

Durham Striders Power to Six National Championships at the USATF Junior Olympic National Championships in Wichita, Kansas

The Durham Strider Track Team completed its track season with an impressive performance at the USATF Junior Olympic Championships held at Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas, July 27-31st. With one of the largest groups of athletes (29) qualifying through the Regional Championships held earlier outside of Atlanta in what is considered the country's toughest athletic region (Maryland, DS, Virginia, NC, SC, and Georgia), the Striders claimed 6 National Championships, and 2 runner-up National Championships, including a new National record in the Youth (13-14)Y boys triple Jump. The team placed 18 of its athletes among the top 8 performers in 20 events making them track and field All-Americans, in what was considered one of the country's most impressive performances by a single track club among the more than 6843 athletes, and 712 teams represented at the National Championships.

The most outstanding performance put in by any athlete was the triple gold medal performance of Marcus Krah, who won the Youth (13-14) boys Triple Jump, breaking the national record with a jump of 13.54m, shattering a record that has stood since 1980, winning the the Long Jump (6.5m) and the 100m hurdles (13.25) on successive days. Krah who will be an 8th grader at Shepard Middle School established himself as one of the country's elite athletes with his record-breaking performance.

His fellow Youth (13-14 year old) male teammate, Jeremy Griffis shocked the meet by capturing the National Championship in the Youth Boys (13-14) 400m with a time of 50.98 and barely missing out on a double gold performance by taking the runner-up championship in the 200m hurdles, losing by 0.23 seconds to Justin Collins from Los Angeles' Speed City Track Club. A rising freshman at Hugh Cummings High School in Burlington, Griffis is considered one of the country's rising stars and his performance in the 400m makes him the top-ranked quarter miler in the country for his age group.

The Striders hurdlers, Kayla Moore (11-12 girls/80m hurdles), Marcus Krah (13-14/100m hurdles), Isaiah Moore and Thomas Jones (15-16/110m high hurdles)) began the final day of competition by winning their respective hurdles championships in a span of 2 hours. Moore and Jones finished 1-2 in the 110 hurdles easily outpacing the remainder of the field.

13 y/o Eliza Dekker, one of the area's most talented young distance runners finished 3rd in the country in the 1500m (4:42.42) and the 3000m (10:13.84).

Senior Marisa Bellamy finished as the country's 3rd best 200m runner, finishing with a time of 23.90 and following the 200m with a 4th place national finish in the 400m at 54.63.

In one of the country's fastest relay finals, the Striders' Intermediate Girls (15-16) Courtney Crawford, Jordyn Brown, Rodaijah Faucette, Tamelia Wright-Bigelow, finished third in the country with a time of 47.58. Coming right after them, the Young Women's Team of Aalayah Faulcon, Nijheria Silvera, Francesca Evans and Marisa Bellamy finished as the fifth best girls 4x100m relay in the country, 46.40

Name	Age Group	Event	Place	Finish
Kayla Moore	11-12 Girls	80m hurdles	1 st	12.49
Marcus Krah	13-14 Boys	100m hurdles	1 st	13.29
Marcus Krah	13-14 Boys	Triple Jump	1 st	13.54m (44"5.25")
Marcus Krah	13-14 Boys	Long Jump	1 st	6.50m (21'4")
Jeremy Griffis	13-14 Boys	400m	1 st	50.98
Isaiah Moore	15-16 Boys	110m Hurdles	1 st	14.28
Jeremy Griffis	13-14 Boys	200m Hurdles	2 nd	25.19
Thomas Jones II	15-16 Boys	110m Hurdles	2 nd	14.39
Eliza Dekker	13-14 Girls	1500m	3 rd	4:42.42
Eliza Dekker	13-14 Girls	3000m	3 rd	10:13.44
Kayla Moore	11-12 Girls	Long Jump	3 rd	4.89m (15'9")
Marisa Bellamy	17-18 Girls	200m	3 rd	23.90
Intermediate Girls	15-16 Girls	4x100m Relay	3 rd	47.58
Marisa Bellamy	17-18 Girls	400m	4 th	54.40
Young Women	17-18 Girls	4x100m Relay	5 th	46.40
James Carrington	11-12 Boys	1500m	5 th	4:50.35
Kenya Austin	11-12 Girls	Long Jump	6 th	4.77m (15'7.75")
Jordyn Brown	15-16 Girls	High Jump	8 th	1.60m (5'3")
Dyron Jones	17-18 Boys	Long Jump	8 th	6.99m (22'11.25")

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