

## Pirates: Clark reaches state podium in two of three events

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Clark qualified for state in 2015 as well, but she was eager to put those memories behind her.

"Last year, I was really nervous," Clark said. "I was so scared that I didn't do well at all. I wasn't as fo-

cused as I should have been. This year, I was ready to compete."

Clark, who also competed in the 300 hurdles and just missed out on earning a spot in the finals for that event, threw her second-best marks ever in the

javelin and shot put.

As the Pirates left Hayward Field after a successful trip to state, the seniors were more than happy with how their final event as Pirates came to a close.

"I'm glad it ended this way," Clark said.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Perrydale senior Sarah Clark prepares to throw the shot put during the state track and field championships at Hayward Field in Eugene on Friday afternoon.

## Leap Ahead



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Falls City sophomore Jeremy Labrado competes during the boys triple jump on Friday at the OSAA Class 1A state track and field championships at Hayward Field in Eugene. Labrado scratched on his three attempts. Senior Ryan Macnab finished 11th in the finals of the boys shot put with a throw of 36 feet, 10 1/2 inches.

## DALLAS BASEBALL

# Dragons place in seven events

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

EUGENE — For some, arriving at the state track and field meet for the first time can be intimidating.

Dallas junior Jenifer Webb knew the moment would be awe-inspiring, but she wasn't going to let that stop her from performing at her best.

"It was unbelievable," Webb said. "To go out here, it's so overwhelming how huge it is. When I got here, I was just ready to go. I wasn't nervous at all."

Webb finished fifth in the finals of the girls 100-meter hurdles, finishing in 16.19 seconds — a new personal record.

"I ran a PR in the prelims and I was ready to push even harder in the finals," Webb said. "The track felt so fast."

As Webb celebrated a top-five finish at state, the moment was a culmination of countless hours of training and dedication.

"It feels awesome," Webb said. "All the hard work — all those awful workouts — paid off. I'm happy."

Fellow hurdler and junior Stefani Tallon also competed in the 100 hurdles, but fell short of qualifying for the finals.

Senior Naomi Howe placed sixth in the 300 hurdles, finishing in 47.18 seconds.

"It was quite an experience,"



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas' Jacob Deming attempts to clear the bar during the pole vault competition at the state track and field meet on Saturday.

Howe said. "I was really nervous. Going into it, I was freaking out, but I always remind myself it's just a race and I've done this race a thousand times."

Although she hoped to set a new PR, the senior was grateful for the chance to experience state before

her high school career was done.

"I'm definitely proud I got on the podium," Howe said. "I've improved my PR by two seconds since last year. I put a lot of work into it."

Senior Kyleen Benz placed 10th in the shot put with a throw of 34



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas senior Naomi Howe clears a hurdle during the finals of the 300-meter hurdle run at Hayward Field on Friday afternoon.

feet, 1 1/2 inches and 11th in the discus with a mark of 100-10.

Jacob Deming led the boys with an eighth-place finish in the pole vault (12-6). Aaron White took ninth in the triple jump (41-9 1/4) and Trevor Cross took 12th in the 3,000-meter run (9:37.70). The boys 4 x 100 relay team of Deming,

Cody Webb, White and Justin Huxel finished 11th (44.27).

With nearly all of Dallas' state qualifiers set to return next season, the Dragons find themselves in a strong position, coach Bill Masei said — one that may see Dallas have success at the state meet for years to come.

# Panthers: Altamirano places third in 400 finals

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"God was showing me it's time to finally appreciate coming to this track," she said.

After an up and down career, the senior was thankful for one last opportunity to experience state — the right way.

"It's an unbelievable meet," Hoffman said. "I just enjoyed it and soaked it in. I wouldn't have appreciated this if I didn't have to go through all the hard stuff. Of course it wasn't fun, but it's paying off now."

Sophomore Bethanie Altamirano was the Panthers' top finisher, placing third in the girls 400-meter run.

Mid-race, Altamirano felt pain in her right leg, but with her teammates, coaches and, most importantly, her mom in the stands cheering her on, she wasn't about to let an injury stop her.

"I just thought I have to keep pushing myself," Altamirano said. "I need to do this for everyone."

Altamirano and Hoffman were also part of the girls 4 x 100 relay team, along with Elizabeth Chavez and Alex



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central senior Kyle Miller prepares to throw a javelin at the OSAA 5A state track and field championships on Saturday afternoon. Miller finished ninth.

Alvarez, that placed fourth with a time of 49.77 seconds.

"It was insane," Chavez said. "It's such a great feeling to be out there. It was in-

credible."

The relay team mixed underclassmen — Chavez is a freshman and Altamirano a sophomore — and experi-

ence, Hoffman and Alvarez are seniors. That combo led to successful results throughout the season.

"This was a dream come

true," Hoffman said. "I love the 4 x 100 and I wanted a fast team for a long time. We've had decent teams, but we weren't super competitive. That happened this year. In a sport so based on personal achievement, I love having that camaraderie. You're not feeling the stress all by yourself."

The chance to get on the podium put an amazing end to their season.

"I'm glad my last track meet was with them," Alvarez said.

The boys also found success with its relay teams. The 4 x 400 relay team of Isaac Burgett, Joshua Peterson, Juan Rivera and Nick Burgett finished fifth in 3:27.83, while the 4 x 100 team of Casey Brown, Isaiah Abraham, Jaxon Hutchinson and Nick Burgett took seventh in 43.55 seconds.

"It's a whole different feeling at state," Brown said. "It's not like any other meet."

Stepping onto the track in Eugene for the first time was an awe-inspiring moment, but not one that the Panthers would let overwhelm them.

"I was pretty nervous, but once you get the baton, you don't think about anything," Nick Burgett said. "You just run."

For runners like Abraham, state provided a unique challenge.

"It was my first year doing track, so it was a pretty cool experience to get here," Abraham said.

Hutchinson, who finished 10th in the prelims of the 200, was out to make his dad, who recently passed away, proud. Despite the thousands of fans in attendance, he, along with his teammates, was dialed in on running as fast as possible.

"One reason why I love track is right before the gun, I'm not thinking about anything," Hutchinson said. "It's the one time my head is empty and it is peaceful."

Samuel Cole took seventh in the shot put with a throw of 49 feet, 5 1/4 inches. Kyle Miller placed ninth in the javelin (168-8) and Peter Mason took 12th in the long jump (20-8 3/4). Alec Barba scratched in the high jump. Josh Dickson finished 10th in the prelims of the 300 hurdles.