

Georgia Association
& the 2018 Junior
Olympics

How We Did and
What We Learned



Foreword

First, I want to congratulate all of our athletes, coaches and parents on their great accomplishments at this year's Junior Olympics National Track & Field Championships. When I began working with the USATF Georgia V.P. of Communications in constructing a list of all of our All-Americans during this year's championships, I began thinking ... "how we were doing as compared to the rest of the country?" Was the concept of "Youth TrackTown USA" a worthy ambition for Georgia?

As I began to capture the data from our Junior Olympics, I found some very interesting information. This publication will show you a snapshot of the raw data and my plans to ensure that not only are we the best performing youth association in the country, but my desire is to help lead this association to be the undisputed leader in youth track and field in this country.

The complete report will be publicized around October 1st, 2018 on the following websites:

<http://georgia.usatf.org/Committees/Youth.aspx>

<http://www.premierathletics.org/>

Charles Muhammad

Youth Athletics Chair, USATF Georgia

USA Track & Field Mission Statement

*USATF drives competitive excellence
and popular engagement in our
sport.*

*.....develops, selects and leads Team
USATF - the World's No. 1 team - at
the Olympics, World Championships
and scores of other international
events each year. Roughly 700
athletes of all ages wear a Team
USA uniform in any given year.*

Although USATF Georgia does not have a definitive mission statement, if we are attempting to be in line with our national office, we should be attempting to drive competitive excellence in our sport and in our association. And in accordance with that, we should be assisting in developing the best athletes in our association to compete at their highest level in our association, regional, national and international competitions.

Coming into this position, and completing my first year as Youth Chair, I wanted to materialize the concept of Georgia as “Youth TrackTown USA”... where the Georgia Association boasted the best youth association in the country, was the country’s leading association competitively, and became the center of the youth track and field universe.

Using this year’s Junior Olympic Championships as a barometer of how close we really are to claiming that title, I began comprising the data to ascertain whether we are justified in positioning ourselves in that way.

Georgia All-Americans

Number of athletes who reached the medal stand at the 2018 Junior Olympics

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Team Georgia



USATF
GEORGIA

279 Medals for Georgia

135 Individual Medalists
17 National Champions

National Champions	Team	Event
Jordan Crawford	Legacy Athletics	3000m Racewalk (17-18)
Tanner Duffin	Throw 1 Deep	Shot Put (17-18)
Jada Lubin	Unattached	Javelin (9-10)
Kayleigh Stargell	Full Throttle Elite	Pentathlon (11-12)
Jackie Addy	Unattached	3000m Run (17-18) 1500m Run
Aiden Opore	JackRabbit TC	200m Dash (8&U) ** 100m Dash
Adaejah Hodge	Legacy Athletics	200m Dash (11-12) **
Alexa Rossum	ATL Zoom Athletics	200m Dash (17-18)
Grant Reynolds	Mark Trail Flying Eagles	800m Run (9-10)

** indicates National Record

279 Medals for Georgia

*135 Individual Medalists
17 National Champions*

National Champions	Team	Event
Emoni Coleman	Need 4 Speed	800m Run (17-18)
Alec Jackson	Unattached	1500m Run (13-14)
Cameron Murray	Quicksilver Track Club	110m Hurdles (17-18)
Rasunek Tyler-Thompson	ATL Zoom Athletics	100m Dash (13-14)
Nathan Price	Atlanta Lightspeed TC	100m Dash (15-16)
A.J. Hale	Unattached	400m Hurdles (15-16)

279 Medals for Georgia

144 Relay Medalists
6 National Champion Relays

National Champions		Event
Drive Phase Track Club	Andre Kelly III, Justin Warner, Julian Mays, Zachary Ripperdan	3200m Relay (11-12) Boys
Drive Phase Track Club	Dashana Morris, Gabriella Grissom, Anaya Williams, Isis Grant	3200m Relay (13-14) Girls
JackRabbit Track & Field	LaShanti Williams, Kimberly Harris, Tamai Fuller, Efemena Egberi	400m Relay (15-16) Girls
ATL Zoom Athletics	Aasiyah Barr, Alexa Rossum, Jada Jones, Jasmine Jones	400m Relay (17-18) Women
JackRabbit Track & Field	Aiden Opore, Marcus Webb, Jaxson Patterson, Dallas Hadley	1600m Relay (8&U) Boys
JackRabbit Track & Field	Jaiden Patterson, Chad Gaffney, Ervin Pearson Jr., Alexander Knight	1600m Relay (11-12) Boys

Georgia Association

How we compared to the rest of USA
Track & Field Associations

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Team Georgia



USATF
GEORGIA

Top Team/Association

900 Points

State/Area/Association	Total Points	Gold (1 st)	Silver (2 nd)
Georgia	900	230	208
North Carolina	855	250	160
Southern California	781	230	168
Gulf	722	160	64
Florida	387	90	96

The Georgia Association finished atop all associations in points, based on how the track and field point structure is done (i.e. 1st = 10 points, 2nd = 8 points, 3rd = 6 points...etc.)

Georgia finished with 230 - 1st place points, and 208 - 2nd place points (#1 in the country in 2nd place points)

Third Place in Total Medal Count

279 Medals

State/Area/Association	Total Medals	Gold (1 st)	Silver (2 nd)
Gulf	297	35	7
Southern California	280	34	38
Georgia	279	40	49
North Carolina	221	40	26
Potomac Valley	102	4	13

The Georgia Association tied for most Gold medals, and garnered the most silver medals by a wide margin. In addition, we won the most 7th place medals.

Things Learned from this research

Region 4 is the Top Region in the country in total medal count (426 Medals)! Georgia provided **65.5%** of that production.

Region 4 is also the leading Region in points scored (1,479 points). Georgia accounts for **60.85%** of that production.

- Georgia showed very dominant in the sprint events. Most points scored in the 100m dash, 200m dash, 400m dash, and 400m Relay.
- Georgia is very well balanced. We have All-Americans in every event across many age groups.
- Although we are near the top in points in middle distance events, the point spread between Georgia and the leaders in these events is very wide. And the medal count difference is something we need to address. The medal count difference in the 3200m Relay alone is the only reason Georgia is not also #1 in Total Medal Count.
- To my surprise, Georgia was not atop the Sprint Hurdles nor the Long Hurdles. While 3rd and 2nd respectively in both, the point spread between Georgia and North Carolina is wide. With former Champions like Kevin Young, Gail Devers and Angelo Taylor living in-state... to name a few, we should aim to close this gap immediately.

Georgia Association

Plans for 2019

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Team Georgia



USATF
GEORGIA

Continued Development of our Clubs and Athletes

Offer training, clinics and forums to identify and improve certain disciplines where we can improve

Find ways to improve popular engagement in the sport .. i.e. more participation in the sport

- Since participation from our clubs for clinics appears to be low, I'd like USATF Georgia to sponsor a clinic series in conjunction with our Spring Series partners to host these clinics as part of their track meets.
- Brainstorm on the best way to be more prevalent in middle distance events and relays. Our numbers from Cross-Country would indicate that we have the capability to be strong in 3200m relays and more ambitious in 1500m and 3000m events. Forums, clinics, round-tables are suggested approaches.
- Engage our Champions.. Kevin Young, Gail Devers and Angelo Taylor to help us build a hurdles program/clinic series to close the gap we have in our national hurdles footprint.
- Work closely with the school systems to host and sponsor a "USATF Track & Field Day" ...similar to their current Field Day format to promote the sport and identify new talent.