

## Walton girls, Wheeler boys return to Cobb track elite

---

by Greg Oshust  
goshust@mdjonline.com  
03.30.10 - 12:00 am



POWDER SPRINGS - Wheeler won its first boys championship in seven years and Walton clinched its first girls title in 10 years on the final day of the Cobb County track and field championships at McEachern on Monday.

Wheeler scored 106 points to win its first boys team title since 2003, finishing comfortably ahead of runner-up Marietta (78) and third-place Walton (59).

It has been an even longer wait between titles for Walton's girls as they accumulated 96 points to claim their first girls team crown since 2000.

The Lady Raiders finished ahead of runner-up and last year's champion Lassiter (88), with Kennesaw Mountain (71) finishing third.

"I'm very proud of the girls, they've done very well the last two days," Walton coach Travis Gower said. "This county is a very tough one to compete in with 18 schools, so this is very much an accomplishment. It's a tribute to the depth of this program that we had so many girls score in so many events. It looks like that all of our hard work is paying off."

Steven Lester led the way for the Wheeler boys with wins in the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash. Lester won the 100 with a time of 10.92. then clinched the 200 with a time of 21.95.

The Wildcats also got a win from Jordan Thompson in the 300 hurdles (38.77) and won the 1,600 relay (3:18.27).

Kell freshman standout Kendell Williams followed her win in Saturday's girls long jump with wins in both the 100-meter hurdles and 300 hurdles, setting new county meet records in both events.

Williams won the 100 hurdles with a time of 13.57, breaking the record of 14.18 set by Campbell's Jasmine Edgeron in 2007, and later won the 300 hurdles with a time of 42.43 that surpassed the old mark of 42.75 set by Shareefa Jones in 2001.

"I'm really excited, being a freshman and going out and having such a successful meet," Williams said. "It's been a good couple of days for me."

New county meet records were also set in both the boys and girls 800-meter runs,

with Allatoona's Henry Stevens-Carty setting a new mark in the boys race and Walton's Mara Canning in the girls event.

Stevens-Carty added the boys 800 to the boys 1,600 that he won on Saturday as he led from start to finish and won with a time of 1:52.44 to break the previous county meet record of 1:54.04 set by John Schorer in 1995.

"I wanted to run hard from the go," Stevens-Carty said. "I was able to run hard and I thank God for that."

Canning was just as dominant in the girls 800 as she crossed the finish line with a time of 2:15.40, surpassing the previous meet record of 2:16.30 set by Sprayberry's Taylor Adams in 2005 and finishing over four seconds ahead of teammate Caroline Sullivan (2:19.61).

As with Stevens-Carty in the boys competition, Canning completed a sweep of the 800 and 1,600 on the girls side.

"I felt fantastic," Canning said. "Me and Caroline went into it wanting to run a good race and we did that."

Other winners in the boys competition were North Cobb's Levi Josephs in the 110 hurdles (14.78), Sprayberry's Michael Newton in the 400 (47.72), Pope's Zach Tupper in the 3,200 (9:40.84) and McEachern in the 400 relay (42.09).

Other girls winners were Lassiter's Gabrielle Piper in the 100 (12.40), Campbell's Kyana White in the 200 (25.88), McEachern's Amber Bryant-Brock in the 400 (57.25), Lassiter in the 400 relay (48.42) and McEachern in the 1,600 relay (42.09).