

White Stars have been claimed

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CRESCENT CITY -- Proving that the Big Five championships were no fluke by any means, the Eureka Loggers and Fortuna Huskies each provided impressive performances at the H-DNL championships hosted by Del Norte High School on Friday.

Fortuna's freshman phenom Mallorie Franco dominated each of the four individual events she entered, while senior Collin Humphrey did the same on the boys' side.

Franco began her day as part of a Huskies' 4x100 meter relay team that took advantage of a sloppy handoff from the host Warriors to capture victory in the event. Although the home team was able to recover from the miscue, Sara Fletcher edged out Del Norte's Bailee McCulloch down the backstretch to give her team the victory.

That was just the beginning of the impressive day for both Franco and Fletcher, as the two came away with a total of six White Stars on the day.

In addition to her team's victory in the 4x100 meter race, Fletcher turned in a time of 15.98 seconds to overtake Eureka's Jessica White and Fortuna's Victoria Low in the 110 meter hurdles. She would later make it three victories on the day after defeating Del Norte's Rachel Cink in the 300 hurdles.

For her part, Franco outdistanced Arcata's Sierra Evers-Helmich to win the triple jump before turning in a leap of 16 feet, 11 inches to defeat fellow freshman Brittany Chown of McKinleyville to win the long jump.

On the boys' side, Humphrey continued his domination of the field events, while teammate Miles Callihan did the same in the hurdles.

Humphrey captured the first of his four White Stars with a 44-5 effort to outdistance Eureka's Eric Wright in the shot put. He followed that up with a 42-4 effort in the triple jump, good enough to defeat Eureka's Tim Pratt by just over two feet.

Humphrey later defeated Pratt for a second time on the day, this time with a 20-2.5 leap in the long jump event. The Loggers' senior captured the runner-up position with a 19-2 effort.

Callihan made quick work of his competitors, edging out teammate Skylar Rice in the 110-meter hurdles race, and later capturing the 300-meter hurdles event to cap off an impressive afternoon.

The Huskies were not the only team in the field and on the track though, as the Loggers and Arcata Tigers each had their share of impressive performances as well.

The black and orange dominated the middle distance events in both genders, while seniors Yasmine White and Tiffany Knox remained the class of the H-DNL in the distance races. White left little doubt as to the outcome of the 3,200 meter race very early on, while Knox held off a persistent charge from Eureka's Nina Carson to win

the 1,600.

While the Tigers were taking care of business on the girls' side in the distance events, the Loggers did the same on the boys' side of the ledger.

The red and green swept the 3,200 meter event with Kyle Louv capturing victory, and nearly pulled the same trifecta in the 1,600 meter race. Dillon Ayers won the mile race, with teammate Billy Powell right behind him in second place. Arcata's David Minkema placed third.

On the boys' side, Scott Pontoni captured two victories on the day, defeating Del Norte's Taylor Duncan in the 400 while helping his team do the same in the 4x400.

On the girls' side, the Tigers' Emma Kelsey maintained her advantage over Del Norte's Rebecca Cink in the 800 winning the event with a strong push through the final turn.

While most of the afternoon went according to Hoyle as far as overall results were concerned, the event was not without its share of controversy and hardship.

After turning in a 12.35 second effort to apparently win the 100, Del Norte's Bailee McCulloch, along with the rest of the field, were forced to re-run the race due to a malfunction with the starting gun that caused confusion at the beginning of the race.

Following the restart later in the day, McCulloch captured her second victory on the day in that event, edging out Ferndale's Cari Killingsworth at the tape in what was easily the closest race of the afternoon.

McCulloch later defeated Andie Tonkin of St. Bernards in the 200. The Warrior sophomore also teamed with Maria Flores, Kelsy Hintz and Rachel Cink to defeat Fortuna in the 4x400 relay.

The biggest heartbreak of the afternoon, at least from the home team's perspective, came when junior Bryce Lund was forced to pull out of the meet after suffering an injury to his calf muscle while preparing for the high jump event.

With Lund out, the attention turned to Eureka's Jack Lamb who was victorious in both short sprint races. Lamb cruised past Del Norte's Kyle Newton in winning the 100, while doing the same to Warrior sophomore Matt Wakefield to capture the 200.

Pratt, who had jumped stride for stride with Lund for most of the season, out-jumped Newton by four inches to win the high jump with a leap of 6-0.

Fortuna's Lorien Patmore defeated defending champion Jessica Slayton of Del Norte to win the high jump. Although both athletes registered the same distances of 5 feet, Patmore was awarded the victory for having the fewest misses on the day.

Despite the disappointment of losing Lund to injury, Hintz continued her assault of the H-DNL record books in the girls' pole vault, breaking her own mark for the second time in just under a week. Hintz recorded a jump of 10-9 inches Friday, topping her previously record breaking mark of 10-7 set at the Big Five championships.

In the boys' event, Warrior freshman Taylor Duncan recorded a personal best with a launch of 12 feet to edge Newton for the top spot.

The Big Five schools were not the only representatives to make noise Friday though, as Hoopa's Alanna Nulph defeated Del Norte's Rebecca Cink by nearly a foot with her 108-9 effort in the discus, while St. Bernard's

Terasina Obie edged out Nulph for victory in the shot put. Alex Vallee earned a victory for the Crusaders in the girls' 400 meter race as well.