

# Toledo *Track Report*

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## USA Track & Field Junior and Senior National Championships

### Three Locals Win Places on USA National Team

Three Toledo-area athletes took runner-up honors at the USA Track & Field Junior Championships, and by doing so have earned spots on the United States team to the Pan-American Junior Athletics Championships, to be held in Trinidad & Tobago from July 31 to August 2. They are [Erik Kynard](#), [Erin Pendleton](#), and [Justin Welch](#). The status of the Pan-American competition is in some doubt due to swine flu concerns.

Pendleton threw a personal record distance of 51.65 meters (169' 5") to take second in the discus throw, just five feet behind Ana Jelmini, the national high school record holder in the event. Her first throw kept her in second until Aslyn Halvorson moved ahead on her fifth attempt, temporarily bumping Pendleton down into third and potentially off the national team, but she retook runner-up position on her final throw. The recent Woodmore graduate will be joining older sister Emily at the University of Michigan this fall.

Kynard was second in the high jump with a height of 2.15 meters (7' ½"). He made first-attempt clearances at his first four heights of 2.04 (6' 8¼"), 2.09 (6' 10¼"), 2.12 (6' 11½") and 2.15 before missing all three jumps at the winning height of 2.18 meters (7' 1¾"). This was the second consecutive runner-up finish for the Rogers grad, who was beaten by Napoleon's Ryan Fleck last year. Kynard will attend Kansas State University.

Welch was second in the hammer throw with a distance of 66.04 meters (216' 8"). Junior athletes use a 6 kilogram (13.2 pound) hammer, which makes comparing distances difficult because falls between the high school hammer weight of 12 pounds and the international weight of 16 pounds. Second was never in doubt for Welch; all four of his measured throws were better than any from the third-place thrower, and none were better than the worst from winner Conor McCullough, the national high school record holder. Welch, who just finished his junior year at Eastwood, also took ninth in the discus (53.98m / 177' 1") and eighteenth in the shot put (16.71m / 54' 10").

Several other local athletes took part in the USATF Junior Championships. [Andy Hills](#), a St. John's alumni competing for the University of Notre Dame, was seventh in the shot put (18.07m / 59' 3½"). [Courtney Weiss](#), a Perrysburg graduate competing for Ohio University, was sixth in her semifinal of the 400-meter hurdles (66.12 seconds). [Rachel Clay](#), formerly of Rossford and now running for Miami University, was fifth in her 400 meters semifinal (55.78). [Courtney Siebenaller](#), a Whitmer alumni now at the University of Dayton, competed in the pole vault but did not make a height. [Curtis Smithey](#), an Elmwood graduate now running for the University of Findlay, was sixth in his 400 meters semifinal (48.63).

### Waits Takes 8th in 800

Toledo resident [Katie Waits](#) finished eighth in a hotly-contested women's 800 meters at the USA Track & Field National Championships. Her time, 2:01.69, was her best of this year.

Waits was fifth at 200 meters (29.80) and after one lap (60.07). Her third 200 meters (30.04) was the fastest by any of the nine finalists and moved her up to fourth, but in a mad dash to the finish she faded to eighth. Only 0.57 seconds separated Waits from second place, taken by former Michigan teammate [Geena Gall](#).

Waits was third in both her first-round heat (2:04.76) and semifinal (2:04.65). She is the reigning USATF indoor champion and was the 2007 NCAA outdoor champion.

Two other athletes from northwest Ohio competed at the championships. Joe Allen, formerly of Rogers and Florida State and now competing for New Jersey's Shore Athletic Club, was twentieth in the long jump with a wind-aided mark of 7.55 meters (24' 9¼"). [Emily Pendleton](#), a Woodmore graduate now at the University of Michigan, was sixteenth in the discus throw with a best mark of 47.41 meters (155' 6").

The championships doubled as the selection meet for the IAAF World Athletics Championships, where a runner with loose area ties will be competing. Penn State's [Bridget Franek](#) took third in the women's steeplechase with a new Big Ten record time of 9:36.74. She is the daughter of Tom and Rosalie Franek, who both ran for Bowling Green.

### Track on TV

IAAF Golden League: Oslo (same-day tape) CBC, Saturday, 2 PM

Rock N' Roll Seattle Marathon (tape) Fox Sports Detroit, Saturday, 3 PM

### About the Toledo Track Report

The Toledo Track Report is a free, not-for-profit weekly newsletter. To receive it in your e-mail, simply send a message to toledotrackreport@yahoo.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. Submissions, tips, information and so on are always welcome.

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