

TRACK

Injury derails season for Hermiston's Wilson

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

Madi Wilson was looking forward to track season, and seeing how she would stack up against the best athletes in Washington.

The Hermiston senior, who competes in both hurdle events and the 4x100 and 4x400 relays, tore her right Achilles tendon March 21 during the first meet of the spring.

She had won the 100 hurdle event, and the Bulldogs destroyed the field in the sprint relay. The injury came in the 300 hurdles, where she was leading until she went down near the end of the race.

"It just happened," Wilson said. "I came off the second-to-last hurdle, and on my second step it tore." Wilson said an MRI showed a completely torn Achilles tendon. She had surgery March 28 and has been sporting a light blue cast the past couple of weeks.

"I am going to get the cast off Tuesday, and they will take out the stitches," Wilson said. "I will get a walking boot, but I still won't be able to put any weight on it. Then, I will start physical therapy."

While there hasn't been a lot of physical pain asso-

ciated with the injury, Wilson said the mental aspect of the injury has been the worst part.

"It's a mental hurdle I have to get over," she said. "I can still support my team. I help with the hurdlers. I love coaching — it helps me reflect back on what I need to do. I know God has a plan for me throughout this."

The one bright spot of the ordeal, is that her scholarship to run track at Eastern Washington University is not in jeopardy.

"I have been in contact with the coach and he is totally understanding," Wilson said. "He's very encouraging about my recovery."

Wilson finished second in the 100 hurdles, and fifth in the 300 hurdles, at the Oregon 5A state track meet last year. The 4x100 relay teams also finished second, leading up to a promising season for the Bulldogs.

"The very first meet — that was hard to see that happen," Hermiston coach Emilee Strot said. "She didn't play basketball, and she put in the work every day to prepare. She was ready to do big things. Madi is hard to replace in all aspects. She was the heart of our team."



Wilson

Hermiston's Romero sixth at Pasco Invite

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston got its first taste of the Pasco Invite on Saturday, and it was a learning experience for the Bulldogs, who had just one athlete reach the podium at Edgar Brown Stadium.

Junior Jazlyn Romero placed sixth in the javelin with a throw of 130 feet, 5 inches, which she hit on her second throw of the finals.

"I told them you can't go in there and think you own the place," Hermiston coach Emilee Strot said. "You need watch and learn."

The meet, in its 58th year, featured more than 1,500 athletes from 108 schools.

"I'm kind of excited to see all the competition in Washington," Strot said. "This is the kind of meet that prepares us for state. It's a step early in the season to show us what state could be like."

Romero went into the finals in sixth place, and dropped to eighth after the first round. She jumped back up to sixth with her best throw.

"The competition is bet-



Staff photo by Annie Fowler
Hermiston's Jazlyn Romero finished sixth in the javelin.

ter when all throwers are close to each other (distance of throws)," Romero said. "It gives me an idea of what I need to do if I want to qualify for state. It's better than last week. Every day is a learning experience."

Romero also finished 16th in the discus (102-2).

In the triple jump, sophomore Paige Palzinski finished third in her flight with a leap of 31-5/2, and finished 28th overall. Her mark was one-half inch off her season best.

"It was pouring down rain when Paige was jumping," Strot said "She was a stud. It's moments like that that drive her."

MaKaylee Young went

15-9/4 to finish second in her flight of the long jump, and finished 13th overall. Alisha Wilson of Tahoma won the event with a mark of 19-0/2.

Young also was 18th in the 100 (13.35) and ran on the 4x100 relay team — along with Elsa Torres, Kamryn Aldred and Jayden Ray — which finished 15th (52.20).

The Bulldogs' 4x400 relay team (Ray, Amanda Nygard, Torres, Abigail Sharon) was fifth in its heat, and finished 29th overall in a time of 4:22.38.

In the hurdle events, Jennifer Fuentes finished 40th in the 100 (18.44) and 37th in the 300 (53.77).

Tahoma won the girls team title for the fourth year in a row with 82 points. Jesuit was second (59), followed by Lake Stevens (34), North Central (31) and Kamiakin (30).

On the boys side, Hermiston's 4x100 relay team of Benjamin Wicks, Thomas Reagan, Garrett Walchli and Donovan Wilson finished fifth in its heat and 13th overall in a time of 45.01, less than 2 seconds behind Kamiakin's winning time of

43.43. It was the Bulldogs' best time this spring.

The 4x400 relay team (Koi Mikami, Donovan Wilson, Simon Headings, Freddy Mendoza) finished seventh in their heat and 27th overall with a time of 3:46.91. Jesuit (Portland) turned in a winning time of 3:22.19, with Chiawana second with a 3:34.65 — the top time this spring among Washington schools.

Freddy Mendoza finished 26th in the 800 meters for the Bulldogs with a time of 2:04.13. He was 7 seconds back of the winner, but the field was stacked with talent.

In the 100, Walchli ran an 11.64 to finish fourth in his heat and 16th overall. He also finished third in his heat of the 200 (23.73) and finished 13th overall.

In the boys shot put, Sean Stewart threw 41-2/4, which put him 36th on the day.

Walla Walla won the team title for the first time with 55.86 points, with Mid-Columbia Conference foe Kamiakin second (46). Rounding out the top five were Jesuit (44), Rocky Mountain (43) and Glacier Peak (34).

