

## ESG — Track and Field

# North's Curry pegs Games as next step

by CRAIG KANALLEY  
Intern

For Emily Curry, the Empire State Games are more than a competition. They're a significant part of her growth as a track and field athlete.

The 2008 Williamsville North graduate is headed to the Games for the first time after being named an alternate last year. She will be competing in the open women's heptathlon, an event she never encountered during her high school career, at this week's Games in Binghamton.

It's the next step for Curry in a natural progression. She used to compete in just high jump, long jump and shot put. She leaped to the pentathlon last year as a high school senior, adding both hurdles and the 800-meters.

"My coach figured it might be better to try something when you're focused on all around rather than just one thing," she said of the step to pentathlon.

Now she's raising the bar to a new level. The heptathlon is the equivalent of the pentathlon, plus javelin, and the 200 dash.

Curry said that the event will serve as a good preparation for college. She plans to specialize in heptathlon at the University at Albany in the fall.

The competition at the Games is sure to be intense for Curry. Since she's now out of high school, she'll participate in the open division, with some competitors much older than her.

"I'll probably be the youngest one there," Curry said. "It's good,

though, because I need to get used to that. In college, I'll be one of the youngest people there. It'll be good to get in that competition mindset."

Curry said she's been training "pretty much every day" for the Games, sprinting, running, lifting and especially focusing on hurdles, which she calls her weakest event.

Curry said she's not looking to place at the Games. She's just hoping for a personal best.

"I would ideally like to reach 3,500 points," she said. "At the trials, I reached about 3,300, so if I could get a couple hundred points higher, that would be ideal."

Also headed to the Games for the first time is Williamsville South's Allie VanBuren, who will be a junior in the fall. She'll compete in the 100 high and 400 intermediate hurdles.

At the New York State Track and Field Championships this past spring, VanBuren placed second in the Division I 100 and 400 hurdles while in the Federation races, she took third in the 400 hurdles and fourth in the Federation 100 hurdles in 14.55, three hundredths off her personal best.

"I've really improved my times lately," she said. "Overall, this year I did really good. It was probably my best season."

As a result, VanBuren said she's going into the Games with confidence and feels she can compete for the gold.

"Since I'm competing against people my own age, I think I'll have a good chance of doing

really good and coming in first in both events," she said. "Now I can see my own competition and what other people have that are my age, instead of competing against older kids, which I've been doing."

VanBuren has been practicing three times a week this summer to gear up for the Games.

Others from the Amherst area who are expected to compete in track and field events at the Games are Kala Allen (100 and 400 dash), a soon-to-be freshman at Williamsville East; Amanda

Breymer (high jump), a junior-to-be at Williamsville South; Amy Loud (heptathlon), a soon-to-be senior at Williamsville North; Katie Niblock (1,500), a junior-to-be at Sweet Home; and Allison Rogers (100, 400 dash), a soon-to-be senior at Amherst Central.

Last year, Allen won the New York State Public High School and Federation 400 dash titles as an eighth-grader; Breymer captured the section title in outdoor pentathlon; and Niblock set a new Sweet Home record in the

800, placing fourth in Division I at sectionals with a time of 2:17.2. Rogers has won the Division I 100 dash section title twice.

On the men's side, competitors for the upcoming Games with Amherst connections are Dan Egan of Williamsville East (triple jump); University at Buffalo coach Steve Esler (open decathlon); UB junior-to-be Russell Cameron (decathlon); and UB graduates P.J. Godios (open javelin), Paul Riley (800) and Reggie Rucker (110 high hurdles and 400 intermediate hurdles).

## Genovese selected to national showcase

Corrin Genovese of Williamsville North and Team New Era Diamond Girls Gold 14U has been selected to attend the third annual Queen of Diamonds Showcase South Aug. 30-31 at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C.

The Queen of Diamonds Showcase is the largest college showcase for high school-age softball players. This year's events drew nearly 2,500 applicants from 33 states and Canada. The Queen of Diamonds Showcase is designed to give players the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in front of college coaches who may be interested in recruiting them.

In addition, a group of younger promising players such as Genovese will have the opportunity to showcase their skills to college coaches alongside the older players who are eligible to be recruited.

Players can attend position-specific skills sessions early Saturday, followed by tournament games throughout the weekend.

Genovese had an outstanding varsity season as a freshman starting shortstop. She was named to the ECIC I first team, ECIC I and II all-league, and was nominated to the ECIC All-Western New York team. She hit .414, slugged .800 and led her team with six home runs, 24 runs, and 29 hits. She was second on the team with 22 RBIs.

Her travel team is 55-6 and is to travel Cary N.C. for the PONY 14U Fastpitch Nationals July 24-31.

