

Set 23 years ago

Bryan Padberg nears dad's track record

By Ashley Conklin

"All in the Family" must be the perfect sitcom for the Lee Padberg family as they continue to turn out golden records.

Padberg competed for Heppner High School from 1961-64 and set a school record time of 4:30.3 for the mile run in 1963, which converts to a time of 4:10.3 for 1500 meters.

In 1982, the torch was passed on to daughter Jodi, who began to wreck havoc on the Heppner High School record books and District 7 foes alike.

As a freshman Jodi set a school record of 11:59.4 for 3000 meters, which held until it was broken last year. As a junior she set the school record in the 800 meters with a time of 2:27.6 and as a senior lowered the 1500 school record to 5:15.2.

Last in line is Bryan, now a freshman at Heppner and laying claim that the third time is indeed the charm as he is conducting his own onslaught on the track record books. Padberg eclipsed his dad's freshman class record in the first meet of the year with a time of 4:30.6 in the 1500.

At the Morrow County Invitational on April 12 Padberg broke Wade Padberg's (a distant cousin) freshman class record in the 800 with a time of 2:05.5 and set a new all-time state Class "A" freshman record of 4:20.8 in the 1500. The old mark of 4:21 had belonged to Walport's Todd Conradt set in 1980.



Bryan Padberg leads all runners

At the Hermiston Kiwanis Invitational on Saturday, April 26, Padberg ran the 1500 in 4:10.7, falling just four-tenths of a second short of his father's school record.

But in the 3000 Padberg came through with a school record time of 9:07.5 and also set a new all-time Class "A" freshman record.

The school record was previously held by Tim Smith, who ran a two-mile time of 9:58 (converted to a 9:13.7 3000 mark). The old Class "A" freshman record had belonged to Imbler's Mike Brown, who ran 9:18.1 in 1981.

Last Saturday Padberg ran just the 800 at the Columbia Basin Conference meet, but had a sparkling time of 2:02.7, the second fastest time in Heppner High School history. The school record of 1:58.6 (converted from an 880 time of 1:59.3) was set by Tim Driscoll in 1965.

Bryan is doing a good job of going after the school records in all three events," said head coach Dale Conklin. "He's working on three of the oldest school records in the book and is really doing a good job of going after them."

To top things off, Padberg owns the top times in the state so far this season in the 1500 and 3000 among Class "A" runners.

But despite all of the notoriety he is receiving, Padberg still has all of his priorities in order.

"I would be happy to place in the top three at state," Padberg said. "At state you always see good competition and it's tough even to place."

But Padberg will receive plenty of competition at the District 7 meet in Umatilla this Friday and Saturday, with the state meet the following week in Springfield.

Darrell Houghtelling of Dufur has clocked times of 4:13.1 in the 1500 and 9:39.3 in the 3000. Javier Alarcon of Stanfield, who finished second last year in the 800 at the state meet, has covered the 1500 in 4:13.9 so far this season. Also proving to be stiff competition will be Mike Ammons of Riverside who has also ran 4:15.1 and placed fourth at last year's state meet in that distance.

"You always expect people to improve over the course of a season, but no one expected Bryan to run this fast, this soon," Conklin said.

As Padberg continues to lower his time every meet, he believes there is a great amount of pressure to win every race, but winning isn't everything.

"I'd rather go out and get beat and have a super time than go out and blow everybody away and have a bad time," he said. "It's hard to pace yourself when there isn't anybody to pace you. But it does feel

good to win."

"We're surprised at how far he's come along," assistant track coach Brent Eggers, who works primarily with the distance runners. "It's just hard to imagine how good he has run considering the late start he got due to the length of our basketball season this year. He's just now rounding in to top shape."

But Padberg isn't at all surprised by his success.

"I work hard in practice and I expect to get good results," he said.

Does that sound like another cocky freshman? Not really, according to Eggers. "He works hard in practice and he has the two great qualities of good distance runner," he said. "First of all, he has the natural ability and secondly he's a great competitor."

