

Munster Schools Athletics



Summary Report 2017

Munster Schools Athletics Association 2017 Summary Report

2017 has been another hugely successful year for Munster Schools Athletics with our athletes excelling on national & international teams throughout the year in a wide range of events winning a total of 15 individual international medals (2 gold, 6 silver & 7 bronze) (up 4 from last year) 5 out of 8 of the Irish Schools Cups at the Irish Life Health T&F Championships, 41 Irish Schools titles over T&F and Cross Country (37 T&F, 2 XC & 2 CE) & 44 Tailteann medals (20 gold, 12 silver & 12 bronze) up from 29 last year together with the Boys Tailteann Trophy which was last won by Munster in 1991. Munster athletes also set 11 Munster T&F records and 7 Irish Schools records over the year.

Some of the year's highlights are set out below: -

- Munster had **4** representatives (**Brian Lynch & Darragh Minter (Inter Boys), Aisling Cassidy (Inter Girls) & Orla Coffey (Junior Girls)**) on the Irish team for the Schools Combined Events International in Glasgow in November 2017 with our best performance coming from **Brian Lynch, Colaiste of Spioraid Naomh** who placed 6th in the Intermediate Boys.
- **6** Munster athletes (**Diarmuid O'Connor (Junior Boys), Tony Odubote, Shane Monagle, Joseph & Darragh Minter (Intermediate Boys) & Vickie Cusack, (Intermediate Girls)**) competed on the Irish team for the Schools International in AIT International Arena in December 2016 with **Tony Odubote, Rice College, Ennis** winning individual silver in the Intermediate Boys competition & **Diarmuid O'Connor, Colaiste Choilm, Ballincollig** finishing 4th just two points outside the medals.
- **Darragh McElhinney, Colaiste Phobail Bheantraí & Aimee Hayde, St. Mary's Newport** were the standout performers for Munster at the Irish Life Health Irish Schools Cross Country Championships in Mallusk, Co. Antrim on Saturday 11th March. **McElhinney**, ran a superb race in the Inter Boys competition winning in 20:07. **Aimee Hayde, St. Mary's Newport** put in a super run in the Junior Girls race to take gold and the National title winning in 10.28. There were super silver medal wins for **Dylan Casey, St. Flannan's College, Ennis** in the Minor Boys race & **Laura Hayes, Loreto Fermoy** in the Intermediate Girls competition with a brilliant bronze medal for **Stephanie Cotter, Coachford College** in the Senior Girls race. Podium finishes also went to **Niamh Cunneen, St. Mary's Nenagh (5th Minor Girls), Dean Casey, St. Flannan's College, Ennis (4th Minor Boys), Paul Hartnett, Colaiste an Chraoibhin Fermoy (5th Junior Boys), Jake McCarthy, Pobail Scoil na Trionoide Youghal (6th Inter Boys), Avril Deegan, Presentation Thurles (4th Senior Girls), Claire Rafter, Ursuline Thurles (5th Senior Girls), Fiona Everard, MICC Dunmanway (6th Senior Girls), Charlie O'Donovan, Colaiste Christ Ri Cork (4th Senior Boys) & Micheal Power, St. Augustine's Dungarvan (6th Senior Boys).**
- **7** Munster athletes competed on the SIAB Schools Cross Country International Teams on Saturday 19th March in Scotland with individual gold for **Darragh McElhinney, Colaiste Phobail Bheantraí** in the Intermediate race and silver team medals for **Darragh, Christopher O'Reilly, Douglas Community School, Thomas Connelly, Christian Brothers College Cork & Jake McCarthy, Pobailscoil na Trionoide, Youghal. Aimee Hayde, St. Mary's Newport** gave a great account of herself in her first international competition coming home as 1st Irish athlete in 5th place in a time of 15.39 in the Junior Girls race.

