

Heppner thinclads look for district title

By Ashley Conklin

Continuing in the tradition of past district championship teams in 1974 and 1978, Heppner's boys track team will be looking to capture the District 7-A title this season while at the same time threatening for a Class "A" state championship.

Head track coach Dale Conklin, now in his 12th season at Heppner, likes his team's chances this season.

"This team has more talent than any of the other teams we've had," he said, "but we don't have the numbers or the depth that other teams have had."

"Our goals this season are to win a district championship and to place in the top four at state so we can bring home a trophy," he added.

Sophomore distance runner, Bryan Padberg will help lead the boys team as they try and improve on last season's fourth place finish at the district and sixth place showing at state.

Padberg was a state champ last season in the 1500 and 3000 meters and set all-time Class "A" freshmen marks of 4:04.7 and 9:07.5 respectively. Both marks were also school records as Padberg also owns the 800 freshmen class record at Heppner.

Other returners from last year's state meet include senior Wayne Wilgers and junior Jason Dougherty. Both will be counted on heavily this season for the Heppner thinclads.

Wilgers, the third place finisher at the district meet in the high jump, is also a threat in both the long and triple jumps.

Dougherty set the sophomore class standard in the 300 meter intermediate hurdles at 42.5 a year ago and will also run the high hurdles and be a key member of Heppner's relay teams this season.

Seniors Ashley Conklin and Jason Palmer and juniors Duane Ball and Gene Lancaster will give Heppner added depth in the field events.

Conklin and Ball, a newcomer, will compete in the horizontal jumps with Ball also competing in the high jump. Meanwhile, Palmer and Lancaster, another newcomer, will compete in the throwing events.

Not surprisingly Coach Conklin says, "Our strengths for the boys will be in the field events and the distance races."

Back to bolster Heppner's strength in the distances will be senior Trent Harrison who lettered as a sophomore but missed last season due to sickness. Harrison made it to the state meet in the 3,000 two years ago but will use his speed to compete in the 400 and 800 this year.

Also back are sophomores Jim Brosnan and Barney Lindsay who placed sixth in the 400 and 200 meter dashes at district respectively a year ago.

Rounding out the boys team will be senior Ed Hamlin (sprints) and freshman Dean Munkers (weight events).

Wahtonka, the defending boys champs, and Riverside, with the one-two punch of distance runner Mike Ammons and sprinter Bob Hamilton, are serious challengers to Heppner, according to the coach.

"Our weak points are in the sprints and that we have nobody in the pole vault," he said, "both Riverside and Wahtonka have good performers in those events."

On the girls side of things, Heppner will try to improve on last year's 12th place showing at district.

Leading the girls will be junior Kim Sager in the sprints and sophomore Michelle Beck in the distance races. Sager, listed in the top 10 all-time in the 100, 200, and 400 meter dashes at Heppner, finished fifth in the 400 at district last season while Beck had the best showing by a Heppner girl at district with a fourth place ribbon in the 3,000 meters.

Also back for the girls will be senior Dorothy Hays (hurdles), junior Shannon McLaughlin (shot put and discus), and sophomore Jill Conklin (jumps). Heppner will pick up added help in the distance races, a strong point according to coach Conklin, from sophomore Nancy Bailey and freshman Kim Stookey. Stookey will also compete in the

hurdles.

"The girls team, as a goal, would be to finish in the top five or six at district," the coach said. He will have sophomores Tami Lindsay and Sandi Turner in the jumps to help out and freshman Angela Lewiston in the weight events.

Pilot Rock, led by its sprinters, and Sherman County, another team loaded with sprinters, look like the favorites in the girls race for a district 7-A championship.

Steve Brownfield will step in as an assistant coach for the Heppner thinclads and Lori Cecil will be the team's manager.

Seven boys will open the season at the prestigious Willamette Relays this Saturday in Salem.