For more information on the Queen of Diamonds Showcase Events, visit [www.TheQSport.com](http://www.TheQSport.com) or contact Kirt Whiteside at [kwhiteside@whitesidemfg.com](mailto:kwhiteside@whitesidemfg.com).

## Mathewson McCarthy 9U posts playoff win

The Western New York Babe Ruth champion Mathewson McCarthy 9U baseball team advanced to the Clarence League semifinals with a 10-3 romp over third-seeded Evans.

Michael Steffan had two hits and

Nate Berke reached base three times to lead the team offensively. Mike Krasinski contributed a two-run single and Pete Christy also singled in two runs. John Genau crossed the plate three times for the victors.

Spencer Maranto had the defensive play of the game, with a great running catch in centerfield.

Pitchers Steffan, Mike Woods and Anthony Schmidt scattered five hits and allowed just one earned run.

# Shifflet named new East football coach

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

A football coaching legend will be roaming the sidelines for Williamsville East this fall.

Joe Shifflet, a 2008 Greater Buffalo Hall of Fame selection, was selected last week as the new football coach at Williamsville East.

"He has a great relationship with the kids," said East Athletics Director Chris Mucica. "We're ecstatic to have him."

Shifflet takes over for Henry Fumerelle, who resigned June 24 after 12 years with

East, the last five as head coach.

Shifflet, who was the East JV football coach last year, brings 30-plus years of coaching experience to the Flames' varsity program.

Shifflet coached 20-plus years at Sweet Home and compiled a 141-48-5 record and won nine league titles. He later coached at Tonawanda High School, where his teams went 33-9 and won three division crowns. Most recently, he served as football coach at Niagara Falls.

"He's forgotten more football than people know," said Mucica.

Shifflet is also an accomplished

wrestling coach, posting a 232-54-3 record and 12 championships. His wrestlers won 70 individual league titles, 14 section championships, and eight wrestlers placed in the New York State tournament. Sweet Home has an annual wrestling tournament named in his honor.

Shifflet was a three-year starter at the University of Buffalo and earned the Outstanding Offensive Lineman award during his senior year. He was named to UB's Hall of Fame as well as the Western Pennsylvania Hall of Fame.

He has also been selected to the WNY Coaches Hall of Fame and National

Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Shifflet was named New York State Coach of the Year in 1980 and Western New York Coach of the Year in 1970 and 1998.

Shifflet will work with Mucica, Director of Athletics Jim Rusin and East Principal Neal Miller to fill the rest of the East coaching staff.

Fumerelle also resigned as East wrestling coach. Mucica said the job was posted last week and hopes to fill the position by early August.

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### Sports brief

The Williamsville North Varsity Hockey Booster Club will be holding their seventh annual golf tournament with a 12:45 p.m. shotgun start on Wednesday, Aug. 13 at the Links at Ivy Ridge, 12089 Main Rd., Akron, N.Y.

The tournament is a scramble format with registration and lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. The cost to play is \$125 per person.

For more information, call Gary Joseph at 626-5200 (w) or 688-0340 (h) or Coach Bob Rosen at 839-1234 (w).

## WNY Sting Extreme 16U repeat at NSA World Series Qualifier

Champions in 2007, the WNY Sting 16U softball team went to this year's Greater Buffalo NSA World Series Qualifier tournament with a goal of repeating as champs.

A trip to the Softball World Series was available for the winner. This tournament drew quality teams from Canada, Rochester and Buffalo. After two days of qualifying games, the Extreme found themselves seated fifth out of 20 teams.

Sunday brought heavy rain as well as a format of "lose and go home."

The offense led the way in the first two games as the Sting Extreme defeated Cayuga Gamblers, 8-1, and Amherst Lighting Gold, 8-2.

Lauren Bujnicki (Cheektowaga), Jen Kroboth (Elma) and Jenna Yates (West Seneca) provided the scoring punch in the victories. Brittany Rung (Williamsville) supplied a strong pitching performance.

The semifinal game against the New Era Diamond Girls proved to be the best game of the

weekend. Pitcher Chelsea Dustin (West Seneca) threw one of her best games of the season, and the two teams were tied at 2-2 at the end of regulation. Dustin overpowered the Diamond Girls and kept them scoreless with several key strikeouts in the extra innings.

Sting Extreme team coach Bob Platek took a different approach and bunted Kroboth and Ashley Snider (Depew) to place runners in scoring position. Next, Val Nappo (Clarence) was walked intentionally to load the bases with one out. The next batter, Tina Schwartzmeyer (West Seneca), singled to left field, knocking in the winning run for the 3-2 victory.

The final game saw the WNY Sting Extreme playing the Brampton Blazers from Ont., Canada. Strong defense, led by Breanna Fenski (Cheektowaga) in right field and Taylor Klun (Williamsville) behind the plate, were keys in shutting out the Blazers, 2-0.

The WNY Sting team ran its record to 34-2.

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