

Pacific Association Athletes Sparkle at USATF Junior Olympic Region 14 Championships

Sasha Wallace and Nijae Jones Set PA/USATF Records

By Alexander Hill

Youth track and field enthusiasts lined up June 19 through July 1 for the 2007 USA Track & Field Junior Olympic Region 14 Championships held at Ratcliffe Stadium (Fresno City College). They were treated to some top-notch excitement and record breaking performances. The top three finishers in each event qualified for the 41st USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships (July 24-29, Walnut, California).



Several notable performances came from the Bantam Girls division where **Jasmine Hardy** (3M Track Club) dominated the 800m with a winning time of 2:32.51. Following behind in a close content were second placer **Giovanna Raffin** (LSI Sprint) and **Nyela Cade** of (3M TC) in third. Giovanna recorded a personal best of 2:40.25. Fine sportsmanship was the memorable moment as the athletes congratulated each other on their success. Jasmine later double in the Bantam Girls 1,500m run with a winning time of 5:17.23. Her 3M TC teammate **Jade Hardy**, finished second in 5:38.83. **Nina Bessolo** (Castro Valley TC) followed close behind in 5:45.02for third.

In the Bantam Girls 100m Dash, **Mytae Ware** (Stockton-B-Fast) ran an impressive 14.07 in the prelims and later

Alexander Hill Photo

won the finals in 14.16. Meanwhile, in the Bantam Girls 400 meters the Pacific Association turned in the first of many sweeps by finishing 1-2-3. **Chloe Jenkins** (1:05.36, 3M TC) was first, **Tranette Forbes** (1:08.80, East Palo Alto Greyhounds) was second, and **Giovanna Rafffin** (1:09.69, LSI Sprint) was third.

In the Bantam Girls 1,500m Race Walk the Umoja Track Club's triple threat of **Caitlin Palacio** (1st, 9:25.93), **Antigone Pirritano** (2nd, 9:47.00) and **Tessa Marshall** (3rd, 10:11.21) all walked right into the JO Nationals. 3M Track Club dominated both the 4x100m and 4x400m Bantam Girls Relays, qualifying both their "A" and "B" teams in the 4x400m relay for JO Nationals.

In the Midget Girls division, three of PA/USATF's strongest sprint hopes for the 100m — former teammates **Alexandra Diaz** (LSI Sprint), **Kylie Palacio** (Umoja TC), and **NyErin Buckley** (3M TC) — headlined the dash fields. In the 100m prelims these three girls recorded the three fastest qualifying times: 12.95 for Buckley, 13.02 for Diaz, and 13.07 for Palacio. The finals, however, concluded with Buckley first (12.91), Palacio second (12.92), and **Keionna Devereaux** third (TNT TC, 13.04). Buckley doubled by winning the Midget Girls 200m Dash in 26.51 with **Lashall Hamlin** (Isc International) charging through for second place in 26.84.

In the Midget Girls 400m Dash, **Sasha Wallace** (3M TC) won in a new PA/USATF Midget Girls record time of 57.74.

Alexandria Diaz (LSI TC) was one of the favorites in the Midget Girls 100m and 200m races, but missed JO Nationals qualifying spots in these events. She earned a qualifier, however, in the 400m by finishing second to Wallace in a beautifully executed 1:00:76, a new personal best. Sparks will fly when these girls line up for JO Nationals.

Nijae Jones (3M TC) set a new PA/USATF Midget Girls 800m record when she sped past a strong field and hit the tape 2:20.05. Two additional PA/USATF hopefuls, **Isabelle Connell** (2:22.54, Umoja TC) and **Kieran Gallagher** (2:26:02, Palo Alto Lighting) earned second and third place finishes while qualifying for the JO national meet

Spencer Moore (3M TC) led the Pacific Association to 1-2-3 sweeps in the Midget Girls 1,500, and 3,000m events. In both races **Mariah Walker** (Oakley, CA) and **Kyla Auito** (Alamo, CA) finished second and third behind Moore who is the PA/USATF MG 3,000m record holder. Another PA/USATF sweep was turned in for the Midget Girls 80m Hurdles: 3M Track Club teammates **Orianne Goodspeed** (12.58), **Sasha Wallace** (12.90), and **Kortni Sayers-Jones** (13.31) were the first three across the finish line.

