

CLASS 4A STATE TRACK AND FIELD MEET

Baker girls 8th at state finals

■ Sydney Keller wins state title in pole vault; Baker boys finish 22nd

By Corey Kirk
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Sydney Keller added another state championship to her resumé at Baker High School, winning the pole vault at the Class 4A state track meet on Saturday, May 22 and leading the Bulldogs to an eighth-place finish in the girls team standings.

The Baker boys placed 22nd in the meet that took place May 21 and 22 at Siuslaw High School in Florence. As with other state competitions during the pandemic, the meet was not sanctioned by the Oregon School Activities Association.

"I was just so ecstatic, and really relieved honestly," said Keller, a senior who won a state wrestling championship in 2020 and was a member of Baker's 2019 state championship basketball team. "I've been training really hard, and going and training with coaches. I've done a lot of work with different coaches in pole vault and different things and areas to become better. I'm just really happy it finally clicked."



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Sydney Keller placed first in the pole vault on Saturday, May 22 at the Class 4A state track meet.

Keller cleared 10 feet. Her teammate and fellow senior, Salena Bott, finished eighth with a vault of 8 feet, 6 inches, a personal record.

Keller competed in the 400-meter race on Friday, May 21, setting a personal record at 1:05.25 but finishing 12th in the preliminaries and not qualifying for the finals.

Though she admits she was frustrated, Keller returned the following day to compete in three events — pole vault, triple jump and as a member of Baker's 4-by-400 relay team.

Baker coach Suzy Cole said Keller thrived on the hectic day, in which she had to run to the pole vault area between competing in other events.

"I was pole vaulting, and then after two heights in pole vault, I would have to run around the entire field and go over to triple jump, and I got a couple of triple jumps in, and then run back around to pole vault," Keller said.

Keller placed sixth in the triple jump with a leap of 32 feet, 6 inches.

Back at the pole vault, Keller set a personal record at 9 feet, 3 inches, improving the record of 9 feet, 1/4 inch she set as a freshman.

"It was kind of haunting me since then," Keller said.

Keller went toe-to-toe with Marshfield freshman Roxy Day, who cleared 9 feet, 9 inches.

Keller then made it over the bar at 10 feet, improving her previous record by nearly a full foot.

"It was the best feeling ever," Keller said.

Cole was excited to see Keller finish strong.

"She competed tough, that was an exciting way to watch her go out," Cole said.

Keller was one of the six girls representing Baker High during the two-day meet.

Sophomore Jozie Ramos finished ninth in the high jump (4 feet, 10 inches) and 10th in the shot put (29-6).

Junior Emma Baeth finished third in the 800 with a new personal best of 2:26.08.

"She was a little disappointed with her time, (but) I wasn't at all, given it was a four-week season," Cole said. "It's just hard to get the speed for all the times. Emma ran by far her most strategic race of her career."

Sophomore Anna Belding placed fifth (1:01.37) in the 400 meters.

Sophomore Sydnee Pierce teamed with Baeth, Belding and Keller to take second in the 4-by-400 relay, finishing in 4:15.55.

"They ran great. Anna Belding ran our first leg, she got us out on a really strong lead," Cole said. "Sydnee Pierce ran phenomenal, she had a great second leg. Keller and Baeth as always are super competitive, and kept us right in the dogfight the whole time."

Boys results

Baker's 4-by-100 relay team of Kaden Myer, Malaki Myer, Wyatt Hawkins and Ian Jesenko placed fourth with a time of 45.49.

Jesenko, a senior, finished seventh in the long jump with a leap of 19 feet, 9.75 inches, and his teammate, Tate Powell, was 13th with a jump of 16-5.

"He was really hoping to get into the twenties, but he competed super hard and jumped well," Cole said of Jesenko.

Junior Gauge Bloomer placed 13th in the javelin finals and was 11th in the 110 hurdles preliminaries.

Senior Kaden Myer was ninth in the 100 preliminaries.

"He ran really really well. He had a photo finish and unfortunately he finished 9th and didn't make the finals," Cole said. "I know he was a little disappointed in that, but I thought he ran great."

Sophomore Reeve Dams placed 11th in the pole vault, clearing 10 feet, 6 inches.

Baker's 4-by-400 relay team — Diego Quintela, Angel DeArcos, Kaden Myer and his younger brother, freshman Malaki Myer, placed eighth with a time of 3:38.44.

See **Bulldogs**/Page 6A

CLASS 1A STATE TRACK AND FIELD MEET AT EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Badger boys win state track meet

By Davis Carbaugh
The (La Grande) Observer

LA GRANDE — It came down to the last events, but the Powder Valley Badgers boys team took home a track and field state championship Saturday, May 22 at Eastern Oregon University.

Powder Valley came from behind to score 64.50 points to claim the unofficial Oregon 1A State Championship (the Oregon School Activities Association isn't sanctioning state championship events during the pandemic-abbreviated sports seasons).

Even more impressive, the Badgers won their title with just six athletes competing on the boys side.

"We were ecstatic about it," Powder Valley coach Nic Maszk said. "It was just a really low athlete count to get the points that they did, that was one of the biggest things to me."

The state event took place at Banner Bank Track at EOU and included athletes from 34 schools on the boys side and 30 for the girls.

