



Long Creek track team hits the ground running

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Eleven athletes on the 1A Long Creek Mountaineer track and field team are aiming high as they kick off the season.

The team is led by head coach Linda Studtmann and volunteer assistant coaches Peter Case and Sally Burnette. Burnette holds Long Creek School's record for javelin.

Several Mountaineers set personal records at Friday's Prairie City Invitational, competing with 1A-4A teams.

Mountaineer Lucchese Douglas reached new heights when she placed sixth in the 400-meter run out of 16 competitors. She was third among the 1A athletes.

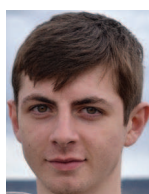
Douglas also performed well at the March 15 Diana Thurmond Invitational in



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter
Long Creek Mountaineer Henry Grannis throws the discus in practice on Thursday at the school's athletic field.

Harper, the team's first meet.

"It's given me a lot more drive," Douglas said. "I'm definitely working a lot harder than last year."



Mathéo Buchart

There are two seniors on the team, Mathéo Buchart and Gladys Johnson.

Buchart is competing in track and field for the first time, with sprints, long jump and high



Gladys Johnson



Long Creek Mountaineers runners practice on their home field, including, from left, James Kreamier, Lucchese Douglas, Thomas Kreamier and Mathéo Buchart.

jump on his list of events.

"It's interesting," he said. "It's hard, but it's a new experience."

He's especially happy to compete with several teammates who were on the basketball team and said it's fun to be with them.

Johnson is making a comeback after taking a year off from the sport. She

competed her freshman and sophomore years.

"I enjoy hanging out with the team," she said.

Her goal is to beat her previous records, and she'll be cheering on her sister, sophomore Dorothea Johnson, she said.

Dorothea set a personal record Friday in the long jump, placing 11th out of 22

LONG CREEK 2019 TRACK AND FIELD SCHEDULE

April 12: @ River's Edge Invitational in Umatilla, 12 p.m.
 April 18: @ Husky Twilight Meet in Moro, 4 p.m.
 April 19: @ C/W Invitational in Condon, 11 a.m.
 April 26: @ Don Walker Invitational in Nyssa, 1 p.m.
 April 30: @ Ranchers Invitational in Crane, 3:30 p.m.
 May 3: @ Grant Union Invitational in John Day, 10 a.m.
 May 1: 1A-3 Special District 3 Championships in Moro, 10:30 a.m.
 May 17-18: OSAA 1A State Championships, TBD

competitors, fifth among the 1A athletes.

Studtmann said those new to the sport are learning the ropes, and the seasoned athletes are making adjustments.

"Some are athletic, and some are not, but as usual, I want them to do their best and work on improving," she said. "We're looking forward to a good year and hoping for lots of success."

SHOOTING THE BREEZE Understanding Oregon draw

The May 15 deadline for the Oregon big game draw is fast approaching. As I talk to fellow hunters, I am constantly amazed at the number who have no idea how the draw works. They don't know when, or if, they are going to draw, and have no idea how many points they have for each species. It makes me shake my head a little because in the grand



Rod Carpenter

scheme of drawing systems, Oregon is not that difficult. With a little planning, it isn't hard to draw a deer and bull tag every other year. It's pretty easy to draw a cow tag pretty much every year if you put some thought into it.

Let's get the "trophy" species out of the way quickly. There is no point system for bighorn sheep or Rocky Mountain goat. They are a true random draw. Every year, everyone has the same chance of drawing, and the reality is that some folks who apply their whole life will not draw a tag. That being said, while your chance of drawing is small, if you don't apply, your chance is zero. I think it is worth the price. Success in all units is pretty good, and draw odds in some are better than others, so take a close look before choosing a unit to apply for.

Draws for all other species are based on a preference point system: 25 percent of the tags go into a random draw. Don't count on that in your strategy. Let it be a happy surprise if it happens. Seventy-five percent of tags are given to the folks with the most preference points for that species. Every year you apply and are unsuccessful, you get a preference point. It is a game you have to "pay to play," but if you do it right, you can play a lot.

