

February 7, 2012

## HIGH SCHOOLS >> Scholastic Spotlight

### Indoor Track and Field Outlook

## Amherst's Twitty setting WNY jump records

*Hornberger sidelined; Clarence boys are a deep team; Kala Allen picks Miami (Ohio)*

By **Mary Jo Monnin**  
News Sports Reporter



It's been an impressive season for Jailyn Twitty and the season's biggest meets are yet to come. The Amherst senior has broken Western New York records in the triple jump and long jump. At the first meet of the year at Buffalo State, he set the new standard in the long jump at 23 feet, 8 inches breaking Bob Jones' 1983 record of 23-6.

At Saturday's Team Challenge at Fredonia, he broke the triple jump mark with a 47 feet, 4 1/2 inches, bettering the 47-1 by Austin Price of St. Joe's from 2011.

Kala Allen, a multi-time Section VI champion in indoor and outdoor track as well as a multi-time state champion in the outdoor 400-meter dash, will run collegiately at Miami (Ohio). Mark Mulville / Buffalo News file photo

At sectionals, Twitty will do the long and triple and probably the 55 meters, as he's close to the school record.

Another jumper who will be heard from at states is senior Brandon Joyce of Niagara Falls. He cleared 6 foot-6 at Saturday's Team Challenge and is second ranked behind Twitty in the triple. He's flirting with the school record in the 55 as well as his 6.76 is threatening the 6.70 mark.

### Hornberger sidelined

Lake Shore sophomore TJ Hornberger said he hopes to be back for the Sectionals after injuring a tendon in his foot while warming up before a race two weeks ago at Lancaster.

"Before the race I was doing some striders and I felt a pop and some random pain in the bottom of my foot. It felt like there was a marble in my shoe," said Hornberger. "When the tendon popped my foot swelled up. My doctor said it was one of those random, fluke-type of things."

So far this season Hornberger has run the mile, 600, 1,000 4x400 and 4x800. "I'm probably going to take it easy until Sectionals to make sure my tendon heals up fully," he said.

Last fall, Hornberger was the WNY Cross Country Runner of the Year.

## Top teams

Clarence, winner of Saturday's Team Challenge at Fredonia, has a deep and talented boys team.

Senior Justin Bender has seen the offseason work pay off for him, starting with winning the Class AA race during cross country. At the Yale Invitational, his eighth-place finish of 8:48 in the 3,000, was an eye-opener. Coach John Hunt said unless he's missing someone, Bender is the best distance runner he's seen at Clarence in the last 20 years.

"He's got pretty decent speed too," said Hunt. "You don't run 3,200 without some speed, that speed helps him move right along."

In the 300, Clarence senior Brian Cumminkey, junior Lloyd Morris of Amherst and senior Wayne Gordon of Sweet Home have made the state standard.

"Brian is tenacious," said Hunt. "If he's behind, he's willing to chase. That's one of the things I look for. He's one of the best chasers I've seen on the track since Dennis Webster [late '80s]."

Clarence sophomore Ted Okon showed sound technique in clearing 6-foot-4 in the high jump at Yale to make the state standard.

The Red Devils have the top times in WNY in the 4x400 and 4x800. First-year indoor runner junior Ben Reinhardt runs on both. The 4x400 team returns Cumminkey and Jon Kuberka from last year's relay that won sectionals. Senior Alex Eaton is among the WNY leaders in the 1,000 and 1,600 and is on the 4x800.

On the Clarence girls side, Hunt said Kaitlin McCadden has been "running out of her shoes." Her time of 10:14.87 in the 3,000 at Yale was just three seconds off the school record and she has the top time in WNY in the 1,500 in 4:56.6.

Senior Katelyn Tresino has the second-fastest time in the 3,000 behind McCadden, even though she's only run the race once. She also has top three times in WNY in the 1,000 and 1,500. The Clarence 4x400 and 4x800 are also top-ranked locally.

Senior Jackie Huben, last year's outdoor steeple champion, has qualified for sectionals, and is another key distance and relay runner.

McCadden (3,000) is a defending Section VI champion along with Kailyn Arcury of Williamsville South (55 meters, 55 hurdles), Mikayla Pearce of Maryvale (long, triple jump), Lisa Kuhn of Williamsville North (racewalk) and Ashley Peterson of Allegany-Limestone (high jump).

