

OLS Track Successfully Defends Title at Union Catholic!

April 30, Scotch Plains

The track team made an impressive start to the season by defending their title at the Union Catholic Invitational against seventeen other schools. They wasted no time putting points on the board in the first event, the 1600 meter runs. Fionn Tynan and Joseph Schmidt placed 2nd and 4th in the Boys 3rd & 4th division. Emma Torres blew out the field and set a new class record in the Girls 5th & 6th event while Jared Edwards coasted to the win in the Boys 5th & 6th race. Ajamo Carraby-Jones ran 2nd in the 7th & 8th Boys race.

In the 800 meter races Maudie-Grace Lomuscio won the school division in the Girls 3rd & 4th race while Alyma Karbownik won the school division in the Girls 5th & 6th. Olivier Karbownik placed 4th in the Boys 7th & 8th, just ahead of Nick Torres. Olivier broke Nick's 7th grade class record with his finishing time. Sergio Marion slipped into 3rd place in the school division for 5th & 6th boys while Aidan Benjamin, Alfonso Dunmeyer and Brendan McKeown served notice that they will be contenders in 2018 at the 3rd & 4th grade level.

OLS had some success in the 400s, too, as Harold Fullilove placed 3rd at the school 5th & 6th level and Ajamo Carraby-Jones ran 6th at the boys' senior level while Hana Yamaoka and Olivia Ince were 4th & 6th at the girls' senior level.

The only scorers in the 200 and 100 were Kyle Dixon, 3rd in the school's division in the Boys 3rd & 4th 100 and Jordan Ince and Teresa Pollard at the girls' senior level.

Of course, no OLS team is complete without Field events. Parker Hamilton successfully defended his title in the Boys 3rd & 4th Shot and Ochanya Ofikwu won the girls' event, with Lori Kola placing 5th. Enayi Ofikwu, Amelia Benjamin and Stefanie James placed 2nd, 3rd and 5th at the Girls 5th & 6th level while Taona Maphosa placed 3rd for the boys. Teresa Pollard set a personal record while claiming 4th in the Girls 7th & 8th and Sheu Maphosa and Akhira Crenshaw placed 3rd and 5th for the boys. Strong efforts were made by Maurice Tabron and Jeremiah Lunis.

The Long Jump featured Alyma Karbownik who tied for 1st in the Girls 5th & 6th event and Charlotte Marion who won the Girls 7th & 8th event. Other scorers were Jared Edwards and Harold Fullilove, 4th and 6th in the Boys 5th & 6th and Olivier Karbownik, 5th at the 7th & 8th Grade level.

It was Parker Hamilton, again, with a 2nd place in the Boys 3rd & 4th TurboJav. Only three feet behind, in 4th, was Adam Ofikwu. However, Ochanya Ofikwu shattered the 4th grade girls' class record to win her event! Ochanya was followed by Zayda Gordon with a strong 4th place finish in her first meet. The success continued with Taona Maphosa also winning his first title in the Boys 5th & 6th. Enayi Ofikwu led the 5th & 6th grade girls with her 2nd place, followed by Amelia Benjamin's 4th and Emma Torres' 6th but Max Ince just missed scoring in the boys' event. Caroline Schmidt and Ciara McKeon had impressive first-time-ever performances, too. Charlotte Marion won her first individual gold medal in the Girls 7th & 8th TurboJav, placing 4th in OLS history, while 5th and 6th were claimed by Olivia Ince and Hana Yamaoka. Sheu Maphosa was 2nd in the Boys 7th & 8th event.

The relays followed and OLS did very well with the Girls 3rd & 4th placing 4th while the Girls 5th & 6th placed 2nd. The Boys 3rd & 4th placed 2nd, the 5th & 6th placed 3rd and the 7th & 8th were 3rd.

Not to be overlooked were the fine performances of other members of the team, many of whom were competing for the first time: Zenya Stewart-Mitchell, Christina Paul, Caylee Brice, Zayda Gordon, Mitchell Purnomo, Declan Tynan, David Purnomo and a host of “fun runners” from the kindergarten and 1st grade.

Expect to be reading more good things about this team!