

The Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
SPORTS



Stepping out

Shawn LaRue, lone, the Oregon State Champion Racewalker in Junior Olympics will represent the State Friday night at the Regional Junior Olympics meet in Yakima. LaRue hopes to finish in the top two for entry into the National Championship at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Lone race walker enters regionals

Junior Olympics State Champion Shawn LaRue, lone in racewalking will compete in the regional competition Friday at 7 p.m. in Yakima.

Shawn, 5'11", 160 lbs., has been race walking for about 6 years and walks about 4 miles every day through the city limits and frequently on the highway from the Jordan grain elevator to his home.

There are very few racewalkers in Morrow County and when Shawn first qualified for the state meet at the Arlington Junior Olympics, he was the lone competitor.

Starting in the fifth grade, Shawn set a record as state champion last year in the 12-13 year old age division and won the 14-15 year old division this year in Portland, racewalking the mile course in 8:12.3.

Should he place in the top 2 racewalkers at Yakima, LaRue would be eligible to compete in the national Junior Olympic Championship at Lincoln, Nebraska.

The regionals are extremely competitive with athletes

coming from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, British Columbia and California.

Shawn described racewalking as "sprint walking", in a heel to toe fashion with one foot on the ground at all times. The knees have to be locked and strict rules followed on the track.

A high school athlete in football and basketball, Shawn says he used to run the mile, but because he wasn't a fast runner, found a strong interest in racewalking.

To avoid blisters, he wears two pair of socks with his Addidas shoes.

Asked what he eats before his racewalking, Shawn said strawberry pancakes which has been a tradition since he's been involved in the sport.

When he practices his racewalking in Ione, the LaRue's dog, Heidi, follows him. Ione's hopes for a Regional Racewalking Champion in the Junior Olympics lie with the 15 year old IHS student, coached by his father, Delton, the high school basketball coach.

Heppner Mayor enjoys first try at parachuting

The Mayor of Heppner has taken up the sport of parachuting and made his first jump July 4 at 3,500 ft. above a Condon ranch.

Jerry Sweeney, the father of six and grandfather of five, made his first jump about 10:30 a.m. from a 180 Cessna with two other jumpers, and a jump master. Because he was sitting closest to the door which was removed for the planned jump, Sweeney had the honor of being the first to jump out of the stalled plane, placing his left foot on the lip of the aircraft or boarding step and holding both hands on the wing strut.

On a signal from Jump Master Mike Marthaller, the Mayor let go and within three seconds the static line opened his oval chute. To train for future skydiving attempts, Sweeney went into an arch position for his flight downwards.

His reactions of his first try: "I was scared when I first went up but once I was airborne, I was okay. It was a serene, extremely free feeling." "It was a therapeutic value to the middle-age syndrome," he added.

While floating down from the 3,000 ft. elevation wearing a crash helmet, goggles, a skydiving suit and a reserve chute, the Mayor described the feeling of leaving your stomach in the plane and when nearing the ground, the rush of the earth towards him.

When he landed, he was dragged about ten feet by the chute and coming to a stop, Sweeney collapsed his chute and brought it under control, 200 meters short of the giant X designed as a target for the

beginning jumpers to hit.

As he ascended under his 35 ft. olive green canopy, Sweeney guided his chute with toggle handles towards the jump target—quite a feat for a fledgling jumper.

Family members and friends rushed to where the Mayor landed and congratulated him on his safe landing—one of 5 static line jumps he will make before free-falling and pulling his own ripcord.

Before making his first jump, the Mayor underwent 15 hours of ground training under the direction of Jump Master Marthaller, an accomplished sports parachutist who trained Vietnam War paratroopers and had 1,893 jumps. A veteran of World War II action in the European Theater and holder of the Purple Heart, Sweeney has set a personal goal of becoming a jump master someday in the newly-formed Condon Skydivers Club.

To ready him for his first jump, the Mayor practiced jumping from a ladder to a mattress.

His only disappointment on the Fourth was not being able to jump with his son Pat, owner of a Condon funeral home and father of three of Jerry's grandchildren. High winds in the afternoon forced cancellation of the jumping after the Mayor's successful leap with the other two jumpers.

Asked what the reaction of friends and neighbors to his new sports interest, Sweeney said people are surprised and don't believe it at first.

But he says his family "thinks it's great" and most family members were present

to watch his first leap. His son, Dan, captured his Dad on film and another son, Mike, his oldest, was the first to run up to him on the ground.