How does father Lee feel about his son's attempt to break his school record?

"I think it's great for a guy to set a school record and then have his son come along and have a shot to break it," he answered, "if he breaks it."

While Padberg would like to win two state titles this season he would also like to "run the 1500 in about 4:05 and break 9:00 in the 3000."

But Padberg knows that it will be tough to be a state champion for all four years.

"It would be tough to comeback and repeat as a state champ," Padberg said. "You have to prove yourself every year because there's always somebody out there ready to knock you off."

More important to him is shooting for "the all-time Class 'A' state records in both the 1500 and 3,000." Both records are held by Gid Rysdam of Elgin, set in 1980. The 1500 record is 3:56 and the 3000 mark is 8:37.2.

"I think I could run 3:50 and 8:30 respectively," Padberg said.

Is it possible for Padberg to reach these high standards of excellence?

"It depends on if he stays interested in running for the next three years, but I have no doubt that he will," Eggers said. "He's the most intense and probably the most competitive athlete I've ever coached. I feel lucky to get a chance to work with him."

against one of the best Class "AAA" distance runners in the state Mike Appelton of LaGrande, a senior. Following the 3000 meter race, Appelton told one of the Heppner coaches, "He (Padberg) is good for a freshman. Tell him to stay with it (distance running) throughout his high school career. He's really going to be a good one."

Heppner senior wins state typing championship



Trina Palmer

A Heppner High School senior has captured first-place honors at a Swintec Corp. sponsored typing competition. Trina Palmer, the daughter of Karen Palmer of Heppner, won a \$1,000 scholarship for typing 89 words per minute with only one error in competition with 10 other district winners at state competition in Eugene last weekend. She received a Swintec electric typewriter when she won the district competition.

Students from all of the high schools in Oregon participated in the contest, says Palmer. Winning is "great, unbelievable." She claims that she "just practiced typing" in order to win the contest. She has taken two years of typing at H.H.S. and plans to use her scholarship at Blue Mt. Community College next fall where she expects to major in accounting.



County Commissioners, Jerry Peck and Irvin Rauch along with Judge Don McElligott sign Dry Fork Watershed project with Rudy Bergstrom and Brock Linnell directors of Morrow Soil and Water District.

Dry fork watershed plan approved

The Dry Fork Watershed Plan was approved last week by Gilliam and Morrow counties and now awaits funding from the federal government. The watershed lies between Morrow and Umatilla counties near Rock Creek.

The \$1,000 project is similar to the Agriculture Conservation Program as it is a cost share program. It is unique as there is a \$100,000 limit unlike ACP \$3,500 limit.

Morrow Soil and Water Department Director Rudy Bergstrom of lone spearheaded the project and has received 80% of from the landowners. The local district initiated the plan and received regional and

state support.

If the money is approved, it will be allocated over the next 10 years starting in 1987. Funds will be used for structural features such as terracing and management practices like no-till and reduced or minimal till.

Clyde Scott, form the state of Oregon Soil Conservation Service and Gene Sturtevant representing Resource Conservation Development covering five counties of Gilliam, Wheeler, Grant, Morrow and Umatilla also attended the signing.

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Return from historical society tour

By Delpha Jones

Friday morning at 6:30 a.m. an eager group of people waiting at the Museum in Heppner, embarked on a week-end trip to Boise, Idaho. The bus stopped in Lexington, for Lexington and lone riders. A short stop was held at the park near Baker where doughnuts and coffee and tea was served. They then stopped at Fairwell Bend for lunch and saw a former Heppner resident, Eunice Pettyjohn.

The reservations were made at the Idanha Hotel which was built in 1901, a most expensive Hotel for that time. The interior is being restored by the present owners; the 70 rooms and suites have King sized beds, color TV and tastefully reupholstered furniture, such as Louis XIV chairs and love seats.

The group had a guided tour of the Capitol building which was most interesting, and the building indeed lovely. They were also escorted

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