

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

Expect blazing times in girls 4x100

Top four in nation this year to compete at Jesuit-Sheaner Relays

By **RANDY JENNINGS**
Special Contributor

Affectionately nicknamed by coaches "Texas Relays North," the Jesuit-Sheaner Relays serves as an early proving ground each spring for waves of high school track and field athletes.

The 52nd edition, which concludes its second day Saturday at Jesuit Prep, expects participants from more than 150 schools. As testament to the quality, 30 UIL state championships will be competing.

Intriguing matchups abound, but the girls 4x100-meter relay offers a true rarity, according to the meet's name-sake, because it brings together the four best times in the nation: DeSoto (45.12 seconds), Cedar Hill (45.39), Mesquite Horn (46.01) and Arlington Seguin (46.20).

"This race is one of the top events of the meet," said Herb Sheaner, the revered coach at Jesuit from 1955-75. "It is a race of speed and handoff precision. No girl can mess up."

Against top-flight competition, playing it safe on baton passes is not likely to get the job done, even for DeSoto.

With a lineup of four juniors — Shavonne Jackson, Kira White, Zaria Whittaker and Alexis Duncan — DeSoto put

52nd Jesuit-Sheaner Relays

When: Friday: 3,200 meter run at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday: Field events begin at 8 a.m., morning running session begins at 9 a.m., running finals begin at 2 p.m.

Where: Jesuit Prep, 12345 Inwood Rd., Dallas

Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 students

Information: jsrelays.org

Key dates

March 30-April 2: 89th Nike Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays

April 16: UIL district certification

April 23: UIL area certification

April 29-30: UIL regional meets

May 6-7: TAPPS state meet

May 12-14: UIL state meet

its stamp on the event in the Class 6A division of the state meet last May with a gold medal time of 45.38. The Lady Eagles have bettered that time and could be thinking about the state record of 44.60 set by Skyline in 2004.

"We're ahead of schedule with our times," DeSoto coach June Villers said. "This time of year, we are usually in the low 46s. This is a really talented group of seniors."

Cedar Hill finished sixth at state last May and return seniors Breayna Peavie-Johnson and Danyel White, along with junior Jazmyn Shumaker. Senior I'Shunique Hamilton has been plugged in at the anchor spot in early meets.

The Lady Longhorns have

52nd Jesuit-Sheaner Relays athletes to watch

Athlete/School	Cl.	Notable
Carter Blunt	Sr.	Can become first male three-time state champ of distance double (3,200-1,600), cross country title
Frisco Independence	Jr.	SportsDay newcomer of the year in 2015 took Class 6A silver at state in the 3,200 and 1,600
Southlake Carroll	Jr.	Owns best area 100 time so far, 10.50 seconds at Coppell meet Feb. 27
Austin Carbone	Jr.	Owns best area 100 time so far, 10.50 seconds at Coppell meet Feb. 27
Richardson Berkner	Sr.	Hurdler doubled for state titles, added another gold on 4x100 relay a year ago
Alexis Duncan	Sr.	Hurdler doubled for state titles, added another gold on 4x100 relay a year ago
DeSoto	Jr.	Vital cog for the Eagles in the 100 as well as the 4x100 and 4x200 relays a year ago
London Dunn	Jr.	Nothing but gold so far in three meets in sprints, long jump and relays
Kaylor Harris	Jr.	Nothing but gold so far in three meets in sprints, long jump and relays
Mesquite Horn	Sr.	LSU signee won 2 golds, 2 silvers in hurdles, long jump and sprints at 2015 state meet
Tonea Marshall	Sr.	LSU signee won 2 golds, 2 silvers in hurdles, long jump and sprints at 2015 state meet
Aaliyah Miller	Sr.	Coming off two gold medals at Class 6A state in the 400 and 800
McKinney Boyd	Sr.	Impressive performance at Skyline meet with wins in long jump (19-10.5) and triple jump (38-4)
Jasmine Moore	Fr.	Picking up where he left off last season with a 24-5 long jump
Mansfield Lake Ridge	Sr.	Leads the area with a discus throw of 194 feet, 8 inches
Kene Nwangwu	Sr.	Leads the area with a discus throw of 194 feet, 8 inches
William Peterson	Sr.	Versatile sprinter captured the 6A state 400-meter state last year with a 45.75 time
Frisco Centennial	Sr.	6A Region I champion in the 200
Keshun Reed	Sr.	6A Region I champion in the 200
Arlington Martin	Sr.	went on to take third at state as a junior
Danyel White	Sr.	Narrowly missed the state gold medal in the 6A 100, settled for silver
Cedar Hill	Sr.	Narrowly missed the state gold medal in the 6A 100, settled for silver
Kira White	Sr.	Narrowly missed the state gold medal in the 6A 100, settled for silver
DeSoto	Sr.	Narrowly missed the state gold medal in the 6A 100, settled for silver

