



2014 Leinster Indoor Juvenile Championships

Date: 10th March 2014

The final weekend of the juvenile Leinster championships took place on Saturday & Sunday last 8th & 9th March at the international arena in Athlone institute of technology. Representing their club were Patricia Jumbo-Gula, Ellen Murphy, Jamie Wynne, Patience Jumbo-Gula, Joseph Peters, Kate O'Connor, Kate Smyth & Scott Dorian.

In the girls U12 category Patricia Jumbo-Gula & Ellen Murphy made their first ventures into provincial individual competition and showed up well against the best in Leinster. Patricia jumped to a new PB of 3.59m to qualify for the final jump off eventually finishing 8th overall from a field of 37. In the high jump both girls took part. The field was high quality with the 1st & 2nd place finishers equaling the championship record. Despite being below their PB's both girls did really well finishing just out of the medals and gaining great experience of championship competition. The 60 meters boasted one of the biggest fields of the weekend with a bumper 56 competitors taking part. Ellen took 2nd place in heat 2 finishing strongly after a slow start. Unfortunately for the athletes concerned due to an error with the electronic timing system this heat had to be re-run as qualification for the final was based solely on time with the 8 fastest to qualify for the final. At the 2nd attempt Ellen once again took 2nd getting much closer to the winner on this occasion. Patricia went in heat 3 and made up for a slow start with a very good victory. Although she qualified for the final, the result sheet showed her as the 2nd place finisher in her heat despite winning by a decisive margin, which further demonstrated the unpredictability of the electronic timing system on the day. Ellen just missed out on the final but can be happy with a very good showing so early in the season. In the final Patricia gave another strong display just getting run out of the medals. Lastly Ellen took on the challenge of the shot putt despite having little or no experience of the event. In a field of 24 she put in an excellent performance to qualify for the final throw off eventually finishing a very promising 5th and throwing over 6 meters to show her potential at the event.

Jamie Wynne took part in the boys U13 60m hurdles, 60m & long jump. He gave a great account of himself over the weekend against much more experienced athletes. In the hurdles he ran a blinder just missing out on the final by one place. In the 60m he once again performed with great credit finishing a gallant 4th in his heat. The long jump was the final event for Jamie and despite the weekend exertions starting to take its toll he jumped a new PB of 3.89m to finish just outside the medals and only 26cm behind the winner. Joseph Peters took on the 60m & long jump in the boys U15 category. In the long jump he took a very promising 6th place overall in a field of over 20 boys with a new PB of 4.63m. In his 60m heat despite his slow start he finished strongly but made the mistake of easing off at the finish taking 2nd but luckily qualifying for the final with a fastest loser position. In the decider he took an eye catching 6th place showing in the process that with some more work he can have a very good season to look forward to.

Patience Jumbo-Gula had the scribes reaching for newfound superlatives last year such was her dominance in the short sprints category. In the U14 girls 60m she continued where she left of last year qualifying for the final with ease and breaking the championship record with an 8.08 seconds clocking. In the final she quickly put the issue beyond doubt with another blistering display to rout the opposition and lower the record even further breaking the 8 second barrier for the first time with a fabulous 7.97 seconds. In the long jump she once again finished 1st in a

field of 29 taking the gold with a leap of 4.77m to pip the 2nd place finisher by a mere 1cm. This is an event where Patience has the potential to improve greatly as the year progresses and she gets some more training and technique work under her belt.

Following on from her victory in the 800m a few weeks ago Kate O'Connor took on the U15 girls high jump and long jump. With a 1.55m clearance she took a very good 4th place in a strong field. In the long jump another strong display earned her a brilliant win with an excellent leap of 5.08m being comfortably ahead of her rivals.

Kate Smyth took part in the girls U16 200m & long jump and gave a good account of herself in both events in her first ever indoor championships. The experience gained will stand her in good stead as the season progresses. Scott Dorian took in the boys U17 60m hurdles where he gave his usual wholehearted performance to finish in 5th place in the final. With continued work on his technique and if he can be convinced to move up to the longer hurdle race discipline he could surely be in line to make the podium at this level later in the season.

The club is very proud of all the young athletes who competed at the weekend against the provinces finest. Great promise was shown and with more improvement to come and valuable experience gained it can only be a matter of time before some more of them will stand on the podium at this level.

Training continues every Thursday at De La Salle Secondary School Hall from 6.30 to 8PM. New members welcome.

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