In the Midget Boys division, stellar performances were turned in by City Track's **Christoper Kirtman**. Moments after crossing the line at 100m in 12.78 for second place, Kirtman won the 200 meters in a smooth 26.19. **Lavalle Hamlin** (ISC International) also

qualified for JO Nationals with a season best of 26.91 in third place. **Hamlin** also qualified in the 400m race with a third place (1:00.93).

Robert Amick of Sunnyvale , CA possesses the personable style, potential, and measured confidence of a Gold Medal hopeful. He easily won the Midget Boys 800 m event, cruising in at 2:18.47. In the Midget Boys 3,000, **Dale Skinner** (Roseville Express) also cruised to victory, winning in a time of 10:32.39. Skinner also finished second (4:55.99) in the 1,500m race.

In the Youth Girls Hurdles events , the Pacific Association dominated across the board. In the 200m Hurdles, **Chalese Davis** (1st, 28.01, AC TC), **Daje Pugh** (2nd, 28.13, B Sharp TC), and **Stephanie Blumm** (3rd, 29.05, unattached) swept. In the 100m Hurdles it was **Trinity Wilson** (1st, 14.32, East Oakland YDC), **Chalese Davis** (2nd, 14.47, AC TC), and **Stephanie Blumm** (3rd, 15.38)i.

In the Intermediate Girls100m Hurdles, it was **Victoria Johnson**(1st, 14.78, 3M TC), **Alitta Boyd** (2nd, 15.21, Oakland PAL), and **Asha Treadwell** (3rd, 15.22, CA TC). In the 400m Hurdles, PA/USATF Intermediate Girls also hurdled their way to a 1-2-3 finish, led by LSI's **Katies Nelms** (1:04.59), and followed by **Sylvonna Thompson** (2nd, 1:06.40) of MP Striders, and **Jordan Hardy** (3rd, 1:08.07) of Roseville Express. The Young Women's 100m Hurdles followed form with **Briana Stewart** (3M TC), **Alicia Truesdale** (AC TC), and **Ese Ntekume** (Deer Valley TC) taking the 1-2-3 sweep.

This trend continued as the boys hit the track to pick up where the girls left off. In the Youth Boys 200m Hurdles, **Kenneth Walker III** (Isc International), **Lovell Samuels** (3M TC), and **Tyler Castelo** (MP Striders) went home with top-3 honors. Kenneth Walker III also won the Youth Boys 100m Hurdles earlier in the day.

The 4x100m and 4x400m Relays were show stoppers. As promised, **Umoja Track Club**'s Midget Boys treated the crowd to a sweep in both events, plus added a second place finish in the 4x800m Relay, to qualify in all three relays. The Youth Girls 4x400m Relay was a quick race as **Mission Valley Track & Field** clocked an impressive 48.54 for the win, **Hilltop Speed** was right on their heels at 48.67, followed closely by **Isc International** in the third spot at 49.51.

The Youth Girls 4x400m Relay was probably the highlight of the meet. Hilltop Speed's **Daniela Pacini** ran one of the best quarter mile legs of the day. On the last lap, **Hilltop Speed** was in first place as it exchanged the baton to Pacini at anchor. Atiya Harvey of **Mission Valley T&F** was in hot pursuit trying to make up the stagger. Harvey tried to take the lead on the second turn, but with a champion's heart Pacini fought her way around the final turn and led down the homestretch. Pacini held on for a Hilltop Speed victory with a "sub-4" time of 3:59.74. Pacini's strong finishing kick earned her the name "Brave Heart."

The Youth Boys 4x100m Relay was equally dramatic as top finisher **Isc International** ran 45.77 for the win over rivals Stockton B-Fast with Deer Valley TC not far behind. It was

Stockton-B-Fast, however, putting in the last word with a quick four laps in the Youth Boys 4x400m Relay event, as they won by a slim margin of 0.14 seconds over Isc International.

