

PHOTO BY JEFF ZELEVANSKY

Middletown South's Cate Guiney, who won the 3,200-meter-run at the Meet of Champions on Sunday, will anchor distance medley relay teams tonight at the 62d Eastern States championships.

11 M of C champs to compete tonight in Eastern States

By Jim Lambert

The NJSIAA indoor track and field Meet of Champions signified the end of the season for many, but things are only heating up for New Jersey's finest.

Eleven of the 16 champions from Sunday's 30th M of C will be back on the track tonight to compete in the 62d Eastern States championships at the 168th Street Armory in Manhattan. The meet at 6 p.m. is expected to draw some of the best talent on the east coast.

The Eastern meet serves as a final tuneup for those competing in the 15th National Scholastic championships March 14-15 in Boston.

The M of C winners expected to compete tonight are Kevin DiGiorgio of Bayonne, Todd Matthews of Noire Dame, Joe Lewis of Pleasantville, Nate Sisco of North Hunterdon, Rob Gary of Lenape, Mikele Barber of Montclair, Dara Crocker of Columbia, Cate Guiney of Middletown South, Cheryl Burdick of Ramsey, Carlene Cummings of Englewood and Mia Campo of St. Mary of Jersey City.

In the boys' competition, DiGiorgio, the 1997 indoor and outdoor national shot put champion, will be out to break his two-day-old state record when he defends his Eastern shot put title. He hit 67-3, the top mark in the nation this season, at Princeton's Jadwin Gyn on Sunday to break the mark of 67-1 1/2 set by Jim Gilligan of Toms River East in 1984. Last spring, DiGiorgio set the state outdoor record of 69-8 1/2.

Can DiGiorgio hit 67-3 1/2 tonight? "How about 68?" he asked.

Matthews, the M of C 55 hurdles champion in 7.43, will defend his 55 hurdles title and long jump. The Clemson-bound Matthews, tuning up for defense of his national scholastic pentathlon title, will shoot for the Mercer Country hurdles record of 7.36 set by Stephan Fletcher of Princeton in 1983. Matthews won the Eastern

championship last year in a personal-best 7.36.

Lewis, who ran 1:56.13 to win the M of C 800, will run that race. Sisco, the upset winner in the 1,600 in 4:20.15, will anchor North Hunterdon's distance medley. Gary, the 400 winner in 49.53, will run the 200 and anchor Lenape's 4x200.

On the girls' side, Crocker, the M of C 1,600 winner in 5:07.77, and Guiney will anchor distance medley relay teams. Crocker will run on Columbia's 4x800 if the team is entered.

Barber, who narrowly missed her state 400 record of 55.31 with a meet-record 55.45 on Sunday, will try again. But this time, she'll be wearing spikes, which were not permitted at the M of C.

"I really wanted to get it, but I guess I'll have to try again tomorrow," Barber said Sunday. "My biggest goals are to go under 55 this season and win the nationals."

She was second at the indoor and outdoor nationals in the 400 last year.

Cummings, the M of C 55 hurdles winner in 8.11, will try to win the long jump and triple jump for the third straight year. Cummings, No. 2 on the state's all-time indoor list in the triple jump at 39-7, will try to break the state triple jump record of 39-10 1/2 set by Jen McDermott of Ridgewood in 1989.

Campo, the 800 M of C winner in 2:14.79, will drop down to the 400. Burdick, will enter the high jump after winning that M of C event.

Montclair's 4x400, which ran a meet record 3:55.24 Sunday, won't run another 4x400 this indoor season.

CBF Christian of Science, who had to scratch from the boys' M of C 400 because of an injury, won't run tonight. He plans to return for the nationals. Prior to Sunday, Christian had the second-fastest 400 time in the nation at 49.28.

"He suffered some slight ligament damage to his right knee in practice last week," said Science coach Horace Hooper. "But we are optimistic that he'll be ready for Boston."

**TRACK
AND FIELD**

MEET RESULTS(Cont.)

MANCHESTER NIPS TOMS RIVER EAST AT SHORE

T-Mnchtr 48, TRE 46, CBA 29. 55-Morris, Nptne 6.62. 2-Wright, TRE 6.70. 400-Lang 52.94. 800-Motzenbecker, Wall 2:02.09. 1600-Hahn 4:36.92. 3200-Hahn 9:58.55. HH-Lang 7.70. 2-Cotto, Lkwd 7.72. 3-McCarthy, Alltn 7.78. 4-D'Ambri, Mnchtr 7.85. HJ-DeSarno, CBA 6-4. 2-Barry & Echavaria, Hlmdl 6-4. SP-Vegari 57-2. 2-Wallace, RdBnk 51-11.25. 3-Delprete, TRE 50-6.5. 4-O'Rourke, FrhldBro 50-5.

CAMDEN RUNS 3:24.46 AT VPI INVITATIONAL

VPI INVITATIONAL, Jan. 30-31, Blacksburg, Va.: Camden paid a visit to the new and apparently very fast 200M oval and came off with some fast performances. The 1600R was 2nd in 3:24.46 and the 800R ran 1:33.30. Individually, Tyree Jackson ran 37.06 in the 300M, Sean Brown was 4th in the 500M in 1:06.14 and Danyne Brown had a 7.86 in the 55H heats.

MATTHEWS TAKES PIRATE PENTATHLON WITH 3,683 PTS.

PIRATE PENTATHLON, Feb. 28, Seton Hall: A new meet was born here as six of the state's best all-around boy athletes (plus three girls) participated, including national champion Todd Matthews of Notre Dame. Matthews took the lead with a 7.8 in the 60M HH and was never headed, he finished with 3,683 points, 2nd best ever in the state, with 6-2 in the HJ, 22-3 3/4 in the LJ, 40-6 1/2 in the SP and 3:07.4 in the 1K. He led the HH, LJ and SP.

The competition for 2nd behind him went down to the final event. It went to Chris Feigenbutz of Bishop Eustace at 3,335, with Maurice McClain of Elizabeth 3rd at 3,275 and Mike Stansfield of Garfield 4th at 3,256. Juniors Feigenbutz and Stansfield both cleared 6-4 in the HJ, McClain led the 1K in 2:50.44.

GIRLS TRACK (Cont.)

CUBICCIATTI DOUBLES AT SCHWARTZ INVITATIONAL

SCHWARTZ INVITATIONAL, Feb. 13, FDU: Immaculate Heart Academy freshman Courtney Cubicciatti was a double winner here, taking the 55M in 7.4 and the 300M in 43.8. Teammate Mary D'Ariano won the 800 in 2:30.6.

55-Cubicciatti 7.4. 2-Knighton, PCT 7.4. 300-Cubicciatti 43.8. 800-D'Ariano 2:30.6. 1600-Alexander, PsscV 5:26.5. 55H-Jones, Hack 8.7. 2-Lilien, PscK 8.9. 1600R-Rdgdw 4:24.2. 3200R-FrLwn 10:39.3. DMR-Tnck 13:49.5.

PENNELLS WINS TWO AT STATE PREP MEET

STATE PREP, Feb. 18, Lawrenceville: Lynn Pennell of Lawrenceville was a double winner here in the 55H at 9.3 and the HJ at 5-2. Laura Kunak of Peddie could have easily joined her, but settled for a 1600 win in 5:28.2. No team score was kept.

55-Young, Pedd 7.8. 400-Brennan, Pedd 1:03.1. 800-Schankler, Lawr 2:37.17. 1600-Kunak 5:28.2. 3200-Maslow, Pedd 13:25.0. 55H-Pennell 9.3. HJ-Pennell 5-2. SP-McManus, Lawr 35-2.5. 1600R-Pedd 4:20.4.