A down and dirty way to figure out how many points you need to draw a particular tag is to look in the regulations and divide the number of first choice applicants by the number of tags. For example, Murderers Creek deer had 3,122 applicants for 880 tags — 3122 divided by 880 equals 3.54, so you are going to need three, possibly four, points to draw it. An excellent website to check out is <https://sites.google.com/site/oregontags/about-me>. It is a free site that lists prior draw odds, predicted draw odds for this year and success rates. It is a virtual gold mine of information.

I almost hate to share this tidbit, but kids are the mother lode of building points if you have some. You can start building their points as soon as they turn 9. Also, they earn a point every year they are in the mentor program from 9 to 16 years old. And you may want to take a hard look at the first-time hunter program when developing your draw strategy.

That is all the pointers I can bear to share. You are going to have to do some strategizing on your own. Make a plan, and make it happen.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com.

Rod Carpenter is a husband, father and hunting fool.



Running in the 1500-meter run on Friday are Jacob Smith of Grant Union, Vladislav Kim of Burnt River and Jesse Randleas of Grant Union.

Track athletes flock to Prairie City Invitational

Prospector Kaylee Wright breaks state record she set in javelin

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Donald Parker Memorial Field was abuzz with track and field athletes and spectators at Friday's Prairie City Invitational. Fifteen schools in the 1A through 4A classes competed, and for some teams, it was their first meet of the season.

Grant Union Prospector Kaylee Wright, a senior, made her debut in grand style, setting a personal record in javelin with a throw of 141-08.25.

She beat the state record she set last year, 138-6.5, which had broken the previous state record she set as a freshman.

Wright also placed first in three other events, the 100, high jump and the 4x100 relay with teammates senior Trinity Hutchison, senior Sydney Brockway and freshman Carson Weaver.

Prairie City Panther Haley Pfefferkorn placed third in javelin.

Hutchison also set a personal record in the long jump with a mark of 17-05 for first place with Brockway placing second. Long



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter
Prairie City Panther Haley Pfefferkorn throws javelin. She placed third out of 26 competitors and she was second among the 1A throwers.

Creek sophomore Dorothea Johnson placed 11th and was third out of her 1A competitors.

Brockway was also first in the 100 hurdles, and Hutchison placed first and set a personal record in the 300 hurdles.

Grant Union sophomore Jordan Hall placed third in the 110 hurdles with a time of 18.67, behind two 4A athletes.

"I definitely have a lot of work to do," he said. "The main goal is to keep your lead leg ahead and keep it the same for the entire race. I need to pick up speed."

He said today's race, his first this year, was a gauge for the rest of the season.

In shot put for the boys, Grant Union's Drew Lusco, a junior, placed first with a mark of 41-11.75, and Prairie City's Jake McHatton, junior, came in second with a throw of 36-01.50.

Lusco also placed first in discus with a throw of 108-08, and Monument Tiger sophomore Donovan Schafer placed second, setting a personal record of 104-05. McHatton threw with a mark of 102-09 for third, and Long Creek Mountaineer Henry Grannis, a junior, also set a personal record with 91-07 for fourth.

For the girls, Grant Union sophomore Abby Lusco was first in discus with a throw of 96-02.



Grant Union Prospector Drew Lusco placed first in the shot put at Friday's Prairie City Invitational.

She placed third in shot put.

Dayville's 4x100 relay team — Zach Ferguson, Jaydon Hoffman, Austin Walker and Gabe Walker-Hopkins — placed 11th, and they were fifth among the 1A competitors.

Grant Union's Mason Gerry was first in javelin (148-02.75), and Braden Spencer was first in pole vault (10-0).

Monument distance runner sophomore Mark Thomas set a personal record in the 1,500-meter run, placing first with a time of 4:50.40, competing with 16 other athletes. He placed fifth