WRESTLING

Five Dawgs earn all-MCC honors

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

The Mid-Columbia Conference wrestling team was announced on Sunday, and Hermiston had five athletes earn honors.

The selections are voted on by the conference's nine coaches.

Senior Gage Shipley was a second-team selection at 126 pounds, while sophomore Adrian Delgado (106), junior Jordan Franklin (132), sophomore Trevor Wagner (160) and freshman Jon Lee (220) earned honorable mention honors.

Wagner finished fourth at the 3A state championships in February, while Lee worked his way through the consolation bracket to finish fifth.

Wagner and Lee are the

first non-Washington athletes to win medals at Mat Classic. Hermiston joined the WIAA and the MCC this school year.

Lee finished 6-2 at the tournament, with all six wins coming by fall. His quickest pin was 47 seconds.

Gage Shipley and Jordan Franklin also advanced to state, but lost out before reaching a placing match.

State champion Austin Almaguer of Kamiakin (132), who has signed to wrestle at Campbell University, was named the lower weight wrestler of the year, while Chiawana freshman Isaiah Anderson, who won a state title at 195, was named the upper weight wrestler of the year.

Chiawana, the 4A state champion, placed eight

wrestlers on the first team. Seven of the eight placed at state.

Hanford's Dom Duncan was named the 4A Coach of the Year, while Rich Cunningham of Southridge is the 3A Coach of the Year.

The MCC girls team also was released, but Hermis-

ton did not have any wrestlers earn all-conference honors.

State champion Taylor Wilson (100) of Hanford was named the lower weight wrestler of the year, while teammate Grace Nelson (190) was the upper weight wrestler of the year.

MID-COLUMBIA CONFERENCE WRESTLING TEAM

- First Team**
106 — Nate Tovar, jr., Pasco. **113** — Eric Correa, so., Pasco. **120** — Darion Johnson, fr., Chiawana. **126** — Kobe Santoyo, sr., Chiawana. **132** — Austin Almaguer, sr., Kamiakin. **138** — Robby Vaughn, jr., Chiawana. **145** — Aiden Villareal, so., Chiawana. **152** — Riley Cissne, jr., Chiawana. **160** — Patrick Workman, sr., Richland. **170** — Victor Silva, sr., Chiawana. **182** — Tyson Stover, jr., Chiawana. **195** — Isaiah Anderson, fr., Chiawana. **220** — Jonathan Burt, sr., Hanford. **285** — Davion Pruitt, sr., Pasco.
- Second Team**
106 — Saw Thee, fr., Southridge. **113** — Nate Montelongo, fr., Chiawana. **120** — Xavier Zavala, sr., Kamiakin. **126** — Gage Shipley, sr., Hermiston. **132** — Enest Martinez, jr., Chiawana. **138** — Isaiah Gonzalez, jr., Pasco. **145** — Kevin Cornejo, sr., Kamiakin, and Israel Romero, sr., Chiawana. **152** — Joey Chavez, jr., Kamiakin. **160** — Mikael Faylor, sr., Southridge. **170** — Jose Elijah Tovar, sr., Pasco. **182** — Hayden Henry, sr., Hanford. **195** — Jacob Olson, sr., Kamiakin. **220** — Ben Hollenberg, sr., Kamiakin. **285** — Colby Blasdel, jr., Chiawana.
- Honorable Mention**
106 — Adrian Delgado, so., Hermiston. **113** — Austin Patton, so., Hanford. **120** — Lance Stover, fr., Chiawana. **126** — Miguel Hinojosa, jr., Pasco. **132** — Jordan Franklin, jr., Hermiston. **138** — Jacob Wieber, jr., Kennewick. **145** — David Tobias, sr., Pasco, and Cley Green, sr., Hanford. **152** — Morgan McFee, sr., Chiawana. **160** — Trevor Wagner, so., Hermiston. **170** — Connor Gibbon, sr., Richland, and Dylan Holt, jr., Kennewick. **182** — Sione Halo, sr., Pasco, and Jevon Johnson, sr., Southridge. **195** — Avery Burrows, sr., Pasco. **220** — Jon Lee, fr., Hermiston, and Damian Silva, jr., Pasco. **285** — Jerry Corona, sr., Walla Walla.

Umatilla boys, girls win River's Edge titles

HERMISTON HERALD

Umatilla's Patty Burres (100, 400) and Chantal Lemus (shot put, discus) were double winners in individual events Friday at the River's Edge Invitational at Milt Durand Field in Umatilla.

The Umatilla girls won the team title with 123.5 points, with Weston-McEwen a distant second with 68 points.

Burres turned in a time of 12.96 seconds to win the 100, then ran a 1:03.47 in the 400, tying Briley Bock of White Swan. Burres also ran a leg on the winning 4x100 relay team (54.24).

Lemus threw the shot

put 32 feet, 6 inches for the win, a foot better than Pilot Rock's Emily Lambert. In the discus, Lemus had a personal best 103-10/2 for the win; Lambert was second at 100-3.

Abigail Cardenas won the 100 hurdles for the Vikings (17.72), more than 2 seconds ahead of the next runner. Cardenas also was second in the 300 hurdles (51.65).

Umatilla also won the boys team title, rolling up 130 points, with Heppner second with 107.5.

Arrik Russell was a double winner in the 200 (24.39) and 400 (53.90), and ran a leg on the 4x100 really team that finished second.

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