COLUMBIA GIRLS STAR IN TWO SETON HALL MEETS

Columbia girls starred in two meets at Seton Hall the weekend of Feb. 28-March 1. On Saturday night, Bridgette Ingram won the first Pirate Pentathlon with 3,373 points. Her marks were 9.03 for the 60H, 5-3 in the HJ, 28-11 in the SP, 17-1 1/2 in the LJ and 2:32.8 in the 800M.

The next day, at the Last Chance meet, Natalie Deffenbaugh ran 1:18.56 in the 500M, Dara Crocker 2:15.18 in the 800M, Amina Zohny a season-leading 3:02.67 in the 1K and Catherine Casey 10:29.00 in the 3K. Danielle Hobson of West Orange also had a 58.99 in the 400M.

EASTERNS (Cont.)

posto 5-6. 2-Burdick 5-6. 4-Mullen, ND 5-4. 5-Okorie, Mtchn & Whitehouse, FrhldBro 5-2. 7-DiStefano & Akey, Mtchn 5-2. LJ-Graham, Taft 19-11.5. 3-Cummings 19-1.5. 5-Bundy, Pnsntvle 17-11.75. 6-Ingram, Clmba 17-7.5. TJ-Cummings 40-6. SP-Hillgrove, Pssc 41-11.5. 4-Flinchum, Dmrst 39-1.5. 5-O'Connor, SoBrun 38-11.5. 10-Brown, Rdgdw 37-3. 12-Betz, TRE 36-7. 800R-Gratz 1:42.34. Also: ND 1:48.05; WashTwp :48.13; Moortn :48.61; Camden :49.29; HuntCent :50.69; Wilson :51.23; WstSde :51.74. Arts :51.79. 1600R-Gratz 3:52.31. 2-Wilbro :53.6.1. 4-MiddSo :4:01.69; 5-WashTwp :04.06. 9-Wall :11.89. 10-HC :11.95. 11-Pnsntvle :12.40. 12-Mtchn :13.75. 13-IHA :15.22. 3200R-Gratz 9:19.76. 2-Clmba :21.08. 7-Lkwd :46.33. 8-Rdgdw :46.8.5. 9-Snyder :48.10. 10-Hlsbro :52.43. 12-Wilbro :54.32. 13-TRC :55.17. 16-Hack :56.47. 17-Rxby :57.27. 18-SJNY :59.53. DMR-Clmba 12:10.19. 4-MiddSo :26.26. 5-Wstfd :49.78. 6-SoBrun :50.57. 7-Vrhs :13:04.04.

EASTERNS

Feb. 24, 168th St. Armory: Carlene Cummings of Englewood led a strong showing by New Jersey athletes here as she set a state record of 40-6 in the TJ. Todd Matthews headed the boys with a double in the 55H and LJ at 7.42 (7.37ht) and 22-3 1/4.

The meet was again basically a battle between New Jersey and New York with a smattering of athletes from Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

The NJ athletes, the juxtaposition to the state AG meet cut down heavily on the participation of distance runners and this was accentuated in the individual events as Columbia chose a relay double which was foiled by Simon Gratz of Philadelphia. The Cougars won the early DMR with a national best of 12:10.19, but lost a tough 3200 battle to Gratz, which had earlier won the 800R and would come back to take a tough 1600R race from Willingboro for an outstanding triple.

Despite the total absence of people like Ian Hahn, Ricky Gibson and Steve Slattery and the relays absorbing Andrew Giannotti, Ryan Smith and Nate Sisco, NJ managed to take two of the three boys' distance races. Joe Lewis of Pleasantville added the Eastern title to his AG crown in 1:56.31 and mercurial Ray Driscoll of St. Joseph, Metuchen, defended his mile title against a strong challenge by his Montvale counterpart, Corey Kunz in 4:21.93.

The SP proved an anticlimax for Kevin DiGiorgio of Bayonne who scored another win over Keith Rzewuski at 63-11.

Plainfield was the only relay winner as it broke a 40-year-old NJ record at the Armory with a 1:30.63, leading all the way. Snyder had run 1:31.6 back in 1958 at the 880Y distance, not only breaking the national HS record at the time, but also the all-comers American mark.

The girls did a lot better than the boys overall. The Montclair fliers were absent, but it was still a 1-2-3-4 finish in the 55 with Amandi Rhett of Moorestown winning in 7.15. Mia Campo of St. Mary's, who won the AG 800 on Sunday, dropped down to take the 400 here in 56.21. The 55H was a Jersey sweep, led by Sheres Price of Pleasantville in 8.06.

In the field events, Kristin Composto of Iselin reversed her AG loss in the HJ to Cheryl Burdick of Ramsey as both cleared 5-6 and Labelle Hillgrove of Passaic took the SP at 41-11 1/2. Cummings also had a 3rd in the LJ at 19-1 1/2.

B: 55M-Myles, Carroll(DC) 6.43. 3-McCormick, Clftn 6.48(6.47). 4-Davis, Pfd 6.50. 5-Smith, BurlTwp 6.52. 7-Atkinson, WstDptfd 6.59(6.53). Also: Johnson, Eliz 6.58ht. 200-Wright, Rice 21.90. 2-Charlz Hester, TRSth 22.26. 3-Haro, Clftn 22.73. 4-Smith 22.92(22.57). 5-Gary, Lpne 22.98(22.56). 6-Virgo, Pfd 23.09(22.87). Also: Brown, Mtrc 22.97. 400-Morgan, Lwrnce(NY) 49.58. 3-Tyree, Mtrc 50.25. 4-Wheeler, Arts 50.27. 5-Potter, SJMet 50.48. 6-Smithlin, FrLwn 50.76. 7-DeSormes, SBP 50.77. 11-Innis, SBP 51.27. 13-DiPadova, PPBro 51.40. 800-Lewis 1:56.31. 4-Wells, Pfd :59.44. 6-A. Lora, Arts :59.56. 8-Bowens, Mtrc :59.69. 10-Ballew, SBP :59.90. 11-Motzenbecker, Wall 2:00.06. M-Driscoll 4:21.93. 2-Kunz :22.35. 4-Baldwin, Hack :25.86. 2M-Meaney, CBA-Syr(NY) 9:16.92. 3-Fasulo, HuntCent :32.37. HH-Matthews 7.42. 5-Lang, TRE 7.80 (7.70). 6-Gantt, RancV 7.82 (7.64). Also: D. Brown, Ccmdn 7.62; McGowens, Hadd 7.72; Diaz, Wlsn 7.82; Zimmerman, Jcksn 7.86. HJ-Cordo, Frll(NY) 6-6. 2-T. Howard, RV 6-6. 4-Apgar, Pspny 6-4. PV-Maddux, Frmgdle (NY) 14-6. 2-Dumbreski, HC 14-0. 3-Gates, NewProv 13-0. LJ-Matthews 22-3.25. 5-C. Howard, WashTwp 21-6.5. TJ-Johnson, Tckhe(NY) 47-1.25. 3-Okarter, Wstwd 46-6. SP-DiGiorgio 63-11. 2-Rzewuski 60-2. 4-Grimm, Lwrvie 53-5. 5-Andes, SJMet 53-3.5. 7-Glover, Hmltn 51-9. 9-Fischer, BC 51-4. 800R-Pfd 1:30.63. 3-Lpne :32.03(31.83). 4-Hack :32.27. 5-Tren :32.79. 1600R-B&G 3:22.09. 2-Cmdn :24.95. 3-Mtchn :25.32. 5-TRS :27.01. 11-Pnsntvle :31.94. 3200R-Iona 8:02.80. 2-Wstwd :04.73. 9-TRS :17.36. 11-Lwrvie :18.14. 13-Wstfd :22.24. 17-CBA :24.08. DMR-StPtrs(NY) 10:34.91. 4-Morrnt :42.40. 5-DBP :44.06. 7-ND :46.70.

