



Dundalk St. Gerard's Athletic Club

25 Belfry Drive
St. Alphonsus Road
Dundalk
Co Louth

2014 All Ireland Juvenile Championships

Date: 13th July 2014

Tullamore was once again the venue for a trio of athletes representing St Gerard's AC on day one of the All Ireland juvenile championships. Making the trip were Patricia & Patience Jumbo-Gula and Kate O'Connor. Unfortunately the highly promising Maria Smith although qualified did not compete.

First into action was the prolific Kate in the U15 girl's long jump. The competition was strong but the brilliant all-rounder Kate put in an excellent series of jumps, all in excess of 5 meters to lead the field all the way into the final round with a best of 5.35m which incidentally was a new PB. With her final effort she mustered another fine leap & PB to move to 5.36m to lead Finn Valleys Summer Lecky by 10cm. The Donegal girl showed her name isn't the only memorable thing about her, showing great competitive spirit to produce a fantastic final jump of 5.48m to snatch the gold in an epic contest with Kate a brilliant second place.

Patricia Jumbo-Gula took part in the girls U12 high jump having qualified by virtue of finishing second in the Leinster championships. In this very technical event a good start is vital to settle the nerves and get a good rhythm going, with many younger athletes forcing their jumps rather than keeping their cool and staying relaxed. Try as she might Patricia was unable to produce her best form on the day, but will have gained valuable experience which she can take forward with her into the future.

Patricia's super speedy big sister Patience was on duty in the girls U14 80m where she was looking to repeat her victory of last year. In the heats she showed she was in strong form winning with a fast 10.33 seconds looking like she could step it up a level if needed. The decider was a very strong event with several girls looking like they could take the honours. Once again Patience showed her class with a blistering 10.19 seconds breaking the championship record to storm to victory and another National title. In this kind of form there can be little doubt that in a fortnight's time in the 200m she might well be in the running to complete a sprint double.

Well done to the three girls on their fantastic efforts against the countries best athletes. We are all very proud of you. The club are currently on a summer break from training until Tuesday August 5th. Next event is the Louth development championships on Friday 18th July next in Drogheda at 6.30pm.

Training takes place each Tuesday & Thursday at Young Irelands GFC, Hoey's lane at 6.30pm. Training continues every Tuesday & Thursday at Young Irelands pitch from 6.30 to 8PM. New members welcome.

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