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## Girls Group 4 track: Shawnee wins first state championship

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Jim Lambert

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Phillips and company did just that as four girls from Shawnee contributed to lead the Renegades to their first state title yesterday at Frank Jost Field in South Plainfield. Shawnee scored 48 points, besting runners-up Passaic and Pennsauken, who scored 32.

"We knew we could win even though a lot of people doubted us," said the Michigan State-bound Phillips. "This shows everyone just how strong we are."

Phillips was the catalyst. She won the javelin on Friday with a meet record 150-11 and yesterday took second in the discus at 127-3 and second in the shot put at 39-8 to score 26 of her team's points.

Junior Jenna Darcy also was big, winning the 3,200 on Friday in 11:11.83 and took second in the 1,600 in 5:07.11.

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Shawnee's other contributors were Kim Pickard, fifth in the 800 in 2:18.24 and Jessica Hurley, a fifth in the long jump at 16-10.

"This was a team effort," said Phillips. "Kim and Jessica had just as much to do with us winning as me Jenna and I did."

Individually, Montclair senior Aleah Williams finished off a great sprint double. Williams, headed to the University of Texas, won the 200

### GROUP 4

**TEAMS:** 1-Shawnee 48. 2-Pennsauken; Passaic 32. 4-Edgewood 25. 5-Roxbury 24. 6-Plainfield 22. 7-Paterson Kennedy; Montclair 20. 9-Washington Township 19. 10-Columbia 18. 11-Howell; Vineland 14. 13-Randolph; Cherokee 13. 15-Triton; Elizabeth 10. 17-Linden; Piscataway 9¾. 19-Jackson 9. 20-Hillsborough; Trenton; Toms River East 8. 23-Atlantic City; Eastern; Clifton 6. 26-Absegami 5¾. 27-Hackensack 5. 28-East Side; Marlboro; J.P. Stevens 4. 31-West Milford 2. 32-Union 1¾. 33-Brick; Highland; Ridgewood 1.

**100-METER DASH:** 1-Aleah Williams, Montclair 11.70. 2-Alethia Jenkins, Pennsauken 12.16. 3-Shonda Burroughs, Vineland 12.19. 4-Kiera Underwood, Linden 12.26. 5-Laynea Jones, Elizabeth 12.43. 6-Samantha Sweeney, Cherokee 12.54.

**200-METER RUN:** 1-Aleah Williams, Montclair 23.88. 2-Laynea Jones, Elizabeth 25.49. 3-Kerrion McKnight, Atlantic City 25.60. 4-Shanon Alston, J.P. Stevens 25.65. 5-Samantha Sweeney, Cherokee 25.66. 6-Medea Ashton, Washington Township 25.84.

**400-METER RUN:** 1-Tawana Watkins, Paterson Kennedy 55.5.2. 2-Antoinette Gorham, Passaic 56.54. 3-Priscilla Hazelwood, Plainfield 57.18. 4-Katie Connor, Washington Township 57.50. 5-Saudia Saleem, Edgewood 57.65. 6-Tiera Hicks, Hillsborough 57.74.

**800-METER RUN:** 1-Priscilla Hazelwood, Plainfield 2:15.68. 2-Kelley Freund, Roxbury 2:17.21. 3-Natalie Popowicz, Clifton 2:17.55. 4-Claudine Evangelista, Triton 2:17.94. 5-Kim Pickard, Shawnee 2:18.24. 6-Megan McDonald, Roxbury 2:19.47.

**1,600-METER RUN:** 1-Stephanie Snyder, Randolph 5:00.91. 2-Jenna Darcy, Shawnee 5:07.11. 3-Lindsey Gallo, Howell 5:12.31. 4-Kristen Meyer, Hillsborough 5:14.59. 5-Sherry Sikora, Roxbury 5:15.38. 6-Meg McDermott, Ridgewood 5:16.62.

**3,200-METER RUN:** 1-Jenna Darcy, Shawnee 11:11.83. 2-Lindsey Gallo, Howell 11:18.36. 3-Leyna Williams, Triton 11:19.76. 4-Beth Androski, Hackensack 11:22.68. 5-Amina Zohny, Columbia 11:24.45. 6-Sherry Sikora, Roxbury 11:30.36.

**100-METER HURDLES:** 1-Alethia Jenkins, Pennsauken 14.20. 2-Yvette Murry, Edgewood 14.35. 3-Amber Williams, Roxbury 14.43. 4-Kiera Underwood, Linden 14.63. 5-Bridgette Ingram, Columbia 14.68. 6-Melanie Porterfield, Highland Regional 15.02.

**400-METER INTERMEDIATE HURDLES:** 1-Tawana Watkins, Paterson Kennedy 1:01.29. 2-Kemelia Campbell, Jackson 1:02.13. 3-Medea Ashton, Washington Township 1:02.91. 4-Yvette Murry, Edgewood 1:03.58. 5-Tierra Hicks, Hillsborough 1:03.82. 6-Pamela Richardson, Edgewood 1:03.58.

**HIGH JUMP:** 1-Bridgette Ingram, Columbia 5-6. 2-Sheena Ohlig, Pennsauken 5-6. 3-Kera Butts, Eastern 5-4. 4-Stephanie Croley, Piscataway; Kiera Underwood, Linden; Nathifa Bunsie, Union; Carrie Adams, Absegami 5-4.

**LONG JUMP:** 1-Samantha Sweeney, Cherokee 18-0¾. 2-Shonda Burroughs, Vineland 18-0. 3-Amber Williams, Roxbury 17-10. 4-Bridgette Ingram, Columbia 17-1¾. 5-Jessica Hurley, Shawnee 16-10. 6-Kemelia Campbell, Jackson 16-8.

**SHOT PUT:** 1-LaBelle Hillgrove, Passaic 43-1½. 2-Lynlee Phillips, Shawnee 39-8. 3-Adriane Damiano, Toms River East 38-8¾. 4-Randi Pointer, East Side 36-8¾. 5-Jody Arends, Randolph 36-7¾. 6-Erin Foster, Brick 35-5½.

**DISCUS:** 1-Labelle Hillgrove, Passaic 134-6. 2-Lynlee Phillips, Shawnee 127-3. 3-La'Krisha Howard, Plainfield 115-11. 4-Vicki McArdle, Absegami 115-6. 5-Adriane Damiano, Toms River East 113-7. 6-Jody Arends, Randolph 112-0.

## **GIRLS TRACK:** Kim Pickard, Shawnee

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Before the season started, there was no way you could expect Kim Pickard to contribute to Shawnee High School's first state championship in girls track. In fact, you couldn't even have expected her to be part of the team.

"Kim was on the team as a freshman," Shawnee coach Fran Siedlecki said. "For whatever reason, she decided she didn't want to come out for the team as a sophomore or a junior. She ran winter track this year and she had so much fun that she decided to run in the spring. We call it 'The Return of the Pickard.'"

And what a return.

Pickard gave an already deep Shawnee team more depth. Quickly she became one of the better 800-meter runners in South Jersey. Last weekend her fifth-place finish in the Group 4 championships made her one of the best in the state.

"Her friends kind of pressured her to come out as a senior," Siedlecki said. "They promised her that she would have fun this spring. She became a secret spark for the team."