

W-P track kicks off season at Perkins County Triangular

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

With only 11 girls and eight boys out for track this season, Broncos fans can take a quality over quantity approach to the 2012 Wauneta-Palisade track team.

The Broncos will be led by lone senior and two-time state qualifier Jonee Maris. She finished eighth in Omaha as a junior. Maris will participate in jumping events and relays. Sophomore Abbie Fanning also made the trip to state in 2011 competing in the 400 and 800. After experiencing the atmosphere in Omaha, Head Coach Dawn Doetker says Fanning hopes for State medals this year. Fanning may also run relays.

Emma Skelton returns as the only junior girl. Doetker says that after picking up four district medals in 2011, Skelton looks to be a strong contributor in the hurdles and jumps and anticipates a trip to State.

Sophomores Brooklyn Nordhausen, Taylor Lee and Cassidy Rathe all lettered last year and will throw shot put and discus.

Maris, Fanning and Lee have experience running relays.

Five freshman girls have reported for the season.

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Hannah Nordhausen and Nicole Strand will throw for the Broncos. Leiauna Alberts will participate in high jump and run middle distances and relays. Brianna Einspahr will also run middle distances and relays, as well as throw shot put. Sydnee Harchelroad will help round out relay quartets, run 300 hurdles and will do both long and triple jumps.

On the boys' side, four returning letter winners will pace the Broncos.

Junior Jacob Maris and sophomore Wes Anderjaska will run long distance events, while sophomore Hayden Pollmann will do middle distances. Another sophomore, Landon Jutten, will do jumps and run in relays.

Maris, Pollmann and Anderjaska return as members of the 3200 relay.

The Broncos roster includes three other juniors. Cody Hicks, Donald Hunt and Connor Kayton look to add depth to the squad.

Freshman Chris Carl rounds out the eight man team. Doetker says the lack of numbers "is going to hurt us because we are limited."

Hicks and Carl will throw for the boys side. Hunt will run long distances. Kayton, in his first season for the Broncos, will be limited early on because of a knee injury, notes Doetker. Kayton will do high jump, relays and possibly a running event as he recovers.

Logan Bischoff, recovering from shoulder surgery, will serve as student manager.

Results at the end of 2011 showed team members peaking at the right time. Many hit personal bests as the season wound down. With the assistance of Janessa Wood and Chris Crowell and Shelby Cox with the throwers, Doetker's team kicks off its season, Thursday, March 22 at the Perkins County Triangular and hopes to peak when districts roll around in May.

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Like many in the area the team has enjoyed the mild spring weather and Doetker, in her seventh year, says the team has been working hard. The team is “getting back into shape so we can start to go forward and we’re hoping for a great season of performances and personal records.”