G: 55-Rhett 7.15. 2-M. Taylor, Wilo 7.18. 3-Harris, Nptne 7.21. 4-Williams, ND 7.23. 6-Tierney 7.35. Also: Burroughs, Vld 7.47; Mitchell, Arts 7.50; Copeland, Mnchtr 7.59. 200-Ballah, Whlr(RI) 25.51. 2-Scott, SMJC 25.68. 3-Lawson, QunPee 26.25. 4-Franklin, Ccmdn 26.38. 400-Campo 56.21. 5-Lawson 59.84. 7-Coppedge, Mtrc 1:00.77. 800-Quinby, Sfrn(NY) 2:18.87. 2-Stephens, Scott :21.08. 4-White, Sence :22.36. 5-Werchinski, MiddSo :24.36. 7-Mendoza, HCPrep :25.15. M-Howell, Sfrn(NY) 5:07.62. 4-Thomas, PPBro :14.92. 2M-Sutcliffe, NFA(NY) 11:19.73. 3-Gallo, Hwl :38.04. 55H-Price 8.06. 2-Yaeger, Wall 8.43. 3-Distefano, ND 8.47 (8.41). 4-McCabe, ND 8.57. 5-Ingram, Clmba 8.58. 6-Williams, Rxby 8.59. Also: James, Ccmdn 8.60; Lewis, Pfd 8.67. HJ-Com-

(Continued in next column)

Cummings takes triple jump crown

By **PAUL SCHWARTZ**
Correspondent

NEW YORK — If Carlene Cummings can ever get her steps down in the triple jump, the Englewood sophomore might set Bergen County and New Jersey records that may never be approached.

But even missing the takeoff board by feet, not inches, Cummings leaped 37 feet, 9¼ inches, the fourth-longest jump in New Jersey history and second on the all-time Bergen indoor list to win the Eastern States championship Monday night at the 168th Regiment Armory.

"I try to get my steps down, but when I go to jump my stride gets longer," said Cummings, who defeated Demarest junior Kerry Frazer with a big jump on her fifth event as the Bergen athletes dominated a field that included athletes from nine states and the District of Columbia. Cummings even took off from the wrong board on an earlier attempt and was credited with a jump of 36-1½, that might actually have carried for 40 feet."

"She's getting healthier and as a result, she's stretching out more," said Englewood coach Reggie Williams of his star, who missed six weeks in the middle of the season with a hamstring injury. "That throws her steps off. We're trying to get her to take off a little earlier and move back to a more comfortable board to jump off."

Frazer had an excellent night, coming up less than three inches from her personal best with a leap of 36-10. Her jump of

TRACK

37-¾ last week is fifth all-time in New Jersey.

Area athletes had a good night in the meet which included athletes from more than 180 schools.

Caitlin Wittreich of Tenafly had an indoor PR of 2:21.66 in her fourth-place 800 finish, and there were some terrific relay finishes.

Hackensack's 1,600 relay of Marissa Jackson, Latoya Thomas, Deirdre Hayes, and Delcita Russell ran a seasonal best of 4:08.47 for sixth.

Immaculate Heart Academy's team of

Danielle Reinert, Jen Alampi, Michiyo Kawasaki, and Dana Catanese probably qualified for the Penn Relays distance medley with a sixth-place finish in 12:52.28, while Willie Poppe, Tom Redmond, Chris Zuck, and Mike Elkas of Bergen Catholic ran 8:07.61 for sixth in the boys 4x800, qualifying for the national indoor championships in two weeks.

Other medalists included Nakisha Leon of Passaic (third-girls shot); Shaun McGregor of Bergen Catholic (fourth-shot), Walter King of Hackensack (fourth-boys 400), Kourtney Gallo of IHA (fifth-girls 2-mile), Kelly Johnson of Teaneck (sixth-girls 400), and Stephanie Doyle of Ridgewood (sixth-girls mile).

EASTERNS ADVANCE — When Mike Glynn, Jacob Brown, and Larry Coyle revived the Boys Eastern indoor meet in 1994, they thought it would take three or four years to reach its previous status.

When the Easterns takes place Monday at the 168th Street Regiment Armory, girls will be added.

The first boys and girls Easterns will be terrific. The girls formerly raced in Boston.

Competition begins at 5 p.m. in 31 events, including eight relays, and should end before 11 p.m.

Top local hopefuls include the Teaneck boys and Hackensack girls 1,600 teams; Carlene Cummings of Englewood (girls 55 and triple jump), Melene Thomas of Garfield (girls hurdles), Walter King of Hackensack (boys 400 and triple jump), McGregor (favored in the boys shot), Leon (girls shot), and Kerry Frazer of Northern Valley at Demarest (girls triple jump).

It's a nice way to cap off the winter season.

2-23-96

IN THE SCHOOLS

Tucker smashes 55 HH mark; Walker triumphs

By JIM LAMBERT

NEW YORK — In two thrilling 55-meter high hurdle victories for New Jersey runners, Sultan Tucker of Delaware ran 7.23 to smash the boys' state record and Charmaine Walker of Plainfield scored a photo finish and an upset with a time of 8.04 over 1985 national indoor girls' champion Joyce Bates of Philadelphia's Simon Gratz last night to highlight the 89th annual Eastern States Indoor Track and Field Championships at the 168th Street Armory.

New Jersey athletes sparked in other events, too.

In the boys' distance medley relay, Matt Elmuccio ran a sizzling 4:13.7, 1,600 anchor to bring Westfield across first in a 10:24.77, a clocking that is No. 1 in the country this season and also established a school record and is No. 12 on the state's all-time list.

Tucker's 7.23 in the boys' hurdles

is the top time in the country this season and it shattered the state record of 7.32 set in 1983 by Stephan Fletcher of Princeton and later equaled by Jon Dickey of Penns Grove in 1985. Pleasantville's Nate Harley also ran under the state mark with his runner-up time of 7:29 last night.

"It feels great to break the state record," said Tucker, a junior who won the NJSIAA Meet of Champions hurdle title earlier this month. "Nate ran a great race and pushed me the whole way. At nationals I know I'm the man to beat and I know that I can run faster."

The national scholastic championships will be held March 9-10 in Boston.

In the girls' 55 hurdles, Walker

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broke the junior class record and moved into the No. 4 spot on the state's all-time list when she ran 7.94 in the semifinal round.

In the final, Walker and Bates each ran 8.04, but Walker was declared the winner when it was ruled that her torso crossed before Bates did.

"I didn't look, I just leaned," said Walker, the M of C hurdler winner. "I really wanted to break eight seconds, so I was very pleased with that 7.94."

Tucker and Walker were two of seven state M of C winners who placed first last night.

The others were Albert Newkirk of Camden in the boys' 55 dash (6.46), Kiana Corbin of Columbia in the boys'

Elmuccio leads Westfield to 1st in distance medley

won the triple jump at 37.8%, which is a state sophomore class record and No. 4 all-time in state history.

Camden won the boys' 4x400 relay in 3:24.91.

In the boys' 400, Raulna Turner of St. Benedict's finished second in a state season best 49.67 and Walter King of Hackensack, the M of C 400 winner, was fourth in 50.51. Marlon Baugh of New York's Boys & Girls won in 49.41.

In the boys' distance medley, Elmuccio, grabbing the stick in second place and four seconds behind Chambridge of New York, went past 400 in 59 seconds, 800 in 2:02 and 1,200 in 3:09.

took the lead for good with 300 meters on his way to a 4:13.7 split. Westfield's time of 10:24.77. The former Westfield mark of 10:27.5 was set in 1983. West-

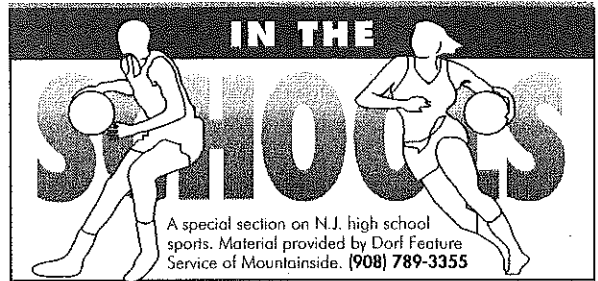
field's first three splits last night were 3:14.8 for 1,200 by Lawrence Ho, 59.7 for 400 by Steve Dennis and 1:59.7 for 800 by Mike Krug.

