

SPORTS

Cardenas runs away from field

Zitterkob, McCarty also win events

BY SAM BARBEE
HERMISTON HERALD

As he closed the back stretch of the 1,500-meter run at the Dick Horyna Invitational Saturday in Stanfield, Umatilla's Fabian Cardenas fought against the wind.

The cross wind, gusting up to 30 mph, forced the defending state champion to adjust his strategy around the track, but it didn't affect his result.

"When the wind's in your face, it makes you feel heavy," Cardenas said. "I train in the wind like twice a week on my long runs. What I do when the wind's in my face, I tend to throw on some surges, just so I can stay at the pace I want to be at."

The junior finished his 1,500-meter domination in

4 minutes, 13.76 seconds, a whopping 44 seconds better than Bickleton's Andrew Gannon, who finished second. Stanfield's Carlos Flores took third in the event, clocking a 4:41.03 time.

As a team, Umatilla finished seventh in the boys meet, accumulating 32 points. Goldendale won with 107. Stanfield earned 30 points for eighth, and Echo earned five points for 22nd. On the girls side, Echo garnered 42 points, good for sixth place, Stanfield had 25 points to take 11 place and Umatilla came up with 16 points, placing the Vikings 17th.

In his lone event of the day, the 1,500, Cardenas took the whole shot and never relinquished it. After the first lap, his lead was already sizable, and it only increased.

By the time he finished, he was the only runner on the back straight.

"I'm pretty happy. It feels pretty good," Cardenas said of his performance on Sat-

urday.

Cardenas, though, was just one of hundreds of athletes who dealt with the wind.

In her first 400-meter sprint of the season, Stanfield's Bailey Watson had to run into the wind. She finished six seconds off the pace of Goldendale's Ocean Bryant (1:12.43), but Watson was pleased with where she finished the day, considering the conditions.

Echo's Devyn Tarvin finished second in 1:09.93.

"I did better than I thought I was going to do," Watson said shortly after her race.

She said, when running in the wind, runners have to change their body positions at certain parts of the track, such as keeping their chins down and leaning into the wind. Otherwise, she said, the wind will lift a runner's torso and slow the person down significantly.

"It'll catch you," she said.

In other events, Umatilla's Amie Zitterkob won the girls 100-meter sprint in 11.83, and teammate Miguel Madrigal took second in the boys 100-meter in 11.84. Madrigal also finished third in the 200-meter in 24.22. Echo's Taylor Swaggert finished fourth in the girls 200 meters, clocking a time of 28.56.

Stanfield's Hunter Braithwaite was the runner-up in the boys 400-meter sprint, finishing in 56.99, two seconds behind Brian Golding of Goldendale. Berenice Chavez of Umatilla took third in the girls 1,500-meter, finishing in 5:30.26.

Jenny Garcia from Stanfield took third in the 300 meters, notching a time of 14:32.39.

Echo's Elizabeth McCarty won the girls javelin throw with a toss of 107 feet, nearly 21 feet better than runner-up Rachel Holland from Ione. Braithwaite also placed third in the boys long jump, leaping 19-

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SAM BARBEE PHOTO

Umatilla's Fabian Cardenas won the boys 1,500-meter run by more than 40 seconds on his way to the state championships next month.

07, just two inches behind co-winners Dylon Tankersley of Mitchell-Spray and Kaden Clark from Heppner.

Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo will all be at River's Edge in Umatilla on Friday. Events begin at 11 a.m.

ROUNDUP:

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Max McGee on his home course.

Keegan Crafton notched a top-10 finish with a plus-9 80 good for a tie for ninth. Zac Adams turned it a plus-13 84 to tie him with teammate Jared Thacker for 13th. Anders Lind shot a plus-16 87 to place him 20th.

Hermiston's next tournament is Thursday at the Pendleton Invite at Pendleton Country Club. The tournament is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

TENNIS

The Umatilla tennis team split its matches with

McLoughlin on Monday in Umatilla, with the boys tying 4-4 and the girls losing 3-1.

The Viking boys won just one singles match, with No. 4 Douglas Gomez topping Christian Gonzales 8-4. Mac-Hi's Carlos Angel beat Elian Armenta 8-3 in the No. 1 singles match, Giovanni Armenta lost to Rigo Ponce 8-4 in the No. 2 match and Dedzen Zerba beat Stephen Morris 8-3 in the No. 3 tilt.

Umatilla had significantly more success in boys doubles, with three wins to just one loss. No. 1 pair Ramiro Rubio and Alejandro Madrigal beat Alex Alvarez and Ulises Zaragoza 9-7 in a tiebreaker, Edgar Madrigal

and Junior Coria beat Christian Torres and Jose Abrego 8-2 in the No. 2 match and Tristan Cole and Quentin Cordova beat Jorge Alvarez and Ernesto Saldana 8-5. The lone loss was Gage Bourrie and Joel Escamilla losing to Allan Ng and Zak Lyon 8-0.

On the girls side, Sidney Webb won the only girls singles match of the day, topping Elise Griffin 9-7 in a tiebreaker. In doubles action, Alejandra Munoz and Natalie Armenta couldn't get past Anniek Kievitsbosch and Sam Tveidt 8-2, Esperanza Garcia and Brenda Mendoza lost to Ana Rodriguez 8-3, and Yessenia Sanchez and Fatima Sanchez lost to Joci Alvarez and Jennifer Robles 8-1.

BASEBALL:

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way) and headed down to Bend for the Chuck Bafaro High Desert Classic. It was a massive tournament with too many teams to count, in like five different age groups. Sometimes in Longview we'd have 16-team tournaments that started on Thursday — so much baseball you can barely handle it.

But those are things of the past. Now, two different age groups play on one weekend. As an umpire, you might have four games on a given Saturday, and two are 12-year-old games

and two are 11-year-old games. There just aren't enough teams to have a full weekend of baseball with just 12-year-olds or just 11-year-olds.

I'm very impressed with the mentality of youth baseball in Hermiston. People want their children to play with their friends. They want to support the local program and have their youth wear "Hermiston" across their chest and bold "H" on their caps.

Though the state of youth baseball where I come from is sad, frustrating and, frankly, alarming, the state of youth baseball in Hermiston is as strong as ever.

In the last five years, enrollment at Hermiston Little League has risen from 560 in 2011 to 611 in 2015. HLL saw a peak in 2013 with 620 enrollees.

I salute you for the growth. Seeing that many children excited to be out for another spring and summer of baseball in their hometown was fun and refreshing. Hopefully that can continue here. I'll sure be rooting for it. I don't want to see the Field of Dreams have the same fate as Central.

— Sam Barbee is the sports reporter for the Hermiston Herald. He can be reached at sbarbee@hermistonherald.com

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