

# Local youth athletes qualify for TrackTown USA Championships

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Seventy-five athletes gathered for a TrackTown Youth League track meet on April 27 at Prairie City School's athletic field.

It was the first time the state qualifier has been held in the Grant County town.

"I am honored that TrackTown Youth League brought this event to our community," said Jenny Jacobs, who heads up a youth track and field club at Prairie City School. "It was a great opportunity for kids to try out track and field for the first time and for veteran track athletes to have a meet in Grant County."

This is the second year Jacobs' daughter Anna has participated in TTYL meets.

Anna, who is in third grade, competed at the National Junior Olympics in North Carolina last summer.

"I think the kids loved standing on the podium receiving their ribbons," Jenny Jacobs said. "Athletes that placed first or second qualified for the state championship meet that will be held in Eugene on June 29th."



Janie Koopman of Prairie City, front, and Kane Hellberg both run the 1,500, qualifying for the TrackTown Youth League Championship.

"Even for a small-town meet, we were really impressed with the turnout," said Alex Rudd, who oversees TTYL and community impact events for OSA. "We've had meets in larger cities that didn't draw as many participants. We

kept hearing over and over again how exciting this was for (Prairie City's) community. The numbers reflected that."

Rudd said all the TTYL staff members enjoyed their time in the community and look forward to returning.

"We felt so welcomed by all of the community members and volunteers," Rudd said.

Jacobs said she plans to help make the meet an annual event.

"Hopefully this meet helped spark an interest and



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter **Seventh-grader Cayden Howard competes in the long jump in a previous track and field event in Prairie City. He qualified for the TrackTown championships with a mark of 11-0.00 and second place for 11- and 12-year-olds at the April 27 event in Prairie City.**

passion for track and field for youth in our community," she said. "I'd like to give special thanks to all of the volunteers who made this meet possible and to Prairie City School for hosting the event."

Boys winners include:

100 meters, Hasen Hellberg, 7-8-year-olds, Jerett Waddel, 9-10, Jason Hull, 11-12, Cole Teel, 13-14; 400 meters, Kellen Fretwell, 7-8, Jerett Waddel, 9-10, Jason Hull, 11-12, Doyal Lawrence, 13-14; 1,500 meters, Hasen Hellberg, 7-8, Kane Hellberg, 9-10; javelin, Henry Gaslin, 7-8, Kane Hellberg, 9-10, Logan Pedro, 11-12, Cole Teel, 13-14; long jump, Henry Gaslin, 7-8, Kane Hellberg, 9-10, Jason Hull, 11-12, and Cole Teel, 13-14.

Girls winners include: 100 meters, Molly Rasmussen, 7-8, Lindsay Talbot, 9-10, Julie Hull, 11-12, Janie Koopman, 13-14; 400 meters, Molly Rasmussen, 7-8, Lindsay Talbot, 9-10, Julie Hull, 11-12, Janie Koopman, 13-14; 1,500 meters, Molly Rasmussen, 7-8, Gwendolyn Rasmussen, 9-10, Morgan Cole, 11-12, Janie Koopman, 13-14; javelin, Hayden Workman, 7-8, Kara Hansen, 9-10, Izabella Williams, 11-12, BettyAnn Wilson, 13-14; long jump, Molly Rasmussen, 7-8, Lindsay Talbot, 9-10, Brooke Teel, 11-12, and BettyAnn Wilson, 13-14.

## Teams

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off by a 14-second PR in the girls 4x400 relay."

The team, placing third, includes Cates, Weaver, Shanniyah Hall and Katelyn Hughes.

Smith said it was a good day overall for the boys team.

Justin Hodge bettered his time in the 100 and placed third. Quaid Brandon and CJ Glimpse improved their 200-meter dash. Glimpse also lengthened his throw in javelin. Mason Morris increased his long jump by 3.5 feet.

Setting personal records on the girls side were Sierra Cates in both the 100 and 200, and Abby Lusco in discus, adding over 6 feet to her previous mark.

Prairie City Panther head coach Nate Barber said he was impressed with his team's performance.

"The Grant Union meet was probably the best that our team has competed all year," he said. "Hopefully, that means that they are peaking at the right time."

He said Syd Holman, Levi Burke and Tristan



Prairie City Panther Levi Burke had a first-place finish in javelin at Friday's Grant Union Invitational.

