Members of this fall's Siuslaw football varsity program have been lacing up their cleats not only in preparation for the upcoming season, but also in anticipation of this week's 20th annual Viking Football Camp for local youth,

Aug. 10-13.

"We're very excited about getting kids out there running around and having fun," said Siuslaw head football coach Tim Dodson. "It's a great chance to offer the football experience to youth in our community and the traditions of Viking football."

For the second year in a row, the camp was offered free of charge to all participants, grades 2 through 10.

Participants learn football skills fundamentals, warm-ups and drills, tailored for each grade level.

Varsity players are on hand, along with Siuslaw coaches, to work with campers at each session. At the end of camp, participants receive a free football and camp T-shirt.

"It's something we look forward to each year," said Dodson. "It's a great way to start off the fall season and share the Siuslaw experience with our youth."

OCT. 24

VIK GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY FWL REIGN

CONTINUES

Siuslaw's has held the district title for more than a decade

For the Viking girls, 2015 brought the school's 13th consecutive league title — an achievement that two-time district winner and Viking junior Celie Mans called "Super cool to be a part of in Siuslaw history, and something that never gets old."

Mans finished the race a full 42 seconds ahead of Marshfield freshman Jazmin Chavez (19:18), and more than 30 seconds better than last year's district-title winning time.

"I'm feeling way stronger this year," said Mans, who spent last season plagued with injury and off pace for a state title.

Also pacing Siuslaw at district was junior transfer Morgan Bingham who came onto the scene and had an immediate

impact. At district, Bingham ran a personal best time of 19:30, placing third overall, with senior Sierra Potter also running a PR in 20:25 for fifth.

At the end of the race, the two runners' exhausted embrace was shortlived, turning to celebration as the Viks' four top-five finishes clinched the title a full 17 points ahead of second-place south Umpqua, 33-50.

OCT. 28

SHS CHEERLEADER LANDS HISTORIC FIRST
Victoria Rojas is first Viking cheerleader named to 4A's All-State team

Siuslaw sophomore Victoria Rojas has gone where no other Viking has gone before.

She went to the Oregon Cheerleading Coaches Association's individual competition Oct. 17 in Springfield, returning to Florence as one of seven members of the OCCA's All-State Team for schools within the 4A division and below.

"I was super excited about it," Rojas said. "It was really weird at first, but it was a good feeling, too. It makes you feel like you're good."

Rojas finished fifth among 45 competitors statewide to earn the honor. Keneley Tams of North Bend was sixth and made the team, as did two competitors from Sweet Home, two from Klamath Union and one from Gladstone.

"It's very, very exciting," cheerleading coach Diane Conlee said. "I've had some girls before do some individual competitions, but never had one make it on the All-State team."

NOV. 4

VIKS CLAIM STATE GOLD
Celie Mans wins individual state XC title, leads Viks to team title

For years, when other coach-

es bemoaned rainy weather at meets, Siuslaw coach Chris Johnson has welcomed the elements as something that plays to the team's favor.

"We're used to it. We run in it all the time and it's part of our routine," Johnson said earlier this season. "For other teams it can be a challenge. For us, it can be an advantage."

"It's what we do."

Junior runner Celie Mans paced herself well, coming on strong in the final stretch to overtake defending state champion Lexi Healy of Henley and cross the finish line a full 21 seconds ahead, claiming the OSAA state 4A girls title in 18:45.

Healy finished second in 19:06.

Fellow junior Morgan Bingham, who has maintained the team's No. 2 spot throughout the season, finished 19th overall in 20:50.

Freshman Kaeli Ramos crossed the line in 21:23 for 31st, followed closely by senior Sierra Potter three seconds later in 32nd place (21:26).

Junior runner Destinie Tatum was Siuslaw's final scoring position, finishing 35th in 21:31.

Siuslaw's team score was 81, thanks in part to Potter's placement in the pack so close to Trinity Ramos, keeping the gap a narrow one.

Taking second in team scoring was Sisters with a distant 105, followed by Molalla with 112 points for third place.

In the boys race, freshman Murray Bingham made his first state-level appearance an impressive one, finding his way through the muddy course and to the awards podium to finish 10th individually in the OSAA boys 4A race.

His time of 16:41 was a personal best, achieved a week after setting a PR at district under perfect weather conditions.

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