Last April, Westfield, with Elmuccio splitting 4:11.5, won the distance medley relay Championship of America at the Penn Relays.

"We wanted to run under 10:25 to get a good qualifying time for Penn," said Elmuccio, who won the NJSIAA Meet of Champions 800 earlier this month in 1:55.27. "I felt good so I took it out fast. One of the reasons why I chose to run the 800 instead of the 1,600 late in the season was to improve my speed."

Bergen Catholic's Shaun McGre-gor, the M of C shot put winner, suffered his first defeat of the season when he placed fourth in the shot at 56-1/4.

Sophomore Dara Crocker of Columbia, the girls' 800 M of C winner, split 2:13 flat to bring her team across second in the 4x800 9:22.43.



You can book it: Walker has mind of a champion

By JIM LAMBERT

Plainfield's Charmaine Walker has a one-track mind.

"Whenever I have a book report to do, I do it on track," said Walker, a junior who is one of the premier scholastic hurdlers in the country. "I like reading about people like Jesse Owens and comparing how things have changed over the years in track."

At the start of the indoor season, Walker had pneumonia. When she returned to school, her doctor told her not to get back on the track right away.

So, she buried herself in track books every day at the library.

"I was working on a project for our science fair," said Walker. "I did mine on the dynamics of a runner."

Walker was a study in perfection Monday at the 60th Eastern States track and field championships at the 168th Street Armory, New York City.

Before lining up next to Joyce Bates of Philadelphia's Simon Gratz, the 1995 indoor national high hurdle champion, Walker recalled something she saw on a track special on TV last week.

"I thought about everything I

GIRL ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

needed to do," recalled Walker. "In that show, I remember watching how Wilma Rudolph (the 1960 Olympic gold medal winner in the women's 100- and 200-meter dashes) ran through the line. She didn't put her hands up or anything like that. She just kept running hard all the way through. So, I kept that in the back of my mind before the race."

Walker and Bates were dead even as each crossed the finish line in 8.04. But Walker outleaned Bates to score the photo-finish upset victory as officials declared that her torso crossed before Bates.

"I didn't look; I just leaned," said Walker. "It's amazing how small the difference is between winning and finishing second."

In the semifinal round of the hurdles on Monday, Walker and Bates each ran 7.94. That was a personal best for Walker and it moved her into the No. 4 spot on the state's all-time list.

"I really didn't know what her title was," Walker said of Bates. "I just ran as hard as I could."

Walker is The Star-Ledger Girl Athlete of the Week.

She is now preparing for the 13th national scholastic indoor track and field championships March 9-10 at the Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center



Charmaine Walker
... Plainfield hurdler

in Boston. There, she'll be chasing the state mark of 7.81 set in 1988 by Neptune's Dawn Bowles.

"That 7.81 is on my mind," said Walker, who ran 8.04 to win the NJSIAA Meet of Champions hurdle crown earlier this month. "I'm not saying that I'll get it, but I will reach for it."

At the outdoor M of C last June, Walker won the 100 high hurdles crown in 14.20 and was second in the 200 in 24.87. Also last spring, she had a personal-best hand time of 13.9 in the hurdles, which equaled the state sophomore record.

"I'm technically better now," said Walker. "I'm snapping my lead leg down faster and I'm getting to the next hurdle quicker."

"When she first started hurdling, she got by on her sprint speed and didn't attack," explained Plainfield coach Payton Hines. "Now, she's more aggressive and has become very sound technically. One of the keys to hurdling is to be the first one to hit the ground after each hurdle, and that's what she's doing."

"She is a special athlete," said Hines. "Seldom do you find someone who has all the physical and mental attributes that Charmaine has. Athletes like her don't come around too often. She just has to stay hungry and she can accomplish anything she puts her mind to."

The automatic qualifying standard for the Olympics Trials in the 100 hurdles is 13.60.

"Qualifying for the trials is what I'd like to see her do," said Hines. "It's a goal that I think is definitely within her reach."

Cummings, Hillgrove dominate

By PAUL SCHWARTZ
Correspondent

NEW YORK — In a career of multiple wins and a season of major championships, Carlene Cummings of Englewood reached a new pinnacle of success Tuesday night when she set a New Jersey and Bergen County record in winning the Eastern States Indoor girls triple jump with a mammoth leap of 40-6.

Cummings, who won her third straight triple jump title followed up her New Jersey high hurdles victory of Feb. 22 with the dominating effort Tuesday, and joined Labelle Hillgrove of Passaic, winner of the girls shot put, as local champions in the 62nd annual meet at the 168th St. Regiment Armory Track and Field Center.

In all, 12 area athletes earned 14 individual medals and three relay teams also medaled in a phenomenal local showing against athletes from more than 220 schools from seven states and the District of Columbia. In all, five Bergen and Passaic records were set.

But Cummings was clearly the standout. Winning by more than 4 feet, she had clinched the championship by jumping 38-10 1/4 on her second attempt. A leap of 39-10 on her third of six jumps was a personal best and one-half inch short of the state record, set nine

years earlier by Ridgewood's Jen McDermott.

Then on the fifth leap, she soared to the ninth longest indoor triple jump in American girls high school history.

"I was excited by it," said Cummings, who thrust her arm in the air in triumph when the distance was announced. "There were never any doubts that I could do it [set the record], but not running the hurdles today served me a lot of energy and made it much easier to jump. I passed my last jump because I was too excited."

Cummings wasn't quite done, leaping 19-1 1/4 on her first long jump to take the lead and break McDermott's indoor long jump record of 18-11 1/4. She finished third in the event.

For the third time in her last four meets, Hillgrove blew away the competition with her first throw, throwing 41-11 1/2, just 1/4 inch off her personal best to hold off Rhode Island standout Wadudah Nurul-Islam by 1 1/4 inches. Demarest's Jenn Fincham continued her fine season by placing fourth at 39-1 1/4.

Clifton's duo of Andrea McCormick and Joe Haro enjoyed a sensational night, with McCormick running the fastest 55-meter time by a New Jerseyan this season, clocking a 6.47 in a semifinal, a Passaic County record, and 6.48 in

the final to finish third.

Harro, who came out for winter track late after committing to UNLV for football, also set a county record by speeding to a 22-73 clocking for third place in the 200.

"I didn't think it would be fair to go out for track and take as much time as I would have taken for football recruiting trips," said Harro, who came out the week after the Mustangs had won the indoor Passaic County championships in January. "But I love to run and I was excited to come out after I committed."

The final county record of the evening belonged to Hackensack's 800 relay team of Sterling Wynn, Ibrahim Malcolm, Kawasi Darby, and Michael Jackson, who ran 1:32.27 in taking fourth in a loaded final won by Plainfield.

The Cornets had broken the record first in the trials, running 1:32.49 to edge New York city champ DeWitt-Clinton.

Westwood's quartet of John Demarest, Matt Caporaletti, Andrew Giannotti, and Michael Dorf ran the best time in Bergen in six years, 8:04.73 in taking second in the 3,200 relay, while Corey Kuz of St. Joseph Regional ran 4:22.35 to take second place in the boys 1,600 meters. Cheryl Burdick of Passaic County record, and 6.48 in

Eastern States Track Meet

AT THE ARMORY TRACK CENTER

GIRLS RESULTS
55 — 1, Armandi Rhee, Moresnet (N.J.), 7.15.
200 — 1, Konisa Balah, Wheeler School (N.Y.), 22:51; 2, Diana Lawson, Queen of Peace, 28:35; Also: Shamir Marshall, Teaneck, 27:20.
400 — 1, Mike Campo, St. Mary's (C.J.), 58:21 (meet record, old record, 57:12 by Onica Fraser, Nazareth (N.Y.), 1997); 2, Diana Lawson, Queen of Peace, 59:94; 800 — 1, Sarah McKeon, Moresnet (N.J.), 2:16.87; 1,100 — 1, Janelle McCallum, Teaneck, 2:27.68; 1,500 — 1, Jonathon, Teaneck, 2:23.28; 1,5, Shakti Williams, Passaic, 2:39.50.