His next jump is scheduled for Toledo, Oregon.

Carmichael wins low gross

C. C. Carmichael scored first low gross in men's golf play July 8 at the Willow Creek golf course.

John Edmundson was second low gross.

Scoring the first low net was Dick Bigelow. Second was Lee Padberg and F.J. Doherty was first in the least putts. Clint McQuarrie was second in the least putts.

McQuarrie also scored the honor of closest to the pin and Bob Kelley posted the long drive of the day Sunday.

Young athlete wins title

Jeff Ward, son of Bob and Abbie Ward of Dallas, Ore., is a 1979 U.S. Wrestling Federation national champion.

He won this title after competing June 22 and 23 at Kelso, Wash. He was undefeated in the tournament, having only one point scored against him. Jeff wrestled in the 13 and 14 year old, 85 pound bracket, competing against wrestlers from 11 western states.

Jeff is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence McIntosh of Ione.



Off the block

Two of the many swimmers entered in Sunday's Heppner Invitational Swim Meet competed in the girls freestyle competition. Individual Heppner team members excelled and leading the group was Kelli Bergstrom with five first place victories.

Bergstrom wins five titles at invitational

John Day swimmers won the Heppner Invitational Swim Meet Sunday with 441 points trailed by Prineville with 328, Heppner 316 and White Salmon, 75.

Heppner Swim Team Coach Diane Holland said the team had lost some of its members to vacation time.

In the 60 meter freestyle for girls aged 9-10, Beth Forrar, Heppner, swam second to Katy Fitzgerald of Prineville in a time of 1:07.9 compared to the winner's 56.6. Babbette Angell was fourth in the race in a time of 1:11.4.

Duane Ball, Heppner, placed third in a large field of 9-10 boys in the 60 meter freestyle with a time of 60.9.

Results from men's play July 1 were John Edmundson, low gross, Charlie Starks, low net. Bob Jepsen won the least putts and closest to the pin while John Shaw claimed honors as the long driver.

55.4, the 60 meter butterfly in 52.4 and the 120 meter I.M. race in 1:58.0.

Beth Forrar won the 60 meter breaststroke for 9-10 girls in 1:12.2 and the 60 meter butterfly for girls aged 9-10, was second in the 60 meter freestyle and second in the 60 meter backstroke in a time of 1:17 and the 120 meter I.M. race in a time of 2:40.7.

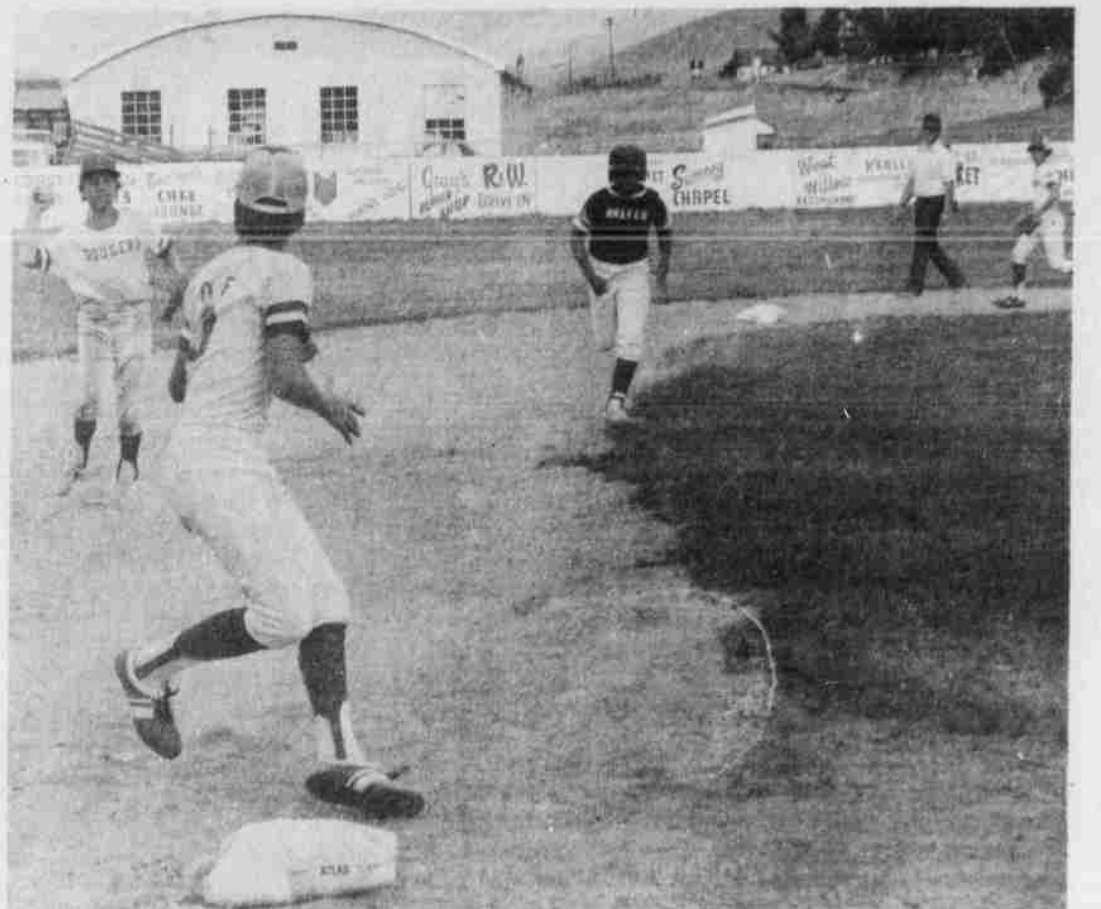
Terry Gray captured two events, a first in the 60 meter backstroke for boys aged 13-14 in a time of 1:02.2 and a first in the 60 meter freestyle, 45.4 seconds. Gray was second in the 120 meter race in a time of 2:02.7.