In all, Pacific Association/USATF dominate this Junior Olympics regional meet while declaring its intentions as a major force for the upcoming National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships.

Here are some other notable Pacific Association performances that were turned in:

100 Meter Dash :

3 Arnold, Mackenzie	Roseville	14.74	BG
1 Wilson, Trinity	EOYDC	12.11	YG
2 Campbell, Strangenea	Hilltop Speed	12.13	YG
3 Harvey, Atiya	Mission Valley	12.34	YG
1 Lindsay, Shelby	Acorn Oscar Bail	12.19	IG
2 Duarte, Jasmin	Pacific United	12.25	IG
3 White, Monikkia	AC Track Clu	12.37	IG
1 Garrett, Chrrelle	AC Track Clu	11.69	YW
1 Jones, Aaron	Mission Valley	13.41	BB
3 Menon, Sahit	CA, CA	13.78	BB
2 Kirtman, Christoper	City Track	12.78	MB
1 Harris, James	Oakland, CA	11.42	YB
3 Beard, Johnny	Isc Internat	11.78	YB
1 Riggins, Anthony	vpal Fast Fo	10.76	IB
2 Jack, Jalil	vpal Fast Fo	11.06	IB
3 Jack, Maurice	vpal Fast Fo	11.12	IB
1 Shaw, Curtis	AC Track Clu	10.64	YM
2 Waters, DeSean	AC Track Clu	10.71	YM
2 Arukwe, Stanley	AC Track Clu	10.71	YM

200 Meter Dash :

2 Forbes, Tranette	East Palo Alto, CA	29.01	BG
3 Terrell, Iyanna	Tnt	29.72	BG
1 Campbell, Strangenea	Hilltop Spee	24.79	YG
2 Harvey, Atiya	Mission Val	24.81	YG
3 Harper, Jazmin	Mission Val	24.94	YG
2 Kamson, Chelsey	AC Track Clu	25.22	IG
2 Nguyen, Eileen	Isc Internat	24.55	YW
3 Jones, Shaprice	Stockton, CA	24.78	YW
1 Jones, Aaron	Mission Val	27.16	BB
1 Garrick, Carlyle	Oakland Pal	22.97	YB
2 Harris, James	Oakland, CA	23.17	YB
1 Riggins, Anthony	vpal Fast Fo	21.82	IB

3 Jack, Jalil	vpal Fast Fo	22.69	IB
1 Gix, Mario	San Pablo, Ca.	21.41	YM
2 Powell, Quentin	AC Track Clu	21.78	YM
3 Colvin, Robert N.	AC Track Clu	22.12	YM

400 Meter Dash :

3 Geremew, Dannyel	San Jose, CA	1:03.24	MG
1 Harper, Jazmin	Mission Val	57.35	YG
2 Blumm, Stephanie	Unattached	59.01	YG
3 Hardiman, Iesha	Isc Internat	59.15	YG
1 Eley-O'Reilly, Sanura	City Track	56.24	IG
3 Sakellar, Natasha	Isc Internat	57.53	IG
1 Harrison, Jackie	AC Track Clu	55.73	YW
2 Nguyen, Eileen	Isc Internat	56.68	YW
3 Glaeser, Danielle	AC Track Clu	57.28	YW
1 Morris, Bryan	3M Track Clu	1:06.25	BB
2 Menon, Sahit	CA, CA	1:06.48	BB
1 Garrick, Carlyle	Oakland Pal	50.73	YB
1 Craig, Alexander	San Jose, CA	51.45	IB
2 Baptiste, Jeremy	Benicia, ca	52.15	IB
3 Reed, Akil	Oakland, CA	52.25	IB
1 Gray, Roman	Acorn Oscar Bail	48.63	YM
1 Gix, Mario	San Pablo, Ca.	48.63	YM
3 Phillips, Thomas	Isc Internat	48.75	YM