

SPORTS

**BUTTE**

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Angela Taylor posted an impressive 5K time, crossing the line in 19:05.8. It was 14 seconds quicker than Juan Sanchez, who finished just two seconds ahead of his wife, Melody. In the 5K walk, Jesse Landin's time was comparable with some runners. He power-walked his way to a 37:22.5 mark, two minutes quicker than Toni Hawkins.

Blackburn said the turnout was a bit low Saturday, but it was still good to have people

participate. He said the event went smoothly, save for a police officer noticing Blackburn setting up the course Saturday morning.

"Next year, we're going to get it out earlier and get more people to know earlier," Blackburn said. "People enjoy it. People it enjoy the run."

As runners filtered through the finish line Saturday, they gathered in Butte park, eating hot dogs, enjoying shade and watching their children play at Funland.

For Liz and Joe Sharon, whose three children sat on the curb on Seventh and

cheered their parents on as they started and finished, the family aspect has brought them back three times.

"It's a good family event," Joe said. "They've got lost of stuff for the kids."

Organizer Jeanne Jewett estimated that about 75 percent of all contestants brought some form of their families along. Husbands came to watch wives. Wives came to watch husbands. Children watched parents and vice versa. One runner brought her dog. Some pushed strollers. The Living Water Foursquare church brought a contingent

of runners and supporters.

Mixed into the field were some competitive runners who were there for the time, but a hefty portion of the field was there to enjoy the weather and enjoy each other.

"That's what I like about it," Jewett said. "We had tiny, little kids and one older gentleman, too."

Joe Hodge, who recorded the best 5K run of 50-59 year-old men and a 13-year veteran of the Butte Challenge, said the fun experience keeps him coming back year after year, as well as the drawings.

Some races, Jewett said,

have raffles, but those tickets are sold. At the Butte Challenge, each participant is entered into a drawing for prizes such as a Blu-Ray player to running socks to gift certificates, which were awarded after the race.

"A lot of these people are here not just for the fitness aspect, but this raffle here is big," Hodge said. "Almost half the people walk away with something. It's funny to say that, that a raffle would keep it going as long as it has."

Doug Tovey, an assistant wrestling coach at Hermiston, has only been here with his family for three years and

competed in his first Butte Challenge this year. He said the chance to help out the cross country team, as well as the excuse to run and the drawing, will make the event a tradition for him.

"I think it's tradition," he said. "I think the Hermiston cross country team is pretty well-known. It's had a lot of success and a lot of hot-shot runners, so I think that's the start, but now I think now people know it's going to be beautiful weather and it's probably the right time of year, right between holidays. I think that's probably the key."

**COACHES**

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the plan was set for Faaeteete to succeed Hodges.

"I don't know if he saw something or he kinda knew," Faaeteete said. "From then, that was the plan ... I don't know if it was too soon or late."

Faaeteete played for Hodges at North Medford High School from 1999-2003. He then played four years at the University of Oregon, eventually starting in 2006. After graduation in 2008, Faaeteete signed as a free agent with the Chicago Bears but was cut after just two workouts. A week later, the Oakland Raiders gobbled him up released him after just four days.

Faaeteete said his top-level college football and minor NFL experience is invaluable in continuing his players' careers.

"You walk into any gym, and every high school kid

thinks they're a college basketball player, college football player, track star, baseball player, but the reality is, that's not the truth," Faaeteete said. "You just look at both college and NFL rosters, compared to 10 or 20 years ago, you're going to find bigger, faster, more athletic people out there. Realistically, that's what they look for. I just think I bring an understanding of what it actually takes to play at the next level."

Hermiston radio voice Erick Olsen said Faaeteete's high-level experience, his time under Hodges and familiarity with the program and team will be a factor in moving the Hermiston football program forward.

"In David, you have someone who had a chance to try out for an NFL team," he said. "He played for the University of Oregon for four years. With not just seven seasons under Mark, but playing for Coach Hodges in the early 2000s, they've won titles. They've made deep runs.

There's not a type of game that David hasn't coached in. He's been groomed for this for years."