1,600 — 1, Megan Howell, Suffern (N.Y.), 5:07.62; 5, Asha Alexander, Passaic Valley, 5:26.77; 3,200 — 1, Cheri Succillo, Newburgh Prep Academy (N.Y.), 11:57.7; 5, Jencia Ascendon, Westwood, 12:57.
55 HH — 1, Sherese Price, Passaicville, 8.06; Also: Melissa Duch, Clifton, 9.28.
800 relay — 1, Simon Gratz (Pa.), 1:42.34 (meet and Army record, old meet record, 1:44.85 by Campus Magnet (N.Y.), 1997, old Army record, 1:43.22 by A.P. Randolph (N.Y.), 1982; Also: Passaic, 1:56.31; Plainfield, 1:56.31; St. Joseph Regional, 2:03.34 by Gratz (Pa.), 1997; 1,3, Immaculate Heart Academy, 4:15.22; 1, Hackensack, 4:17.13.
3,200 relay — 1, Simon Gratz (Pa.), 9:19.78; 5, Ridgewood, 9:46.85; 16, Hackensack, 9:58.47.
Distance medley relay — 1, Columbia, 12:10.19 (meet record, old record, 12:17.16 by Tomerville (N.Y.), 1997); 1, Kristin Composto, JFK-Iselin (N.J.), 5-8-2, Cheryl Burdick, Ramsey, 5-6-6.

Long jump — 1, Nolle Graham, Tat (N.Y.), 19-11 1/4 (meet and Army record, old meet record, 18-4 1/4 by Carlene Cummings, Englewood, 1997, A.P. Randolph (N.Y.), 1996); 1, Carlene Cummings, Englewood, 18-4 1/4 (meet Bergen County and New Jersey record, old meet record, 39-0 by Cummings, 1987); old county and state record, 39-0 1/4 by Jen McDermott, Ridgewood, 1989; 10, Helena LaMothe, Ridgewood, 33-8 1/4.

Shot put — 1, Labelle Hillgrove, Passaic, 41-11 1/4 (meet and Army record, old record, 41-6 by Jennifer Hillgrove, Passaic, 1997); 1, Sherese Price, Ridgewood, 37-3; 14, Lili Lee, NY/Damers, 35-2 1/4.

BOYS RESULTS

55 — 1, Dana Miles, Archbishop Carrol (C.J.), 8.4; 3, Andria McCormick, Clifton, 8.48 (Passaic County record, old record, 6.54 by four runners); Also: Zack Smithlin, Fair Lawn, 6:70; Sekou O'Umaru, Englewood, 6:74; Rob Millares, Ramapo, 6:78.
200 — 1, Sean Wright, Rice (N.Y.), 21.90; (meet record, old record, 21:00 by Albert Newkirk, Camden, 1997); 3, Joe Haro, Clifton, 22:73 (Passaic County record, old record, 22:46 by Albert Newkirk, Camden, 1997); 4, Sean Wright, Rice (N.Y.), 23:25.
400 — 1, Sean Morgan, Lawrenceville (N.Y.), 49.58; 6, Zack Smithlin, Fair Lawn, 50:78.
800 — 1, Joe Lewis, Pleasantville, 1:58.31; 2, Rick Lehnback, Don Bosco, 2:04.77.
1,600 — 1, Ray Driscoll, St. Joseph (Me.), 4:21.93; 2, Corey Kuz, St. Joseph Regional, 4:22.35; 4, Tom Baldwin, Hackensack, 4:23.87; 3, Eric Macromella, Ridgewood, 4:24.18; 15, John O'Neil, 4:38.88; 17, Peter DiPuccio, St. J., 4:42.01; 18, John O'Neil, Ridgewood, 4:43.22.

3,200 — Jason Meany, CSA (Syracuse), 9:18.92; 55 HH — 1, Todd Matthews, Notre Dame (N.J.), 7.42; Also: Mark Fulcom, Paramus Catholic, 7.59; Chris Showers, Hackensack, 8:21; Jon Reley, Bergen Catholic, 8:24; Jose Guy, Fair Lawn, 8:35.
800 relay — 1, Ibrahim Malcolm, Kawasi Darby, Michael Jackson, 1:32.27 (Bergen County record, old record, 1:33.2 by Englewood, 1989).
1,600 relay — 1, Boys and Girls (N.Y.), 3:22.09; 3,200 relay — 1, Iona Prep, 8:02.89; 2, Westwood, 8:04.73.

Distance medley relay — 1, St. Peter's Academy (N.Y.), 10:34.91; 5, Don Bosco, 10:44.06; 1, High Jump — 1, Tony Lopez, Moresnet (N.J.), 6-6; 7, Anthony Pappas, Passaic, 6-0; 10, Tony Lopez, Moresnet (N.J.), 5-6; 1, Parana Catholic, 6-0; 1, John Pappas, Parana Catholic, 6-0.
Pole vault — 1, James Maddux, Farmingdale (N.Y.), 14-8; 7, Bob Miller, Bergen Catholic, 12-6.
Long jump — 1, Todd Matthews, Notre Dame (N.J.), 22-3 1/4; 10, Ted Winfield, Ridgewood, 20-7 1/4; 13, Gareth Hedges, Westwood, 20-5; 14, Eugene Brown, Englewood, 20-1 1/4.

Triple jump — 1, Antonio Johnson, Tuckahoe (N.Y.), 47-1 1/4; 3, Neal Okar, Westwood, 46-8; 18, Jude Guy, Fair Lawn, 38-10; 17, Sheldon Smith, Teaneck, 38-8 1/4.
Shot put — 1, Kevin DiGiorgio, Bergen, 63-11; 9, Jim Fisher, Bergen Catholic, 61-4; 14, Bryan Sheldon, Westwood, 49-3.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

JERSEY'S STARS SPARKLE AT EASTERN STATES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cummings jumps for joy

Shatters state record in triple jump; Matthews takes two events; DiGiorgio, Campo triumph

By Jim Lambert

NEW YORK — It was in Carlene Cummings' mind as she stood on the runway preparing for her fifth attempt in the triple jump at last night's 62d Eastern States track and field championships at the 168th Street Armory in Manhattan.

But that's nothing new. The state indoor triple jump record of 39-10 1/2 has been the subject for thought of the Englewood senior for some time. She's been close in the past, hitting 39-7 at the national meet last year. But this time, she wasn't going to settle for anything less than the record.

When she landed, Cummings had what she came for, breaking the state record with a mark of 40-6 to shatter her own meet record of 39-0 set last year. It's the third straight Eastern triple jump title for Cummings, whose 40-6 broke the state record of 39-10 1/2 set by Jen McDermott of Ridgewood in 1989.

"I've been thinking about it for a while," Cummings said of the McDer-

mot's mark. "I think the difference was my skip. It was really good and enabled me to get a good jump at the end. I knew I only had a few more chances to break the record this season."

Cummings, who was third in the long jump at 19-14, won the 55-meter hurdles at the NJSIAA Meet of Champions on Sunday. Cummings was one of many M of C winners who won titles night.

The others included the meet's only double winner, Todd Matthews of Notre Dame, who won the boys' long jump at 22-3 1/4 and the 55 hurdles in 7.42. Joe Lewis of Pleasantville in the boys' 800 in 1:56.31, Kevin DiGiorgio of Bayonne in the boys' shot put at 63-11 and Mia Campo of St. Mary of Jersey City, who set a meet record in the girls' 400 in 56.21. Campo's time is fifth on the state's all-time indoor list.

