

**CHAMPS**

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exactly that. Kenzie Wilson and Sydney Brockway moved up, and all the other girls held their spot.”

The Grant Union girls beat out East Linn Christian by just half a point. Grant Union earned 86.5 and East Linn 86.

The girls’ win at the state and league championships were both firsts for 21-year head coach Sonna Smith, although they came close in the past.

The Prospector girls team included: Wilson, Brockway, Samantha Brock, Chelsie Kodesh, Kori Pentzer, Jozie Rude and Kaylee Wright.

Wright set a new state record in javelin with a throw of 131-03, adding to the excitement at Hayward Field at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

“It was fun to go with these girls and make it to first and be state champs,” Wright said.

The freshman is coached in javelin by her dad Kelsey Wright, who was also a state champion in high school for javelin.

Pentzer, a sophomore, achieved championship status in both the triple jump and long jump. She entered the meet seeded first for those events and second for the 300-meter hurdles.

She set a personal record for the triple jump with a mark of 37-2.75. She had a 17-3.75 leap in the long jump to repeat as champion again this year. She also finished second in the 300 hurdles with a time of 47.97.

“I feel very blessed to be a part of the team this year, and we worked hard to achieve our goals,” Pentzer said. “I’m very thankful for coach (John) Houk and coach (Ken) Boethin and all the time they put in to help me. We knew it would be close, and each one of us wanted it.”

Brockway, a freshman, was seeded fourth in the long jump and finished third with a mark of 15-9.25, helping the team move up.

“It was a good experience to go as a freshman, and it was nice going with a devoted team and coaches,” she said.

Wilson, a senior, took a big leap in the triple jump.

She was ranked sixth and placed second with a mark of 33-4.25.

Kodesh, a junior, went in seventh and finished sixth in discus with a throw of 105-4.00, beating her own previous record of 102-8.00.

“It took all of us to win, she said.

Rude, a sophomore, held her positions, finishing second in javelin with a throw of 117-11.00, third in pole vault at 9-0.25 — a personal record — and fourth in shot put with

a mark of 36-0.00.

Brock was seeded second and finished second in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 16.55, shaving over half a second off her previous personal record.

“It’s a really good way to finish my senior year, and I’m super proud of my team,” she said.

Smith said even though the boys were not in the running for a championship they performed well, with Duane Stokes moving up two positions in the triple jump and Andrew Copenhaver holding his spot.

Copenhaver finished fifth in pole vault with a fifth-place mark of 12-0.00.

Stokes gained a personal record in the triple jump with a mark of 38-3.50 for 10th place.

Coach Smith said she was pleased with her team’s grit this year.

“Their ability to mentally accept the challenge and carry through is what won us the championship,” Smith said. “I am so proud of their achievement, but more proud of their mental and physical toughness to bring it to fruition.”

“I want to thank all my parents and coaches for all the help and support they have given to our team all season long. Without them, the team would not have had the success they did this season.”

**PETTIT**

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She won the 200-meter dash with a time of 26.43, 12 of a second from setting a new 1A state meet record. She was trailed by South Wasco County’s Ana Popchok who finished in 26.79.

Pettit is not new to the track, as she has competed at the state level and the AAU Junior National Olympics twice, as a middle school student athlete.

Freshman Kyla Emerson also tore up the track at the University of Oregon’s Hayward Field, reaching personal records in both the 100-meter hurdles, finishing fifth with a time of 17.89, and the 300 hurdles, placing eighth with 52.51.

The girls are led by first-year head coach Darrin Dailey.

“The competition was a lot harder than I thought it would be. It really pushed me to run faster in the races. It was super fun, and everyone had good sportsmanship there.”

**Sophie Pettit**

*Monument track and field athlete*

“Hayward Field is always an amazing place to compete,” he said. “No other sport has as many live fans watching a state competition as track does. People you’ve never met will cheer you on regardless of how small your school is. This year was no exception.”

Dailey said Pettit performed well, even with a tight schedule.

“Sophie had to leave the long jump lineup during the introductions to get ready for her 100(-meter) dash as they were at the same time,” he said.

“She ran a 12.76 to place first in the prelims. Then she made it to the long jump finals on a 15-07.00. Her first jump at finals was her best and placed her fourth in the state at a distance of 15-09.75.”

Commenting on Emerson’s run in the 300 hurdles, Dailey said, “While not her favorite event, she still performs her best, which to me is one of the marks of a great athlete.”

Emerson said she didn’t expect to go to state. She drew a wildcard for the trip.

“I was glad I did because I got PRs in the 100 hurdles, and in the 300 hurdles I was close to my personal record,” she said. “Everyone was super nice, and it was a well run meet. Mr. Dailey was a good coach since it was

his first year, and Mr. (Earl) Pettit was a good jumping coach.”

Pettit said she also enjoyed the experience.

“The competition was a lot harder than I thought it would be,” she said. “It really pushed me to run faster in the races. It was super fun, and everyone had good sportsmanship there.”

She said she was disappointed at not breaking state records in the sprints.

“It gives me more of a drive to work harder,” she said.

She said she’d like to thank coach Dailey and her dad for their help, and she’ll be back for more competition during her junior year after returning from a foreign exchange program through the U.S. Embassy in Bulgaria.



*Contributed photo*

**Monument track and field athlete Sophie Pettit took the top podium spot twice at the state championship meet at University of Oregon’s Hayward Field for the 100-meter dash and the 200. She also placed fourth in the long jump.**



*Contributed photo*

**Monument track and field athlete Kyla Emerson, right, with her mom Kristi after running the 100-meter hurdles and 300 hurdles at the state competition in Eugene.**

**The Upper South Fork and Mainstem John Day River Local Advisory Committee is recruiting new members.**

**Interested in serving on the Local Water Quality Management Area Advisory Committee?**

Grant Soil & Water Conservation District in conjunction with Oregon Department of Agriculture is looking for individuals with a high level of citizen involvement for the biennial review and implementation of the *Upper South Fork and Mainstem John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan* and rules. The Local Advisory Committee’s responsibilities shall include but are not limited to: Participation in the development and ongoing modifications of the agricultural water quality management area plan and rules; Recommendation of strategies necessary to achieve water quality goals and objectives outlined in the agricultural water quality management area plan; and the Biennial review of the progress of implementation of the agricultural water quality management area plan and rules, including enforcement actions taken, and requests for alternate measures that have been granted or denied.

A local water quality management area Advisory Committee shall be composed primarily of landowners in the affected local agricultural water quality management area. Membership may include, but is not limited to; State Board of Agriculture representatives, persons serving on local soil and water conservation districts, private landowners, representatives of local, state and federal boards, commissions and agencies, members of Indian tribes, members of the public, persons associated with industry, members of academic, scientific and professional communities and public and special interest groups.

For more information contact Jason Kehrberg, Grant SWCD District Manager, at 541 575-0135, ext. 110, or Pat Holliday at 541 575-0135, ext. 101.

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