Faaeteete said his biggest challenge is not only following the magical 2014 season, but also increasing program depth. The 2015 campaign will be a nice place to start, as the Bulldogs return just six starters from the state championship run. Hermiston loses a number of All-Columbia River Conference players, including an all-state kicker in Luis Medina and the 5A Offensive Player of the Year in quarterback Chase Knutz.

That said, Faaeteete is excited to see how his roster develops over the summer and how it grows next fall.

"It's a young roster, with the aspirations of playing in the big show," he said. "I'm excited about it. I'm eager to see what the kids bring and how they step up to replace (the seniors)."

"The focus of our program is to continue the family-like

atmosphere and style, not only to make football players, but to build guys that can lead their community by teaching them skills they can use both on and off the field," Faaeteete added. "I just want to make football players and young men that Hermiston can be proud of."

Smith inherits a program that was successful under predecessor Wadekamper. In 2013 the Bulldogs won the Columbia River Conference championship, and in 2014 they played for the CRC title, coming within one game of league champ Pendleton.

Smith went to college in Fresno, California, where she played volleyball and started coaching. From there, she moved to Oregon, then to Minnesota, where she coached for 10 years. She then came to Hermiston, where she has been an active volleyball referee and community member, volunteering and running a number of organizations locally.

She said she was initially hesitant to take the coaching job, which Wadekamper is leaving to spend more time with her family, because she assumed Hermiston would hire an incoming teacher. Ganvoa, who also officiates local basketball games on his own time, knew Smith as an official and learned about her volleyball experience after speaking. Her coaching experience, community ties and overall volleyball knowledge struck Ganvoa very quickly.

"Once that information was set forth, we had conversations with her and confirmed her interest in the position," Ganvoa said. "She's definitely, as a valued member of the community, doing everything she can to promote Hermiston and is a true ambassador."

Though Smith has lived in Hermiston for a number of years, officiated Hermiston volleyball games and kept the official score book at boys and girls Hermiston basketball

games, she said she's completely unfamiliar with the roster. She wants it that way, however, because that doesn't allow for her to play favorites or have biases in the early weeks of the season so she can put together teams based on athlete skill level.

"That will make the girls try even harder because I don't know them," Smith said. "They're gonna have to prove where they belong without me knowing anything about them. I have three squads to fill, so it gives them all of a fresh start. So no matter where they're at previously, this is a different coach, a different take, a different look on things."

Bergstrom has been an assistant coach for the Bulldogs this season, mostly working with pitchers. Rodriguez, who also coaches the Hermiston girls basketball junior varsity team and is an assistant girls basketball coach, has been working with Armand Larive tennis players this spring.

**ROUND UP**

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RBI singles, and Hermiston was right back in it at 7-6. Wheeler then walked, and Moser's single drove her in to tie things at seven, but the seventh-inning collapse doomed the Bulldogs.

Hermiston closes its season with a 4:30 p.m. matchup Fri-

day against the Bucks in Pendleton.

**BASEBALL**

In its final home game of the year, the Hermiston baseball team didn't disappoint.

The Bulldogs plated three runs in the top of the first inning and held on for a 5-3 win over the Hood River Valley Eagles

Tuesday at Armand Larive Middle School.

With the win, Hermiston (11-11, 4-7) moves to .500 for the first time since late April. Hood River (16-0, 8-3) has already clinched the Columbia River Conference title. Hermiston must beat Pendleton on Friday to keep its season alive.

Chase Root led the Bulldogs, going 1-for-2 with a

single, a walk and three runs scored. Michael Gossler was 3-for-3 with an RBI.

Root, Daniel Gossler, Cole Smith and Michael Gossler each had singles in that first inning to provide the three runs. In the second, Kyler Mikami and Root had consecutive hits, and Root scored on an error to give the Bulldogs a 4-0 lead.

Tyler Sexton started on the hill and went all seven innings and allowed three runs, all earned, on six hits, walked one and struck out seven. Sexton didn't allow a hit until the fourth inning.

Down 5-0, Hood River strung together five straight singles starting with the bottom of the order to plate its three, but Sexton was too

good. It was the only inning Hood River got any runners past first base all afternoon. The Eagles didn't have a baserunner until the fourth, when Ryan Ward dropped a single into left-center.

Hermiston wraps up its regular season with a 4:30 p.m. matchup Friday against the rival Buckaroos in Pendleton.

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