

# THE BUFFALO NEWS

ROUNDUP

## Big track gives Section VI an edge

By Mary Jo Monnin -- News Sports Reporter  
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After running their share of meets on shorter tracks, Section VI athletes are ready to open it up Saturday at Cornell University.

Cornell's cavernous Barton Hall, the site of the indoor track and field state championships, has a traditional 200-meter track. Section VI athletes have run their share of meets this season on the tracks at Buffalo State (160 meters) and Lancaster (150).

"On 200-meter tracks, the turns aren't as tight," said Section VI boys chairman Pete Szymanski of JFK. "That's an advantage for us. We tend to run a lot of [personal records] because we don't get to run on too many 200-meter tracks."

Based on the seedings, Section VI's best shot at a state title rests with two Section VI record holders from **Lancaster**. Sophomore Melissa Kurzdorfer is the No. 1 seed in the shot put by nearly a 2-foot margin at 46-foot-6b. She is the defending state champion. Senior Ryan Pericozzi is the No. 2 seed in the pole vault at 15-2.

In the girls long jump, Nicole Castilloux of **West Seneca West** is a No. 4 seed at 18-4z. Laura Lesch of **Hamburg** is at No. 4 in the high jump at 5-6. In the boys long jump, **Niagara Falls** senior Rodney Joyner is the No. 6 seed at 22-3.

**North Tonawanda's** girls have two relays seeded ninth: the 4x200 of Karyn Wasielewski, Staci Czaja, Kayleigh Bemisderfer, Olivia DiPalma and Jackie Burns and the 4x400 of Czaja, DiPalma, Amy Dotterweich, Bemisderfer and Burns.

Photo by James McCoy/Buffalo News