

LOCAL NOTEBOOK

10 athletes, teams to watch at Saturday's Pasco Invite track and field meet

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Special to the Herald

Saturday's 58th Pasco Invite track and field meet, set for a 9:20 a.m. start, got its final numbers in.

And they're big.

More than 1,500 athletes representing 108 schools from throughout the Northwest will be competing.

There will be 250 volunteers to help run the meet at Edgar Brown Stadium.

The meet always honors a volunteer. This year, it'll be Dale Gier, who was a coach, instructor and administrator at Columbia Basin College for 28 years.

The invite will also be dedicated to longtime volunteers Dale Lindsey and Willie Taylor.

Finally, the Invite has started a Pasco Invitational Hall of Fame this year. The first two former athletes to be inducted are ex-Pasco High athletes Ron Howard and Quenna Beasley. Howard won the triple jump and both hurdles during the 1970 meet. He went on to play in the NFL. Beasley was a two-time Invite champion in both the shot put and discus. She went on

to become an NCAA track All-American at the University of Oregon in the 1980s.

As for the meet, here are 10 athletes or entries to keep an eye on Saturday:

Johan Correa, Kennewick. The senior was the Invite's Outstanding Male Athlete of the Meet in 2018. He has the best 800 time (1:51.51) coming into the meet, and he should be a factor in the 1600.

Hannah Ganashamoorthy, Monroe. Just a sophomore, she's the top seed in the 300 hurdles (42.88 seconds) and the long jump (20 feet, 2 inches).

Luke Houser, Woodinville. He has the top 1600 (4:10.24) and 3200 (9:02.48) times among meet competitors.

Kamiakin boys relay teams. In both the 4x100 and 4x400 events, the Braves have the top seeds of all entrants.

Christopher Penn, Auburn Mountainview. He has the top 100 (10.96 seconds) and 200 (22.24) boys times in the state.

Katherine Potts, Glacier Peak. The senior's toss of 138 feet is the

state's No. 2 for girls discus.

Taylor Roe, Lake Stevens. Roe, a familiar face to running fans with her great performances over the years at both the Invite and State Cross Country Championships, is the top seed in both the girls 800 and 1600.

Patrick Utschinski, Walla Walla. The soon-to-be WSU offensive lineman has the top mark in the state in boys shot put at 56 feet, 8 inches.

Rieko Wilford, Curtis. The sophomore has a triple jump mark of 40-6.25, the top mark in the state.

Aliya Wilson, Tahoma. The Outstanding Female Athlete of the Meet in both 2017 and 2018, Wilson returns for her senior year. She is the top entry in both the girls 100 meters (11.49 seconds) and 200 meters (24.27 seconds). She'll likely also run in Tahoma's top-ranked 4x100 relay.