

## Balenseifen challenges speedy Texans



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### Balenseifen duels with Texas foe

Deer Creek's Bryce Balenseifen smoked to a pair of second-place finishes in Texas March 20-21.

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**Balenseifen challenges speedy Texans** By JOHN MARTIN  
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DALLAS — Bryce Balenseifen, Deer Creek's two-time defending state champion in both track and field and cross country, journeyed south of the Border to Texas during spring break to challenge the cream of the crop from the Lone Star state in two distance races.

And to no surprise, he more than held his own in the Dallas Jesuit Sheaner Relays March 20-21 in Dallas.

In the 1600 meter run, Balenseifen finished with a career-best 4:19.68 to finish behind Carter Blunt of Frisco Independent, who took the gold medal with a sizzling time of 4:12.46.

Balenseifen's time in the 1600 is slightly better than his winning time in the event at the Oklahoma state meet in 2014 where he was clocked in 4:19.68. The state record in the event is held by Chance Rush of Enid, who logged a 4:13.89 in winning the state Class 6A championship in 1994.

The Deer Creek ace had a best of 4:19.77 in winning the state 5A title last spring.

Balenseifen's performance in the 3200 meter run was even more spectacular as he sped to a 9:19.56, which would erase the standing state record in Oklahoma of 9:22.60, set by Mike Bilyue of Tulsa Hale in 1983.

Blunt was again the winner in the 3200 meter run as he cracked the elusive nine-minute mark with a winning time of 8:57.01. Balenseifen's time was 10:00.77 in winning state in 2014 and he had a 9:59.76 while taking the gold medal in the 5A meet in 2013.