

## **2017 New Balance High School Outdoor Track & Field Nationals**

Friday-Sunday, June 16-18, 2017

Greensboro, North Carolina

2017 Race Walk Report from Vince Peters:

Taylor Ewert, of Beavercreek, Ohio, exploded off the starting line in international fashion with an initial 200 meters in 50 seconds at this morning 10am race. Shadowing her from the gun was the senior, Kelsey Jordan of Washampton, NY. Margaret Atwood of Sachem East high school led the chase pack. Ewert was targeting the 41 year old national freshman high school record of 14:40.20. It has been held by California's Lisa Metheny since 1976.

Farmingdale's Tara Mandel caught both Jordan and Atwood to lead the chase group thru one kilometer in 4:48. Ewert's adrenalin burst had brought her through the initial kilometer 10 seconds quicker in 4:38.

With only five entries in the men's race (compared to 21 in the women's) meet management decided to contest the two fields together. As a result, the men started 30 seconds after the women. Steven Smith, a recent graduate of Maine's South Portland high school, took 3 laps to catch and then work his way up to the front of the women's chase pack. There he quickly discovered he was still 50 meters in arrears of the leader of the women's field. While the rest of the men's field would be totally lost in the women's battle, Smith redoubled his efforts, It would cost him a pair of yellow paddles.

Ewert completed her first 1600m in 7:34 with Smith now drafting and recovering from the hard charge. The male and female leads would then exchange positions several times under cool, windless, overcast skies as 2k slid by in 9:31 and 2600m in 12:28. Then the pace heated up again with the Beavercreek, Ohio, first-year going to the lead with 400 meters to go. Smith would answer with another rapid acceleration and pass with 300 meters to go. Taylor seemed satisfied with her 1:55 closing lap as she had the women's title locked up and the women's 2,000 meter steeplechase final still to come.

Audrey Fox, of New Rochelle, NY, high school, went by 3rd place finishing Margaret Atwood with one kilometer to go and held on to earn second in 15:04.99. Atwood finished in 15:10.83.

Chelsea Benedict, like Atwood, a junior at Sachem East HS in NY, had the fastest finish of the day. Benedict closed in 1:47 to pass Mandel and Sayville New York's Kayla Torres in that last lap. Benedict's final time was 15:15.56 with Mandel 5th in 15:17 and Torres 6th in 15:18. Top six finishers earn the High School All American honors and awards.

Out of both genders, Torres was the only member of the USA Junior National Team that competed in Peru last month who raced today.

Ewert's winning time was 14:24.68, a 13 second improvement of her national leading indoor best and a 15 second smashing of the all time freshman high school record. Ewert will also be the New Balance Outdoor Nationals meet record holder as she goes forward (Want to beat it was a stadium/track record also?). Next on her busy agenda will be the USA Track & Field Junior Nationals in Sacramento, California. That is, after her steeplechase final at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals on Saturday.

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The Men's race started 30 seconds after the women. That had its pluses while also being somewhat lost in the excitement of the women's race.

Smith would cross the finish line at 14:19.64 according to the women's clock. The deduction of the approximately 30 second difference in gun starts resulted in an official time of 13:49.09 for the soon to be West Virginia Tech University freshman. It is a PR for the distance and will put him in the top ten in the college ranks once he steps on campus.

Brian Baccaglioni, a senior at Nanuet High school in New York, finished second with Jordan Crawford of Douglasville, Georgia, third. Their times of 14:59 and 15:07, respectively, should attract the attention of some college coaches as both are rookies in the event with the potential for a lot of improvement.

Only Crawford, from the men's field, is headed out to Sacramento for next weekend's race to select the Junior National team of five men & five women for the annual dual meet duel with Canada. Joining Ewert there from the women's field will be Kayla Torres, Zoi Betties, Rebecca Ferguson and the Heiser-Whatley twins from Greer, South Carolina. That match-up over 10,000 meters will include the recent 1,500m high school record setter Lauren Harris and the Maine high school champions at one mile; Kayla Allen & Sydney Sirois.

The video from today's race is available here:

[http://www.nbnationalsout.com/eprofile.php?event\\_id=3689&do=videos&video\\_id=212491](http://www.nbnationalsout.com/eprofile.php?event_id=3689&do=videos&video_id=212491)

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National: 13:41.95 1994 Anya-Maria Ruoss, Fayetteville, AR  
Freshman: 14:40.20 1976 Lisa Metheny, , CA  
Sophomore: 14:21.70 6/04/2011 Maite Moscoso, Longwood, FL  
Junior: 14:13.49 7/13/2014 Ashleigh Resch, Yellow Springs, OH  
Senior: 13:41.95 1994 Anya-Maria Ruoss, Fayetteville, AR  
Meet: First time contested at this distance, prior years at 1 mile  
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- 1) Taylor EWERT 20 Beavercreek, OH 14:24.63 MF
- 2) Audrey FOX 18 New Rochelle, NY 15:04.99
- 3) Margaret ATWOOD 18 Holtsville, NY 15:10.83
- 4) Chelsea BENEDICT 18 Farmingville, NY 15:15.56
- 5) Tara MANDEL 17 Farmingdale, NY 15:17.59
- 6) Kayla TORRES 17 Sayville, NY 15:18.41
- 7) Jessica HEISER-WHATLEY 18 Greer, SC 15:36.20
- 8) Sophie RIEGEL 19 Hewlett, NY 15:45.08
- 9) Victoria HEISER-WHATLEY 18 Greer, SC 15:48.80
- 10) Genna BALDASSARRE 17 Grand Island, NY 15:54.48
- 11) Erika VARADY 19 Huntington, NY 16:03.19
- 12) Keily RIVAS 19 Huntington Station, NY 16:11.91
- 13) Sofia KHALEK 18 Farmingdale, NY 16:27.89
- 14) Anna ARRIGO 18 Farmingville, NY 16:36.73
- 15) Emma MASON 17 Painted Post, NY 16:38.08
- 16) Ziqi GUO 18 New York City, NY 16:40.27
- 17) Zoi BETTIES 20 Fredericksburg, MD 16:43.73
- 18) Natalie EHLERS 19 Quogue, NY 16:56.78
- 19) Brooke VAN SLYKE 17 Amherst, NY 16:57.74
- 20) Rebecca FERGUSON 17 Moriches, NY 17:58.40
- Kelsey JORDAN 17 Westhampton, NY DNF

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Men's 3,000m Race Walk:

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National: 12:19.57 1999 Tristan Ruoss Fayetteville, AK  
 Freshman: 12:59.83 6/24/14 Cameron Haught Yellow Springs, OH  
 Sophomore: 12:52.81 7/15/15 Cameron Haught Yellow Springs, OH  
 Junior: 12:03.2 1/08/11 Tyler Sorensen Lafayette, CA  
 Senior: 12:19.57 1999 Tristan Ruoss Fayetteville, AK  
 Meet: First time contested at this distance, prior years at 1 mile

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- 1) Steven SMITH 17 South Portland, ME 13:49.09 M
- 2) Brian BACCAGLINI 17 Nanuet, NY 14:59.93
- 3) Jordan CRAWFORD 18 Douglasville, GA 15:07.20
- 4) Jadon DAVIS 19 Baltimore, MD 15:50.38
- 5) Thoreau KILBOURNE 18 Asheville, NC 19:05.87