

Another Riner shows he knows how to throw a javelin

BY JEFF MORROW

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After taking a quick trip out of town, I wanted to get back to some final notes from last weekend's 60th running of the Pasco Invitational track and field meet that are newsworthy.

Let's start with Connell's Kellen Riner, a junior, who finished second in the boys javelin throw at 171 feet, 11 inches.

The standout from the Class 1A up the road on 395 held his own among the many students from much larger schools. But the performance didn't meet his own standards.

"To tell the truth, it's just alright," said Riner. "I'm a little mad, because I didn't hit one throw."

Riner said he threw really hard in a conference meet the Eagles had a few days before the Invite.

"I should have held back a bit. My rhythm didn't feel right," said Riner.

Still, Riner has improved greatly since a year ago. Last year at this time, he fired the javelin 157 feet. He's now up to 178.

It doesn't come as a surprise.

His brother Carson, who is two years older than him, won the state 1A javelin title last year.

His older sister, Ashton, is the defending women's NCAA champion for BYU.

The Riners are the Mid-

Columbia's First Family of javelin throwing.

Their father, former Connell football coach Wayne Riner, said it's good genes.

And maybe so. But Kellen said there is more to it than that.

"We lift weights," said Kellen. "We put in the work, have a lot of practice. A lot of people don't do that. We've got good coaches. I'll be back next year (at the Pasco Invite), and I'll be ready."

LOCALS STAND OUT IN PASCO

Besides Chiawana's Kade Smith, Wa-HI's Jake Hisaw, and Richland's Keegan Kuntz — who were mentioned in the main story a few days ago — there were other Mid-Columbia athletes who had strong performances at Saturday's Pasco Invite.

Kennewick's Jackson Burns snared a second-place finish in the boys 110 hurdles final with a 14.59 seconds run — a personal record.

"I've improved in the 110 hurdles about 2 seconds," said Burns. "(Race winner Rusty Lee of Sandpoint) and I are friends. It was a good competition. I wanted to win, but it was still a good race."

Burns also finished fifth in the 300 hurdles.

Southridge senior Lucien Cone finished third in the 200 meters, fourth in the 100, and was on the fourth-place 4x100 relay team.

Hanford's Eduardo Tobon ran the 1600 and 3200 boys events, placing seventh in the 3200, and 15th in the 1600.

Morgan Thomas of Class 1B DeSales was a winner in the girls discus with a throw of 131 feet, 9 inches, and she finished sixth in the shot put.

Landry Allen of Hanford was the girls pole vault champion, clearing 11 feet, 8 inches for a personal record.

While Adelyn Mitchell and Aubrey Herrin helped the Kamiakin girls team to the girls team title, teammate Louisa Gledhill also helped provide some points.

She finished fourth in the 300 hurdles final, and sixth in the 100 hurdles final.

Cami Martin helped Walla Walla, scoring points in the triple jumper (fourth), the 4x100 relay (fifth), and the 4x400 relay (sixth).

Richland girls javelin thrower Baylee Wroble came away with a first-place finish, throwing the javelin 126 feet, 10 inches.

That was a PR for Wroble, and she hit it in her first throw in the finals.

"So far, I'm about 10 feet ahead of my PR from last year," said Wroble. "I'm still working on my full approach."

Wroble's teammate, Alyssa Marsh, earned a victory in the girls 200 meters.

"I new this race was going to be close," said Marsh.

Marsh also was part of

the Bombers two third-place relay teams — the 4x100 and 4x400 squad.

Prosser's Kambree Blair had respectable finishes in both the girls triple jump (fifth) and long jump (sixth).

Jeff Morrow is former sports editor for the Tri-City Herald.