

Gage Heideman sets new Ione middle school track record



Sixth grader, Gage Heideman, shows off the reader board in the gym at Ione Community School. Heideman set the discus record for 5th and 6th graders at 79'9" during the middle school track season this year. He beat the 76' record set by Mike Ferguson in 1994.

Ione Community School sixth grader, Gage Heideman, wasn't hot to go out for track despite some prodding from his parents. "I just didn't think it was for me," says Heideman. That's when Coach Madison Rietmann stepped in.

"I saw Gage every day after school shagging balls for high school tennis or at the middle school jump pit," said Rietmann. "So, I finally just asked him to show me what he had."

This was a Tuesday, and by Thursday he was on the team and at his first meet where he won the fifth

and sixth grade discus and took 4th in the shot put. It wasn't until he walked into the gym the following Monday that he realized that he had set the school record for fifth and sixth graders by six inches. "I was really surprised and couldn't wait to get to practice that day to see if I could go farther," he said.

Over the next three meets, Heideman would improve his throw and finally land at 79'9", beating the 76' throw made by Mike Ferguson in 1994. According to athletic.net, Heideman is ranked number five

in the state for discus and number 10 for shot put in his age group for the state of Oregon.

Heideman comes from a line of throwers. His dad, Deacon Heideman, holds the Ione discus record at 156'1" set in 1993 holding the record at the state until the mid-2000's. His aunt, Suzy Heideman-Brewster set the school record for shot put in 1997 throwing 36'2". Most recently, his oldest cousin, TJ Brewster finished a four year throw-

ing career for University of Oregon and cousin Sydney Brewster took first at the 2022 6A meet in the discus as a junior.

Heideman has decided that he is gunning for his dad's record. "I want to beat my dad by the time I'm a junior," says Heideman. "I have a practice plan this summer and my cousin, TJ, is going to help be my coach. If I listen to TJ and Coach Rietmann, I will get better."



Gage Heideman, poses with his cousin, TJ Brewster, at Hayward Field at the University of Oregon in May. Brewster just finished a four year throwing career for the Ducks.

Rollins, Rudolf receive scholarships

Ione High School class of 2022 recipients of the Bob and Betty Rietmann scholarships for \$1500 are Taylor Rollins and Tom Rudolf.

Taylor is a scholar/athlete who was a member of the National Honor Society and played four years of varsity football and basketball. He was selected for the Oregon 8 Man All Star Football Team. Taylor will attend Eastern Oregon University enrolling in the AG Entrepreneurship program. He has signed to play football for EOU next fall.

Tom is a scholar/athlete who will be attending Oregon Institute of Technology to study communications this fall. Tom has been active in FFA during high school serving on the First Place District Soil Team. He participated in bas-

ketball and baseball and qualified for state in track and field.

CRICKETS

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comfortable with the decision, and we respect that," he said after the unanimous vote by commissioners to accept a contract agreement with Hermiston.

County Administrator Darrell Green said the main reason for switching service providers came down to Hermiston being able to provide 24/7 service to the county, something IMESD apparently does not do. Green showed commissioners an analysis of the hours IMESD spent supporting the county and it did not include 24/7 service that "We need for our sheriff's office and clerk's office," the report said. Green said Naughton said the cost of the total IT coverage would be around \$30,000. "The analysis shows Morrow County needs twice the amount of services than what we have contracted for (with the current IMESD contract)," Green reported.

Green also reported that IMESD's proposed upcoming year's contract would go from the current \$101,772 up to \$133,163 without the guaranteed around-the-clock coverage. The proposal from Hermiston puts a year's contract at \$249,600. "In conclusion, I believe the cost for IT

services from the city of Hermiston and IMESD would be similar if IMESD were to include the cost for the services we need, as indicated in their analysis and including 24/7 services," Green told commissioners.

Naughton was concerned that his organization wasn't given an opportunity to submit an IT services proposal "based on the revised services as proposed today." Commissioner Melissa Lindsay said she understood IMESD was asked for a proposal, to which Naughton said he "never saw that request that would have let us compare apples to apples to what you are considering with the city of Hermiston."

It was also brought up that the city of Boardman, which, in addition, contracts with IMESD for IT service, may suffer if the county switches providers. An IMESD representative said if the consortium shrinks, losing Morrow County as a client, it may affect staffing at IMESD and cause unknown effects with other smaller entities the service district contracts with. "We provide IT for the city, the fire department and the schools. How will the city of Hermiston service Boardman and your areas when they currently do not have an IT department?" he asked rhetorically. "We don't know what we don't know. If we have staffing problems. We depend on the consortium and their contract is small. We are concerned if things break apart and pivot, we think of the smaller communities."

Green told commissioners they needed to make a decision soon as the county's contract, which is year to year, expires shortly. "The city of Hermiston's focus is going to be on municipalities," Green said. "IMESD's primary focus is on school districts. It's not an easy decision." Lindsay said the commissioners would have to rely on Green's recommendation.

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