

# TRACK AND FIELD

## Vaulter Ellis gets Olympian's boost

JIM CASTOR

An Olympic champion quietly joined the crowd at RIT's Gordon Field House on Friday night when freshman Erica Ellis of Gates Chili began her pole vaulting routines.

Few knew.

While Ellis' GC coaches — head coach John Driscoll and vault coach Bob Bartula — provided the pointers, Jenn Suhr and her coach/husband, Rick, stood proudly back and watched their protégé win in a breeze at Section V's Meet of Champions, the qualifying meet for the state indoor track meet next week at Cornell.

"It's always great to have their support," said Ellis, who trains with Jenn at the Suhrs' home-based facility in Riga. "Coach Bartula and I decided I'd start at 11 feet, be relaxed and just have fun. I'd already made state qualifying height (her season-best is 12 feet, 4 inches, set at the Rochester Relays) so it was like the pressure was off."

After clearing 11-9, Ellis was done. A quick hug and Jenn and Rick were out the door.

"I am so fortunate to have excellent coaches around me," Ellis said. "I can't wait to get to states. That is going to be so exciting."

Last week at sectionals Ellis took a shot at the Section V record as the clock passed midnight. She stretched the meet to almost 1 a.m. trying to top 12-6, but missed on three tries.

she landed a record long jump of 20-3, No. 3 in the country.

Watson added a victory in the 1,000 (2:46.77) to go along with her 1:29.53 600 that broke her own record of 1:30.08 set three weeks ago.

Senior sprinter Kelly Brown of Wilson Magnet swept the 55 (6:46) and 55 hurdles (7.41) while the meet's fourth double-winner was Anthony Butler of Letchworth, capturing both jump events — long (23-2¼) and triple (47-10½).

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### Meet of Champions

New York State Public High School Athletic Association Section V indoor track state qualifier at Gordon Field House, Rochester Institute of Technology. \*Top relay and top two individuals, and third-place finishers who have met state qualifying standard, qualify for states. Medals to top three. Events not listed were not completed by print publication time. sr-Section V record.

### BOYS

**55 meters:** 1. Kelly Brown (Wilson Magnet) 6.46\*, 2. Ray Anikwue (Letchworth) 6.49\*, 3. Tremaine Moore (Greece Olympia) 6.52\*. **300:** 1. Noah Williams (McQuaid) 35.29\*, 2. Anthony Smith (Uprep) 35.45\*, 3. Miles James (Churchville-Chili) 36.73\*. **600:** 1. Eddie Ely (Palmyra-Macedon) 1:22.87\*, 2. Nico Belavia (Victor) 1:23.57\*, 3. Cole Ziskind (Webster Thomas) 1:27.92. **1,000:** 1. Mike Mallow (Fairport) 2:37.20\*, 2. Ben Bulkeley (Fairport) 2:37.70\*, 3. Henry Burton (Pittsford Mendon) 2:37.84. **1,600:** 1. Isaac Goodman (Pittsford Mendon) 4:28.92\*, 2. Brad Farnham (Penfield) 4:29.21\*, 3. Nick Neamtu (Webster Thomas) 4:29.49\*. **3,200:** 1. Donny Glavin (McQuaid) 9:25.68\*, 2. Dawson Bathgate (East Rochester) 9:32.92\*, 3. Paul Dellinger (Brighton) 9:44.09\*. **55 hurdles:** 1. Kelly Brown (Wilson Magnet) 7.41\*, 2. Isaiah Brown (Pittsford Sutherland) 7.63\*, 3. Max Gloskey (Webster Thomas) 7.75\*. **Long jump:** 1. Anthony Butler (Letchworth) 23-2¼\*, 2. Tobi Tella (McQuaid) 23-7½\*, 3. Alpha Berry (Greece Olympia) 23-4¼\*. **Triple jump:** 1. Anthony Butler (Letchworth) 47-10½\*, 2. Tobi Tella (McQuaid) 47-¼\*, 3. Trevon Tripp (Rush-Henrietta) 44-7¼\*. **High jump:** 1. Zachary Kash-

"Every other meet or so," she said, "I try to break the record. Not today. This was just about qualifying for states."

Three section V records fell, two at the feet of Rush-Henrietta's sensational sophomore Lanae-Tava Thomas and another by her junior teammate, Sammy Watson.

