

# George wins Sectional high jump crown

## DCHS boys' record falls

Delphi's boys and girls track & field teams both placed ninth last week at the Lafayette Sectionals.

Olivia George continued her outstanding season in the high jump by clearing 5'1" and winning the Sectional championship. George is the first DCHS girl to win a Sectional crown in 10 years.

As a top four finisher, she competed Tuesday (May 26) in the West Lafayette Regional. She went in as the fifth seed, only one inch out of first place. The top three finishers advance to state competition.

Freshman Carrington Wallace put in a great effort as her season came to an end. She failed to qualify for finals in the 100-meter hurdles, but ran a personal best by almost two seconds in the 300 hurdles, placing sixth.

Wallace and George joined Taylor Saul and Chelsey Marcotte in the seventh place 400-meter relay team. The 3200-meter relay team of Hannah Evans, Ariel Isley, Denise Kendall, and Grace Currie and the 1600-meter relay team of Tiahna Catron, T. Saul, Kaley Saul, and Marcotte, also finished seventh. All three relay teams, along with many others, performed their personal bests for the season.

The boys' team didn't take long to get things started, as the 3200-meter relay team finished fourth and qualified for Thursday's Regional at Lafayette Jefferson. The relay team dropped its time by over 10 seconds and moved up two spots from its seed to qualify. Their time of 8:30.40 set a new school record. Relay members are J.D. Huffer, Ryan Everett, Kevin Kauffman, and Kris Bender.

Senior leader Matt Wilcox followed the relay to the Regional as he also qualified by finishing third in the 400-meter dash. Wilcox also became the first Oracle to place in four events at Sectional since 2001. He added to his 400-meter ribbon with seventh place finishes in the long jump and 200-meter dash and also led the 1600-meter relay team to sixth place. Joining Wilcox on the relay team were Jordan Wagner, Beniot Goffard, and J.D. Huffer. Ryan Everett ran a season best in the 300 hurdles and placed sixth. Senior A.J. Erskin and sophomore Nathan Dubes finished out the scoring for Delphi by finishing eighth in the 110-high hurdles and pole vault, respectively.



### Long jump attempt

Sectional high jump champion Olivia George is seen competing in the long jump event at last week's Lafayette Jefferson track and field sectional. With her first place finish the DCHS senior qualified for the pole vault event at yesterday's West Lafayette Regional. Photo provided

## Lady Oracles finish regular season 23-4, ranked 5th in state

After finishing the regular season, the Lady Oracles are looking to defend their 2008 sectional title. They played last night in the second game of the Carroll sectional (too

late for this week's *Comet*), facing the Lady Patriots of Seeger High School. The championship game is set for Wednesday night.

The Lady Oracles finished

regular season with a 23-4 record and ranked fifth in the state. The Lady Oracles continue to have good pitching and are hitting the ball better each week. They averaged almost 13 hits per game the last four games while pitchers Brittney Atwood and Caitlin Schock gave up less than 4 hits per game.

### Vs. Northwestern

The Lady Oracles defeated Northwestern 10-1. The Oracles jumped out to an early lead and never looked back. Lead off batter Whitney Arion got on base and was sacrificed home by the next two Oracle batters for the first run of the game.

The Oracles followed that up with 3 runs in the second inning and two each in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings. Each of the Lady Oracle starters had at least one base hit with Arion and Carli Rouhier having two each. Starting pitcher Caitlin Schock helped her own cause with a double and Britani Rhodes had a triple and scored on the same play as a Lady Tiger fielder threw the ball into the dug out.

Schock was the winning pitcher, getting her sixth win of the season. Atwood came into pitch in the fifth and got the save.

### Vs. Clinton Prairie

The Lady Oracles hosted the Lady Gophers of Clinton Prairie the next night. This was the final home game for seniors Atwood, Leslie Kayser, Morgan Lavy and Aspen Wallace. Atwood was the winning pitcher getting her 15th win of the season, 12-5 over the Gophers. The bats were hot again as

the Lady Oracles collected 11 hits and also stole 9 bases on the evening, three by sophomore Kara Laxson. For the first time in 11 days the Lady Oracles trailed in a ballgame as they gave up an unearned run in the first. Being behind lasted one half of one inning as the Lady Oracles scored 5 runs in the first, batting through the line up.

