



Bulldogs get first team win

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains High School boys track team claimed first place at the Dighton Invitational Track Meet on April 26.

Coach Travis Betz said this is the first time that the team has placed first in a meet since he's been coaching at Golden Plains.

Several of the boys improved their times with junior Kalyn Weber placing first in the 100-meter and 200-meter races. Senior Rilee Spresser placed first in both the shot put and the javelin while junior Cole Christensen finished in first place in the triple jump. Christensen also placed second in the high jump with a jump of 6 feet.

Other individual results include:

Ryan Ptashkin, sixth in the 100 meters with 12.56.

Andrew Luna, fourth in the 200 meters with 24.54 and third in the 400 meters with 55.7.

Marshall Clapp, fifth in the 800 meters with 2:37.4.

Cameron Spresser, second in the 110-meter hurdles with 20.22 and fourth in the 300-meter hurdles with 50.19.

Chance Hoeting, fourth in the 110-meter hurdles with 21.15.

Grant Spresser, sixth in the 110-meter hurdles with 22.8.

Devinn Ritter, second in the shot put with 43 feet, 5 inches and fourth in the discus with 108 feet, 1 inch.

Rilee Spresser, third in the high jump with 5 feet, 10 inches and third in the long jump with 18 feet, 8.5 inches.

Zach Spresser, sixth in the triple jump with 35 feet, 11.75 inches.

The boys 4-by-100 relay team of Jose Bermudez, Ptashkin, Christensen and Luna placed fourth with 48.61. The 4-by-400 relay team of Jesus Garcia, Luna, Christensen, Weber place third with 3:55.4. The 4-by-800 relay team of Cameron Spresser, Josh Barnhart, Hoeting and Garcia placed third with 11:03.65.

The Lady Bulldogs continued to show improvement at the Dighton meet, finishing fourth out of seven



Rilee Spresser took his longest jump of the year – 18 feet, 8.5 inches – at the Dighton Invitational Track Meet on April 26. Spresser had personal-best finishes in the shot put and the javelin as well at the meet.

teams.

The girls 4-by-100 relay team of Viridiana Beltran, Melissa Ritter, Macayla Easton and Angela Ritter finished in first place with an improved time of 4:36.65.

Other individual results included:

Easton, fourth in the 200 meters with 30.3, sixth in the 400 meters with 1:11.66.

Melissa Ritter, sixth in the 200 meters with 31.37

Kylie Jones, second in the 400 meters with 1:08.62, third in the high jump with 4 feet, 6 inches

Jordan Christensen, fifth in the 400 meters with 1:09.67, fourth in the high jump with 4 feet, 4 inches

Leea Juenemann, third in the 800 meters with 2:55.75

Hannah Antholz, third in the discus with 81 feet, 1 inch

Morgan Walz, fourth in the long jump with 13 feet, 10 inches,

Avery Spresser, third in the triple jump with 29 feet, 2.5 inches.

The 4-by-100 relay team of Beltran, Melissa Ritter, Easton and Angela Ritter placed second with 57.05.

May Day 5k sees record number of runners

A Colby Recreation Department participation record was set on Sunday, when 36 runners and walkers participated in the fourth annual May Day 5K.

The previous record was 29 runners at the 2010 Spring Fling 5K.

This year, there were four divisions as this was a “winner takes all” race instead of the usual “predicted time” run.

“I was so excited to see the turnout for the race this weekend,” said Stacy Lee, Recreation Director. “We had 11 runners participate in the 18-and-under division, four in the women’s 30 and under, 14 in the women’s 31 and over, and seven runners in the men’s 31-and-over division. We didn’t have any runners for the men’s 30 and under.”

For May Day, the department offered “baskets” for the winners of each division. For the women’s groups, there were two Spa Baskets which included a pedicure from Uptown Style or lotion, body wash and perfume. For the men’s division, MC Auto donated a Stain Guard Application and a travel grill with utensils. For the youth division, a “Pool Basket”

was offered with water guns.

