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(Neb.)-Eagles Open New Year On A High Note

By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 01/27/2013 06:43 AM

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Chadron State track and field opened its first competition of 2013 on a high note at the Air Force Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Competing against Division I schools from around the country, Chadron State managed to have 14 individuals place in the top 10.

Five Eagles provisionally qualified for the NCAA Division II Indoor National Championships in March, highlighted by Dean Francis' fourth place finish in the 200 meters with a time of 22.36 and Kolten Jelden's second-place finish in the pole vault.

Jelden's winning mark was 15-feet, 7-inches, improving on the previous record set by Skyler Hoopes (15-5) last month at Black Hills State.

Other provisional qualifiers were Phil Rivera, Alyssa Norton and Mel Herl.

Rivera ran the 400 meters in a time of 50.04 seconds, Norton was fifth in the shot put with a throw of 45-2 ½, and Herl finished sixth in the shot put (43.1) and ninth in the weight throw (52-0).

Joining Herl and Norton in the top 10 of the shot put for the Eagles was Cyndi Thomas, who finished eighth with a toss of 43-1/4.

Also for Chadron State, Aria Hughes finished fourth in the 400 (50.04) and she triple jumped 34-6 ¾ to finish eighth.

The men placed second in the 1600 relay, running it in 3:21.84, while the women's 1600 relay came in third (4:06.40).

Other high finishers were freshman Zerek Jones, who jumped 6-6 ¾ in the high jump to finish ninth, and Alex Johnson, who finished seventh in the 800 with a time of 2:02.12.

Several men competed well in the field events for the Eagles.

Donnie Butler and Lanar Newman each finished in the top 10 of the triple jump and they both

finished in the top 11 of the long jump. Newman came in eighth at 44-2 1/2, while Butler finished ninth (43-6 1/2) in the triple jump. Their places switched in the long jump as Butler went 22-7 1/4 to finish seventh and Newman ended in 11th (21-10 3/4).

Also for CSC in that event, Greg Rodriguez finished 10th (22-1/4), Hunter Dittbenner was 16th and Jake Brunette was 21st.

Charith Kapukotuwa was seventh in the shot put with a heave of 52-4, which won his heat, and teammates Kyle McCarthy, Daniel Sotelo and Tanner Rein all finished in the top 21 with their efforts.

Kapukotuwa also finished 12th in the weight throw (56-0).

A pair of women's cross country runners also stood out. Miranda Karn finished 14th in the 800, while Rebecca Volf finished 19th in the mile run.

In the women's pole vault, Kaelie Jelden joined her brother by finishing in the top 10 with an effort of 11-1 3/4. Also for Chadron State in that event, Josey Pehringer and Erin Krause finished 14th.

Chadron State will continue its season when they host the Alumni Invitational next Saturday at the Nelson Physical Activity Center.