

## 2018 MALE YOUTH ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

### Go big or Go Home

The phrase “Go Big or Go Home” is often used to encourage one to go all out, go all the way, or perform to their fullest. If you have ever met Jonathan Newton, the pint-sized sprinting phenom of Stallions Track Club, then you know that the nine-year-old lives by this motto.

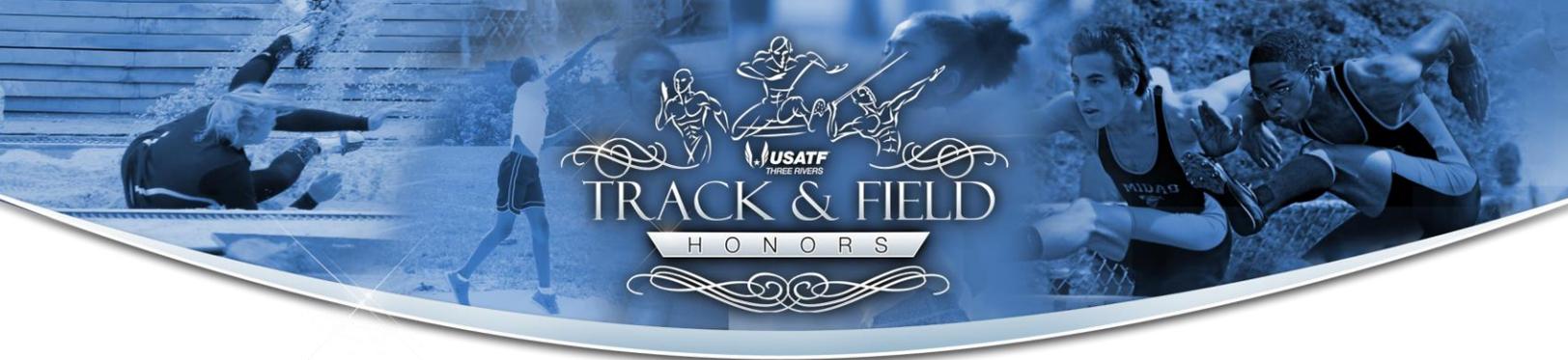
Jonathan had an amazing 2018 track and field Championship season. Competing in the 8U boys division, he earned the triple crown at the Three Rivers Association Championships placing first in the 100m, 200m, and 400m. Three weeks later, Jonathan competed at the Region 2 Championships in New Jersey and won the 200m, 400m, double and earned a bronze in the 100m. His championship season culminated at the 2018 USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships in Greensboro, NC July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. Newton earned All-American Honors in the 200m and 400m placing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, respectfully.



Newton started his athletics journey at 6 years old. When asked what attracted him to the sport, he quickly responded “I wanted to be like Usain Bolt because he’s fast!” At this young age, Jonathan is already showing similarities to the track and field superstar. Just like Bolt, he specializes in sprints. What’s even more impressive is he enjoys the longer spring distances suggesting that, even though it’s tiring you get a chance to come back and win!” So, just like Bolt, he **Goes Big or Goes Home**. And if dominating all the sprints, wasn’t enough, Jonathan occasionally participates in the long jump.

Jonathan shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon. His plans for 2019 are to continue working on his speed. Specifically, he’s hoping to go under 59 seconds in the 400m, 25 seconds in the 200m and 13 seconds in the 100. In addition to performing well, Newton enjoys being around the other kids on the club because of the camaraderie. Newton’s talent and love for sport and competition is a recipe for success and we can expect to see his name amongst the best for years to come.





## 2018 FEMALE YOUTH ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

### Hurdling to Success

Macey Crawford's track & field story begins like many who participate in the sport. We review all the options on the track, in the fields, and on the road and with the help of a coach or parent, we try to determine the best fit.



Believe it or not, Macey's story didn't begin on the track. Hailing from a family of runners, she began as a distance runner and it wasn't until age 12 that she began to hurdle. Fast forward three years and she put together a successful 2018 championship season bringing home hardware at every level of competition.

Crawford is a member of Next Level Athletics track club where she has been for the last 5 years. She describes the group as a family, close-knit and where everyone receives special attention. At the 2018 USATF Three Rivers Association Championships, Macey won both the 100mH and 400mH in the 15-16 age division. Her championship performance in the 400mH race also set a new Three Rivers Association record by nearly three seconds. She continued her winning ways at the Region 2 Championships in New Jersey earning gold in the 400mH. And, at the 2018 USATF National Junior Olympic Championships in Greensboro, NC she placed 10<sup>th</sup> out of 56 athletes, narrowly missing All-American Honors.

Many would be impressed with Crawford's season, though she described it as having several ups and downs. Macey wasn't able to perform as well in the 100mH and at times had to dig deep to find success. When asked what she likes about hurdles she explains "I like obstacles, and figuring things out. I like multi-tasking and enjoy the challenge."

Macey already has big plans for 2019. She wants to break her school record in the 300mH and win state. Whether for school or USATF, we will see her hurdling to success for many more years.

