

SPORTS

Moore headed to USATF National Junior Olympics

By Mike Monahan
ARCOLA – Kelsey Moore, who will be a senior at Arcola this fall, is going to compete in the 400 hurdles at the mecca of track and field facilities, the University of Oregon's Hayward Field. She will be competing in the USATF Junior Olympic Track and Field Championships at Eugene, Oregon.

Moore is in her second year of running for the Vipers Track Club and qualified for nationals

last Saturday at the University of Illinois' Gary R. Wienke Track by running a personal best in the 400 meter hurdles of 1:11.59, which was .58 better than her previous personal best that she ran in the Illinois Junior Olympic Championships June 25. Last year her best in the event was 1:12.97, for an improvement of 1.38 seconds.

The 400 hurdles is the same height as the 300 hurdles, which she runs in the high school season, but there are two more hurdles (10 compared to 8 in high school).

"Oregon is a dream and not only for me, but I know for a lot of people," said Moore. "To just get a chance to run on the track is like crazy to me. I still can't even comprehend it. I am super elicited to get there and see it all. Super grateful for the opportunity."

Moore said of her training "I first started off timing my 300s and I wanted to get a 48 because my pre for the 300 is a low 48," said Moore. "If I was sticking to a high 48 I thought I would have the endurance to keep going for the 100. That is what I have been pushing for, but I have not been able to get out of my 1:12's until Saturday. I was finally glad to get out of that. That is what I push for to watch my time at the 300 mark."

Vipers

The vipers are a grassroots youth program founded and

based out of Champaign-Urbana since 2000. Their mission is to help provide leadership, vision, inspiration, passion, dedication and mental toughness to every student-athlete (9-18 and is also food college age student-athletes that went to train) involved in their program. They started their season a week after the Illinois High School Association state track and field meet.

The coach of the Vipers is Marques Lowe, the Kankakee High School girls' track coach. "He is a very good coach," said Moore. "He has had a lot of success in high school. He won state again. (Kankakee has won the last two Class 2A girls' track state titles). It definitely helps to have him again."

Moore was in the first heat Saturday and in lane four of the two heats.

"I don't know exactly how they seeded us because I was not the fastest girl in my heat, but was still seeded in the fastest lane," said Moore. "In the second heat, which is supposed to be the fastest heat, there were girls running slower times than what I was running. I was happy with how they seeded it because I was happy with the lane I was in."

The Vipers practice on Judah Christian's track.

Bad start put behind her

As for the keys to running her fastest time Moore said, "I really, honestly, have not hit any hurdles during the summer season. I had a really rough start Saturday to my first hurdle. I stuttered a whole bunch. My steps were totally off. Knowing you still have nine more hurdles you never know what can happen so just attacking the other nine is the key. If you mess up on one hurdle you can still recover and I kept that in the back of my mind that it is not

impossible to do well even if I did stutter on my first hurdle and my steps were off. In high school it is more important in the 300 hurdles."

Because of some confusion Moore didn't know she had qualified right away, although it didn't take very long for her to find out.

Confusion on if qualified

Regional 7 (which is what the meet was the USATF Region 7 Junior Olympic Championships) is with Indiana and Illinois and Indiana, that morning, switched to the top 8 qualify and it was supposed to be the top five in Illinois. We didn't know what we were doing yet. Coach Lowe had a parent meeting and told them not to tell their kids, but it is going to be the top 8 that qualify, but I thought it was the top five that qualify. I thought it was the top five for sure. I knew it was weird because it was the top 12 that qualified for the regional 7 meet and 12 to five is just a big jump. It does make more sense making it to eight. It was super helpful for me, a little bit lucky on my part. I went over and hugged Briana Ritchie (Viper's teammate that attends Unity High School and was also in the 400 hurdles) and then we looked up at our parents and we gave them a thumbs up, but they still had another heat. We watched the other heat and I still didn't know if I qualified or my time. I went over to my mom and she was giving me the thumbs up and stuff and I went up there and I saw coach (Adam) Reel (Arcola girls' track coach) and I gave him a hug and he told me that I did it. That is when I found out I made it to nationals."

