

District News

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SPORTS FOR ALL, FOREVER!

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Maryland District Track and Field Championships!

By McCarroll Nole



Coach Felix Rogers, (Left)

I arrived early to Randallstown High School to identify a perch where I could get some good photographs and to seek out the Head Coach of The Randallstown Track Club and AAU Track and Field Sports Director **Felix Rogers** or his Assistant **Mary Haynes** for introductions to participants for interviews. My arrival on day two of the June 11th and 12th tournament was hours later than the arrival time of avid track and field enthusiasts. The parking lot was filled to capacity and on street parking spaces were going fast. I was lucky enough to find a space a half block away.

Making the approximately 100 yard walk to the stadium, I witnessed individual athletes doing wind springs and stretching, teams in colorful uniforms sitting in groups receiving instructions from coaches, and groups just relaxing in shaded areas. As I approached the entrance to the stadium, I quickly understood what early means in track and field. Quick pitch tents, family tents, and canopies surrounded the outer perimeter and were filled with occupants. Inside the stadium and beside the bleachers, which were almost filled, were more canopies. They were filled with rows of occupants who were comfortably seated in their lawn chairs.

I was impressed with the precision with which the tournament was being conducted. Announcements were made directing athletes where to go for the next event and the events were being carried out without the slightest delay. I was informed by Felix Rogers that 10 certified officials and 50-60 volunteers were responsible for registering, processing, and conducting events for the 171 athletes between the ages of 8 and 18.

I tagged along with Mary as she presented medals to Isaac McGinnis for placement in the long jump and his sister Morgan for her placement in the 200 meter hurdles.

Many of the seniors will continue their involvement in track and field as they go off to college. Michael Bell, who participated in the long jump, triple jump and 200 meters and a senior at Loyola Blakefield High School, will take his talents to North Carolina A & T in the Fall, where he will major in Civil Engineering

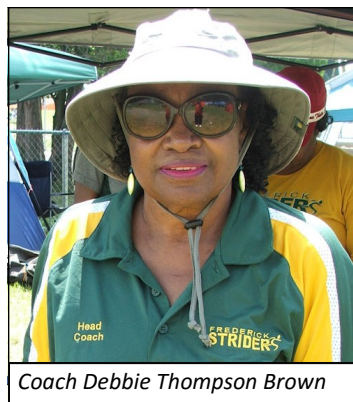
As part of US Athletics' AAU Cares Program, which is a national effort to give back to the community, the company donated sizes 2, 3, and 4 track shoes to tournament participants.



Mary Haynes (left) and Morgan McGinnis



June, 2016



Coach Debbie Thompson Brown

Frederick Striders Track and Field Club is Led by Former Olympian

"We registered 26 athletes in the Maryland District Track and Field Championships. Twenty four of them made it to the next level," stated **Coach Debbie Thompson Brown**. The next level she was referring to is the Region 3 Qualifier, where athletes qualify to participate in the Junior Olympic Games. The event is being held June 23-26 in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Debbie says her Striders will go on to participate in the Junior Olympic Games July 30-August 6 in Houston, Texas.

Coach Debbie, as everyone fondly refers to her, broke Wilma Rudolph's indoor 60 yard record at age 15. At 19 she was the youngest members of the team when she competed in the 200 meters at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan.

In 1987, Debbie and her husband Charlie Brown founded the Frederick Striders. "We founded the Striders because we wanted to give back to the community of Frederick that supported me when I was competing." Charlie is now retired, but Debbie vowed, "I'm not retiring any time soon." Her primary message to her athletes is "never give up. Dreams will come true as long as you work at it. I push schoolwork. If you want to go to the next level, you have to get the grades."

Mary Haynes, Baltimore City Track and Field Club Coach and Assistant District Track and Field Tournament Director, refers to Debbie as the Iron Lady because she underwent two kidney transplants. While at a track meet, she received a call from the hospital that a kidney was available and she needed to get to the hospital immediately. She left the track meet for the hospital where she received the second transplant. Three days later she was back on the track coaching.

I asked Coach Debbie what became of her fellow 200 meter Olympians. "Willye White, the Olympic silver medalist and track coach passed away last year," she said. "Wyomia Tyus, the 200 meter gold medalist owns a number of fast food restaurants in California, and Edith McGuire became Founder of Women in Sports, an educational non-profit charity."



8-Under Boys Basketball National Tournament Comes to Maryland!

The Maryland District Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) has partnered with Wicomico County Recreation, Parks and Tourism to host the AAU Boys Basketball National Tournament for eight year olds and under. The tournament, which will be held July 5-10, 2016, will be the first national championship to be held in the Maryland District.

A \$100 discount and free practice time will be given to early registrants. Local teams that play in the Maryland District Tournament will receive an additional discount to participate in the National Tournament. All games will be played in one location-under one roof and teams will receive discounted lodging. **Need more info? Call 410-340-0635 TODAY!**

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