



Amanda Kehler, 14, had a best mark of 11 feet, 3 inches in the long jump competition on June 30 at the all-comers meet at Hudson's Bay High School. ZACHARY KAUFMAN/The Columbian

COME ONE, COME ALL

All-comers track meets at Hudson's Bay High School gaining in popularity

By **PAUL DANZER**
Columbian staff writer

It was May. Another season was ending. Clark College track and field coach Dave Caldwell and his staff were contemplating options for keeping their athletes active over the summer. One idea: hold all-comers meets.

They decided the idea had legs. "Initially, I was thinking I would do it next year," Caldwell said.

But soon the race was on to put together a 2008 program. By June 16, Caldwell was welcoming about 80 athletes to the track at Hudson's Bay High School for the first of what he hopes becomes a popular summer tradition in Vancouver.

The Monday evening meets begin at 5:30 and last for about three hours. Two more are scheduled this month.

The motivation was to give high school and college athletes a place close to home to compete during the warm summer months. Caldwell noted that there are regular all-comers meets in Eugene, the Seattle area and eastern Washington.

"There was just nothing in this area. A lot of my own (Clark College) kids were interested in competing in the summer," Caldwell said.

Instead of college and high school athletes, the first meets turned out to be family events. Children as young as 4 have been entering races and giving the high jump, long jump and turbo javelin a try.

"A lot of youths are showing up. It's just awesome to see those kids out there having fun," Caldwell said. "There's so much you can get joy out of watching the young kids out there racing and having a great time."

This year the meets include hand-timed races, with the distances changing each week to offer variety. Next summer, Caldwell said he hopes to use automatic timing.

The trick to staging successful all-comer's track meets is getting enough volunteers.

Caldwell said he can always use more help, but that the meets have run smoothly. He believes the meets can become a popular summer event with more time to get out the word.

"Getting the word out — that's been the roadblock to getting some of the older (high school and college) athletes to show up," Caldwell said.

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■ Results from the June 30 meet are in the Community Scoreboard.



Liam Kerr, 7, uncorks a throw in the "turbo jav" event. ZACHARY KAUFMAN/The Columbian



Photos by ZACHARY KAUFMAN/The Columbian
Above, Kim Crum, center, cheers on her children, nieces and nephews at the June 30 meet. At right, Madison Ball, 8, has her own form in the high jump.



If you go

- **What:** All-comers track and field meets hosted by Clark College.
- **When:** 5:30-8 p.m. July 14 and July 21.
- **Where:** Hudson's Bay High School track, Fort Vancouver Way and McLoughlin Boulevard.
- **Cost:** \$2 covers as many events as each participant wants to enter.
- **Information:**
www.clark.edu/student_life/athletics