Thomas shocked herself with a time just .23 seconds off the all-time high school record in a preliminary heat 55-meter dash.

"I can't believe it," she screamed, dancing into the arms of her teammates with an incredulous "did I just do that in the prelims?" look on her face. When her time of 6.83 was announced as a new national season-leading mark, and Section V record, athletes and spectators gave her a standing ovation. Her previous record was set Dec. 30 at Houghton College.

"I had a really good start out of the blocks and strode through all the way," she said. "I had no idea it would be that fast. I wasn't expecting that."

A few minutes later,

er (Churchville-Chili) 6-2\*, 2. Isiah Shepard (World of Inquiry) 6-2\*, 3. Connor Spiegel (Webster Thomas) 6-1\*. **Shot put:** 1. Anthony Ray (Batavia) 50-8¼\*, 2. Petro Huley (Churchville-Chili) 44-1½\*, 3. Cameron Cintron (World of Inquiry) 43-7. **Weight throw:** 1. Andrew Palermo (Spencerport) 55-2¼\*, 2. Thomas Coene (Webster Thomas) 54-10\*, 3. Norberto Cervantes (Williamson) 54-1¾\*.

### GIRLS

**55:** 1. Lanae-Tava Thomas (Rush-Henrietta) 6.91 (6.83, sr in preliminaries), 2. Tori Thompson (Rush-Henrietta) 7.22\*, 3. Ny'Shaya Henderson (Franklin) 7.32\*. **300:** 1. Annie Hanna (Pittsford Sutherland) 40.91\*, 2. Tori Thompson (Rush-Henrietta) 41.31\*, 3. Travasia Singletary (Aquinas) 41.87\*. **600:** 1. Sammy Watson (Rush-Henrietta) 1:29.53sr\*, 2. Hayleigh Palotti (Livonia) 1:38.36\*, 3. Annie Hanna (Pittsford Sutherland) 1:38.99\*. **1,000:** 1. Sammy Watson (R-H) 2:46.77\*, 2. Elyse Barkstrom (Pittsford Mendon) 3:02.04\*, 3. Meghan Curtin (Wayland-Cohocton) 3:03.35. **1,500:** 1. Elsa Cole (Fillmore) 4:48.23\*, 2. Natalie Neamtu (Webster Thomas) 4:50.37\*, 3. Ellie Songer (Webster Thomas) 4:58.22. **3,000:** 1. Amanda Vestri (Webster Thomas) 10:21.34\*, 2. Chloe Weaver (Red Creek) 10:42.45\*, 3. Haley Arguei (Churchville-Chili) 10:29.48. **55 hurdles:** 1. Alana Morrow (Mercy) 8.59\*, 2. Chima Dimgba (Greece Athena) 8.69\*, 3. Emily Wade (Mercy) 8.82\*. **1,500 racewalk:** 1. Alex Frantz-Bush (Rush-Henrietta) 7:25.93\*, 2. Ellie Pauly (Hilton) 7:28.17\*, 3. Remziye Erdogan (Spencerport) 7:36.74. **Long jump:** 1. Lanae-Tava Thomas (Rush-Henrietta) 20-3sr\*, 2. Shana Spinks (School of the Arts) 17-3¾\*, 3. Makayla Binter (Greece Arcadia) 17-3¼\*. **Triple jump:** 1. Asia McInnis (Greece Arcadia) 36-9½\*, 2. Aubrianna Lantrip (Midlakes) 36-3½\*, 3. Dasia Barclay (Greece Olympia) 35-10¼\*. **High jump:** 1. Aubrianna Lantrip (Midlakes) 5-5", 2. Rebecca Roth (Victor) 5-4", 3. Asia McInnis (Greece Arcadia) 5-3". **Shot put:** 1. Leah Hulbert (Rush-Henrietta) 39-4¾\*, 2. Mady Dibble (Waterloo) 36-11½\*, 3. Rachel Richenberg (Canandaigua) 35-½. **Pole vault:** 1. Erica Ellis (Gates Chili) 11-9", 2. Earnie Burapan (Hilton) 10-6", 3. Allegra Maxwell (Victor) 10-6". Complete results at [www.yentiming.com](http://www.yentiming.com)