

Avon Athletes Stunning Effort at UK Final

Avon School's young athletes performed with great distinction at the United Kingdom Sports Hall Finals at Manchester's Sport City over the weekend.

On Saturday the U13 boys team took a magnificent 2nd place of the 12 Regional finalists.

The event on Saturday started with a wonderful effort from the Obstacle Relay team who took a surprise but welcome Silver in the very first event. Winning their heat by some distance they were beaten by 3 tenths to the title.

Team members Sam Ojeiwe (Oldfield), George Isgrove (Sidcot), James Wamulo (St. Katherines) and Dylan Stoneman (Beechen Cliff) had an agonising wait whilst times from 2 races were compared.

The young athletes won 6 United Kingdom titles with 3 athletes winning 3 golds each.

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Pride of place goes to:

RYAN BRADY (Orchard School) who blitzed the opposition in the 2-lap race in both his heat and final where he got stronger and stronger. His winning Shot was a pb 12m52 a brilliant effort. He then anchored the 4x2 lap Relay team to Gold with a sensational last 2 laps.

MAXON PECCOO also won 3 UK titles. His individual win in the Standing Triple Jump was with an amazing 8m19cms. His strong runs in the 4x1 lap relay and 4x2lap relay again ensured 2 Relay Golds

ISHAQ RAHMAN (Bristol Metropolitan School) won the Vertical Jump with 66cms a p.b. and produced exceptional speed in the 2 relays to secure his 3 titles. His first leg in the Final setting up a wonderful win.

In the 4x 2lap relay the team gelled perfectly with each supporting each other with excellent relay changeovers.

Kenny Newbury (St. Katherines) was a fantastic lead off runner in both relays running 3 times in a short space of time. Having won the 4x1 lap with great baton changing between George Isgrove, Maxon Peccoo and Ishaq Rahman, team manager Dave Turner decided to put Ishaq Rahman on the first leg of the 4x2lap relay for the final with instructions to scare the opposition. Avon had the 3rd best qualifying time. With Surrey and Berkshire as main opposition both would not have expected to see Ishaq starting and be behind after 2 laps. Ishaq ran a blinder and Avon never lost the lead. Fantastic runs by Maxon Peccoo, and Dante McEwan (Beechen Cliff) left Ryan Brady in front to finish 5 metres ahead of the next team. Dante had suffered a fall in the 2lap yet recovered his confidence to storm with great

determination through his leg in both the heat and final. It should also be mentioned that the hugely impressive Kenny Newbury also won a Gold as he had run in the heat.

Mansour Aw (Orchard) ran a fine 4lap race to finish 6th of the 24 competitors, and then joined Kanye Christie (St. Katherines) in the Paarlauf to finish 4th just outside the medals. Kanye ran well in his 4lap finishing a gutsy overall 10th.

Dylan Stoneman also finished a fine 5th in the 6-lap winning his heat after a fine run. He was ably supported in the event by Jake Bailey (Hanham Woods). Dylan was also 6th in the Speed Bounce with 84.

James Wamulo (St. Katherines) produced a personal best in the Triple Jump of 7m33 to finish a fine 4th just outside the medals. In addition to the scoring team Ryan Bundy (St. Katherines) supported with an excellent Speed bounce of 72 and Fortune Malalou won a 2 lap non scoring race.

Team captain Kanye Christie waited nervously on the podium with all the other Team Captains before it was declared that Avon had come a great 2nd to Surrey.

This talented team had practised together the week before at St. Katherines School and the team spirit shone through. A wonderful, noisy and enthusiastic band of parents and supporters cheered the team on all day waving flags and were congratulated on their support and attitude.

Team managers Dave Turner and Susan Jones were “over the moon” and full of praise for each member of the team who had raised their game at just the right time.

More success followed on the Sunday. Team Managers Dave and Susan travelled North to meet up with Dennis Alphonso (St. Mary Redcliffe and Temple school) and his Mum. Dennis one of the U15 team managed by Hilary Nash had been invited as an individual on the basis of his performance at Torbay. On arrival the Team Managers found Dennis being treated by St. John’s Ambulance with a swollen ankle. Both the medics and Team Manager advised him not to risk further damage but Dennis wanted to give it a go.

In the Triple Jump the leading jump was 8m42. Dennis first jump was 8m04 then a second of 8m06, and so with one jump left he was lying about 7th. His final jump produced an incredible 8m 53 to win his UK title and claim the longest jump in the UK in 2019. Overall in the all-rounder competition Dennis finished 21st out of 50 competitors.

A brilliant effort and a fitting conclusion to a great weekend. An excellent event run by SportsHall supremo Adam Burgess, and SportsHall UK supported by many volunteers.

Full results are on the www.sportshall.org website and on the Avon Schools Athletics website.

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