enjoyed more success recently in the 4x200 relay, having captured gold at state.

Horn has the youngest lineup of the four contenders. Senior Devin Johnson gets the baton last after juniors Taylor Blackshire and Kaylor Harris on the first and third legs, sandwiched around sophomore Jada Laye. Harris set the meet record of 11.83 for 100 meters last year.

Seguin's 4x100 lineup of Laterra Gooding, Tonea Marshall, Toni Garrett and Aubrey Ridgeway finished second at

the 2015 Class 5A state meet with a 46.51 time.

Other intriguing confrontations:

■ The 6A boys 4x400 relay features Houston Strake Jesuit, with the second-best time in the nation, along with No. 3 Arlington Bowie and No. 8 Arlington Martin.

■ In the 6A boys 1,600-meter run, Reed Brown of Southlake Carroll is No. 1 in the state. He will go against a top-flight field that includes No. 2 Michael Butero of The Woodlands.

Other boys

Name	School	Cl.	Event
Iyanu Adeyeye	Mans. Lake Ridge	Sr.	High jump
Tyrell Alexander	Lancaster	Sr.	Hurdles
Jostyn Andrews	Skyline	Sr.	Sprints
Bryce Douglas	Allen	Sr.	Hurdles
Christian Cannon	Frisco Wakeland	Sr.	Pole vault
Collin Echols	Coppell	Sr.	Discus
Rickey Fantroy	McKinney	Sr.	Triple jump
Kevin Steward	Red Oak	Sr.	Discus, shot put
David Strome	Col. Heritage	Sr.	Distance
Peyton Weissman	Grapevine	Jr.	Pole vault

Other girls

Name	School	Cl.	Events
Morgan Burks-McGee	Rockwall-Heath	Jr.	Sprints
Halie Daniel	Wylie East	Sr.	Shot put
Ariel Ford	Mans. Lake Ridge	So.	200
Jhane King	Keller Timber Creek	Sr.	400
Bailey Lear	McKinney	So.	400
Rose Njoku	Rockwall	Sr.	Shot put
Oghale Omakor	Cedar Hill	So.	Triple jump
Jordan Otto	Rich. Pearce	Sr.	Jumps
Richon Rogers	Arl. Bowie	Sr.	Discus
Ivy Walker	Mansfield Summit	Sr.	Long, triple jump

Boys teams to watch

Arlington Martin: Best 6A area finish (fifth) at the state meet a year ago and among its returnees is 800-meter specialist Cade Bethmann.

DeSoto: Eagles were bitten by the injury bug at the Region I meet and settled for seventh at 6A state a year ago with 23 points.

Lancaster: The Region II champion last spring went on to a runner-up finish at Class 5A state a year ago.

Girls teams to watch

Arlington Seguin: Defending Class 5A state champion returns all of its point scorers from last year's state meet.

DeSoto: Two state titles and a runner-up finish at the last three state meets.

Lancaster: Under coach Bev Humphrey the Lady Tigers have won 17 regional titles and 11 state crowns.

■ There is a potential matchup between girls 2015 state 100 hurdles champions, DeSoto's Duncan in 6A and Seguin's Marshall in 5A.

■ Michael Carter's long-standing shot put record of 70-1/4, set in 1979, could be challenged by Adrian Piperi of The Woodlands.