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HOT SHOT

Freshman thrower nearing outdoor shot put school record

Amaya admits that competing against upper-classman can intimidate her. She said, however, that as soon as she is going to throw she just focuses on her game.

“Yeah, I really am (intimidated),” Amaya said. “I try not to be intimidated but it’s really hard. I try to find a way to push through it. Before I throw I was intimidated, but by the time I get in the ring that feeling just goes away and I know what to do.”

According to Andrea, she believes throwing against older girls helps Amaya compete and push herself.

“When she competes against people who are older than her I tell her, ‘Suck it up and be you,’” Andrea said. “I try to instill in her that it doesn’t matter about the competition, it’s about you. You don’t want to go into a situation defeated. There’s nothing wrong with being nervous and anxious, but (there is something wrong with) being scared or fearful. I don’t want her being afraid or fearful that she is not going to compete well. But she can be nervous because of something new; she’s going against older people.”

Amaya’s indoor throw was roughly two feet short of last year’s outdoor state championship throw made by Dublin Coffman’s Oyesade Olatoye. Amaya’s past experience and skill brings great advantages to the team, and Barry said that he can always rely on Amaya’s performance in meets and can count on her to provide an example to beginning throwers.

“When you have a track meet you win based on points,” Barry said. “For every event that you get: first, second, third, you receive points. So I think for the most part we can count on her get-

ting a lot of points as far as the shot put is concerned.

The other thing that I’ve done because she is so good at what she does (is) I’ll use her as an example for the new throwers. It’s hard to teach shot put to people who don’t know what it should look like.”

According to head girls track coach Tony Affatato, Amaya is already a key component to the team and will only get better throughout her high school career.

“I think she is a huge asset,” Affatato said. “She’s already proved that. I think being a freshman in any program is really tough and I think she’s going to face some 18-year-old women who have been around for a long time. She’s already a huge asset and she is just going to mature and keep working.”

Like all things, time and maturity can result in success. According to Affatato, he rarely sees athletes as young as Amaya excel to the level that she has achieved already this season.

“I don’t think (breaking records) happens much in younger kids at all,” Affatato said. “I think that it is a maturity thing that you often see as they get older. I think the other thing is that they learn how to handle the pressure of some of the really big meets. You have to be there first to know that the top four move on to the state championship and how you handle that (and) how you tailor that.”

Despite her young age, Amaya expects to be standing on the top of the podium at the end of this season.

“I want to at least hit a 45,” Amaya said. “And I want to try to win state.”

.625

Junior baseball player Vince Vannelle has a batting average of .625.

5

Senior Hailey Ellis has hit five home runs this year, which leads the GMC. Sophomore Brooke Rice is behind her ranking third in the GMC with two home runs this season.

4.14

Junior Ben Fago averages 4.14 kills per conference game along with a total of 29 kills this volleyball season.

21-09

Junior Jeron Besecker placed first in long jump at the Coaches Classic with a jump of 21’9”.

Results as of April 12.

The Chronicle Sports

MVP: GABBY LASALA

Sport: Softball

Class: 2015

Claim to Fame: Committed to Tennessee Tech University for softball

Best thing about softball: Playing as a team

Worst thing about softball: Getting rained out all the time

Toughest Opponent: Lakota East, Lakota West, Lebanon

Motto: Team

Celebrity Crush: Bradley Cooper

Embarrassing Moment: Tripped over shoelaces in a game, whipped out and was tagged out

Netflix Addiction: Dexter, One Tree Hill



Photo contributed by Gabby Lasala
Senior Gabby Lasala plays defensively on the field.