Cindi Bergstrom was first in the 60 meter girls breaststroke, 15-17, in a time of 65.3. Cam George was first in the 11-12 boys, 60 meter breaststroke in a time of 1:01.8 and third in two events, the 60 meter butterfly and the 120 meter distance.

Placing third in the 60 meter backstroke was Heidi Samples, fourth, Andrea Ball and Ellen Arbogast.

Duane Ball and Craig Angell picked up first and second in the 9-10 boys division.

A large group of volunteers donated their time Sunday timing and recording the all-day event at the pool.



Sure thing

Dodger shortstop Mike Rietmann throws the ball to Third Baseman Dean Rill as a BPOE Brave heads for the sack. The Dodger fielders combined to put the Brave out late in the game Monday night at the Morrow County Fairgrounds but the Braves held on to their 5-0 lead and won the Little League Championship.

Braves claim league title against struggling Dodgers

The Heppner Elks Braves won Monday's Little League Championship game against the Dodgers at the County Fairgrounds, shutting out the second half champion 5-0.

The first half champion Braves clinched the Little League title at the end of regular league games.

Braves pitcher Tom Hammen struck out 12 Dodger batters allowing only one hit as the Braves come back from the 0-5 deficit. In the bottom of the fourth inning, the Dodgers threatened with the bases loaded but Hammen held on to the Brave lead by striking out the batting order.

Dodger pitcher Steve Crewse also collected 12 strikeouts and walked only one for the Dodgers.

Jason Mullineaux was 4 for 4 at the plate with two doubles for the Braves. Tom Hammen added a solo homer in the third inning.

Dean Rill collected the only hit for the Dodgers.

There were no stolen bases for the Dodgers with Stan Sporseen as the Brave catcher.

In the final standings, the Dodgers ended the season with an 11-7 record, the Braves posted a 10-8 mark, Angels had 10-8 and the Giants were 5-13.

In the first inning, the

Braves scored two runs, one in the second, one in the third and one in the fifth.

All stars have been selected to play in the District Little League Tournament at Redmond, July 25-28.

Named for the Dodgers were Steve Crewse, Dean Rill, Todd Lindsay and Loren Hayes; from the Braves, Jason Mullineux, Tom Hammen, Stan Sporseen and Keith Kennison; Giants, Dave Green, Travis Hyatt, Jeff Ball; Angels, Kirk Rothwell, Greta LaRue, David Anderson and alternatives, Cam George and Kevin Teeman.

The team manager is Bob Plyhar and Coach, Bob Greene.

College students win rodeo money

Prize money totalling \$4,900 to be used for college scholarships was won by Blue Mountain Community College's Rodeo Team recently at the College National Rodeo Finals in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Mike Beers, of Rufus, placed first in the nation in team roping. Casey Cox, of White Water, Montana, took second in team roping, runner-up for the national calf roping title, as well as runner-up for all-around honors.

