



Newsletter #22

Colgate Games Pre-Race Report

It is our younger athletes that will first be in the limelight as Hamilton plays host to the 2019 North Island Colgate Games commencing on Friday 4 January. Palmerston North Athletic and Harrier Club will be represented by 28 athletes and although I do not have the numbers, I know that both the Feilding and Ashhurst clubs will also be represented.

The Colgate Games offers competition for children from 7 through to 14 years of age. In an attempt to place less parental pressure on the younger athletes, the children 7 to 9 only have sectional heats with no finals and pennants which are awarded to the first three place-getters in each division. The older athletes have to qualify for finals through heats with medals awarded to the top three in the finals.

Many families make the Colgate Games part of their family holiday and this is very obvious when you see quite a few family names amongst the entries.

Looking at the local entries there are three seven year olds entered. Kobe Dorn will compete in the 60m, 100m, long jump and shot put. Beau Kennedy has entered the 60m, 100m, 200m, long jump and shot put whilst Joshua Murdoch will be in action in the 100m, 200m long jump discus and shot put.

Aidan Mace is our sole eight year old and will be busy competing in 60m, 100m, long jump, discus and shot put. Our nine year olds will see Lucy Cadzow in action sprinting in the girls 60m, 100m and 200m and jumping in the long jump whilst Ashton Dorn will compete in the boys' version of the same events for boys. Caleb Murdoch will join Aston in the 100m,

200m and long jump and will also compete in the discus and shot put. The club also has a team entered in the boy's 4x100 relay so presume some of the 7 or 8 year olds will help make up that team.

We have an exciting group of ten year old girls and are looking at seeing some good results. Tayla Cornwall will contest the longer races being entered in the 400m, 800m and 1500m runs plus the long jump and high jump. Samantha Greenwood runs in the 100m and 200m sprints and has the long jump and discus as her field events. Juliet McKinlay competes in the high jump, long jump as well as the 100m, 200m and 400m whilst Tayler Trow will contest the high jump, long jump, shot put, the 100m and 800m. The girls also have a 4x100m relay.

The eleven year olds will see Hannah Cadzow contesting the 200m and 400m races plus the long jump. Hayley Cornwall is one of our better performing athletes over longer distances, so we expect her to do well in the 400m, 800m and 1500m she will also jump in the long jump and high jump. Hunter Kennedy will represent us in the 100, 200 and 400m sprints plus the long jump and high jump. Ciaran Mace has the 200m the 1500m as his races on the track whilst he will be looking at tossing out the discus as well as contesting the high jump and long jump. Ben Murdoch is specialising in the field events and will compete in the discus, long jump and shot put. We have a mixed 1600m medley relay team entered for this grade.

Our twelve year olds include Brianna Gorrie, a sprinter who will start in the 100m, 200m and 400m races. Amber Trow has a mixture of events including the high jump, long jump, shot

put, 80m hurdles, 100m sprint and 1200m race walk. Johnny Rouxell is another competing in the sprint treble of 100, 200 and 400 metre races as well as the 80m hurdles and high jump. Alex Willis is an athlete I have seen putting in a lot of hard work and I like his chances of success in the 1200m race walk and the 80m hurdles. He will also compete in the 100m and 200m sprints plus the discus.

We have definite hopes of picking up quite a few medals in the 13 year old group. Monique Gorrie has been one of the stand out athletes at club meetings competing against older athletes and must be hard to beat in both the 200m and 400m races. Kimberley Walsh is equally talented and is expected to do well in the 400m, 800m and 1500m races. Forbes Kennedy will be busy as he contests the 100m, 200m and 400m track races and the long jump and high jump.

After her outstanding performances at New Zealand Secondary Schools Championships Sophie Williams must be the favourite to take out the fourteen year olds 100m and 200m races. Lucas Martin has performed well in walking events and is expected to do well in the 2000m walk. Another Whanganui based athlete competing under the Palmerston North Banner at this meeting is Olivia Pickford who is a discus thrower and shot putter. Harvey Meyer competes in the 800m and 1500m as well as the high jump. Angela Jukes completes the line-up running in the 100m, 400m and 800m races

We have high hopes of relay success in many of the older age groups. Teams are entered in the 13 year boys 4x100 relay, the 13 year mixed medley relay, the 14 year girls 4x100 relay and the 14 year mixed medley relay. With the prospect of some of these teams including the likes of Sophie Williams and Monique Gorrie together our hopes are certainly realistic.

The South Island Colgate Games are being held in Dunedin the following week and two of our

athletes Chloe and Stella Groube will compete there.

We also have a couple of our athletes travelling to Sydney to compete in the trans-Tasman Challenge. I will try and cover more details of that team next week.