

## **Hintz breaks NCS record at Del Norte track meet**

Aaron Finley/For the Times Standard  
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Propelled by a record-setting day from Kelsy Hintz, and two victories in three races from Bailee McCulloch, the Del Norte girls team made the biggest impact locally with a second-place finish at the Redwood Empire North Coast Section track meet held at Del Norte High School on Saturday.

The Warrior girls finished with 60 points, behind only the Maria Carrillo Pumas who ran away from the field, literally and figuratively, scoring 75 points. The Fortuna Huskies girls squad placed sixth with 33 points, the only other Big Five school to place in the top 10.

The boys' side of the ledger saw Marin County dominate, with the Marin County Athletic League, North Bay League and Sonoma County League earning the top 15 spots in the team standings. Eureka placed highest among Big Five schools with nine points.

Hintz, who had established a personal best of 12-6 in the pole vault at the all-county meet two weeks ago, obliterated the NCS record. The junior soared into the record books with a vault of 12-feet, breaking the previous record of 11-2.25. Arcata's Celeste Manka was a distant second with 10-8.

The Del Norte junior wasn't done with her afternoon, although not everything went according to Hoyle. After her false start in the 100-meter heat disqualified her, Hintz rebounded to finish fourth in the 200 with 26.57.

McCulloch, the junior sprinter, ran the anchor in the Warriors victorious 4x100 to open the day. The quartet of Rachel Cink, Hintz, Jessica Slayton and McCulloch edged Tamalpais, 51.18 to 51.33.

Fortuna's foursome of Amanda Church, Lorien Patmore, Mallorie Franco and Heather Morris ran well, placing fourth with a 51.61. McKinleyville's Brittainy Chown, Jen Smith, Amy Gunderson and Shameka Valentine placed 10th in the event with 52.67.

McCulloch also finished in second place in the 100 (13.01), and she won the 200 (25.91) with a personal best.

It wasn't just Hintz and McCulloch who sparked the Warriors to second place.

In addition to running the opening leg on the victorious 4x100, junior Rachel Cink qualified for the Meet of Champions with a fifth-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles in 48.88. Fortuna's sophomore Morris also advanced to The Meet of Champions, to be held in Berkeley, with a sixth place mark of 49.20. Eureka's Kesslyn Martin finished eighth with 49.80.

Fortuna's Rhiannon Roper finished third in the shot put with a throw of 33-4, just ahead of Cink's fourth-place 31-9.25, which qualified her for a third event at the Champions meet. Her twin sister, Rebecca, heaved the discus 110-5 to finish second.

Warrior teammate Jessica Slayton had two qualifying marks of her own. Fortuna's Lorien Patmore placed in a tie for second in the high jump at 4-10, and Slayton finished fourth, also at 4-10, and ran the second leg of the winning 4x100.

There were plenty of other accolades to go around within the Big Five girls' teams.

Franco helped the Huskies to a fourth-place finish in the 4x100, and topped her season best by over a foot in winning the long jump at 17-4.5. Franco added a fourth place finish in the triple jump, soaring 34-3 to earn a spot in next week's field.

Chown, the Panthers sophomore, took second in the long jump with a distance of 16-6.5.

Eureka's Nina Carson advanced to the Meet of Champions in two events, placing fifth in the 1,600 with 5:13.11, and seventh in the 3,200 at 11:21:50.

Arcata freshman Anya Ritter will advance to the Meet of Champions by finishing seventh in the 800 in 2:23.94, and she was part of the Tigers second place 4x400.

On the boys' side, despite not having the quantity of athletes move on to the Meet of Champions, the quality of performances was still evident.

The Eureka High distance runners continued to impress, as the senior trio of Kyle Louv, Jonathan O'Connell and Dillon Ayers each advanced in the 3,200, all shaving nearly a minute off of their previous high marks of the season. Louv placed fifth (9:35.97), while O'Connell (9:36.46) and Ayers (9:37.86) were right on their teammate's heels in the sixth and seventh spots.

Logger Eric Wright's 46-1.25 in the shot put, good for sixth place, earned him a spot in next week's field.

The green-and-red's 4x100, comprised of Jerome Burns, Corey Doyle, Aric Nelson and Jack Lamb, finished fifth in the 4x100 in 44.77. Eureka's Jason Tinsley placed fourth in the triple jump with a leap of 40-6.

Del Norte's Taylor Duncan and Saxon Schultz both earned bids to the Meet of Champions, with Duncan placing second in the pole vault at 13-feet, and Schultz taking seventh in the triple jump with a 39-9.

The Panthers will have two representatives next week, as Zach Caldwell earned a fourth place in the pole vault (12-6) and Joe Beeman tied for sixth in the 200 (23.07).

Fortuna sophomore Skylar Rice also qualified with his fourth place in the 110-meter hurdles at 15.94.

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