Blue Mountain's team placed third in the nation in overall competition. All sizes of colleges compete against each other which puts the two-year colleges against the much larger four-year colleges and universities. Southeastern Oklahoma State and Southern Idaho placed first and second, respectively ahead of BMCC.

The nine BMCC rodeo team members making the trip included: Beers, Cox; Mike Fuller, Aaron McCall and Tim Roesser, Pendleton; Randy Bonifer, Milton-Freewater; Ron Currin, Heppner; David Inman, Rufus; Shane Crossley, Lewiston, Idaho and Tony Lang, Leesburg, Florida.

Cindy Dougherty, also of Heppner, represented the Walla Walla Community College team.

Monday Morning Quarterback

By Jim Hackett

When the fishing slows down at Lake Penland and Bull Prairie, take heart anglers. There's an opportunity to catch more when the fall rains arrive.

According to Glen Ward, of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission, 25,000 rainbow trout from two to four inches in length were planted at Lake Penland this spring and should have grown to legal size by this fall.

That planting was in addition to the 4,000 legal sized trout planted in the lake at the same time.

There were 2,000 legal sized trout (9-12") planted in Willow Creek and 1,200 at Cutsforth Park.

If you haven't been very lucky at your favorite fishing hole yet this summer, maybe you should keep trying. After this year, you may be limited to 5 trout per day on streams instead of the present 10 if staff recommendations are followed by the State Fish and Game Commission.

However, limitations on the number of fish caught may help the state fisheries and ensure a long future for trout-fishing in the state.

Through our correspondence this week, I received an interesting letter from Jim Young, vice president of Oregon Bow Hunters Inc. Young said rifle hunters should consider hunting with the bow this year with the bow season running from August 11th through September 26 for one deer, either sex and one elk, either sex in the entire state with a few exceptions. Says Young, "If you choose to stay with the rifle, hopefully this plan will help put some quality back in your hunt. Each person who chooses the bow makes it just a little less crowded in the rifle season."

"Due to the ever increasing number of hunters and less game due to loss of habitat, the day will come when rifle hunting will be highly restricted. If the single weapon law attains its desired results, that day will have been put off a little farther into the law."

Good luck to Ione's Shawn LaRue, who as state champion in race walking in the Junior Olympics Program, will be a competitor in the Regionals at Yakima starting this Friday. Otherwise, get away from the newspaper and television watching and enjoy some athletics this weekend.

Ladies slate three golf tournaments this summer

The ladies of the Willow Creek Golf Club plan three tournaments this summer.

The tournaments have been planned to give all women golfers, beginners and experienced alike a chance to have fun and a chance to win.

The first will be an 18 hole Partners' Scramble on July 26. An 18 hole medal play tournament for partners will be held August 16. Ladies are encouraged to find a partner for both tournaments and sign

up at the clubhouse.

A match play tournament will run for several weeks during July and August. Players will be arranged in flights according to handicaps, with persons of similar abilities competing. Matches may be played at the competitors' convenience during a given week.

Please sign up by July 16. For more information, call Linda Shaw, 676-5283, or Sharon Harrison, 989-8496.

Over the Tee Cup

By Cindy Kerr

The Willow Creek Country Club held its annual Fourth of July Flag Tournament, fielding 60 golfers, one of the largest turnouts in its history.

John Edmundson and Lois Hunt won the event placing their flag ahead of the field.

Roland Bergstrom finished second for the men and C.C. Carmichael finished third. Marcel Jones was fourth and Ed Hiemstra, fifth.

Linda Shaw was the second place winner for the women while Juanita Carmichael fin-

ished third. Pat Edmundson finished fourth and Ben Wilson was fifth.

Dick Bigelow and Pat Hyatt were the long drivers while Jim Wishart and Bill McLeod won closest to the pin.

The last place finishers were Dale Holland and Carol Kerr.

Results from men's play July 1 were John Edmundson, low gross, Charlie Starks, low net. Bob Jepsen won the least putts and closest to the pin while John Shaw claimed honors as the long driver.

Anne Murray receives first place silver tray

Anne Murray, riding Benji, received a first place silver tray in the children's Hunters Class age 12-17 at the annual Country Classic horse show benefiting the Portland Opera Association held last weekend.

Horses and riders from around the nation and Canada compete in jumper and hunter classes at Sir James

McDonald's Inchinnan Fram at Wilsonville during this event.

Anne placed fifth in the pre-green working hunter class at the Lake Oswego Hunt Club earlier this summer. Anne has been visiting her aunt and uncle, Russ and Joanna Shook, who live near Hillsboro.