



Sir Peter Snell Track Meet and Pre-Nationals Review 2019

Sir Peter Snell Track Meet

Although the fields were small the Sir Peter Snell meeting held in Whanganui last Saturday, it did not lack in quality racing. As expected, the feature race, the mile, provided the highlight with two runners going under four minutes with Australian winning the race in 3m57.45s and Sam Tanner becoming the youngest New Zealander to achieve this feat crossing in 3m58.41s.

However, the highlight for locals was seeing the delight on Monique Gorrie's face when she learnt that her time in the 400m was 59.80s, a big personal best and her first time that she had bettered 60 seconds. An outstanding achievement for such a young athlete. Sam Mackinder was another on high with two more personal bests. A 5.30m long jump and a 11.04m shot put. Noah Macdermid was in the mix in the junior mile coming in third behind Liam Back and Andres Hernandez.

* * * * *

New Zealand Track and Field Championships

This week the National championships are being held in Christchurch and Athletics Manawatu Whanganui have 40 athletes travelling to these championships. The cost of competing at these championships is not inconsiderable with athletes needing to pay for up to four nights accommodation plus their flights to and from Christchurch so the assistance received from the Lion Foundation is appreciated.

Looking at the teams prospects in the senior men's grade we have two defending titleholders in Jordan Peters in the long Jump

and Ben Langton-Burnell in the javelin both of whom should be favoured to defend their titles. Brayden Grant has been in fine form and will contest the 400m. Jack Lewer has been setting records in the AWD shot put so must be favourite there. He will also line up with Tom Walsh and Jacko Gill in the senior event. We will also follow Hamish Kerr, a former club member who now competes for Canterbury in the high jump.

In the senior women's grade our eyes will be on Corinna Minko another club athlete who will compete in the long jump. Unfortunately she does not meet the Athletics NZ criteria to represent us so will be competing as an international athlete and eligible for a visitors medal. Kara Macdermid will be a strong contender in the 1500m.

The Men 20 grade will see Benjamin Wall as one of our leading hope as he lines up in both the 800m and 1500m races. Noah Macdermid will join Wall in the 1500m and is sure to make his presence felt. Travis Bayler is the current schools 400m champion but surprisingly is not entered in this event instead choosing to run the 200m and 800m races, Jonathan Maples will be another to watch contesting the 200m and the 400m hurdles.

The Women 20 grade has Lydia Bamford in both the long jump and triple jump and is a definite medal contender. Lea Muetzel will contest the high jump, she is also entered in the senior event. Tessa Webb on the comeback from a long injury break is running both the 1500m and 5000m races. Monique Whiteman the 400m.

It is in the under 18 grade that I expect our presence to be most noticeable. Liam Back must be favoured to take out the 800m and 1500m double. He will be joined in both these races by Zach Bellamy and Andre Le Pine-Day. Joseph Sinclair who did such a fine job as pacemaker in the Sir Peter Snell mile last Saturday is also entered in the 800m. Andre Hernandez and Liam Wall will join the group in the 1500m and are also entered in the 3000m. Bradyn Popow will race in the 3000 and 10000m walks.

It is the under 18 girls event that the prospects excite me. In the 100m, Sophie Williams has been in great form heading off defending titleholder Genna Maples. Add in Tayla Brunger and an Athletic Manawatu trifecta is a real possibility. Maples will also contest the 200m and long jump. The 400m is another where we expect to see our athletes up on the podium with both Emma Osborne and Brunger in fine form both producing close to personal best times in the past week. Brunger is also entered in the 200m. Osborne will be joined by Ana Brabyn in the 800m. These young ladies will form the basis of a couple of outstanding relay teams with definite gold medal prospects in both the 4x100m and 4x400m relays.

Sam Mackinder has been producing personal bests and after her silver medal in the heptathlon it is not surprising to see her entered in five events. She will race over the 100m hurdles and compete in the long jump, high jump and javelin. She will be joined in the high jump by Courtney Trow and in the long jump by Emma Leader who will also run in the 300m hurdles.