**850-637-2978** 

Pensacola, FL

goldeneliteclub@hotmail.com



Press Release: Date Release: 25. March . 2024

Golden Elite Track and Field Club Hosted The Inaugural Justin Gatlin Freshman and Sophomore Invitational.

Golden Elite Track and Field Club proudly partnered with five-time Olympian and Pensacola native, Justin Gatlin, to organize the Inaugural Justin Gatlin Freshman and Sophomore Invitational, held on March 23, 2024. This historic event marked Gatlin's commitment to giving back to the community and the sport that played a pivotal role in his journey.

The invitational, sanctioned by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), showcased a groundbreaking format never before seen in high school track and field in the state of Florida. Over 280 talented athletes from various Florida high schools, including Blountstown, Choctawhatchee, Escambia, Gulf Breeze, Milton, and Pensacola High, among others, participated in the meet.

Unique to this invitational was its exclusive focus on freshman and sophomore athletes, providing them with a platform to shine on their own scale. Participants were awarded custom medals and trophies, with first-place winners receiving crowns or tiaras and the opportunity to sit on a throne chair, symbolizing their achievements.

The success of the event wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of donors, dedicated parents, talented athletes, the board of Golden Elite Track and Field Club, and hardworking volunteers. Their unwavering commitment illuminated the event, making it a resounding success.

Golden Elite proudly acknowledges its partnership with Event Sponsor Pensacola Sports Association, which awarded a \$5000 Community Grant to support the club's initiatives. Pensacola Sports Association has been a steadfast supporter of Golden Elite for over five years, playing a vital role in promoting track and field in the community.

At its core, Golden Elite aims to provide a safe and inclusive platform for young athletes to showcase their talents, foster confidence, and promote a healthy lifestyle through the sport of track and field.

**6** 850-637-2978

Pensacola, FL

goldeneliteclub@hotmail.com



Press Release: Date Release: 25, March, 2024

Golden Elite Track and Field Club Hosted The Inaugural Justin Gatlin Freshman and Sophomore Invitational.

Congratulations to these outstanding athletes who achieved first place and set records in their respective events:

## Boys and Girls

- 100m: Kayin Martin (Blountstown) and Saniy Lindsey (Choctawhatchee)
- 200m: Kayin Martin (Blountstown) and Saniy Lindsey (Choctawhatchee)
- 400m: Asher Black (Blountstown) and Natalie Jackson (Pensacola Catholic)
- 800m: Andrew Bersoet (Gulf Breeze) and Ashton Dahlem (Gulf Breeze)
- 1600m: Andrew Bersoet (Gulf Breeze) and Addison Garrett (Pensacola Catholic)
- 3200m: Jed Fears (Pensacola Christian) and Addison Garrett (Pensacola Catholic)
- 110m Hurdles: Zaden Purifoy (Pensacola Catholic)
- 100m Hurdles: Naomi Butler (Escambia)
- 400m Hurdles: Zaden Purifoy (Pensacola Catholic) and Ella Wolfe (Milton)
- 4x100m Relay: Tate
- 4x400m Relay: Escambia
- 4x800m Relay: Pensacola Christian
- High Jump: Daniel McDaniel (Escambia) and Brianna Becham (Booker T Washington)
- Pole Vault: William Jernigan (Pensacola Catholic) and Sydney Martin (Booker T Washington)
- Long Jump: Jayden Phillips (Choctawhatchee) and Jaharra Pennywell (Blountstown)
- Triple Jump: Daniel McDaniel (Escambia) and Audrey Ware (Pensacola Catholic)
- Shot Put: Justus Payne (Escambia) and Laila Amehein (Choctawhatchee)
- Discus: Oz Timpany (Gulf Breeze) and Laila Amehein (Choctawhatchee)
- Javelin: Jayden Gomes (Gulf Breeze) and Sydney Martin (Booker T Washington)
- Team Trophy Girls Booker T Washington High & Boys Pensacola Catholic High

Photo Credits:Sean Vincent Photography and Betsy Tanner

For media inquiries, please contact: Cheryl Etheredge, Board President 850-637-2978





©BT