McMahan are pushing each other to improve in the long jump.

"Syd and Levi are also up there in the javelin," he said.

Holman added nearly 13 feet to his javelin throw for second place, setting a personal record with a mark of 132-10. Burke took the win with a throw of 148-00.

Holman also broke his previous record in the 100-meter dash, taking first place with a time of 11.65, and set a personal record in the long jump.

Burke placed first in javelin, long jump and high jump.

McMahan also competes well in the 110 and 300 hurdles, and "is looking fast," Barber said. He bettered his time in the 110 hurdles, clocking in at 18.07 for second place, and he won the 300 hurdles.

Jake McHatton threw the discus 7 feet farther than his previous record with a mark of 111.07 for second place behind Grant Union's Drew Lusco.

set personal records in every event.

"It's a good build up" to the district meet, he said.

"It's nice to have our two boys in javelin get to the finals," he said, noting that Donovan Schafer added 10 feet to his javelin throw to finish third with a mark of 109-02, putting him in the running for the district meet. Nic Ciochetti also competed for seventh place and set a personal record.

Mark Thomas shaved 3 seconds off his 1,500-meter run, placing third behind two Burns athletes.

For the Monument girls, Faythe Schafer went from a discus throw of 83-10 in the preliminaries to a personal record of 87-06 in the finals. Coach Schafer said she has also thrown in the 90s at practice.

Long Creek saw improved sprinting from Lucchese Douglas in the 100 for the girls, and James Kreamier in the 100 for the boys. Carter Burnette improved his 800.

The Dayville boys competed in their first-ever 4x400-meter relay, placing third. For the girls, Hallie Rhoda set a personal record in shot put. Both Rhoda and

Hallie Collins advanced to the finals in shot put. Collins placed fourth, and Rhoda placed eighth.

Grant Union will host the 2A Special District 5 Championships in John Day at 11 a.m. Friday, May 10, with a total of eight teams competing, including Enterprise, Culver and Heppner.

Monument and Long Creek will compete Saturday, May 11, at the 1A Special District 3 Championships in Moro where 12 teams will compete at Sherman Junior-Senior High School, starting at 10:30 a.m. Competitors include teams from Mitchell/Spray, Dufur and Condon/Wheeler.

Prairie City and Dayville will hit the road Friday, May 10, at the 1A Special District 4 Championships in Baker City where the action starts at 10 a.m., vying against 13 other teams, including Adrian, Crane and Jordan Valley.

Barber said he's looking forward to the forecast of sunny skies. For the past two years, the competition included chilly weather with rain and biting wind.

"We want to have a good week of practice and get ready to roll," he said.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Grant Union baseball vs. Stanfield/Echo, noon, 2 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MAY 10

Prairie City and Dayville track and field @ 1A Special District 4 Championships in Baker City, 10 a.m.

Grant Union track and field hosts 2A Special District 5 Championships in John Day, 11 a.m.

### SATURDAY, MAY 11

Monument and Long Creek track and field @ 1A Special District 3 Championships in Moro, 10:30 a.m.

Grant Union baseball vs. Stanfield/Echo, noon, 2 p.m.

### MONDAY-TUESDAY, MAY 13-14

Boys State Golf Championships at Emerald Valley Golf Course in Creswell, 7:30 a.m.

Girls State Golf Championships at Eagle Crest Resort, Ridge Course in Redmond, 8 a.m.

### TUESDAY, MAY 14

Grant Union softball vs. Union/Cove in Baker City, 4 p.m.

Angel Carpenter is a reporter for the Blue Mountain Eagle. She can be contacted at angel@bmeagle.com or 541-575-0710.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter **Heppner/lone Mustang Dakota Durfey pitches in game one against the Grant Union Prospectors on Saturday in John Day.**

## Softball

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Williams said their challenge will be staying focused during the long layoff.

"One game is great, but we have a lot of practices between now and playoffs," he said. "Staying focused for the next 18 days is going to be the key — and just showing up."

McKrola said she believes her team will go far this year. She and the other four seniors have been playing softball together for 10 years.

"I have a lot of confidence and faith in my team," McKrola said. "I just really want to win it all for them."

Strong said she trusts her teammates.

"We really came together this year as a team," she said. "This year, we're ready to end with a win as a family."

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**Assistant Chief/Firefighter:** Peter Case

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