



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **99<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PIAA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

MECHANICSBURG - The 2024 PIAA Track and Field Championships are scheduled to be contested at Seth Grove Stadium, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, Pa starting Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, through Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The 99<sup>th</sup> PIAA Track and Field Championships will see a record of nearly 2,900 student-athletes competing, representing 185 3A boys' teams, 176 3A girls' teams, 177 2A boys' teams, 151 2A girls' teams and 9 unified teams.

In 1925, track and field was the second sport adopted by the PIAA. The championships have only been held at four sites: Bucknell University (1925-29), Mansion Park Stadium, Altoona (1930-32, 1943), Penn State University (1935-42, 1944-75) and Shippensburg University (1976-present). Shippensburg took over being the host site in 1976, after Beaver Stadium went under construction and the track was moved down the hill. Historically, the championships have been hosted during the Memorial Day Weekend. There have only been a few instances when the championships were held in June. According to Art Hindle, a historian of Track in Field in Pennsylvania, the inaugural Track and Field Championships in 1925 saw 85 boys competing from 35 different high schools, while representing eight different Districts from across the Keystone State. Bethlehem HS won the very first team championship, scoring 15 points.

Team champions from 1925-1932: Bethlehem (1925), Lower Merion (1926), Lock Haven (1927-29), Williamsport (1930), and Altoona (1931-32). The championships were not held in 1933 and 1934 due to the Great Depression. After ten years of sponsoring the Track and Field Championships, 1935 was the initial year splitting schools into two classifications of "Class A" and "Class B. "A" was considered larger schools while "B" was considered smaller schools.

### ***Class A (No confirmed scoring results for 1973-1975)***

- 8: Altoona (1935-36, 1938-39, 1941-43, 1954)
- 4: Norristown (1947, 1950-51, 1961), Abington (1964-65, 1969-70)
- 3: Williamsport (1945-46, 1956)
- 2: Clairton (1955, 1962), Lower Merion (1957, 1966), Mt. Lebanon (1958, 1968)
- 1: Erie Strong Vincent (1937), Taylor Allderdice (1940), Upper Darby (1944), Wilkinsburg (1948), Chester (1949), Coatesville (1952), Erie Academy (1953), New Castle (1959), Lancaster (1960), Harriton (1963), Neshaminy (1967), York (1971), Wissahickon (1972)

### ***Class B (No confirmed scoring results for 1941, 1956, 1959-62, 1973-75)***

- 4: Ridley Park (1937, 1940, 1945, 1953)
- 3: Swarthmore (1935, 1943, 1955)
- 2: Ambler (1938, 1952), Springfield (Montco) (1944, 1946)
- 1: Birdsboro (1936), Lawrence Park (1939), Bridgeville (1942), Ridley Park (1945), Sewickley (1947), Springfield (Delco) (1948), Wyomissing (1949), Manheim Township (1950), Dallastown (1951),

Avon Grove (1954), Scotland (1957), United Joint (1958), North East (1963-64), Columbia (1965), Sayra (1966), Spring-Ford (1967), Wissahickon (1968), Freeport (1969), Bristol (1970), Darby-Colwyn (1971), Middletown (1972)

The mid to late-70s saw numerous changes to the championships. In 1974, was the addition of the inaugural girls track and field championships. Two years later, in 1976, the classifications changed titles to what they are today, 3A and 2A. The girls expanded to two classifications, 3A and 2A, in 1977. That same year, the first team champions were crowned. The final big change in the 70s came in 1979. It was the first-year events changed to metrics. The last change came in 2002, when the use of the IAAF javelin was instituted.

**3A Girls Team Champions: *Co-Champions in 2006, Bradford and Strath Haven; Co-Champions in 2018 Northgate and Avonworth (No confirmed scoring results from 1976)***

*16 - 3A Girls teams have won titles:*

- 3: State College (1978, 1980, 2011), Chester (1981, 1983, 1994), Penn Wood (1990-91, 1996), North Penn (1995, 1997, 2017), McDowell (2001, 2004-05)
- 2: Harry S. Truman (1984, 1999), Abington (1) (1985, 2009), Henderson (1987-89), J.P. McCaskey (1992-93), Harrisburg (1998, 2000), Merion Mercy Academy (2002-03), Hempfield (7) (2013-14)
- 1: Central York (1977), Upper Dublin (1979), Great Valley (1982), Williamsport Area (1986), Bradford (2006), Strath Haven (2006), Easton Area (2007), Methacton (2008), Penn Hills (2010), Coatesville (2012), Northgate (2018), Avonworth (2018), Warwick (2019), Central Bucks West (2021), Moon (2022), Haverford Township (2023)

**2A Girls Team Champions: *Co-Champions in 2021, North Schuylkill and Schuylkill Valley (No confirmed scoring results from 1976)***

