

Eastside makes medal run at winter games

By PAUL SCHWARTZ
Correspondent

HACKENSACK — With many of the top area runners at the Dartmouth Relays at Hanover, N.H., Friday's Ridgewood Winter Games I meet at Rothman Center was a nice chance for some of the other good athletes in North Jersey to excel. And no team took more advantage of the opportunity than the revitalized squad from Eastside.

Paced by hurdles winner Melissa Jones, the Ghosts earned eight varsity medals and a host of novice awards to pace the local entries at the meet, which also draws schools from Connecticut and New York.

Jones, a sophomore out for indoor track for the first time after finishing fifth in the Passaic County outdoor championship, at 100 meters last spring, ran 9.0 to

Ghosts should be a power to reckon with in Monday's Passaic County meet.

"All but eight of the kids are sophoms and juniors and we have only one senior on varsity. These kids love to run and they're having a lot of fun proving it," the coach said.

The only local winner besides Jones was Secaucus senior Felix Olivo, who outraced his Hudson County rival and friend Julio Ortiz of Hoboken in 4:35.3.

"I don't know how many times we've raced each other, but I always enjoy it," said Olivo, as Ortiz stood next to him, shaking his head in agreement. "We know when we race it'll always be close."

Olivo and Ortiz rallied from disappointing finishes in cross-country, Olivo finishing well back in the Meet of Champs after finishing second in Group 1 and Ortiz not

even qualifying for the SMOC after a brilliant win in the Group 3 state sectionals. "It bothered me for a week, but then indoor came and I could set new goals," said Olivo, who was sixth in the SMOC indoor 1,600 last winter.

Other good area finishes were turned in by Caitlin Wittreich of Tenafly, Lisa Ryder of Bergenfield, and Leigh Cadigan of Old Tappan.

Wittreich, in her first 600, ran 1:48.2 for second.

"I let her get too far ahead early in the race," said the talented sophomore. "But I'm glad I ran the race. It was fun."

Ryder was second in the 1,600 in 5:35.9 while Cadigan, one of the top distance runners in the state, dropped down to the 600 and took third in 1:28.3 after leading most of the way.

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easily win the hurdles.

"I know that when I concentrate I can do good," said Jones. "It's nice to run well and to be able to run with the other kids. We really like running as a team."

Eastside coach Bonnie King agrees. "I have a bunch of kids who want medals and they don't care what events they get them in," she said. "I don't want to jump the gun, but this could be a very good group."

With 49 boys and girls out for indoor track, led by Jones, sophomore sprinter Tiamecua Fulton, who was second in the dash, and junior quarter miler Nakiescha McIntosh (second in the girls) and Cortwin Belfield (fourth in the boys), the

1:49.2; 5, Audrey Ting, Secaucus, 1:53.0; 6, Ryann Lantz, Westwood, 1:54.0; 9, Adriane Dorrher, DePaul, 1:56.3; 10, Gail Weissinger, Westwood, 1:58.3.
1,600 — 1, Susan Lombardi, St. Francis, 5:26.5; 2, Lisa Ryder, Bergenfield, 5:35.9; 4, Nikki Callaghan, Westwood, 5:45.7; 5, Katie Cohn, Ridgewood, 5:50.4; 6, Wendy Amster, Tenafly, 5:51.0; 8, Chrissy Odalen, Bergenfield, 6:02.4; 10, Eileen Conn, DePaul, 6:19.1.
1,600 relay — 1, Trenton (Lorine Sueh, Tyelsha Boone, Traci Bell, Stephanie Klay), 4:24.92, Eastside, 4:30.2; 3, Manchester, 4:30.4.
3,200 relay — 1, St. Francis A, 10:8.9; 2, St. Francis B, 10:53.8; 3, Tenafly, 10:58.4; 4, Northern Highlands, 11:05.3; 5, Monroe Twp., 12:10.3.

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Ridgewood Winter Games I

VARSITY BOYS

55 — 1, Henry Cook, Montclair, 6.6; 2, Chris Grant, Snyder, 6.6; 3, Khalid Hunter, Shabazz, 6.7; 4, Jerome Copeland, Shabazz, 6.9; 5, Earl McMillan, Weequahic, 6.9.

HH — 1, Adam Develin, Sayreville, 7.7; 2, Malik Raymond, Shabazz, 7.9; 3, Martin Bowman, New Providence, 8.1; 4, Chantel Brown, Passaic, 8.1; 5, Mark Sorague, Teaneck, 8.2; 6, Keiluan Kelti, Indian Hills, 8.4.

400 — 1, Kerry Blackman, Hoboken, 52.3; 4, Corwin Belfield, Eastside, 54.1; 6, Franklyn Shears, Montclair, 54.3; 10, Charles Wilson, Manchester, 55.0.

800 — 1, Anthony Dayley, Trenton, 1:26.9; 3, Leigh Cadigan, Old Tappan, 1:28.3; 5, Chris White, Northern Highlands, 1:28.7; 6, Bret Wask, Westwood, 1:29.3; 7, Yakubl Miles, Passaic Tech, 1:30.7; 8, Bernard Fraser, Passaic, 1:31.1; 9, Andrew Kyle, Teaneck, 1:31.5; 10, Denzel Valdez, Passaic, 1:31.8.

1,600 — 1, Felix Olivo, Secaucus, 4:35.32; Julio Ortiz, Hoboken, 4:35.8; 4, Jeremy Muratore, Tenafly, 4:41.3; 5, Josh DeScherer, Tenafly, 4:51.0; 7, Bernard Fraser, Passaic, 4:55.6.

1,600 relay — 1, Trenton, 3:37.4; 2, Hoboken, 3:43.7; 3, Old Tappan, 3:48.4; 4, Westwood, 3:49.0.

3,200 relay — 1, Trenton (Jamall Boone, Nigell Boone, Nilia Carter, Anthony Dodley), 8:34.4; 2, Northern Highlands, 8:38.3; 3, Tenafly, 8:42.9; 4, North Bergen, 8:43.2; 5, Monroe Twp., 8:48.0; 6, Passaic Tech, 8:51.1.

VARSITY GIRLS

55 — 1, Traci Bell, Trenton, 7.4; 2, Tiamecua Fulton, Eastside, 7.4; 3, Lorine Sueh, Trenton, 7.5; 4, Shanzy Sowell, Weequahic, 7.6; 5, Naeemah Williams, Eastside, 7.7; 6, Pandora Anderson, Hoboken, 7.8.

HH — 1, Melissa Jones, Eastside, 9.0; 2, Trinise Singletary, Passaic, 9.2; 3, Lucille Tonilo, Old Tappan, 9.4; 4, Janet Andrews, Bergenfield, 9.5; 5, Kerri Gumbel, Bergenfield, 9.8; 6, Traci Bell, Trenton, 9.8.

400 — 1, Shanzy Sowell, Weequahic, 63.7; 2, Nakiesha McIntosh, Eastside, 64.5; 4, Antoinette Dean, Passaic, 64.7; 6, Gina Papa, Secaucus, 65.5; 7, Tiamecua Fulton, Eastside, 66.1; 9, Latoya Barnes, Manchester, 66.4.

600 — 1, Liz Mulhauil, St. Francis, 1:47.4; 2, Caitlin Wittreich, Tenafly, 1:48.2; 3, Jessica Drew, Westwood,

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