



KCST 'Athletes of the Year'

A Restrospective of 2019-20



The fall and winter sports seasons at Siuslaw and Mapleton high schools were underscored by standout individual and team performances as athletes rose to a multitude of challenges, from league changes and division re-alignments, to new coaches and underclassman-dominated rosters at both schools.

Despite those challenges, Vikings and Sailors teams in football, volleyball and basketball, as well as cross country, wrestling, bowling and cheerleading for Siuslaw, continued to represent the best efforts and ideals of athletic competition on the court, field and mats — with fans, alumni and family watching from the stands and bleachers.

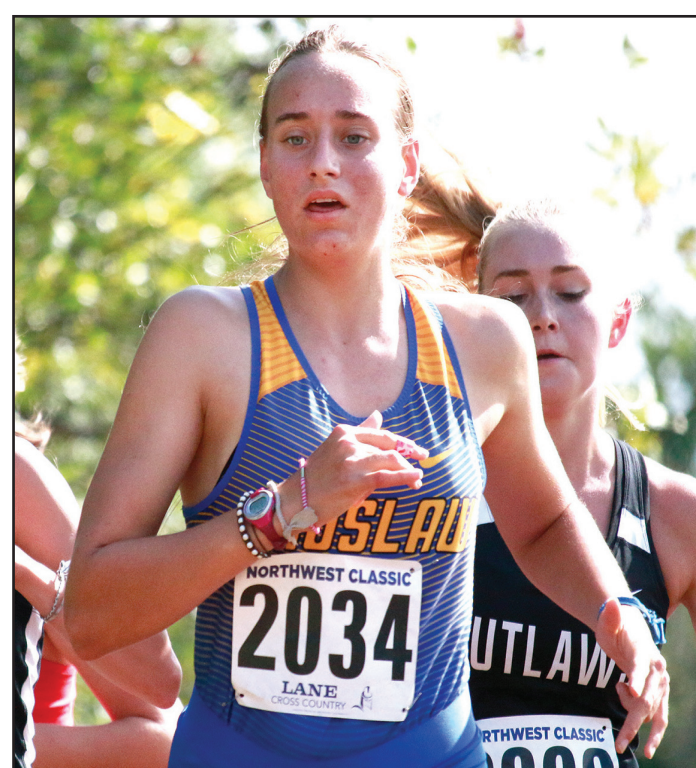
However, just weeks before the first pitches burried themselves into dusty catchers' mitts and the crack of starting pistols could echo in the crisp air of spring, Siuslaw and Mapleton athletes were confronted with a challenge that couldn't be overcome with mere grit and determination.

The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, and the measures required to slow its spread in Oregon, silenced the sounds of 2020 spring sports, leaving only a season of shared "what-could-have-beens" for Viking and Sailor athletes.

For seniors, the chance to enjoy their final high school appearance in front of a hometown crowd, set personal bests and possibly compete at state competition never happened.

In light of that, KCST Radio and Siuslaw News have chosen to forgo declaring this year's "Athletes of the Year" and, instead, offer a retrospective of those individuals who were recognized in the fall and winter, as well as those who likely would have been this past spring.

What follows are picks from coaches, names of Athletes of the Week and images from the Siuslaw and Mapleton sports seasons that were — and *could have been*...



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