DiGiorgio set the state shot put record at the M of C on Sunday with a 67-3, but just couldn't find that again. "You can't get pumped up for

every meet," said DiGiorgio, the 1997 indoor and outdoor national shot put champion. "After such a big meet on Sunday, it was tough to come back two days later and do it again. I'll go for the record again in Boston."

Boston is the site for the 168th national scholastic championships on March 14-15.

The most impressive relay performance came from the Columbia girls, who won the distance medley relay in a meet-record 12:10.19, the fastest time in the nation this season and No. 5 on the state's all-time indoor list. The former meet record of 12:17.16 was set in 1998 by Totenville of New York. The previous national leader this season was Saratoga Springs of New York at 12:120.06.

For Columbia, Natalie Deffenbaugh split 3:39.8 for 1,200, Adrienne Ashford 62.5 for 400, Amina Zohmy 2:18.4 for 800 and Dara Crocker-5:06.3. Columbia came back later to finish second to Simon Gratz of Philadelphia in the 4x800 in 9:21.08. Gratz ran 2:19.76.

"We were running for time,"

Crocker said of the medley. "It really helps us get our confidence up for nationals. In the 4x800, we should have run better, but we will see Gratz again at nationals."

Other winners from New Jersey were the Plainfield boys in the 4x200 in 1:30.63, Ray Driscoll of St. Joseph's of Metuchen, who repeated as boys' champion in the 1,600 in 4:21.93. Labelle Hillgrove of Passaic in the girls' shot put at 41-11 1/4, Sherese Price of Pleasantville in the girls' 55 hurdles in 8.06, Amanda Rhetz of Moorestown in the girls' 55 dash in 7.15 and Kristin Composito of Iselin Kennedy in the girls' high jump at 5-6.

Plainfield, using Anthony Davis, Jason Edwards, Sean Wright and Kishwayne Virgo, won the 4x200 in 1:30.63, No. 10 on the state's all-time indoor list.

Middletown South, with M of C 3,200 champion Cate Guiney anchoring in 5:09.2, was fourth in 12:26.26. Westfield was fifth in 12:49.78, South Brunswick sixth in 12:50.57 and Voorhees seventh in 13:04.04.

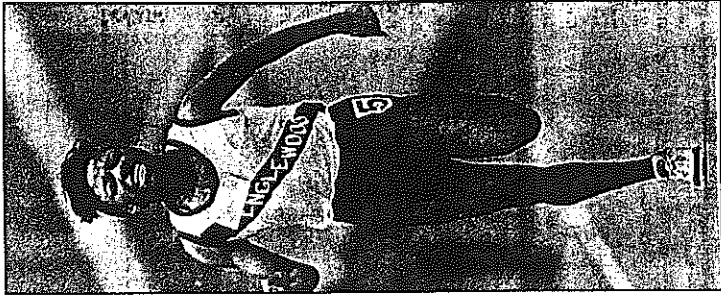


PHOTO BY CHRIS FAYTOK

Englewood's Carlene Cummings set a state record in the triple jump at the 62d Eastern States championships last night.

In the boys' distance medley relay, Morristown, with Ryan Smith anchoring in 4:23.5, placed fourth in 10:42.40, Don Bosco Prep was fifth in 10:44.06, Notre Dame seventh in 10:46.70 and North Hunterdon eighth in 10:50.88. Nate Sisco of North Hunterdon, the M of C 1,600 winner, split 4:25.8.

The Willingboro girls placed second in the 4x400 for a time of 3:53.61, the state's top time of the year and the sixth fastest ever in New Jersey.

In the girls' 200, Denisha Scott of St. Mary of Jersey City placed second in 25.68, Diana Lawson of Queen of Peace was third in 26.25, Terri Franklin

Lindsey Gallo of Howell was third in the girls' 3,200 in 11:38.04.

In the boys' 200, Chariz Hester of Toms River South was second in 22.26, No. 10 on the state's all-time indoor list.

Andree McCormick of Clifton was third in the boys' 55 dash in 6.48, the fastest time for a New Jersey sprinter this year. McCormick was sixth in the M of C 55 dash.

9:57.65	St. John Vianney, NJ	DMR	12:41.79	Wachusett, Ma	12:49.2	Simon Gratz, Pa	12:57.80	Rye, NY	
9:58.31	Amityville, NY	(#-oversized track)	12:42.0	Ridgewood, NJ	12:49.45	Averill Park, NY	12:58.5	Bellport, NY	
		12:12.00	Saratoga Spgs, NY	12:42.6	Woodbridge, Va	12:49.8	State College, Pa	13:00.1	Oakton, Va
SMR		12:14.37	Saratoga	12:42.61	Bromfield, Ma	12:50.19	Burnt Hills, NY	13:01.30	Ursuline, NY
4:13.40	Simon Gratz, Pa	12:15.6	Columbia, NJ	12:43.0	Good Counsel, Md	12:51.02	Tottenville, NY	13:01.70	Skaneateles, NY
4:15.4	Columbia, NJ	12:25.6	Jefferson, Va	12:43.01	St. Anthony's, NY	12:52.6	Prospect Hgts, NY		
4:16.52	Prospect Hgts, NY	12:29.1	Nazareth Acad, Pa	12:43.45	Middleton So., NJ	12:55.14	Randolph, NY	Shuttle Hurdles	
4:18.73'	Nazareth Acad, Pa	12:29.8	Suffern, NY	12:44.1	Villa Maria, Pa	12:55.69	So. Brunswick, NJ	(+hand+...14s)	
4:18.84	Jamaica, NY	12:30.87	Brookline, Ma	12:45.40	New Canaan, Ct	12:56.11	Half Hw Hills, NY	31.93	Notre Dame, NJ
4:19.06	Brookline, Ma	12:31.0	Lake Braddock, Va	12:46.06	Pine Bush, NY	12:56.80	New Rochelle, NY	32.34+	Penn Wood, Pa
4:19.48	Foxboro, Ma	12:32.2	Robinson, Va	12:46.75	Valley Cntrl, NY	12:56.91	Westfield, NJ	32.69	Middleton So., NJ
4:19.5	St. Mary's, NJ	12:40.1	McLean, Va	12:47.8	Langley, Va	12:56.93	Horseheads, NY	32.74+	Pleasantville, NJ
		12:40.5	Ridley, Pa	12:48.2	Warwick Vly, NY	12:57.11	St. Francis Prep, NY		
		12:41.74	Sachem, NY	12:49.10	Bay Shore, NY	12:57.80	Morristown, NJ		

EASTERN STATES 2-24

Sean Wright is so used to winning that the Rice senior wants to share it with his teammates.

After capturing the 200-meter race at yesterday's Eastern States Track and Field Championships at the 168th Street Armory, Wright wanted to make sure his teammates got their due for finishing second in the 4 x 200 relay.

"We're all making a reputation for Rice," Wright said. "We have to show ourselves every day. We have to come with something to prove. Otherwise it'll go back to the way it was."

That way was with Wright being a one-man-team. Yesterday he won the 200 meters in 21.9 seconds and did even better in the relay. He ran a 21.5-second anchor leg, joining Rahmel Church, Rudy Volcy and Larry Wilson to finish second in 1:31.61, behind only Plainfield, N.J. Plainfield clocked a 1:30.63.

Rolando Ortiz' kick in the final 100 meters proved to be the strongest as St. Peter's won the boys distance medley in 10:34.91, barely finishing ahead of Shenendehowa (10:35.28) and Boys & Girls (10:35.44).

Ortiz was third when he took the baton from Glen Meyers to run the final mile, but quickly caught Luke Hagstrand of Shenendehowa and Jamiel Brown of Boys & Girls.

"We were hoping to hand it off to him in first, but I didn't run my smartest race," said Meyers, who felt he came out too hard.

