

# West Hawaii Today

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## Dragon boys, girls on fire to start season

### Honokaa sweeps team titles

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Josh Abner wants a lot out of his young squad this year, and Saturday his Honokaa team got off to a good start as the Dragons swept both the boys and girls team titles at the season's first west side Big Island Interscholastic Federation track and field meet at Konawaena.

Last year Honokaa sent 14 track and field athletes to the state championships, and this season second-year coach Abner hopes to send 20 to 25 of Hamakua's finest to the Hawaii High School Athletic Association/Island Movers Track and Field Championships, which takes place May 16-17 at Oahu's Mililani High. His team took a confidence-building first step toward that goal with its sweep at Konawaena.

"It's good to lead with a win," Abner said.

Behind junior Beverly Quiamas, who won both the 100- and 400-meter dashes (13.13 and 65.10 seconds, respectively), and freshman Tialana Greenwell, who won the 1,500 (5:29.15) and 3,000 (12:23.63) runs, Honokaa's girls team cruised to the first title of the year with 180 points. Konawaena was second at 76 points. Each of Quiamas' and Greenwell's wins earned the Dragons 10 points.

Honokaa picked up 20 more points for wins by sophomore Ashley Potter (52-08.50) in the discuss throw and Lauwae Ablao (25-06) in the shot put. The Dragons also won the 4x100-meter relay (54.51).

Ka'u, led by Larissa Edwards, was third with 69 points.

The Trojans' Edwards scored 36 of those points herself, making her the points leader for the second meet in a row -- she also topped the scoring at Friday's season-opening meet at Keaau.

"I'm excited (about topping the field two days in a row), but I'm still trying to get 14s in my 100 hurdles," said Edwards, the University of Wyoming-bound senior who won the 200-meter dash (27.18) and the 100 hurdles (15.82)

Edwards took second in two other events, finishing behind Konawaena sophomore Lindsey Dahl in the 300 hurdles (48.54 to 51.07) and Quiamas in the 100 dash with a time of 13.55.

On the boys side, senior Preston Vierra, who won the 400 dash (54.69), helped Honokaa edge host Konawaena. The Dragons scored 125 points to the Wildcats' 120. Kealakehe was third with 92 points.

Larissa Edwards' younger brother, sophomore Jacob Edwards, also had a good day, finishing as the boys individual points leader, scoring 28 of fifth-place Ka'u's 37 points.

He was first in the 110 (15.50) and 300 hurdles (41.34) and second in the 200 dash (24.07).

His win in the 300 was one of the most tightly contested and entertaining races Saturday. Edwards, who posted the best 300 hurdles time in the state (41.25) Friday, had to hold off Konawaena junior Daniel Royce (41.54), who fell behind early and then closed on Edwards only to fall just two-tenths of a second short.

"It's my first race of the season -- I'm a little out of shape, and he (Edwards) has been running on Oahu," Royce said.

Royce's second-place finish was one of many strong performances from the host Wildcats Saturday.

On the boys side, junior Sam Unger (5-10) won the high jump, senior Kalii Kunimoto (19-01.25) won the long jump, senior Kaneala Abaya (115-06) took first in the discus and the school's relay team won both the 4x100 (44.97) and 4x400 (3:44.26).

The Wildcat wahine were not to be outdone. In addition to Dahl's win in the 300 hurdles, Konawaena picked up individual wins from freshman Anuhea Wall (4-06) in the high jump and junior Kaua Wall (2:41.97) in the 800. The 4x400 relay team (4:23.92) also won its race.



Ka'u's Jacob Edwards won the boys' 110- and 300-meter hurdles Saturday at Konawaena High School. Edwards also took second in the 200 dash.  
 - Aaron Nagata | Special To WHT