

DUNN

Continued from 1B

In the 400 final — her sixth race in two days — Dunn moved to the lead with 125 meters remaining and pulled away to win with a time of 58.37.

With the state title, however, came new expectations of herself.

“It changed me in good ways and bad,” she said. “I had a whole new mentality and I put an immense amount of pressure on myself.”

As a junior, Dunn went to the state meet undefeated in the 400 with a season best of 58.84 but came in second, running 59.26.

Afterward, Dunn made the conscious decision to approach her senior season with the same care-free attitude that helped her climb to the top of the state meet podium as a sophomore. She went on to run under 60 seconds every time she ran the 400, but as the fates would have it Dunn’s final year at Cottage Grove coincided with the arrival of Kerissa and Venessa D’Arpino — twins from North Valley who became two of the best sprinters in the history of girls’ 4A. Dunn finished third at state behind the D’Arpino’s in 56.64 — a PR and a new school record.

“It was a little disappointing, but the D’Arpino’s definitely brought the best out of me,” said Dunn, who also helped lead the Lions to a third-place finish in the team race by scoring in the 200, and as a member of the Lions’ short and long relays.

Dunn was still mulling college options at the end of her senior year. She ultimately decided to stay close to home by enrolling at Lane Community College, and she was very glad for it.

“The coaching and training was a bit more intense than I was used to, but by then I was ready for it,” she said. “I loved my time at Lane because I was competing with people who all really wanted to be there and do the best they can; that’s wasn’t the case in high school.”



photo by Matt Hollander

Kristine Dunn battled a hip injury throughout her final season at Lane Community College. She is hoping to stay healthier while running fewer miles at Southern Oregon.

Dunn had a solid freshman year as she transitioned to middle distance training, which included running cross country for the first time. She finished with seasonal bests of 57.97 and 2:19.44.

Dunn once again ran cross country as a sophomore, and though she gained unprecedented strength, the wheels were starting to come off.

“It was a hard transition to go from slow running in cross country to explosive work on the track,” she said. “I didn’t really want to run cross country, but my coaches thought it would help me in the 800, where they felt I had the most potential.”

Dunn began this past track season with a nagging hip injury that never quite healed. She also kept it to herself, and her results on the track were naturally mixed.

“I regret that I never told my coaches how painful it was. But I knew that I was fit enough to run very fast, so I trained through the injury,” she explained.

Dunn recently chose to continue her academic and athletic pursuits at Southern Oregon. Despite her up-and-down time at Lane, Head Coach Grier Gatlin said that he couldn’t be happier that she has committed to joining the Raiders.

“She’s coming from a really good program. She has a strong understanding of collegiate track and has the ability to improve,” Gatlin said of Dunn.

While Gatlin said that he believes Dunn can still excel at the 800, her time at Lane demonstrated that the traditional middle-distance training did not work for her.

“Coming out of high school, a lot of coaches looked at her as an emerging middle-distance talent. And in a vacuum, that could be a fine idea, but she got injured going that route. So we’re taking her as a sprinter; she won’t run cross country, and we think she can be very successful,” he said.

In addition to having the right academic opportunities — Dunn will study pre-med to prepare her for a career as a physician’s assistant — Dunn said that the opportunity to once again train as a sprinter was the deciding factor in choosing Southern Oregon.

“It’s a little sad to be leaving Lane, but I feel that I’m ready to move on,” she said. “I usually don’t set goals until closer to the season, but right now I’m just very happy and optimistic that training as a sprinter again is really going to benefit me,” she said.

RODEO



photo by Matt Hollander

Taighler Dougherty competes in breakaway roping Saturday.

Continued from 1B

responded to standard treatments, and Baker is now receiving care in the Seattle area.

On May 1, Hedrick, 38, was diagnosed with colon cancer. He underwent a first surgery later that same week. And following a second surgery scheduled for this August, he is expected to make a full recovery.

This year’s Dine and Dash, a charitable event where participants pay \$10 for a chance to “undecorate” three cows covered in prize tickets, raised \$700 for Hedrick.

“We saw such amazing support from the community this year,” said Cottage Grove Rid-

ing Club president Kelli Fisher, Hedrick’s partner. The two are expecting a baby girl in September. “And overall I think you saw great cohesion within the rodeo community. We received a tremendous amount of support from neighboring clubs.”

The rodeo was also a spectacle unto itself.

“It was a great crowd, and each night the parking lot was absolutely filled,” Fisher said. “Even though we didn’t have any new event this year, people were stoked to see the local competitions.”

Fisher explained that the two day attendance of more than 3,000, including contestants, was the highest in some time for

the rodeo.

“We’re trying to get better every year from our mistakes,” said Ferguson, who is also a board member of the Cottage Grove Riding Club, which hosts the rodeo. “We had more competitors than last year, and that made things very exciting. But we’re going to work hard to cut down the concession lines. People can’t enjoy the show if they are waiting in line for food.”

Ferguson added that one of the keys to a successful rodeo is a strong base of members, and he encourages those are interested to come visit the riding club. An individual membership is \$20 and a family membership is \$35. Among other benefits,

members at have access to riding at the property.

“All of us who are out there love it and want to see it succeed,” Ferguson said.

Cottage Grove Rodeo Youth Event Results

Mutton Bustin (Friday):
1st Audrey Hartengenbush
2nd Mallory McGuire

Mutton Bustin (Saturday):
1st Shyla Courtright
2nd Blake Aldrich

Calf riding:
1st Blake Sannes
2nd Garrett Foglio

Steer riding:
1st Chris Flannigan
2nd Mason Stuller

Junior bull riding
1st Chet Geddes
2nd James Sloane

Junior barrels 14-18
1st Josie Burk
2nd Bailey Hanson
3rd Ashley Goertzen

Junior barrels 6-13
1st Fallon Hanson
2nd Madison Fouts

Cow Hyde race
Lisa Laroe and Scott Ferguson

Pro Event Results

Bareback Riding: Kevin Lusk Orting, WA. 77pts won \$5537.60 plus an award for Belt

Saddle Bronc Riding: Cooper Dewitt Rio Rico, AZ / 81 pts. \$633.60 plus Belt

Bullriding: everyone bucked off

Calf Roping: Colton Campbell - Klamath Falls / time 9.8 seconds \$5709.92

Steer Wrestling: Coy Surret -Buhl, Idaho / time 4.4 seconds \$668.16

Breakaway Roping: Mary Ann Knapp - Buena, WA. / time 2.4 seconds \$1064.88

Barrels: Sammi Lane - Arlington, OR time 17.88 won \$918.72

Wild Cow Milking: Brian Thompson - Yoncalla, OR time 15.1 sec. \$622.08

Team Roping: Travis Whitlow / Tyler Whitlow - Queen Creek, AZ time 4.8 seconds \$793.44 each

All Around Cowboy : Coy Surret

All Around Cowgirl : Alex Barber

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