Only boys will compete in the meet that features separate ranks for Class "AAA", "AA", and "A" schools as well as separate competi-

tion for first-year performers. All events will be relays except for field events, the 330 yard intermediate hurdles, and the three featured races of the day, the 100 yard dash, the 120 yard high hurdles, and the mile run. The three featured races will not be divided up by Class "AAA", "AA", and "A" classifications however.

Heppner will send Padberg into the field in the "Statesmen Mile" where he will compete against the best from Oregon and Southwest Washington.

The meet will begin at 12 noon with field events.

Regular season competition gets underway Tuesday, March 31, as Heppner travels to Milton-Freewater for a three-way meet with Mac Hi and Elgin. Competition begins at 3 p.m. with field events.



Vandals wreck property at wildlife area

By JOYCE HENSLEY

Twice, in several locations, vandals have cut all four strands of the barbed wire fence that the Army Corps of Engineers built around a wild-life area, destroying \$2,500 worth of government property. The three mile area extends west of Irigon's Marine Park.

If caught, the vandals could be subject to either federal or state prosecution, "whichever would be the best option for the recovery of the amount lost," said Christine Karas,

park ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"They would be liable for the value of the repairing material and labor; they could also be fined whatever amount the judge sets," said Karas. "We would request public service work in exchange for some of the money."

The reason for the fence was because of people dumping trash, cutting down trees, and adjacent property owners, complaining about the noise from motorcycles, according

to Karas.

The wild-life refuge is also for public recreation, but, "not at the expense of the animals, birds, and vegetation," said Karas.

"We are flexible...willing to give people what they need as far as foot traffic gates are concerned," Karas said. "People can call us at The Dalles Dam, 296-1181."

There is no chance of the fence coming down, according to Karas.

Profit by reflecting on constitution

Rev. Grace E. Drake, retired

I have not, as a rule, won a lottery or drawing of any kind. The exception to the rule is that my name was drawn out of a hat to be the first contributor to a column in the Gazette-Times written by members of the South Morrow County Ministerial Association. A message from one of us will appear once during each month on topics of our own choosing.

I have just returned from Berkely, California, where I attended a lecture series on the United States Constitution. 1987 is the 200th anniversary of that document whose name we often hear used, both sacredly and profanely.

Dr. William Lee Miller, Professor of Religious Studies and Rhetoric, University of Virginia, made the following comment in one of the lectures I heard:

"James Madison, in his study, 200 years ago now, undertook the most fruitful piece of research ever carried out by an American. Madison's study was of the constitutions of all republics, ancient and modern, his studies of these republics shaped his ideas; his ideas shaped the, so called, Virginia Plan; which Plan shaped the U.S. Constitution, which shaped the new nation's institutions; which institutions have shaped, in a sense, you and me today. So, you might say, James Madison had you and me in mind. The common life which we lead today affects the future of humankind. So young Madison's research project was no small event."

"The common life we lead today" is a provocative phrase. How would you describe our common life together? The common life intended by the writers of our Constitution, and described in its Preamble is one that forms a more perfect union, insures domestic tranquility, establishes justice, provides for our general welfare and common defense.

Our common life together includes all of these things if it is a quality life and no one excluded. In simple words we care for each other and we work at it. The fact of the Constitution does not make a good life automatic. Nevertheless, our government is established on the principles of caring, responsible caring.

I think all of us will profit from time spent to reflect on our Constitution, to question our own selves about our priorities in light of our Constitution's intent. Do our decisions and actions, individually and collectively, strengthen the call of our Constitution's Preamble to provide for the general welfare of all our citizens, now and 200 years hence?

I believe the creative and reflective thinking, talking, planning, negotiating, of small communities can and will make a difference, in these times which demand commitment to the best we know for our common life together.

Happy 80th Birthday Grandma Cecil

To a wonderful grandma who means the world to all of us.