\* Senior Wayne Gordon of Sweet Home not only has the top time in the Section to date in the 55 meters, he's the Section VI record holder at 6.52. He also owns the fastest time in the WNY in the 300 at 35.82.

It was at the RIT Tiger Invitational that he faced his toughest competition of the season, Brian Smith of Rochester's Greece Athena. Smith ran a 6.45 to beat Gordon's 6.48 in the 55 and Smith's 34.64 in the 300 also edged Gordon's 35.82. The pair should meet again at states and nationals.

"We're trying to get our kids into the best places to race, especially earlier before getting into the championship season," said coach Brian Lombardo. "It just gives us good experience and good races, and now we feel like we're ready to compete at the highest level we can. Sometimes you get the win, and sometimes you don't. But if you learn from it, you can turn it into a positive all the way through."

### **Around the tracks**

\* Sprinter Kala Allen of Williamsville East signed her national letter of intent last week with Miami of Ohio. She holds six school records as well as two Western New York records in the indoor 300 meters (39.57) and outdoor 400 meters (54.61). She has won five Section VI indoor titles, the 300 meters three times and the 600 twice.

Allen chose Miami of Ohio from a list of colleges that included Boston College, Duke, Villanova, UB, Kent State and Michigan State. She was drawn to the RedHawks because they had her major, neuroscience and psychology, and she knew a member of the cross country team, Williamsville South graduate Elisa Frazier.

"I had a really great recruiting experience and my future teammates were really nice," said Allen. "The athletic program there is really great."

At last weekend's Hurley-Quinney Invitational at Cornell, she won the 55 dash and the 600 run, and took second in the 300. As the only competitor from Williamsville East, her individual scoring tied for fourth place in the 44-team field.

\* Arcury of Williamsville South signed a partial athletic/academic scholarship on Monday with Kent State. She is a state champion in the 100 hurdles outdoor and 55 hurdles indoor. Before signing with Kent State she visited Syracuse, Eastern Michigan and UB.

"I visited Kent State first and liked everything about it," said Arcury. "It didn't feel like I was away from home when I was there. The other schools were amazing, but they weren't the school for me."

\* Athletes from the Monsignor Martin Association are pointing toward the Catholic States on Feb. 18 at St. Anthony's on Long Island. Dominic Kosar of St. Joe's, an exchange student from Czech Republic, leads WNY in the shot in 55-2. Watch out for him outdoors, he may be a better discus thrower.

Canisius junior Denzel Benton is top three in WNY in the 55 and junior Ryan Hunter is another strong shot putter.

St. Francis took third in Saturday's Team Challenge. Senior Andy Hayes has been ranked No. 1 in the 600 all season. Senior Alex Schaffstall is No. 2 in WNY in the 1,000 and leads a 4x400 relay.

\* Section VI has 18 boys and 14 girls who have made the third-place qualifying time for the state meet. To earn a seat on the bus to Cornell on March 3 they have to finish in the top three at sectionals.

"We haven't had that many in a while," said Section VI boys indoor chairman Pete Szymanski. "We always graduate some very good kids, in the past everyone's saying, 'who's going to step up and be the next leaders,' and it's impressive. It shows we have some talent in Section VI."

Junior Kalen Sullivan of West Seneca West has the top time in WNY in the 1,000 and 1,600 and has made the standard in both. He's the defending section champion in the 1,000.

Junior Alex Reid of Lockport had made the standard in the 55 meters, where he's going to give Gordon a battle, and maybe surprise Twitty in the long jump.

At Yale, Iroquois' Justin Petrocy, Jeremy Horn, Jeff Hejna and Matt Ridge ran a 1:33.9 in the 4x200 to break a 10-year school record.

Two of the Section's top hurdlers are Tyvon Rivers of Sweet Home and (7.66) and Brandon Borden of Amherst (7.79).

Lancaster should qualify at least two for states in the shot put, Jordan Kihl and McKenzie Kuehlewind, as well as Jennifer Thill in the pole vault.

In the boys pole vault, Robert Raylea of Lockport has cleared 13-6.

[mmonnin@buffnews.com](mailto:mmonnin@buffnews.com)