

Track athletes headed to Pan-Ams

The Brampton Guardian

07/24/05

Brampton will be represented by four athletes later this month at the Pan Am Junior Track and Field Championships in Windsor.

Athletics Canada named a 75-member team recently heading to the meet Friday to Sunday July 31 in Windsor.

Kate Van Buskirk, the winner of The Ken Giles Award as Brampton's Amateur Athlete of the Year for 2004 has qualified in the 800 metres.

At the recent Canadian junior nationals in Montreal, Van Buskirk ran a personal best to finish second in 2:09.62, just behind winner Caitlin Bailey who was clocked in 2:09.57.

In March, Van Buskirk attended the World Cross Country Championships in France, finishing in 57th place.

Last month at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) Championship in Windsor, competing for Turner Fenton, Van Buskirk won a silver in the 3,000m and bronze in the 1,500m.

Rhonda Kaye Trusty has qualified in the 100m. She was second at the junior nationals in a personal best of 12.34 seconds. The winner, Genevieve Thibault from Quebec City was timed in 12.02.

Last year, Trusty qualified for the World Junior Championships in Italy where she reached the semifinals. She won gold in the 100m and silver in the 200m at OFSAA competing for St. Marguerite d'Youville.

Jamie Duncan has been named to the team in the 800m. He took second at the junior nationals in his personal best of 1:52.07. David Holm of Calgary was first in 1:51.85. At OFSAA Duncan a Heart Lake student finished second in the 800m.

Also heading to Windsor is Alecia Beckford-Stewart in the multi-sport heptathlon, with a personal best score of 4,576.

Stewart a student at Bramalea showed her versatility in her high school season qualifying for the OFSAA championships in the maximum three individual events.

At OFSAA she won gold in the long jump, bronze in the 100m hurdles and was seventh in the high jump.

The Pan Am Junior Championships are expected to draw athletes from 44 countries.

At the 2003 championships in Barbados Canada won 12 medals, including one gold.