

Rome, Rockmart shine in state sectional meets

• Multiple school records fall as Rome athletes qualify in 11 events.

 By Tommy Romanach

Sports Writer

TRoamnach@RN-T.com

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PREP TRACK

The Rome track and field team has spent all season setting new school records and placing high against tough competition. Not much changed on Saturday.

Several local athletes competed in their respective sectionals to finish in the top eight and qualify for the state championships, which will occur at different sites around Georgia.

The Wolves qualified for the 5A state championship meet in 11 different events at the 5A Sectional "A" meet in Carrollton. It was just another example of the progress the team has made since the beginning of the season

"We did really well today, came out and competed and that's all you can ask," Rome coach Nick Bridges said. "To see how far we have come has been incredible, and today we continued to set personal best times and marks."

Rome set three new school records at Carrollton High School's Grisham Stadium, including TaCoria Williams finishing fourth in the triple jump with a record-breaking leap of 36 feet, seven inches.

But the biggest performer of the day was Shidell Millsap, who not only qualified in the long jump, 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100-meter relay team, but also broke two school records with a 100 meter time of 10.69 seconds and a 200 meter time of 21.86.

"I can't say how much that kid means to this program," Hodges said about Shidell. "He is always working and always competing, and he just had a great outing. He has given every ounce of effort in every meet we've had this year."

Rome's state qualifiers will return to Grisham Stadium later this week for the Class 5A championships.

In the Class AA Sectional "A" meet at Gordon Central, Rockmart qualified in 17 events, including the boys' and girls' 4x100 relay teams. Rockmart won the boys' and girls' Region 7-AA titles a week before and will join the rest of the Class AA state qualifiers in Albany this week.

The Yellow Jackets had six different athletes qualify for multiple events, including Jamal Ware who finished first in the shot put with a throw of 49-0.

Meanwhile, Zabrion Whatley earned top-six finishes in both the 100 and 200, and was part of the qualifying relay team. Cambree Stanley qualified for the same events on the girls' side, including a third place finish in the 100.

The only other local first-place finisher in the meet was Pepperell's Jesse Burkhalter, who won the girls' high jump with a mark of 5-00. The Dragons and Lady Dragons qualified for nine other events throughout the day.

Other standout performances included Chattooga's Isaac Foster, who qualified in the top four of the 100 and 200 meters and also made the team's 1600 relay team. Model's Alex Quarles finished second in the 1600 and 3200 meters.

In the Class A Private sectional meet at Landmark Christian, Darlington qualified in 12 events including nine boys' events. The boys dominated field events, with Elijah McKoy, Elijah Ball and Jacob Hunt qualifying for a total of five events.

The qualifying Tigers and Lady Tigers will compete in the Class A Private state championship this Thursday through Saturday at Berry College.

STATE TRACK AND FIELD QUALIFIERS

CLASS 5A

Rome

John Berry Bowling, 800 meters

Sarah Glick, 1600 meters and 800 meters

Renauzay Jackson, long jump

Montrell Millsap, 110-meter hurdles, 300-meter hurdles

Shidell Millsap, long jump, 100 meters, 200 meters

TaCoria Williams, triple jump Boys 4x100-meter relay team (Cheneniah McKeever, Montrell Millsap, Xavier Roberts, Shidell Millsap)

CLASS 2A

Armuchee

Bodie Fox, 3200 meters

Chaney Holder, 800 meters

Kayla Hutcherson, 3200 meters

Mary Kate Wheeler, shot put

Coosa

Carrah Arrant, 300-meter hurdles

Austin Boyd, high jump

Lainey Smith, 100-meter hurdles, 300-meter hurdles

Chattooga

Isaac Foster, 100 meters, 200 meters

Isaiah Foster, 300-meter hurdles

Jamarious Mosteller, triple jump

Ziyah Underwood, long jump

Boys 4x400-meter relay team (Isaac Foster, Cam Perry, Dee Price, Jamarious Mosteller)

Model

Haden Barker, 3200 meters

McKenna Johnston, 800 meters

Ebonie King, triple jump

Alex Quarles, 1600 meters, 3200 meters

Kelsey Wade, 800 meters

Pepperell

Dylan Bailiff, shot put

Jesse Burkhalter, high jump

Omar Maldonado, 3200 meters

Dawson Melton, 110-meter hurdles, 300-meter hurdles

Camron Miles, 110-meter hurdles

Jake Ross, pole vault Brian Tanner, discus throw and shot put

Rockmart

Miya Christopher, shot put, discus

Jamal Davis, discus and shot put

Zoryan Hendricks, 110-meter hurdles

Blake Holloman, 200 meters

Jie Holmes, 300-meter hurdles

Makenzie Kent, high jump, 400 meters

Allie Sproull, 1600 meters, 3200 meters

Cambree Stanley, 100 meters, 200 meters

Zabrion Whatley, 100 meters, 200 meters

Girls 4x100-meter relay team (Jie Holmes, Makenzie Kent, Desiree Williamson, Cambree Stanley)

Boys 4x100-meter relay team (Markus Smith, Morgan Sims, Blake Holloman, Zabrion Whatley)

CLASS A PRIVATE

Darlington

Elijah Ball, shot put, discus

Lawson Blake, 1600 meters, 3200 meters

Kate Flory, 800 meters, 3200 meters

Jacob Hunt, discus Kacey Kemp, discus

Elijah McKoy, high jump, triple jump

Tijai Whatley, 100 meters, 200 meters

Roth Wilcox, 300-meter hurdles