

Sports & Outdoors

Reclaiming the Cup



The Shelton High School football team celebrates after defeating intracounty rival North Mason on Friday night at Jack Stark Field at Highclimber Stadium in Shelton. The Climbers' 45-6 win over the Bulldogs ended a three-year losing streak in the series. *Journal photo by Justin Johnson*

Gould runs wild in Shelton victory

By Justin Johnson
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For the first time in four years, the Cup is staying in southern Mason County.

Senior Gavin Gould scored five touchdowns and the Shelton High

School football team ran past rival North Mason 45-6 in the ninth annual Mason County Cup – Battle for the Axe on Friday night at Jack Stark Field at Highclimber Stadium in Shelton.

“As a team, this game was very important to us,” Gould wrote in an email. “The Bulldogs have won every

year since I’ve been in high school, so taking that axe back meant a lot to our team.”

Shelton’s home field win snapped a three-game North Mason winning streak in the series dating back to 2017 and the Climbers now lead 5-4.

“The game means a lot to a lot of people and meant a lot to the community, to the district, to our football program, to alumni, and we were happy

that we could play a really good brand of football in an important game,” Shelton coach Mark Smith wrote in an email. “I thought all three aspects of the game — offensively, defensively and special teams — played well and had a role in the win. It’s good to have the axe back home and to win the Mason County Cup.”

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Climbers win Evergreen XC title

By Justin Johnson
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When Alauna Carstens burst through the tree line on the north side of Lake Isabella State Park, Aiden Gregg and Ali Clifton soon followed and the final one-third of a mile of the 5,000-meter course of the Evergreen Conference girls cross country championships became a coronation.

Led by Carstens’ season-best time of 21 minutes, 47.9 seconds, the Shelton High School girls cross country team won the Evergreen championship with a team score of 32 on Saturday afternoon.

It was the Highclimbers’ first girls league title since 2013.

“The conference meet was memorable. About 30 girls competed at leagues, so it was competitive,” Carstens wrote in an email. “Ali, Aiden and I focused on making power moves on the hills. The whole Shelton girls team was really engaged during this race. It felt good to come in first at the finish line and have my teammates right there with me.”

Gregg finished second with a season-best 21:53 and Clifton was a half-second behind at 21:53.5. The trio have finished 1-2-3 in

every race Shelton has competed in during the season.

“I’m not going to say we went into this meeting expecting that to happen, however I will say that throughout the season ... our top 3 have really just been able to motivate each other during our actual races,” Gregg wrote. “We are really strong and competitive together. Working together throughout the season to get that has really made us strong and we were super-motivated to prove that.”

And prove it they did. The course at Lake

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Shelton High School’s Alauna Carstens was the individual winner at the Evergreen Conference girls cross country race Saturday at Lake Isabella State Park near Shelton. The Climbers claimed the team title. *Journal photo by Justin Johnson*