

NEW YORK – The fields are complete for the invitational 600 meter races to be held as part of the Varsity Classic Monday, February 7 at the Armory Track Center. National Sophomore Class record holder Lionel Williams of St. Peter's (Staten Island) and Junior Class record holder Shaquan Brown of Kennedy (Paterson, N.J.) head a field of six boys who will take aim at the National record of 1:18.80 set by Damion Drummond of Paul Robeson (Brooklyn, N.Y.) in 2000.

Williams has run 1:19.68 this year to lead the country, the sixth fastest time ever run by a high school runner at the distance. Brown has run 1:20.3, second in the nation this year and the third fastest time ever run in New Jersey. They are joined by Marcel Van Eeden of Mendham (N.J.) who set a floor record of 1:22.23 on the flat tight turned floor at Drew University, Rob Novak of Bordentown (N.J.), with a best of 1:25.1 at the very slow FDU (Teaneck) track, Mikey Pachella of Wallkill Valley (N.J.) who is just the third athlete to break two minutes for 800 meters at FDU and Hayrol Cruz of Passaic, who ran 1:22.2, 10<sup>th</sup> best in the nation this year.

Girls national record holder Janine Davis of Queen of Peace hopes to lower her own record of 1:29.27 set earlier in the season. She will face Dede Richemond of Suffern (N.Y.) who ran 1:34.92 early in the season, Symone O'Connor of Franklin (N.J.) who ran 1:35.75, and Jeavon Benjamin of Hempstead (N.Y.) with a seasonal best of 1:36.14. Those times were all run in December meets and all three girls are in much better shape now, according to their coaches. Kim Standridge of Randolph (N.J.) who ran 1:38.31 last month at the flat Drew track and Stephanie Herrick of Wayne Valley (N.J.), who ran 1:41.4 in winning by more than 50 yards at FDU last month, the fastest time run in seven years at the site, complete the girls field.

The races are scheduled between 7 and 8 p.m. during the meet.