

Mount Isa Athletics

PRESS RELEASE

11th May 2015

Mount Isa's three newest International Representatives certainly had their work cut out for them at the Oceania Area Championships held in Cairns last weekend. They were faced with quality fields with athletes from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Vanuatu just to name a few in attendance.

All three athletes performances were below what they were hoping to achieve due to blustery conditions, they were however buoyed by the fact that had they been able to produce near PB results they would have been in the mix of the podium finishes.

Carmen "Zeus" Preston was the first to compete on Friday afternoon in the Womens Under 18 Javelin. For the second time in as many years Carmen suffered an injury only one week out from the major competition. Previously she had fractured her leg just prior to the Secondary Schools State Championships and this time it was a badly sprained ankle but as usual with the determination of the gods she pushed through the pain to post a 34.79m distance to place 5th. Had she been able to reproduce her results from the end of last season she could well have seen herself in 2nd place.

Kale "Blackflash" Johnson put in an impressive 6.51m in the Open Mens Long Jump which happened to be only one of a handful of jumps that were not wind assisted throughout the event. The competition was hotly contested at the front with second place only 4cm behind the 7.51m winning jump. Once again had Johnson been able to produce another one of his 7m leaps he would have been comfortably into 3rd place needing only another 14cm to elevate his placing from 5th to 3rd. Persistent head winds down the 100m straight made it difficult for the sprinters to post times they would be happy with. Kale's time of 11.44s in the heats saw him miss out on qualifying directly for the semi's by a mere 0.07s. Luckily as first reserve he was presented with another opportunity when a vacancy arose in the semi finals where he ran an impressive 11.09s and finished thirteenth fastest from a field of 33. Johnson was also included in the Regional Australia Mixed 4 x 100m and 4 x 400m relay teams which finished 4th and 5th respectively.

In a competition that saw more fouls than recorded throws Mitchell Hujanen's efforts in the Under 18 Hammer throw should be commended. The 16 year old was disappointed with his 35.12m distance but kept his composure and continued to strive to do his best. His final throw exceeded the 40m mark but he tragically rolled a toe over the front edge of the ring resulting in a foul throw. Mitchell placed 6th in a quality field that saw 54.39m take first place.

The three can now settle back into Club competition and prepare themselves for the NQ State Championships later in the year.

CLUB VENUE

Sunset Oval
Able Smith Parade
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