It was no problem for Ortiz. The trio ran as a pack for nearly the entire mile, switching positions once in a while.

"The pace was slower than I wanted it to be, but it worked out well for me, so I had some time to relax and regain strength," said Ortiz, who ran a 4:25 mile. "I knew they were kicking with me, so I had to pick up the pace and go all the way through." The other members of the victorious team were Ali Albiloa (1,200) and Mike Acanfora (400).

SCHEDULE UPDATE--The University of Buffalo will host two meets prior to hosting the NCAA Championships: April 17-18, May 8-9.

Nolle Graham of Taft showed that her PSAL long-jump victory was no fluke, leaping 19-11½, just a half-inch shorter than last week.

Keyon Soley of Uniondale was second in the long jump, an event she usually wins. The senior hadn't practiced in a month and leaped 19-7½, four inches fewer than Graham.

"I feel bad because I can do better, but you have to finish second once in a while," Soley said. "Even if I did win, I would've been disappointed because I'm not hitting the boards right, but I'll get there."

Two Queens schools had close losses. Jamohl Leach of Springfield Gardens got nosed out in the 55, with his 6.46 just .03 seconds slower than Dante Myles of Archbishop Carroll. Campus Magnet's 4 x 200 relay was second in 1:43.64, behind Simon Gratz (1:42.34).

Eastern Track

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TRACK AND FIELD

Rice Senior Remains Unbeaten

Sean Wright, a senior at Rice High School in Manhattan, remained undefeated in nine individual races this indoor season when he won the 200-meter dash last night in a meet record 21.90 seconds at the Eastern States Interscholastic Track and Field Championships.

Earlier in the program at the Armory Track and Field Center in Manhattan, Wright, who won the 200 in 21.80 seconds and the 400 in 49.23 seconds in Pocatello, Idaho, last Saturday, ran the anchor leg in a hand-timed 21.5 seconds in the 4x200-meter relay. But it was not good enough to catch Plainfield, N.J., which finished first in 1 minute 30.63 seconds, to 1:31.61 by Rice.

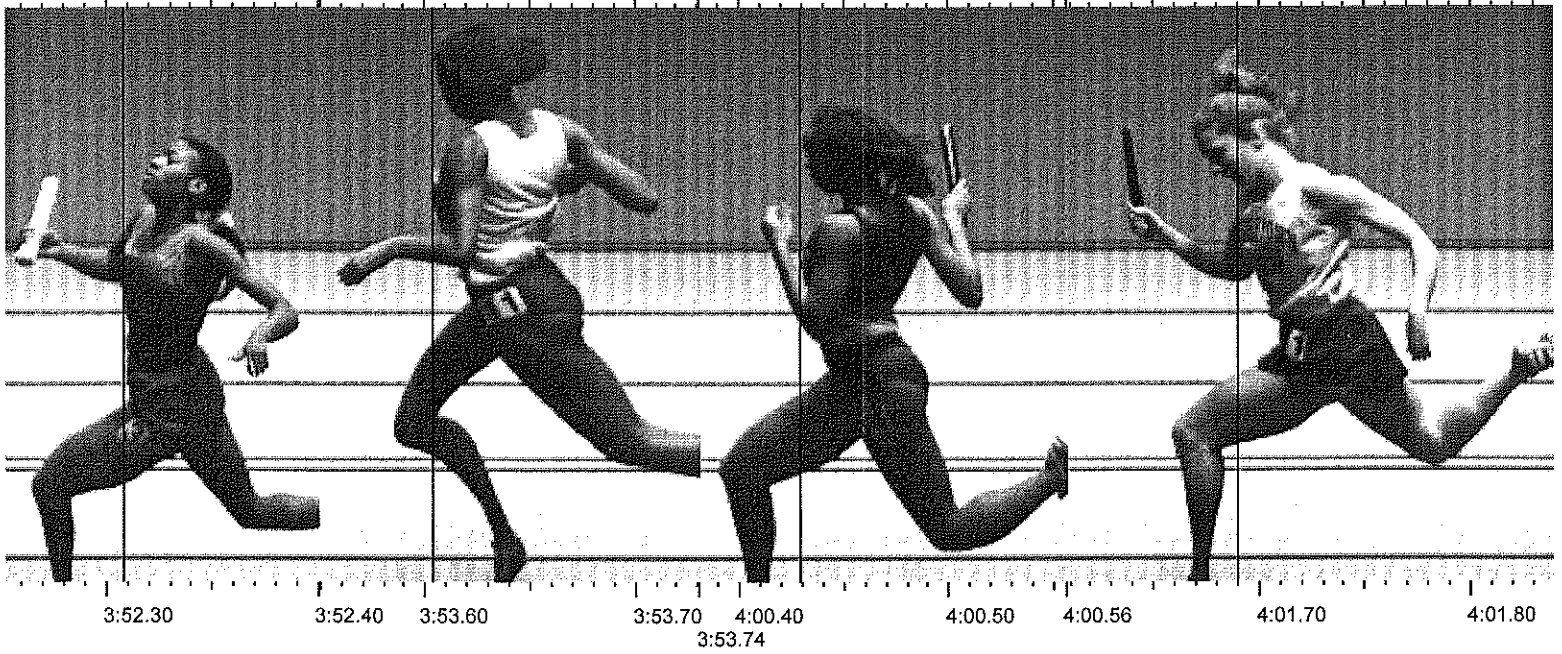
The upset of the meet was registered by Nolle Graham of Taft in the Bronx, who soared a meet-record 19 feet 11½ inches in the girls' long jump, four inches better than Keyon Soley of Uniondale on Long Island. Soley is the New York State champion and record-holder.

Two other meet records went to New Jersey girls: Carlene Cummings of Dwight Morrow in Englewood won the triple jump at 40-6, a state record, and Columbia of Maplewood posted the fastest time in the nation this year in winning the girls' distance medley in 12:10.19.

