

Shawnee's Phillips sets county javelin record

By Reuben Frank
BCT sports writer

OLYMPIC GIRLS TRACK

Shawnee junior Jenna Darcy coasted to a win in the 1,600-meter run. Darcy, the County Open champ in the 1,600 and 3,200, ran 5:16.9 and won by 15 meters over Tanesha Shelton of Wilson.

Darcy ranks seventh in New Jersey this year with a 5:10.59.

"I was hoping to run a little faster, but I guess I just need someone in the race with me," Darcy said. "I feel I'm in shape to run faster, it's just a matter of getting in the right race and doing it."

Darcy is already the fourth-fastest girl in the school's rich distance-running tradition, behind Liz Moore (5:01.5 in 1993), Deanna Germano (5:03.8 in 1985) and Lisa Setter (5:09.21 in 1997).

She wouldn't mind moving to the top of that list.

"At the beginning of the year, my goal was just to run 5:08," she said. "Right now, I really want to break the school record. States and all-groups will be a good chance to do it. I might not place real high, but everybody runs so fast there, hopefully they can carry me along to a good time."

WINSLOW TWP. — Last time she set the county record was at the Penn Relays. Big crowd, great competition, incredible atmosphere.

Yesterday?

"It was a little different," Lynlee Phillips said. "There was nobody there."

Phillips, who set a county javelin record of 150 feet, 11 inches when she placed second at the Penn Relays last month, broke it by throwing 151-5 at yesterday's Olympic Conference meet.

That's just 14 inches off the South Jersey record of 152-7, set by Emma Painter of Clayton in 1980. Her throw is fourth-best in the U.S. this year and longest by any New Jersey thrower in 14 years.

And she did it in anonymity, on a lonely field behind a tennis court at Edgewood High School.

"That's a great sign, that I did it all by myself without any pressure," said Phillips, a Shawnee High School senior and the reigning national scholastic and New Jersey all-group javelin champion. "Usually, when I throw my best, it's when I'm chasing someone and I rise to the occasion. It's encouraging that I did it today just pushing myself."

At Penn, Phillips missed first place by an inch. That's drama.

Yesterday, she won by nearly 40 feet and broke the meet record by about 17 feet.

"I've been a little discouraged

since Penn because I haven't been back in the 150's," Phillips said. "So it's great to be back there but past where I was at Penn. It's important for me to know that Penns wasn't a fluke. This is a great confidence booster for me."

To warm up yesterday, Phillips won the shot put with a season-best 39-1½ and broke the meet record in the discus with a personal-best 129-8, which happens to be No. 3 on the all-time Burlington County list and the best throw by a county athlete in 12 years, since Lenape's Sandy Hinson set the county mark of 134-10 in 1987.

She's swept the three throws in this meet three straight years.

"Two personal bests and three season bests, I'm really happy with that," Phillips said. "This has always been a real good meet for me. It's right in the part of the season where you should be peaking and getting ready for sectionals and states, and it just seems to come along at a great time."

Phillips and Shawnee throws coach Heather McNamara have been focusing a lot on the weight throws because Phillips hasn't been happy with her progress in the shot and the discus.

Ironically, that may have ended up helping her in the javelin.

"I've been really slacking off in the shot and disc, so we've been concentrating on those the last couple

See PHILLIPS D4

Olympic Conference Meet at Edgewood High School

100-1. Samantha Sweeney, Cherokee, 12.2; 2. Alethia Jenkins, Pennsauken, 12.4; 3. Latoya Benson, Washington Twp., 12.4; 4. Sikya Black, Woodrow Wilson, 12.6; 5. Lauren Rice, Washington Twp., 12.8; 6. Jessica Hurley, Shawnee, 12.9.

200-1. Heleema Fisher, Camden, 25.0; 2. Samantha Sweeney, Cherokee, 25.3; 3. Lisa Kassa, Woodrow Wilson, 25.3; 4. Sikya Black, Woodrow Wilson, 25.6; 5. Tanisha Belton, Pennsauken, 25.6; 6. LaToya Benson, Washington Twp., 25.9.

400-1. Lisa Kassa, Woodrow Wilson, 57.8; 2. Raniyah Walker, Camden, 58.7; 3. Erin McIntyre, Washington Twp., 59.2; 4. Ashley Wright, Pennsauken, 1:01.2; 5. Sylvia Agboatoh, Cherry Hill West, 1:02.0; 6. Emily Jadwin, Lenape, 1:02.1.