- The Irish Life Health Munster Schools Track & Field Championships took place on Saturday 20th May 2017 in Cork I.T. Among the athletes who shone on the day were our **8 record breakers** - **Emily Wall, Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig** (Minor Girls 75m Hurdles), **Ciara Sheehy, St. Mary's Charleville** (Junior Girl's Shot Putt), **Anna Ryan, Ursuline Thurles** (Junior Girls Pole Vault), **Tírna Ni Chathail, Pobalscoil na Trionoide** (Intermediate Girls Hammer), **Tara Ramasawmy, Presentation Waterford** (U/16 Girl's Mile), **Patrick Ambrose, SMI Newcastle West** (Minor Boys 75mH), **Mark Collins, Bandon Grammer** (Minor Boys Shot Putt) & **Mercy Mount Hawk Tralee** (Senior Girls 4x100 Meter Relay).
- At the Irish Life Health Irish Schools Track & Field Championships in Tullamore Stadium on Saturday 3rd June 2017, Munster athletes were in fine form winning 37 individual Schools titles, 40 silver medals & 33 bronze & 10 sets of Relay medals (2 gold, 4 silver & 4 bronze). Munster Schools also captured 5 out of the 8 Irish School Cups for top scoring schools in their age categories. Munster had 7 Record breaking Irish Schools performances from its athletes - **Sharlene Mawdsley, St. Mary's Newport** (Senior Girls 400m); **Ciara Neville, Castletroy College** (Senior Girls 100m), **Megan Lenihan, Hazelwood College** (Junior Girls Discus); **Anna Ryan, Ursuline Thurles** (Junior Girls Pole Vault), **Ciara Sheehy, St. Mary's Charleville** (Junior Girls Shot Putt), **Mark Collins, Bandon Grammer** (Minor Boys Shot Putt) & **Castletroy College** (Senior Girls 4 x 100m Relay).
- The **Ryan siblings** representing **Thurles CBS & the Ursuline Thurles** made Irish Schools history when all five of them lined out to compete at the Irish Life Health Irish Schools Track & Field Championships in June 2017 taking home 8 medals & one record between them (3 gold & 5 silver).
- At the Irish Life Health Tailteann Interprovincial Schools Championships on Saturday 24th June in Morton Stadium, Munster athletes came to the fore on both the track and in the field winning the Boys Tailteann trophy for the first time since 1991. Our girls won 20 individual medals (9 gold, 5 silver & 6 bronze) with our boys winning 24 individual medals (11 gold, 7 silver & 6 bronze) bringing Munster's medal haul to a fine figure of 44 (20 gold, 12 silver & 12 bronze). Other highlights of the day were **Alannah Neff, Carrigaline CS** setting a new record of 5.08.51 in the 1500m Steeplechase, **Aimee Hayde, St. Mary's Newport** winning the Jack Sweeney Perpetual Trophy for the Best 1500m, **Ben Donovan, Middleton College** winning the Harold Osborn Trophy for Best High Jumper after a jump off between Ciaran Connolly, Colaiste Chiarain, Leixlip which Ben won clearing a pb of 2.00m & **Ciara Sheehy, St. Mary's Charleville** who won the Fr. Lonergan Trophy for the Best Female performance of the Championships when she threw 14.75m in the Shot Putt to take gold.
- The SIAB Schools U/17 Track & Field International took place on home soil in Morton Stadium, Santry on Saturday 15th July 2017 with Munster athletes taking home 13 individual medals in total (1 gold, 5 silver & 7 bronze), almost double their medal tally from last year (7) and 6 Relay medals (1 gold & 5 bronze). There was a gold medal win for **Darragh McElhinney, Colaiste Phobail Bheantraí** in the 1500m when he ran 3.59.2. **David McInerney, Hamilton High School** also won gold in the 100m Non-Scoring race on the day with a time of 11.37. **Miriam Daly, Scoil Mhuire COS**, the Irish Girls' team Captain, took home silver in the 300mH in a time of 44.62 and was also part of the Irish Girls 4 x 300m that won bronze. Silver medals were also won by **Aimee Hayde, St. Mary's Newport** in the 1500m (4.33.99), **Megan Lenihan, Hazelwood College** in the Discus (40.22m), **Caitlin Kennedy, St. John the Baptist Hospital** in the High Jump (1.71m) and **Liam McDonagh,**

Thurles CBS in the 3km Walk (14.58.07). Bronze medals went to **Ailbhe Doherty, St. Flannan's College Ennis** in the 300m (40.31) and 4 x 300m; **Jo Keane, St. Flannan's College Ennis** in the 800m (2.12.19), **Ciara Kennelly, St. Brigid's Killarney** in the High Jump (1.67m), **Ciara Sheehy, St. Mary's Charleville** in the Shot Putt (14.76m), **Sophie Meredith, SMI Newcastlewest** in both the Long Jump (5.85m) and the Triple Jump (11.20m) and **Sean Mockler, Thurles CBS** in the Discus (50.13m).

- The Munster Schools Combined Events Championships was back to its usual venue of Nenagh Indoor Stadium and took place on Wednesday 11th October. 132 athletes took part in total (36 Minor Boys, 16 Junior Boys, 18 Intermediate Boys, 9 Senior Boys, 24 Minor Girls, 17 Junior Girls, 10 Intermediate Girls & 2 Senior Girls). There were three new records on the day - **Vickie Cusack, Davis College** set a new record in the Senior Girls competition of 2914 points to better the record of 2622 points held by Grace McKenzie, Crosshaven, **Harry Nevin, Rochestown College** scored 2857 points in the Minor Boys competition to beat the record of 2103 points held by Reece Ademola, Douglas CS with **Eoin Kenny, DLS Waterford** scoring 2579 points in the Senior Boys category to break the existing record of 2467 points held by Paul White, Nenagh CBS.
- The Irish Life Health Irish Schools Combined Events Championships took place in AIT International Arena on Saturday 28th October 2017. A squad of 24 Munster athletes travelled to the venue for the competition as contestants from the four provinces battled it out for coveted Irish Schools titles & places on the Irish Junior & Intermediate International Schools Teams. Munster athletes won 8 medals in total (2 gold, 2 silver & 4 bronze) – Gold for **Vickie Cusack, Davis College Mallow (Senior Girls) & Harry Nevin, Rochestown College (Minor Boys)**, silver medals for **Ava Coyle, Kinsale Community School (Minor Girls) & Eoin Kenny, DLS Waterford (Senior Boys) & bronze for Katie Nolke, Ursuline Waterford (Minor Girls), Aisling Cassidy, Bandon Grammer (Inter Girls), Mark Carroll, Nenagh CBS (Minor Boys) & Brian Lynch, Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh (Inter Boys).**

Full report (42 pages) can be found at www.munsterschoolsathletics.org or www.munsterathletics.com.