

2012 Georgia Middle School Track & Field State Championships Preview

Over 1000 of the state's top middle school track and field competitors are heading to Lilburn, Ga. for the 2012 Georgia Middle School Track & Field State Championships, April 20 - April 21 in the "Big Orange Jungle" on the campus of Parkview High School.

The Middle School Championships are a state wide competition which allows grades 6th – 8th entry into a maximum of 4 events ranging from the pole vault to the 4x800m relay. The Georgia MS Track & Field Championships are scored for team championships and individual honors are given to the top female and male performers on the track and in the field.

The 2012 Championship meet will feature great competition from several of our top runners, jumpers, and throwers. The future of Georgia track and field is bright and will be shining this weekend!

Sprints & Hurdles

Makenzie Dunmore leads a tremendous field in the girl's sprints. She is the defending 200m and 400m champion and record holder. Challenging her will be rival, **Venida Fagan** and newcomer, **Jenee Nichols**. Leading the way in the 100m is **Halimah Barlow**, **Leslie Logan**, **Maiya Beard**, **Shania Evans**, and **Alexandria Andrews**. Look out for **Erica Evans**, **Gabrielle Davis**, and **Chimari Allen** of Westminster in the hurdle races. Ms. Evans is the reigning 100m hurdle champion.

Kevin Hutchinson and **Kahil Anderson** headline the boy's sprint events. **Kevon Hudson**, **Dennis Bell**, **Alex Sands**, and **Korey Banks** will all be chasing after the 100m crown. **Zek Cobb**, **Michael Stephens**, and **Stockton McGuire** of Landmark Christian lead the way in the boy's hurdle events.

Distance

Kathryn Foreman headlines and leads a blazing field in the girl's distance events. She hopes of breaking records in the 1600m and 3200m but **Savannah Carnahan** and Bleckley County's **Ellen Powell** look to challenge her. Kathryn will also attempt to triple as she is entered in the 800m as well. **Marielle Lewis** of Gazelle TC leads the field once again in the 800m and is the state record holder. **Mackenzie Ellison**, **Kennedy Simon**, and **Lauren Jackson** of Peachtree Charter MS also have their eyes set on 800m gold. **Megan Gavin**, **Brittany Samples**, **Deanna Lewis**, and **Antwonette Thomas**, round out the girl's distance events.

All eyes will be on **Frank Pittman** of Sutton MS as he attempts to break the 4:40 barrier for 1600m. He will have to face **Harper Sigler**, **Thomas Moore**, and **Max Warner** who have all run in 4:40's. **Brandon Hines** has

gone under 2:10 in the 800m and will be joined by *Sigler, Austin Taylor*, and *Earnest McNease*. The 3200m race under the lights will feature *Zac Cantrell, Omar Lopez*, and *Reed Livingston*.

Field Events

In the Long jump, *Douglas Woods* and *Denzel Harper* have their eyes set on breaking the boy's long jump record. *Tyson Spears* will be the one to beat in the triple jump. *Terrell Sims* and *Eric Roberts* lead the shot put competition with incredible marks. *Mitt Conerly and Stockton McGuire* will lead a large field in the boy's pole vault competition on Saturday. *Marquez Martin* appears to be primed to take home the gold medal in the discus.

In the girl's Discus, *Kamryn Brinson* is the state record holder and leads all competitors. She is also the favorite in the shot and is joined by *Savannah Pryor*. *Chelsea Zoller* is the favorite to win the Triple Jump competition again. The girl's Pole Vault will feature *Carson Dingley, Jolene Berthold*, and *Becky Arbiv*. Look out for *Erica Emory, Ashley Devert*, and *Zykeria Williams* in the long jump.

Relays

4x100m = Hampton MS, William Hubbard MS, and Georgia Favor TC lead the way in the girls race. While *Chapel Hill, Cedar Grove*, and *Holy Innocents* are leading a blazing field in the boy's 400m relay.

4x400m = Georgia Favor TC and Chamblee MS lead the field in the mile relay. Look for both teams to run close to the state record. *Carrollton Junior High* is the favorites on the boy's side.

4x800m = Gazelle TC are expected to run under 10 minutes. *Bleckley County, Landmark Christian, and Georgia Favor TC* will challenge the talented Gazelle squad. On the boy's side, *Malcom Bridge* boys are set to dominate while *Landmark Christian* and *Oak Hill MS* look for the upset.

2011 Georgia MS Track & Field State Championships – Team Results

Girls

- 1) Holy Innocents = 74.5pts.
- 2) Central MS = 66.2pts.
- 3) Woodward Academy = 64pts.

Boys

- 1) Malcom Bridge MS = 83pts.
- 2) Hilsman MS = 56pts
- 3) Central MS = 55.67pts.