



Newsletter #32

Results and news from Wednesday 6th to Tuesday 12th March 2019

Local athletes produced some of the most outstanding performances at the 2019 Athletics New Zealand Track and Field championships held at the new Nga Puna Wai sporting complex in Christchurch last weekend.

Sophie Williams took out the women's under 18 100m title in 11.86s which is thought to be the fastest time ever recorded by a fourteen year old. Genna Maples was second in this race and second in the 200m race, but it was her effort in the long jump that topped these performances taking the gold medal with a winning leap of 5.93m, which bettered the Athletic Manawatu Wanganui record for all grades from W15 through to W20.

Liam Back is a name to remember and his performances in taking out the 800m and 1500m double in the men's under 18 highlighted just how talented this youngster is. The 800m was a slowly run tactical race which he won in 2m00.12s. Then in the 1500m he blitzed the field with a powerful finish crossing the line seven metres clear in 3m59.36s

Jordan Peters reigned supreme in the senior men's long jump retaining his title with all his jumps proving to be better than his nearest rivals taking the title with a best effort of 7.54m. Ben Langton-Burnell was another to retain his title winning the javelin with a best throw of 67.98m whilst Jack Lewer continued his good form taking out the AWD shot put.

One of the bravest performances came from Emma Osborne in taking out the 400m under 18 title in 57.00s having to overcome an ankle injury. Later in the day she bravely fronted for the 4x100m relay along with Sophie Williams,

Tayla Brunger and Genna Maples to take the silver medal. Unfortunately this injury and the illness to Brunger saw the decision made to withdraw our under 18 4x400m relay team and contest the under 20 grade race instead and the team of Ana Brabyn, Sophie Williams, Sophie Redmayne and Genna Maples came awfully close to claiming victory here finishing second. A great effort considering the three of the members were under 16. We also picked up the silver medal in the senior men's 4x100 relay with Brayden Grant being joined by three under 20 athletes. Connor Munro, Jonathan Maples and Travis Bayler. One wonders what would have happened if Jordan Peters and Zac Topping had been available to run.

Corinna Minko, a club member but having to compete as a visiting athlete, had the gold medal snatched from her in the final round of the long jump. Leading the competition through the first five rounds she saw her best leap of 5.82m exceeded by the final round personal best leap by Kayla Goodwin of 5.86m. Lydia Bamford collected a bronze medal in the under 20 long jump with her 5.26m best effort. She also placed fifth in the triple jump. A massive performance by Sam Mackinder in the under 18 high jump saw her increase her personal best from 1.66m to 1.70m and be rewarded with a bronze medal.

Benjamin Wall came home with a bronze medal in the under 20 men's 800m but gives his supporters the risk of heart failure leaving things to the very last minute both in the heats where he only qualified as one of the fastest losers then in the final where he grabbed third place right on the line. One of the faster finishers one wonders the result if he had

started his finishing sprint earlier but it's always easier to be so wise from the side-line.

The decision to compete in the under 20 grade walks rather than the under 18 event certainly paid off for Lucas Martin as he won gold in the 3000m event and bronze in the 10,000m walk.

Looking at other Manawatu based athletes who were outside the medals. Zac Topping was delighted with his performance in the 100m where he finished 5th in the senior final in 11.06s. Injury having prevented him from competing since early January. Brayden Grant qualified for the 400m final running 49.73 in his heat and finished fifth in the final. Kara Macdermid certainly made her presence felt in the women's 1500m taking on Catherine Camp and Angie Petty up front, but her injury marred preparation caught up in the final stages and she finished seventh. Noah Macdermid came in sixth in the under 20 men's 1500m two places ahead of Benjamin Wall.

Lea Muetzel cleared 1.61m in the under 20 high jump missing out on the bronze medal on the countback. In the senior event, she cleared 1.64m for fifth place.

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This weekend will see the Manawatu Secondary Schools Championships being contested at the Manawatu Community Athletic Track on Saturday with the first event scheduled at 9.45am. In a change from the past, the very popular relay events will be held earlier in the programme with the first of these at 1.50pm. Next weekend we have Jumps in Paradise on Saturday and Manawatu Wanganui Children's championships on Sunday.