

Hintz leads stars all-county at meet

Neil Tarpey/The Times-Standard
Eureka Times Standard

Article Launched:05/12/2007 04:23:32 AM PDT

FORTUNA -- One athlete set a new all-time Humboldt-Del Norte record.

Another runner proved that she is the best in three different events.

And six track and field competitors showed their superb talent by winning two events.

Yes, Friday's all-county track meet at Husky Field in Fortuna had plenty of excitement for those willing to brave a chilly, overcast Humboldt day.

Del Norte High's Kelsy Hintz shattered the girls' all-time pole-vault record -- which she set last year at 12-3 -- first with a jump of 12-4, and then literally by reaching a whole other level with an awesome vault of 12-6, which had the crowd applauding in recognition.

"I'm real excited," said Hintz, "I was trying to focus all day, hoping to do a 12-6."

What does she think about before starting to run with her pole?

"Well, I don't think about anything," said Hintz. "First I tell myself, let's do it, and then I clear my mind."

Before she set the new pole vault standard, Hintz had won the 100-meter sprint with a time of 12.5.

Eureka High's Nina Carson had quite a day, winning three white stars -- an all-conference white star is awarded to the winner of each event -- for her victories in the 800-meter run (2:22.2), the 1600 (5:47.5), and the 3200 (11:57).

"It feels really good," said Carson, "because this is my first year to win a white star, and I really wanted to do well."

Carson acknowledged the 800 might have been the toughest, because "Anya (Ritter, of Arcata High) is really fast and a tough competitor."

Ritter had beaten Carson by four-tenths of a second in the Big 5 championships last week, but on Friday, she finished second to Carson.

Besides Hintz, five other athletes won two white stars.

Hoopa Valley's Alana Nulph won the girls' shot put (35-11 1/2) and discus (119-11), both performances putting her in the top-10 all-time in H-DN competition.

"It feels really good," said Nulph, "it's the first time that I've won both."

"It's been a long day," added Nulph, explaining that she had taken the challenging Advanced Placement test in history in the morning.

The host school had a pair of dual winners, Skylar Rice and Mallorie Franco.

Rice took the titles in both the 110-meter hurdles (15.6) and the 300 hurdles (42.5).

"It feels really good, especially for all the practice I've put in," said Rice.

How does practice for the hurdles compare to his job as point guard for the Fortuna varsity basketball team?

"You have to be more conditioned for track than for basketball," he answered without needing to pause to think about it.

Franco won the high jump (5-0) and the triple jump (32-1 1/2).

Eureka High's Jack Lamb (11.1) galloped to victory in the 100, and also turned on the afterburners as the anchor man on the Loggers winning 4x100 relay team (45.1).

Talking about the victory in the 4x100, he said, "It's pretty cool. Arcata had a good lead and I felt tense at first, but then I relaxed."

And Bailee McCulloch of the Del Norte won two events, the 200 (26.4) and the 400 (60.5).

Several other events seemed to capture the interest and applause of the crowd.

Eureka's Jonathan O'Connell's final sprint at the finish line in the 3200 edged him to victory (9:59.3) by just a half-second over Logger teammate Kyle Louv, and ahead of third-place finisher, Hank Carl of South Fork.

Speaking of South Fork, the Cubs' Michael Radenbaugh (2:02.2) raced to win the 800, edging McKinleyville's Omar Benjelloun and Arcata's Nate Zwerdling.

McKinleyville's Joe Beeman (23.1) blazed across the line in the 200, ahead of Del Norte's Cody Hoffman and Eureka's Jerome Burks.

Arcata's John Hunter (51.9) led the pack in the 400, and Dillon Ayers of Eureka (4:30.8) won the 1600 ahead of Logger teammates Billy Powell and Jason Haase.

The next-to-last race of the day, the girls 4x400, saw freshman Anya Ritter of Arcata, running anchor, take the baton from teammates Karen Pontoni, Tishelle Daggs and Reneta Westmoreland, and pass Fortuna in the home stretch for a come-from-behind victory (4:11.9).

And finally, kudos to the Fortuna High track and field staff -- especially coaches Rod Kausen and Clint Duey, and starter David Moss -- for a well-organized and well-run 2007 all-county meet.

Close Window

Send To Printer