

Nationals are final stop for many in area

By Stuart London, staff writer | Posted: Monday, March 7, 2016 11:00 pm

Practice for outdoor track began Monday but for some the indoor track season still has a little ways to go.

The New Balance Indoor nationals will be held Friday through Sunday at The Armory in New York City.

Below are the runners, jumpers and throwers who were entered prior to Sunday's deadline.

Boys at nationals

On the boys side, coming off a great performance at the state championship meet, Christopher Dock's Austin Kratz will be competing in the 60-meter dash, as well as the 200.

Pennridge's Tucker Desko will end a fine indoor season, which included three invitational victories, by running in the 800.

Coming off a state title in the 3,000, Central Bucks East's Jake Brophy will run the two-mile race.

Pennridge will be in the 4x200 relay with the team of Josh Pinkney, Dylan Henry, Matthew Firuta and Cayce Giblin.

Abington has a good chance at a medal in the 4x400 with a very fast foursome of Isaiah Smith, Cameron Mitchell, Aaron Sooknanan and Keion Broadus. The Ghosts will also be in the 4x800 with the team of Jake Good, Mitchell, Harpreet Singh and Broadus.

Nicholas Marino of Hatboro-Horsham will be in the pole vault. He comes in with some momentum, as Marino won the 82nd annual Eastern States championship at The Armory last Tuesday with a clearance of 15-feet.

In the Emerging Elite division, Pennridge's Austin Howell will run in the 400.

Joe Maguire of Council Rock South will be in the two-mile run. Souderton's Colin Harker will run in the 60 hurdles.

Germantown Academy's Kyle Garland will be in the high jump.

In the long jump are William Tennent's Stephen Testa and Doylestown resident Michael Troup, a junior at Lawrenceville School (New Jersey). Troup is also entered in the triple jump.

Girls at nationals



William Tennent long jumper, Stephen Testa, lands in the sand as he practices for the upcoming winter indoor track season.

For the girls, Pennsbury's Dasia Pressley will be competing in the 60-meter dash and the 200.

The Abington 4x400 relay team will be Sophia Carabba, Kelly Jawork, Jasmine Henry and Marissa Heath.

North Penn has a very strong team of Ariana Gardizy, Mikaela Vlastic, Uche Nwogwugwu and Phoebe Clowser competing in the 4x800.

In the high jump, Souderton's Moira O'Malley and Central Bucks South's Valerie Przekop will continue their duel. Przekop won the Meet of Champions but O'Malley came back to take the state championship.

A junior for the Titans, Przekop is in her first year of indoor track, having played basketball the past couple of winters.

"My first indoor season began with a goal of increasing my PR and placing in our local meets," said Przekop. "I increased my (personal best) from outdoors by six inches. I'm excited to compete in the New Balance Indoor Nationals on March 11th."

Dominique Franco of Council Rock South will make her first trip outside the state in the pole vault.

Besides the regular competition, there is also an Emerging Elite division for the girls.

Pennridge freshman Kouri Peace will be in the 60 and the 200, in which she won the state title in a record-setting time.

Lansdale Catholic's Kayla Connelly and Pennsbury's Hannah Molloy will compete in the two-mile run.