The Oracles were held scoreless in the second but scored in each of the remaining innings of the game. Schock was 2 for 3 on the night with a double in the fourth. Danni Burge and Rouhier were 2 for 4, Burge had two steals. Wallace had

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## Run/Walk is part of Western Days in Russiaville

The Gene Parks Honorary 5K Run/Walk will be held Sunday starting at 1 p.m. as part of the Western Days Festival at Russiaville.

Registration will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Russiaville Town Hall. The registration fee is \$10 and includes a t-shirt while supplies last.

There will be four divisions: male run, female run, male walk and female walk. Trophies will be presented to division winners while the top five finishers in each division will be awarded a ribbon.

There will be random prize drawings after the race.

## Seurycnck to end 41-year teaching career

### Comet staff report

Delphi Community High School's U.S. history and psychology teacher Joseph "Joe" Seurycnck will retire after 41 years of teaching at the end of the 2009 school year.

Seurycnck has taught at DCHS for the past 38 years. During that time he has taught religion, sociology, psychology, U.S. history, world history, economics and government.

He has served as sponsor for the junior and senior classes, AFS, and Student Council, as well as being Academic Decathlon coach and sponsor, Academic Super Bowl coach and sponsor, football statistician, basketball scorer and statistician, track worker and assistant baseball coach.

"I wanted to be a teacher for most of my life," Seurycnck said. "I can remember playing school when I was very young. My parents, Thomas and Ottolynn Seurycnck were both very supportive of my obtaining an education. They were close enough to being immigrants that they appreciated education as an opportunity which was not often offered in other countries."

Seurycnck, a native of Marine City, Mich., graduated in 1960 from Holy Cross High School in Marine City. He graduated from St. Clair County Community College (Port Huron Junior College) with an Associate degree in liberal arts and an Associate degree in science.

In 1966 he graduated from the University of Notre Dame du Lac with a Bachelor of Arts degree in U.S. History and in 1967 with a Master of Arts degree in U.S. History with minors in philosophy, theology and world history.

He received the William Randolph Hearst Fellowship and earned education credits from Eastern Michigan University and studied social psychology and economics at Purdue University.

His teaching career began at Holy Cross High School in Michigan, where he taught for one year and then two years at St. Mary's High School in Mt. Clemens, Mich. He also served as the assistant principal at St. Mary's. He then came to Delphi.

"The great reward in teaching has been to see the personal growth in the students," he said. "To see young men and women whom you have had the privilege of teaching, loving and caring for their families and to realize that you have had some small part

in it, is the most gratifying aspect of having been an educator. The most difficult aspect is to see your former students still struggling with life and to wonder if you might have been able to have made a difference. In the end, it is best neither to take all of the credit nor all of the blame, if you wish to sleep at night.

"People often comment to me that the present students have changed so much. For better or worse they still look and act like many of the friends with whom I went to school. They are really not all that different. They are just children and "adults in various stages of developing." If you wish to start with a finished product, you had better look for another line of work. By the way, many of these young ladies and gentlemen are facing and coping with problems of which we never ever dreamt.

"The greatest change in teaching itself has come by way of paperwork and documentation. Teachers have always been accountable, but mostly to the parents. Now it seems that the teachers and the schools are mostly accountable to some government agency. I find it depersonalizing. If teaching is anything, it is an interpersonal relationship.

"I have written a piece for the Parnassus, our school newspaper. In that article I emphasized the need to 'respect' yourself and others. Many of the greatest problems of the world result from a failure to respect each other. If you can have the humility to accept the absolute equality of human beings as they stand before Almighty God, you are on the right road.

"On the other hand, I have learned much from my students. They keep you humble. It is humbling, as I have observed many times in my teaching career, looking out at a class and realizing that there are many of them who are more intellectually talented than you are. Yet, you are called upon to help them develop all of that talent. It also becomes clear that many have exceptional talents in other areas where you have little talent yourself. You also help them by encouraging those unique talents and personal characteristics.

"Delphi Community School Corporation has been a wonderful place to work. I have had the honor to teach with an exceptional staff throughout my tenure here. As I write that sentence, their names and faces run through



Seurycnck

my mind. A smile comes across my face as I fondly remember them. I learned more about teaching from them than from any education professor in my training.

"I have been fortunate to work for administrators who have, for the most part, had the best interests of the students in mind. They have tried to bring them the best education possible and the success of our student body bears testimony to the effectiveness of the educational curriculum at Delphi. They were not perfect but that has kept all of us humble.

Seurycnck's wife, Kay, is trained as a teacher and social worker. He credits her honesty as balancing his life and enlightening his mind.

