



North Island Secondary Schools Champs Review 2019

Thirty eight athletes from seven different schools travelled to Tauranga to represent Manawatu at the North Island Secondary Schools Athletics Championships. Many of these athletes were getting their first taste of competition at this level and all competed up to their best with many achieving personal best.

Guy Petersen continued his outstanding season by winning the intermediate Javelin to go with the national title he won in Dunedin in late 2018. Showing composure and good technique, Guy's winning throw of 48.91m was a personal best.

Monique Gorrie was one of the team standout performers winning the junior girls 70m hurdles in 11.63s, placing fourth in the 200m in 26.72s and third in the 300m running 42.03s, an event in which Kimberley Walsh was fourth in 42.19s and Jayde Rolfe seventh in 43.73s, all big personal bests. These girls along with Emma Leader put in a great effort to take second place in the under 16 4x400 relay.



Monique, Jayde and Kimberley after their 300m personal best performances

Sam Mackinder produced a consistent series of jumps to take second place in the long jump with a best 5.27m. She also took second place

in the high jump with a 1.60m clearance and third place in the javelin with a personal best 35.05m.

Angus Lyver confirmed his all-round skill set, finishing second in the intermediate long jump with a jump of 6.35m, a personal best by 80cm. In the 200m, he finished fourth in a time of 23.24 seconds, a personal best time by a second. In the high jump he cleared 1.75m finishing eighth on the countback. Dre Wilton competed in the intermediate long jump placing sixteenth with 4.91m and ninth in the triple jump with his 11.21m effort.

Joseph Chamberlain produced a personal best 50.43s to take third place in the senior 400m

One of the talking points of the championship was the performances of twins Addira and Chayille Collette who competed in the junior girls 100m. Not only are they identical twins they both ran an identical time of 12.93s to dead heat for fourth place in the final.



The Collette twins who ran identical times in their 100m final for fourth place (Photos supplied by Tara Rolfe)

Once again, our high jumpers performed well with Maiah Gilbert clearing a big personal best of 1.55m to take third place in the junior girls'

competition, an event in which Amber Trow cleared 1.40m for eleventh. In the intermediate grade, Courtney Trow was fourth with 1.55m, Tui-Aroha Fransen and Olivia Devito-Jones both cleared 1.50m. In the boy's competition, Brooklyn Bassett cleared 1.65m to take third place in the junior event, with Eli Gifkins-Cairncross clearing the same height but placing fifth on the countback. He also produced personal bests in finishing eighth in both the long jump 5.27m and triple jump 10.29m. Holly Gordon's 10.37m effort in the intermediate triple jump was another personal best and placed her seventh. Seventh was also the placing for Michael Strassen in the junior boys javelin.

Sometimes things do not go right on the day and this fate happened to Emma Leader in the 80m hurdles when, whilst in a good position, she hit a hurdle hard almost falling. The loss of rhythm costing her any chance of a placing. She put this disappointment behind her and produced a good effort in the long jump leaping 4.98m for seventh place. Another athlete to suffer disappointment was Sarah Belk in the junior girls' javelin where she finished ninth with a best effort of 21.03m. She just failed to make the final eight after her first two round fouls put enormous pressure on her to record a valid performance.

We had good representation in the throwing events. Janae Laing producing personal bests in the junior girls' discus where her 28.80m effort saw her fourth and a 9.87m shot placed her eighth. Madeline Davey threw 26.80m for eighth in the discus. The senior girls' events saw Melehinango Tavake's 11.83m fifth in the shot put. Jashana Te Tue Teuawiri sixth in the shot 11.74m and eleventh in the discus 26.12m. Tayla Kuiti 10.92m in the shot for ninth and 24.14m discus throw for twelfth. Suitupe Moefili was tenth in the discus with 26.23m. Ethan Worboys was our representative in the junior boys throws placing eighth in the shot with 11.30m and eleventh in the discus 25.12m.

Liam Wall produced personal bests of 2m04.94s for ninth in the 800m and 4m 15.23s for sixth in the 1500m. Georgie Furnell ran well for fifth in the junior girls 3000m. Reuben Duker, one of the youngest competitors at the meeting, was 15th in the 800m in a time of 2 minutes 26.83 seconds and 12th in the 1500m in a time of 4 minutes 36 seconds, a personal best time by eight seconds.

Aden Porritt was 13th in the intermediate 400m and a finalist in the 300m hurdles.

Forbes Kennedy, competing in the junior age group, was sixth in the 300m hurdles in a personal best time of 39.86 seconds and was 11th in the long jump with a jump of 5.29m.

Qualification in the sprints was quite challenging. Seth Smith was 4th in his junior boys 200m heat, Leah Powick fourth in her 100m heat and Teghan Putu fifth in her 200m heat. All ran well but failed to qualify for the final.

Jamie Davidson competed in the Athletes with Disability F20 competition was second in the shot put and fourth in the 200m races.

It is always great to see younger athletes willing to help at meetings such as this. Benjamin Wall was unable to compete but was in the broadcasting box providing great information on the distance races. Another injured athlete unable to compete was the national under 18 long jump and triple jump champion Charles Annals who was one of the start team.

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It was sad to learn of the passing of Paul Cowan last weekend. A Manawatu Rugby representative and top business man who played a very important role in establishing the culture that has made Athletics Manawatu Wanganui the success it has become.

Paul was one of the independent directors charged with the establishment of Team Mckechnie, a super club that competed in the

National League the sports premier event back in the 1990s. This helped breakdown the fierce damaging rivalry that existed between the Palmerston North and the Wanganui clubs at that time.

His son Nick will be remembered as one of the city's best athletes and more recently as the manager of Dame Valarie Adams.