*21 - 2A Girls teams have won titles: Milton Hershey winning the most consecutive titles with seven.*

- 14: Milton Hershey (1989-95, 1999-03, 2005-06)
- 5: Perkiomen Valley (1979-83)
- 4: Swenson A&T (2007-09, 2013)
- 3: Hickory (2012, 2015-16), Neumann Goretti (2017-19)
- 2: Annville-Cleona (1985, 1987), West Philadelphia Catholic (2010-11)
- 1: Avon Grove (1977), General McLane (1978), McConnellsburg (1984), Palisades (1986), Farrell (1988), Washington (1996), Smethport Area (1997), Gwynedd Mercy (2004), Merion Mercy Academy (1998), Paul Robeson (2014), North Schuylkill (2021), Schuylkill Valley (2021), Susquehanna Community (2022), Central Columbia (2023)

**3A Boys Team Champions: *Co-Champions in 1987, Glen Mills and Bensalem; Bishop Shanahan and North Allegheny in 2018 (No confirmed scoring results from 1976)***

*25 - 3A Boys teams have won titles; Harrisburg winning the most consecutive titles with four.*

- 7: Harrisburg (1980, 1984, 1986-89, 1992), Glen Mills (1987, 1993, 1995-97, 1999-00)
- 3: State College Area (2016, 2019, 2021)
- 2: North Allegheny (1979, 2018), North Penn (1981, 2002), Penn Wood (1985, 1998), Bensalem (1987, 2013), Henderson (1990-91), Strath Haven (1994, 2012), Central Dauphin (2004-05), Altoona Area (2008, 2010), Hempfield (3) (2009, 2011), Cheltenham (2014-15)
- 1: Coatesville (1977), Erie (1978), Wissahickon (1982), Steel Valley (1983), Cumberland Valley (2001), Pennsbury (2003), Gratz (2006), McDowell (2007), Carlisle (2017), Bishop Shanahan (2018), Butler (2022), Chambersburg (2023)

**2A Boys Team Champions: *Co-Champions in 1994, Pottstown and G.A.R.; Co-Champions in 1999 Bald Eagle and Scotland (No confirmed scoring results from 1976)***

*28 - 2A Boys teams have won titles; Scotland has won the most consecutive titles with three.*

- 6: Scotland School (1991-92, 1995-97, 1999)
- 4: Milton Hershey (1980-82, 1989)
- 3: Elmer L. Meyers (1987-88, 2004), Springfield Township (1990, 2014-15), Schuylkill Valley (2012-13, 2018)
- 2: Pottstown (1993-94), Clarion Area (2000-01), Wyomissing (2002, 2022), Danville Area (2006, 2023), Trinity (3) (2010, 2011), Hickory (2017, 2019)
- 1: Middletown (1977), Darby Township (1978), Kennard Dale (1979), Greenville (1983), Southwestern (1984), Lancaster Catholic (1985), Susquehanna Township (1986), G.A.R. Memorial (1994), Mount Carmel (1998), Bald Eagle Area (1999), Bethlehem Catholic (2003), Aliquippa (2005), Carver E&S (2007), Wilmington Area (2008), Bishop McDevitt (2009), West Middlesex (2013), Southern Columbia (2021)

Five records were set at the **2023 PIAA Track and Field Championships:**

**AAA Girls:** Pole Vault – Katie Urbine, Solanco HS, 13' 09"

**AA Girls:** 100H – Teleea Buxton-West, West Catholic HS, :13.80

Javelin – Evelyn Bliss, Union/AC Valley HS, 170' 2"

**AAA Boys:** 3200 – Brian DiCola, Hatboro Horsham HS, 8:47.39

**AA Boys:** 200M Dash – Ethan Black, Conemaugh Twp. HS, 21.07

**NFHS RECORDS**

Student-athletes competing at the PIAA Track and Field Championships have not only excelled, setting state records but also National Federation of State High School records. Three national records are currently held by PIAA student-athletes:

***4x800 NFHS record set in 2009***

Central Bucks South: Jeffery Dickson, David Manion, Matthew Poiesz, Thomas Mallon; 7:33.48

***Boys Javelin NFHS record set in 2012 – Silly Stanley, South Park; 246' 9"***

***Girls Javelin NFHS record set in 2015 – Madison Wiltrout, Connellsville; 185' 8"***

All media is asked to familiarize yourself with the PIAA Handbook, Section II Policy and Procedures, pages 97-102: <http://tinyurl.com/5a3h7wyk>. The championship schedule can be found [here](#) and a full list of any [previous championship results](#).

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**Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association**

Beginning in Pittsburgh, on December 29, 1913, PIAA was given the privilege of serving its member schools and registered officials by establishing policies and adopting contest rules that emphasize the educational values of interscholastic athletics, promote safe and sportsmanlike competition, and provide uniform standards for all interscholastic levels of competition.