

Good year for VHS track puts new trophy on shelf

The track season started with a lot of enthusiasm and ended with a lot of enthusiasm, but there was some depression in between, Vernonia High School Track Coach Mel Nice said.

Initially, there were 28 students who seemed highly motivated, Nice said, but some dropped track when

they became aware of the five Saturday meets. Others dropped out when they realized the conference meet was the same date as the prom; still others left because their skills weren't good enough to place.

Nineteen team members completed the season, about equally divided between boys

and girls. Of the nineteen, four were seasoned veterans, Nice said, and the rest were newcomers or older students out for the first time.

The girls were mostly younger students. Sophomore Tonya Jones led the way in the 400 meter, while freshmen Christina Lynch, Erin Mawhirter, Dawn Mushott and Kim Hess led in distance running. Shauna Swank, Sissy Gudsmundstir and Bastienne Wentzel handled the field events.

Among the boys, Rick

Thompson, Jason Hess, Wayne Eckertson, Kyle Nelson and Nate Ott competed in the field events.

Philip Vaughn was a point winner all season in the 3,000 meter.

The team's strength was in running events, with Tim Grady winning the state title in both 100m and 200m, and Donald Naeve taking the state championship for 3000m. Kurt Julian placed third in state in the 1500m.

Grady, Naeve and Julian are the best the school has

produced, Nice said, and the second place trophy is the first state track award VHS has ever won.

Grady was the first double winner for VHS, too, and this is the first time the school has won three state track championships in one year.

"These three young men deserve the recognition that hard work has accomplished," Nice added.

Naeve, Julian and Vaughn will return to lead the team next year.

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Melissa Schmidlin earns scholarship

Melissa Schmidlin, a Vernonia High School senior, has been awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship by the Cargill Foundation.

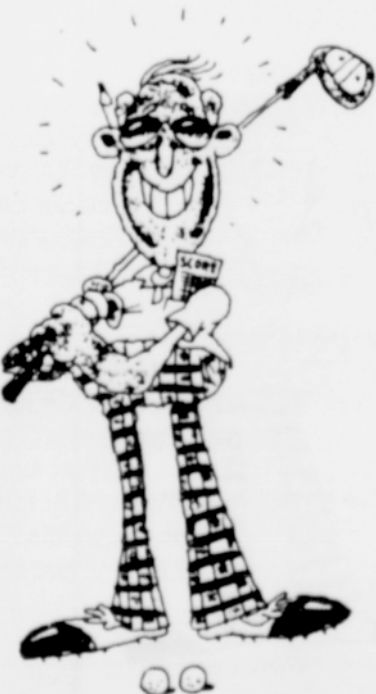
Schmidlin plans to enter Pacific University at Forest Grove this fall, to study physical therapy.

The scholarship is one of 200 awarded by the Cargill Foundation to 1990 high school graduates from farm families in 41 states. This year's scholarship program, in its fifth year, attracted 2,697 applicants.

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