

East Oakland Youth Development Center Track Club Breaks National Championship Record Again

Purvis sets new national 200-meter dash record

Oakland, CA — Ashton Purvis, a member of the East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC) track team, set a new national record for high school sophomores in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.55. Ashton set her record along side other EOYDC team mates who also placed well from March 14-16, 2008, at the 25th Annual National Indoor Track Championships held in New York.

Results from the additional competing track members are as follows:

- Julian Purvis (senior) – 2nd place, 60-meter hurdles
- Ashton Purvis (sophomore) – 3rd place, 60-meter dash
- Brazile Clark (senior) – 6th place, 800-meter run
- Trinity Wilson (8th grade) — 7th place, 60-meter dash (Note that Trinity is only 13!)

This year EOYDC, a national and international model for youth development, celebrates 30 years of service to the Oakland community. The track and field club is one of the pre-eminent programs EOYDC offers free of charge. The community track club brings together students from public and private school backgrounds to train in a rigorous discipline which includes weight training, speed development, sprinting, running, jumping, flexibility and coordination, skill acquisition exercises, character building and life skills development.

Under the professional direction of Coach Curtis Taylor, for the past 15 years dozens of national and state records have been broken over and over, and almost 100 athletes have gone onto college through the EOYDC community track club. In addition, several students have participated in the Olympic Trials, World Youth Championships and Pan American Games. Students have traveled to China, Portugal, Brazil, Czechoslovakia and several other countries.

The two high school seniors participating in the New York track meet already have college plans. Julian will attend the University of Michigan in the fall of this year, and Brazile will announce her college choice soon.

“If an individual works hard, then he or she will be as successful as their mind or body will allow,” Coach Taylor says. “We want youth to participate because they like the sport. If they do, then success will follow.”

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Coach Taylor has developed several other state track champions, including:

- Ke’Nya Richardson – Triple Jump, 100-meter hurdles (current UCLA student)
- Renee Williams – Long Jump (current UCLA student)
- Miesha Marzell – NCAA champion, 1500 meters; California champion, 800 meters (Georgetown University graduate)
- Ryan Peters – 300-meter hurdles (San Diego State University graduate)
- Tania Woods – 100 and 200 meters (Louisiana State University graduate)
- Bisa Grant – 100-meter hurdles (UCLA graduate)
- Andre Ammons – 200-meter dash (USC graduate)
- Michelle Decoux – 100- and 300-meter hurdles (USC graduate)

“Excellence is a cornerstone of all programming here at EOYDC,” said Regina Jackson, EOYDC Executive Director. “We applaud Coach Curtis Taylor and the entire track club for their hard work, discipline and outstanding example of the consummate student athlete.” For more information about the EOYDC visit www.eoydc.org or call (510) 569-8088.

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