



# **Bluntly Speaking!!!**

## **It's Championship Day at "the Blunt!!!!"**

Win a prize at the Blunt!!! The First person to get all of the answers correct gets a prizeWho was the FIRST ECI athlete to make the USA Olympic Team?

- 1) Who traveled the farthest to get here this year?
- 2) How many track teams have come to the meet this year?
- 3) Can you name 6 Olympic Team members who ran at the ECI or the Blunt ECI?
- 4) Which team has been coming to the East Coast Invitational longest?

**Be the first to bring your answers to the Press Box....**

### **FINALS DAY: The Ones to WATCH (TOT)**

The Final Day of the Russell E. Blunt East Coast Invitational Track Meet is here and on the way to finals we have seen some spectacular races. **The weather has cooperated so far, the athletes put in terrific performances over the past two days.** How about that **NATIONAL RECORD by Payton Payne from Glenarden in the 100m?** 13.97 NOT wind aided which bettered the existing USATF record of 14.25 by Stacey Onyepunuka OF THE ARIZONA CHEETAHS set just last year?!!! If she is running that fast at 8 years old, the sky is the limit!!!! And how about that National Record in the Pole Vault by Marisa Bermudez of the next Level Track Club?...The great competition in the preliminaries is setting up for some spectacular finished as the Russell E Blunt east Coast Invitational concludes today with many of the athletes going on the USATF and AAU National Championships beginning next week in Jacksonville, Florida and Newport News, Virginia. We can't wait to see what the 800ms will bring Sunday morning! And then there are the finals in the short hurdles, the sprints, the quarters, the relays and of course, you know the Mothers, Fathers, and Coaches have been practicing all year, rubbing down in "Icy Hot", and losing weight to get into those uniforms to have their "one shining moment"!!!!...The Ben Gay Relays await!!!

There will be the whole group of 800m races beginning tomorrow morning and there ought to be some pretty good competition top-to-bottom of the age groups. There are the team awards, and the special awards to the 17-18y/o males and females who win the straight hurdles, the 400m, the 800m and awards to the Young Men/Young Women's 4x100m relays from today. And not that this isn't enough...there are the Outstanding athlete awards for each Age Group!!! Finally, EVERYONE will want to be in the stadium when the Moms, Dads, Coaches take the track for their own version of the (Ben Gay) 4x100m relays....what a way to end another Blunt ECI!!!!. Friday's and today's semi-finals suggest that we might see some great finishes tomorrow!!!

There will be the MVPs selected for each age group, there are special awards to honor the commitment that Coach Blunt, Dr Charles Putman, Coach Herman Graham, Coach George McFadden, and at the conclusion of the meet, the Team Awards.

**MATCHUPS TO WATCH/MORE RECORDS TO FALL? .....FOR THE GIRLS**-Here are some terrific head-to-head matchups set to make for interesting finishes. There are some possible doubles and triple Gold looming in some of the middle distance divisions

(800m/1500m/3000m)... Will we see a low 40 in the Young Men's 400m today?... Will we see more records fall?

**FOR THE GIRLS:**....Can Payton Payne better her National record in the 100m? and make it a double in the 200m?Only 0.8 seconds divide Ms. Payton and Ms McCurrie of Prime Track in the 200m and run the anchor in the Glenarden 4x100 relays to make it a triple GOLD performance at the Blunt? Can Glenarden eclipse the LA Jets' 4x100m rely RECORD TOMORROW? THEY ARE LESS THAN A SECOND OFF THE RECORDS...How about that meet record in the Shotput by 8&under Adrianna Parks who also won the Mini-javelin in the 8&under girls? What a competition in the Bantam girls High Jaump-three 9-10 girls all within 0.1m of each other as top 3!...Among the 11-12 Girls, Track Explosion is hawking the 4x100m Record going into the finals at 50.55, existing meet record is 5.80...In the 13-14 Girls Division, Glenarden is right on the Blunt ECI record in the 4x100 m relay—48.95 on Mt Airy's existing record of 48.57....Can they get it?... There was Cornesha LaGroon (Emerald City)'s almost Blunt ECI record-off by only 0.48m off the Blunt ECI record. In the 15-16 Girls Division, Kathleen Burroughs from the Durham Striders won the 3000m and the 15000m. Among the 17-18 Girls, there's Veronica Fraley with wins in both the Shotput and the Discus....Cha'Mia Rothwell of the Durham Striders is after yet another GOLD in the 100m hurdles tomorrow, just 0.4 seconds off the Blunt meet record and 0.6seconds off the National record!...Faith Ross' from Western Branch just missed the Blunt ECI rceord in winning the 400m hurdles for 17-18 girls...Tainisha Vines just missed the Blunt ECI record in the Long jump, in winning at 5.76m (meet record=5.93m)...And there are STILL MORE RACES TO RUN, EVENTS TO THROW and JUMP!!!! What a warmup for Nationals!!!!!!

**FOR THE BOYS**-In the 8&under races, can Corwin Armstrong from the Durham Striders complete a double in the 100 and 400m races?...Next Level missed the boys 4x100m Blunt relay record by 0.72 seconds-some fast running yesterday!. The Striders went 1-2 in the 8&under boys Shotput, with Chris Frasier and Donovan Davis approaching the Blunt ECI record....9-10 male Chris Peal from Charlotte Heat goes into the finals ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the 100m and the 200m!..Ben Black, his teammate from Charlotte Heat is right on him in the 200m...and Peal is third in the 400m finals tomorrow....In the 11-12 year old boys, Shawn Pelote from Track Express is looking for a double in the 200m and 400m....And there's yet another NUNLEY in the hurdles finals for 11-12 boys where -.4second seperates the top three going into the finals!...Among the 13-14 boys, Suresh Black in a battle with Daniel Moyer, Jr in the 100 and 200m.. Black is right on top of the Blunt ECI record in the 200m...In the distance runs, Jayden Ming from the Bermuda Pacers won both the 1500m and the 3000m...In the 13-14 y/o men's Division: there is Jalen Houston from Hurley YMCA winning the the Shotput, Discus, and Javelin, there is Timon Edelin from the Junior Striders with a triple gold performance.... Going into the Finals of the 13-14 110m Hurdles having already won the 200m hurdles right on top of the Blunt ECI record is Jalen Houston...Can he get the double win?!.... Same can be said for Jahkwan Blackley from Western Branch who goes into the 15-16 100m and 200m finals ranked first for tomorrow's finals. While Andrew Burgess from Hurley YMCA accomplished the double win in the 1500m and 3000m runs... He joins William Henderson from Baltimore City who won both the Long and Triple Jumps for his age group and he joins Chauncey Copeland from Central Virginia who doubled (GOLD) in the Shotput and Discus for 15-16 year olds. That's not going to be an easy choice for the MVP in that age group!!!! Finally in the 17-18 year old group, there's a nice competition brewing with Brent Carroll from Isprint Track and Elliott Graves in the 110m hurdles with Graves having already won the 400m hurdles earlier in the meet.

REMEMBER:

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the 2016 Russell E Blunt East Coast Invitational!!!**