The Badger boys accumulated points early in the day through field events, with Case Olsen placing third in the javelin, and Kaiden Krieger taking third in the high jump. Reece Dixon added 4.5 points in the triple jump with a tie for fourth place.

Distance runner Justin Ash was all over the track for the Badgers, starting the day with a third place finish in the 1,500 meter run with a time of 4 minutes, 15.66 seconds. Ash later took second place in the 3,000 meter run with a time of 9:09.00 and helped Powder Valley's 4x400 meter relay team finish in second place.

"He was a key piece," Maszk said of Ash.

After a podium finish in javelin, Olsen headed to the track and ran a 54.02 in the 400 meter dash to finish fourth.

Krieger also had a busy day, starting his track events off with a second place finish in the 200 meter dash. He ran a 23.69 in the 200 and then, in the next event, finished second in the 300 hurdles in 42.01 seconds.

Harper's Corbin Palmer edged out Krieger by a mere four thousandths of a second. "He's just a hard worker," Maszk said of Krieger. "He was probably a second off of winning all three of his events."

Krieger was able to rest during the 3,000 meter run, before taking the track once more in the 4x400. After Ash scored a crucial eight points



Davis Carbaugh/The (La Grande) Observer

Kaiden Krieger and Reece Dixon of Powder Valley sprint around the final turn as the duo competes in the 200 meter dash Saturday, May 22, 2021, at the Oregon 1A track and field championship at Eastern Oregon University, La Grande. Krieger placed second in the race, while Dixon finished eighth.



Davis Carbaugh/The (La Grande) Observer

Justin Ash of Powder Valley takes the baton for the second leg of the 4x400 meter relay, the final event Saturday, May 22, 2021, at the Oregon 1A track and field championship at Eastern Oregon University, La Grande. The Badgers finished second in the event en route to securing a first place overall team finish.

"We were ecstatic about it. It was just a really low athlete count to get the points that they did, that was one of the biggest things to me."

— Nic Maszk, Powder Valley track and field coach

in the 3,000, the pressure was on the relay team to hold on to the team's lead.

Powder Valley's 4x400 meter team of Dixon, Ash, Olson and Krieger finished with a time of 3:41.01 and took home second place in the event. The eight points they earned in the event solidified the Badgers' first place finish over runner-up Damascus Christian.

The Badgers won the team title without having any individual champions, relying

on a solid group effort.

"I just told them that your job today is to get every single guy in front of you that you can," Maszk said. "Every point matters."

Girls meet

On the girls side, Aaliyah Burton of Elgin finished her day as a state champion in the 100 meter dash (12.89) and the 100 meter hurdles (15.51). Burton finished as runner-up in the 300 meter hurdles to Powder Valley's Belle Blair.

Blair also won individual state championship honors in the long jump (15-10.00) and the 400 meter dash (1:01.13).

Pine-Eagle's Brown 2rd in the 1,500, 3rd in 3,000

LA GRANDE — Pine-Eagle runner Caleb Brown placed second in the 1,500 meters and was third in the 3,000 at the Class 1A state track and field championships Saturday, May 22 at Eastern Oregon University.

The Spartans finished 17th in the boys team standings.

Other Pine-Eagle competitors:

- Jeremiah Simrell, 11th, discus
- Cooper Gover, 11th, 800
- Seth Butler, 12th, 200
- Grace Davis, 11th, 1,500
- Huntington's David Hornung placed 10th in the shot put.

Elgin girls scored 47 points to finish on the podium with a third place team finish. Powder Valley took sixth overall with 41 points.

Imbler's Erin Coston won a state championship in the pole vault, jumping a height of 8-06.00. The Panthers scored 28 points and finished eighth in the team standings.

Full results from the Oregon 1A State Championship can be found at <http://www.swtiming.com/results/1astate/index.htm>.

JAMES E. DAVIS, M.D.

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
OPHTHALMOLOGY

Ophthalmology Clinic Closing

To My Patients:
I will be retiring and closing my office July 1, 2021. It has been a pleasure to serve you during these past 36 years. I am sorry that I have been unable to find a replacement ophthalmologist. Comprehensive ophthalmic care is available through the offices of William Pettit, MD in La Grande or Jeffery Pitts, MD in Ontario. Routine eye care is available through Baker Vision Clinic in Baker City. Eagle optical will remain open to provide eyeglasses. You may contact my office at 541-523-6428 to obtain medical records from now until July 30, 2021. After that, records will no longer be available. I wish you all a bright outlook and good health for the future.
Sincerely, James E. Davis, MD

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EASTERN OREGON PHOTO CONTEST

2021

Official Rules:

Photo Contest open now and closes at 11:59 pm Sunday, June 20, 2021.

Staff will choose the top 10. The public can vote online for People's Choice from 12:01 am Monday, June 21 through 11:59 pm Thursday, June 30.

Digital or scanned photos only, uploaded to the online platform. No physical copies. Only photographers from Oregon may participate.

The contest subject matter is wide open but we're looking for images that capture life in Eastern Oregon.

Entrants may crop, tone, adjust saturation and make minor enhancements, but may not add or remove objects within the frame, or doctor images such that the final product doesn't represent what's actually before the camera.

The winners will appear in the July 8th edition of Go Magazine; the top 25 will appear online.

Gift cards to a restaurant of your choice will be awarded for first, second and third place.

Submit all photos online at:

bakercityherald.com/photocontest