WILLIAM J. MILLER

Finish - Camera 1

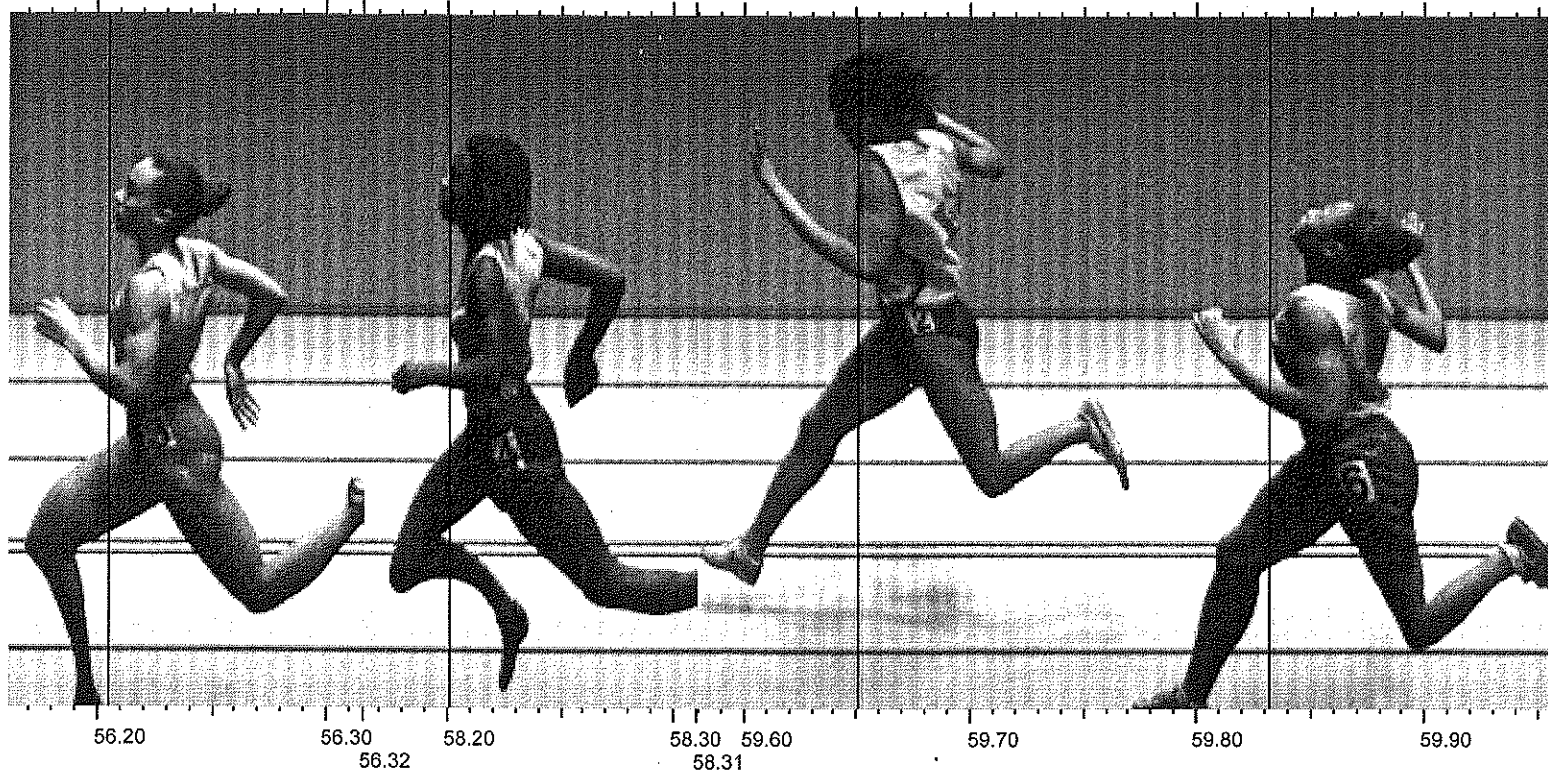
Start: 2/24/98 7:42:01.19



Place	Id	Lane	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	License	Time	Delta Time
1	0	3		Simon Gratz	Hi SIM A		3:52.31	3:52.31
2	27	2		Willingboro Hig	WIL A		3:53.61	1.30
3	3	4		Campus Magne	CPM A		4:00.43	6.82
4	14	1		Middletown Sou	MDS A		4:01.69	1.26
5	26	6		Washington Tw	WAT A		4:04.06	2.37
6	22	5		Uniondale High	UNI A		4:08.19	4.13

Finish - Camera 1

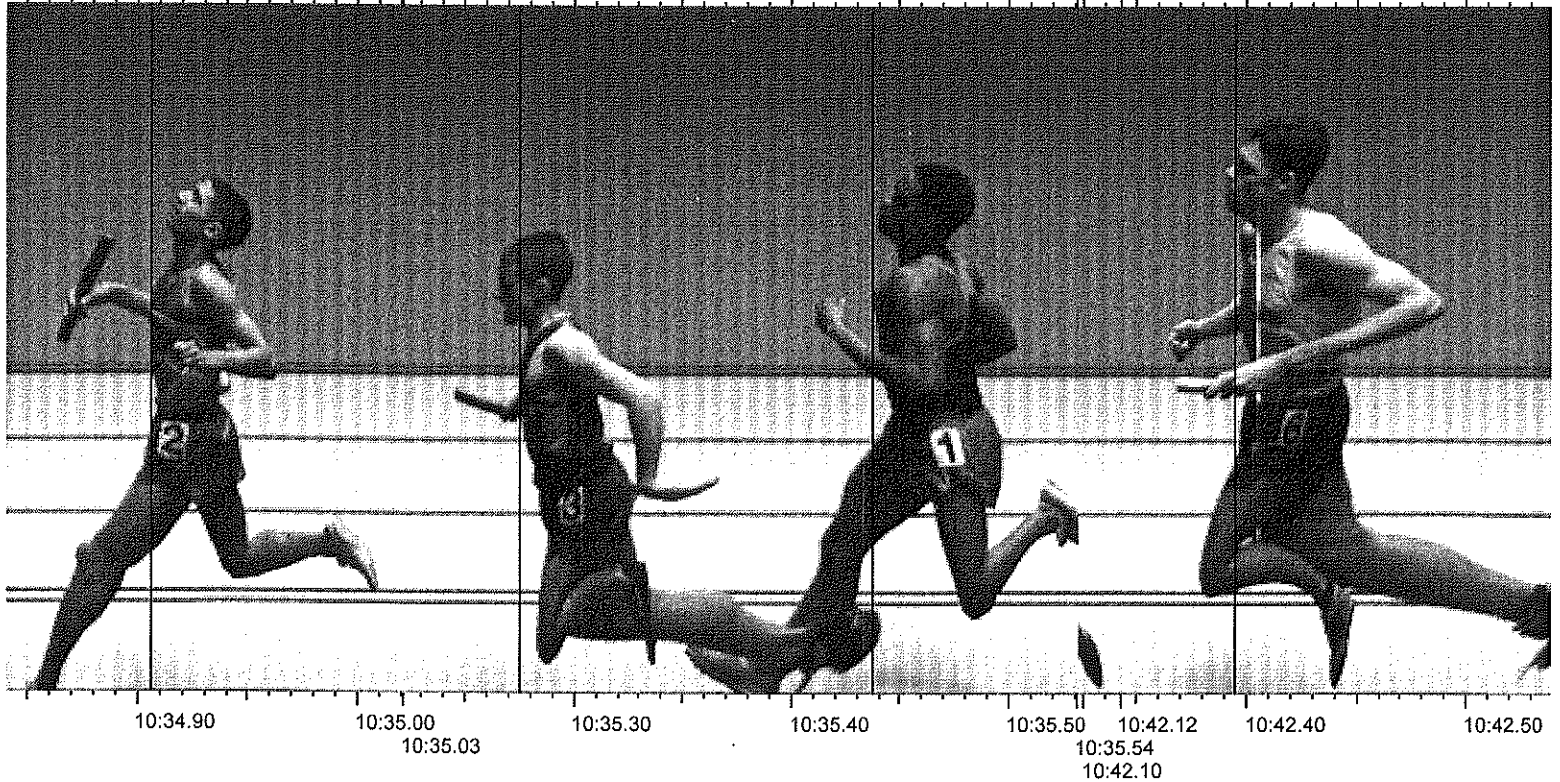
Start: 2/24/98 6:52:36.75



Place	Id	Lane	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	License	Time	Delta Time
1	727	3	Mia	Campo	St. Mary's High		56.21	56.21
2	569	4	Leah	Grant	Hope High Scho		58.21	2.00
3	766	2	Shanna	Quinn	Uniondale High		59.66	1.45
4	693	6	Diana	Lawson	Queen Of Peac		59.84	0.18
DNS	508	1	Siyani	Taylor	Archbishop Carr			
DNS	789	5	Keitha	Nelson	Washington Irvi			

Finish - Camera 1

Start: 2/24/98 2:51:09.57



Place	Id	Lane	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	License	Time	Delta Time
1	17	2		Saint Peters Ac	STP A		10:34.91	10:34.91
2	0	3		Shenendehowa	SHE A		10:35.28	0.37
3	1	1		Boys and Girls-	BOY A		10:35.44	0.16
4	11	6		Morristown High	MOR A		10:42.40	6.96
5	7	8		Don Bosco Prep	DBS A		10:44.06	1.66
6	15	11		Regis High Sch	REG A		10:44.19	0.13
7	13	12		Notre Dame Hig	NOT A		10:46.70	2.51
8	12	9		North Hunterdo	NOR A		10:50.86	4.16
9	18	5		St. Anthony's Hi	STA A		10:53.35	2.49
10	8	7		Fordham Prep.	FOR A		10:54.67	1.32