800-1. Claudine Evangelista, Triton, 2:17.7; 2. Katie Connor, Washington Twp., 2:20.0; 3. Tara DeBrielle, Overbrook, 2:20.8; 4. Kim Pickard, Shawnee, 2:21.3; 5. Mia Kassa, Woodrow Wilson, 2:21.4; 6. Courtney McCrudden, Eastern, 2:22.2.

1,600-1. Jenna Darcy, Shawnee, 5:16.9; 2. Tanesha Shelton, Woodrow Wilson, 5:19.4; 3. Amy Newshel, Highland, 5:24.5; 4. Lindsay Scarborough, Lenape, 5:27.1; 5. Michelle Billicki, Cherokee, 5:32.2; 6. Amy Whitcraft, Shawnee, 5:35.1.

3,200-1. Leyna Williams, Triton, 11:36.7; 2. Marybeth Redheffer, Shawnee, 11:46.5; 3. Dana Palumbo, Shawnee, 11:56.1; 4. Lindsay Scarborough, Lenape, 11:57.3; 5. Kelly Toran, Bishop Eustace, 12:06.0; 6. Melissa Razo, Cherokee, 12:14.5.

High Hurdles-1. Alethia Jenkins, Pennsauken, 13.9 (meet record, old, Nicole Belcher, Woodrow Wilson, 14.0, 1992); 2. Yvette Murry, Edgewood, 14.2; 3. Melanie Porterfield, Highland, 14.7; 4. Kierra Clemons, Edgewood, 14.9; 5. Sheena Ohlie, Pennsauken, 15.0; 6. Thanayna Wooden, Pennsauken, 15.5.

Intermediate Hurdles-1. Yvette Murry, Edgewood, 1:02.6; 2. Pam Richardson, Edgewood, 1:02.6; 3. Medea Ashton, Washington Twp., 1:03.7; 4. Heleema Fisher, Camden, 1:04.9; 5. Melanie Porterfield, Highland, 1:05.2; 6. Anita Brooks, Washington Twp., 1:06.0.

Relay-1. Washington Twp. (Katie Connor, Medea Ashton, Anita Brooks, Erin McIntyre), 3:51.8; 2. Edgewood (Saudia Saleem, Yvette Murry, Pam Richardson, Tennille Payne), 3:54.6; 3. Woodrow Wilson (Qianna Mason, Tiffany Brown, Latoya Whitted, Lisa Kassa), 4:00.2; 4. Pennsauken, 4:01.7; 5. Camden, 4:05.4; 6. Shawnee, 4:08.0.

Shot-1. Lynlee Phillips, Shawnee, 39-1½; 2. Dana White, Camden, 38-6¼; 3. Michelle Wilson, Triton, 35-7½; 4. Sheila Kemp, Gloucester Twp. Tech, 35-3¼; 5. Juliana Collins, Highland, 34-11½; 6. Sylvia Hicks, Highland, 34-5¼.

Discus-1. Lynlee Phillips, Shawnee, 129-8 (meet record, old Tisha Kerrin, Eastern, 125-6, 1989); 2. Onya Dayne, Overbrook, 114-4; 3. Mini Williams, Woodrow Wilson, 109-6; 4. Theresa Sommers, Shawnee, 107-8; 5. Natalie Bell, Highland, 103-9; 6. Ali Marinucci, Paul VI, 95-6.

Javelin-1. Lynlee Phillips, Shawnee, 151-5 (meet record, old rubber tip-Sherrita Butler, Camden, 122-0, 1996; old metal tip-Carla Brown, Overbrook, 134-11, 1986); 2. Jessica Toth, Washington Twp., 112-9; 3. Jenn Bakely, Overbrook, 100-5; 4. Amanda Thompson, Camden, 97-5; 5. Shanna Green, Triton, 96-9; 6. Cristen Harris, Paul VI, 95-6.

High Jump-1. Sheena Ohlie, Pennsauken, 5-4; 2. Ashley McNutt, Paul VI, 5-4; 3. Kierra Clemons, Edgewood, 5-4; 4. Kerin Suloch, Bishop Eustace, 5-0; 5. Kelly Fox, Bishop Eustace, 4-10; 6. Christina Vitarelli, Lenape, 4-10.

Long Jump-1. Dennean Davis, Edgewood, 17-6; 2. Samantha Sweeney, Cherokee, 17-4½; 3. Liesue Cardillo, Bishop Eustace, 17-½; 4. Kierra Clemons, Edgewood, 17-0; 5. Katie Connor, Washington Twp., 16-10¼; 6. Jessica Hurley, Shawnee, 16-1.