"She has in many ways been my 'master teacher,'" he said. "I hope this is true of all marriages. She has been a great blessing to me in my career."

Seurycnck said their retirement plans include a possible move to the Holy Cross Retirement Village across from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend. They have a retirement community, an assisted living facility and a nursing home.

"We would surely miss the people of Delphi but would be closer to our son, Thomas,

and the grandchildren," Seurycnck said. "Of course these plans would all depend upon being able to sell our house and close things here."

The Seurycncks have one son, Thomas, also a graduate of Notre Dame, as well as a graduate of the University of Chicago. He and his wife, Margaret, are the parents of two daughters, Caitlin Rose, who is almost four, and Alyssa Grace, who is almost two. There will be a new little one who is expected in October.

"I would like to thank all of my former students and their relatives who have made such kind comments to me about my career here," Seurycnck added. "These are more important to me than any type of socially perfunctory comments that sometimes go with retirement. I also hope that all who may feel that I have not been what their particular child needed will forgive me for my own human weakness. There was, after all, only one perfect teacher. This saying was found on a teacher's desk at an academic competition by my wife:"

*Teaching is a partnership with God. You are not molding iron; nor chiseling marble. You are working with the Creator of the Universe in shaping human character and determining human destiny."*

## Oracles win two to close regular season; sectional starts Thursday

By John Dunn  
Contributing sportswriter

Delphi baseball team closed regular season with consecutive Hoosier Conference victories over Rensselaer, giving the team the momentum it was looking for heading into Sectional play this week.

The Oracles swept the Bombers, winning 9-6 on Thursday night there, then 8-7 in a 8-inning affair at home in the back-half of the home-and-home series on Friday.

Prior to its two-game winning streak, Delphi lost a rescheduled conference game against Tipton 13-2 in five innings last Tuesday night at home.

### Vs. Rensselaer

In the regular season-finale, the Oracles were anxious for a sweep for a number of reasons, chief among them - heading into the Sectional on a high-note, as well as leveling their overall record at 14-14.

They did just that, as An-

drew Flora's fly ball fell between three Bomber fielder's into short right field, scoring pinch-runner Jason Stewart with the game-winning run in the bottom of the 8th inning.

Neil Snoeberger led off the inning with a double and scored on Dayton Rumell's single to right to tie the game and help set-up the come-from-behind victory.

Dustin Salyer had three hits, including a triple and two RBIs to lead the Oracles, while Austin Hawn had two hits including a home run, and Flora and Rumell each added two hits and an RBI apiece.

Tanner Cripe earned the victory on the mound, pitching the final inning in relief of the starter Hawn and Salyer, who came on in the 6th and pitched two scoreless innings.

Karson Bender added a hit and an RBI, with A.J. Beckett and Snoeberger contributing a hit apiece, and Shane Hyman a sacrifice fly RBI.

### At Rensselaer

The Oracles overcame a 6-1 deficit with a 7-run 6th inning en route to this victory.

Bender continued his hot streak, going 3-for-4 with 3 RBIs. Cripe pitched two scoreless innings to earn his first save of the year in relief of Salyer, who earned the rare one-batter faced win in relief of starter Snoeberger.

Rummel added a hit and an RBI, with Beckett, Salyer and Snoeberger adding hits, and Hyman and Tyler Smith adding RBIs.

### Vs. Tipton

The Oracles had four doubles and committed only one error on this one against Tipton, but the Blue Devils pounded out 14 hits en route to a 13-2 victory by the 10-run rule.

Hawn went 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI, and Bender added a double and an RBI to lead Delphi, with Rumell and Snoeberger adding doubles, and Flora a single to account for the Ora-

cle's six hits.

Four Oracles have maintained hot streaks at the plate down the stretch - Bender is now 15-for-26 (.577 avg.) with four doubles, a triple, a home run and 13 RBIs over the last seven games, while Salyer has hit 24-of-54 (.444) over the last 15 games, including 18 RBIs, three doubles and two triples. Hawn is now hitting .365 (19-of-52) over the last 18 games with four doubles and a home run, and Rumell is 4-of-7 (.571) over his last three.

The Oracles will next host Fountain Central in the opening round of the Delphi Sectional on Thursday at 6 p.m., with Carroll scheduled to face the winner on Monday at 7 p.m.

Seeger will play Clinton Central in the opening game Monday night at 5 p.m., with the semi-final winners advancing to the championship game set for Tuesday at 6 p.m.