The overall winner and the winner of the youth division was Eric Schuette, 14 year old son of Gary Schuette, with a time of 20 minutes, 35 second. Other participants in the youth division were Dalton Schuette, Jordan Schippers, Aaron Platt, Isabel Rosales, Isaac Rosales, Ian Rosales, Bryson Metcalf, Makenna Mettlen, Noah Pardee, and Alexa Schindler.

Tasha Wagoner won the 30 and Under division with a time of 27:42 and Shelby Bain won the 31 and Over division with a time of 25:36. Other women’s participants were Jessica Leiker, Christy Garretson, Kristin Brooks, Lesley Wagoner, Amy Rosales, Leigh Strecker, Shari Oren, Lisa Stramel, Amanda Wahlmeier, Joni Clark-Leiker, Jody Metcalf, Sara Betz, Mert Strecker, Molli Bretz, Donna Roberts, and Tiffany Mader.

Tom Pardee took home the gold for the Men’s division with a time of 22:20 and in second place, Daryl Strecker with a time of 29:13. Other men’s runners were Gary Schuette, Joey Nichols, Travis Betz, John Strecker, and Jason Mader.

“I think what made this race so great was all the groups that ran together,” Lee said. “We had the Strecker, Betz, and Rosales families running for John Strecker’s 60th birthday and a group of Col-

by High School faculty running to cross a 5K off their bucket list.”

The next races will be the Iron Athlete Triathlons in June and July, and the Rec Run 5K in August.

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College runners head to regionals

The Colby Community College mens track team will send 20 athletes to Coffeyville on Friday and Saturday for the Region VI Championships.

Ortiz said the team has seen a huge improvement this season. They have set new school records in the 4-by-100 relay and in the 400-meter dash.

“We haven’t been to a match where we haven’t won at least one event,” he said.

During the indoor track season in the winter, the Trojans placed 15th overall at the national championships. Seven athletes were named All-Americans at the competition. Freshman Edward Limo was named Indoor Track Athlete of the Year and Ortiz was named Indoor Track Coach of the Year.

The freshman class has been a big part of the team’s success, Ortiz said. This is Ortiz’s first full year with a team he recruited. He came to Colby in 2010 from the University of the Southwest in Hobbs, N.M. Some of Ortiz’s team followed him when he moved to Colby, and he recruits a lot from Texas, where he has good contacts among high school coaches, as well as from Kansas and around the country. Two of the team’s best runners, Alfredo Arellano and Raymond Velazquez come from Texas.

Much like in its other teams, the college has also recruited outside the United States. Two of Ortiz’s star players come from foreign countries. Limo hails from Kenya and freshman James Carey – who set the 400-meter dash record – is from the Bahamas.

The Trojans also have 12 athletes – four individuals and two relay teams – scheduled to race at the Outdoor Track and Field National Championships on May 19-21.

“We aren’t thinking about nationals yet, our focus is this weekend at regionals. We have to find a way to score as many points as possible,” Ortiz said. “Our region is highly competitive in track and field. We were seventh at region indoor and finished 15th in the nation, so we expect the competition to be just as tough.”

Athletes going to nationals include: Carey, 400 meter dash; Velazquez, 1500-meter run; Arellano, 1500 meter run; Edward Limo, 3000-meter steeplechase and 5000-meter run; the 4-by-800 meter relay team of Devon McCormick, Ross Freeman, James Leonard, Nelson Justiss; and the 4-by-100 meter relay team of Kristen Mitchell, Charles Miller, Carlos Molina, Eric Crayton.

Colby softball team wins makeup game

The Colby High School sophomore pitcher Kenzie Curry got a whopping 15 strikeouts in the softball team’s 6-0 win over Hugoton on Tuesday. The game had been suspended due to weather on April 26.

Curry allowed no runs on 3 hits and 2 walks in seven innings.

On offense, senior Bailey Koperich hit a double, a single and 2 runs batted in. Seniors Caitlyn Wark and Brittany Bange each hit

2 singles. Senior Tera Raymond and sophomore Karly Kriss each hit 1.

“We struggled at the plate,” said coach Jack Elliot, “but Kenzie was dominating enough to carry us.”

Elliot said the win gives Colby at least a share of the league title. The last regular season doubleheader is Monday at Russell. The junior varsity team played three games in Hoisington today.

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