All our love from your Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

Community Calendar

AAUW offers scholarships

The Heppner-Ione branch of the American Association of University Women is offering two \$300 scholarships. The purpose of these scholarships is to provide financial help for women who wish to educate or train themselves. It is not limited to academic training, but is intended for any serious course leading to self-support or improved employability. To be eligible, a

woman must be a resident of Morrow County, and must have a definite plan of study. Applications must be received by April 30 which allows time to obtain reference letters and transcripts. For more information or an application form contact either Lori Longway-Vince, Box 251, Ione, 422-7213, or Nancy Lankford, Box 399, Heppner, 676-5297.

Meeting to plan school budget promotion

A voter communications meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 19 at the Heppner High

School library. Local organizations will develop a plan to promote and help pass next year's school budget.

Golf course cleanup slated

All Willow Creek Country Club members are invited to help clean up the golf course Saturday, March 21 beginning at 8 a.m.

Those who have rakes, shovels,

chain saws, hoes, or other garden tools are encouraged to bring them.

The club will furnish doughnuts and coffee during the morning and a sandwich lunch at noon for those who help.

Weaving class offered spring term

Two errors appear in the Blue Mt. Community College Catalog listing for a Beginning Weaving Class offered spring term. Tuition for the class is \$17, not \$34 as stated in the catalog. The class for beginning weavers will be held in Heppner, not Lexington as stated in the publication. Instructor for the course is

Vanessa Thompson. The class meets from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays.

To reserve a spot in the class, call the instructor at 422-7219 or BMCC Coordinator Marsh Sweek, 676-5039. Pre-registration is required. A lab-fee is charged for the class and some looms are available for rent.

Lutherans slate Lenten service

The Trial Before the High Priest will be the theme of a Wednesday, March 18, Lenten service at Valby Lutheran Church.

Everyone is welcome to attend the 8 p.m. worship service held each Wednesday during Lent and alternating between Hope and Valby Lutheran churches.

Cheese distribution slated

Morrow County Neighborhood Council will hold a cheese distribution in Heppner from 9:30 a.m.-noon and from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday,

March 24. Those eligible to receive the free cheese need to bring proof of address such as an electricity or water bill when picking up cheese.

Ione gardeners hear special speaker

Special speaker at the Ione Garden Club meeting on Wednesday, March 11, was Cece Slocum, Director of Blue Mountain District No. 10 of Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs from Hermiston. Virginia Meck of the Bloomer Girls Garden Club of Hermiston attended also. Cece reminded members of the Flower Show School to be held in Hermiston on May 27, 28 and 29. Anyone interested in learning how flowers are judged at shows and fairs is welcome to attend. Special study will be done on roses, conifers and peonies at this session.

Plans for the spring Plant Sale for April 29 at the Ione Legion Hall

were discussed. It was voted to order miniature roses for sale at this time. There will also be the usual selection of perennials, bulbs and shrubs for sale.

Jean Nelson presented a program on the production of dates. The date is the oldest known cultivated tree crop, having been recorded as many as 5000 years ago. It is an expensive fruit because every step in its production is done by hand-planting, watering by irrigation, pollinating, picking, sorting and packing. It can cost over \$6000 to bring one acre of date palms into full bearing. After planting, a tree requires eight to 15 years before fruit develops.

Ag director to speak in Ione

Bob Buchanan, director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture will be featured speaker at the Morrow County Wheat Growers League spring meeting, Friday, March 27, at the Willows Grange, Ione.

Buchanan, a Milton-Freewater farmer is a past Oregon Wheat League president.

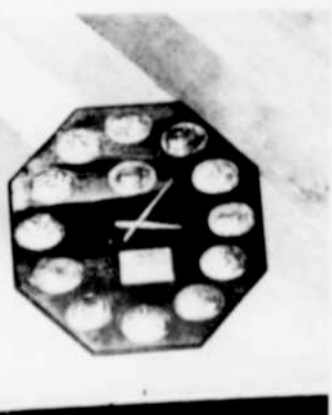
The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. with a roast beef dinner compliments of the county wheat growers. During the evening the 1987 Morrow County Conservation Man of the Year will be announced.

County wheat league president Clint Carlson, Ione, invites "everyone to join us."



Bob Buchanan

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