Moore is to compete in the first round on July 26 at 9 a.m. and if she qualifies for the finals it is the final event of the entire week-long meet at

12:30 p.m. on July 30.

Ritchie, who suffered an injury during the high school season and missed some of that as well as some of the Vipers season, qualified for nationals as well and is going. "We definitely push each other in practice a bunch so it is really helpful to have her pushing me," said Moore. "That was actually the first race we were in the same heat in and ran against each other."

Ritchie was seventh with a time of 1:07.39. The ninth place hurdler ran it in 1:12.89, meaning Moore finished eighth by 1.3 seconds. Another Unity student-athlete is going also, Camryn Cobb.

Moore was elated that coach Reel was there to see her run.

"It was the first time he got to see me run and I am glad he made it," said Moore. "I got to see him afterwards and talk to him a little bit after it."

Moore had qualified for the nationals last year, which were in Sacramento, California, but funds were not there for the 4x400 relay team to go. She was on the 4x400 relay team with Ritchie and their time was 4:21.38.

This year Moore, who ran the open 400 in 1:03.83 at Chicago Heights, had a fundraiser that was done by Kevin Garza and it was a shoe auction with each person donating \$10 and assigned a number with the winning number drawn and Libman Company donated some money as well.

"We didn't have a lot of meets this year," said Moore. "I was focused on the 400 hurdles instead of anything else."

As for her senior season Moore said, "My goal is to get in the 47's because I think once I get into the 47's that places me higher and gives me a better chance to get to the platform for state. That is my goal to get to the platform no matter what place it is. I

just want to get up there and get a medal at state. That would be a huge accomplishment for sure."

Hayward Field

Hayward Field was named after track coach Bill Hayward (1868 to 1947), who ran the University of Oregon Duck's program from 1904 to 1947. Renovated in 2004, it is one of only five International Association of Athletics Federations Class 1 certified tracks in the United States. It used to be the home of the Oregon football team until after the 1966 season when it became strictly a track and field venue. On April 17, 2018, it was announced that from the summer of 2018 to 2020, Hayward field would undergo a major renovation. The renovation would demolish both current grandstands and establish a new stadium around the track with a capacity of 12,650, expandable to nearly 25,000 for major events. The United States Track and Field Championships were there last weekend and Hayward Field has held more USA Olympic Track and Field Trials and NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships than any other venue.

Last May she ran a personal best time of 48.28 which broke the school record held by Ryann Fishel in 2016 (48.90) and finished 11th in the state meet in the 300 hurdles with a time of 48.30.

As for Oregon Moore, the daughter of Kendall and Jeff Moore, will be going July 24 with her mom and returning on July 31. Moore thinks they will get to do some sightseeing as well.

"Oregon is the best track in the world," said Moore. "It is crazy. Not a lot of youth athletes get to even see the track. So to even get to run on it is something I am super grateful for and I can't wait for it. I am just very excited."



ARCOLA'S KELSEY MOORE will be competing on Hayward Field, the mecca venue, in the USATF Junior Olympic Track and Field Championships July 26. She will compete in the 400 meter hurdles. Submitted photo.

ARCOLA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Once a Purple Rider
Always a Purple Rider!
1882 - 2023
Check us out at: arcolaalumni.org

MonahanPartners
we're in this together
GO PURP!

Animal Health Care Center
Kimberly Livezey, DVM
531 E. Springfield Rd.
Arcola, IL 61910
217-268-4747
Emergency 840-7278

EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME
221 E. Main, Arcola, IL 61910
217-268-3885 • Toll Free: 1-888-543-3885
Our Family: Jeff, Lisa, Taylor & Beau Edwards,
Corey, Cara, Camryn & Cooper Roberts

HEN HOUSE
I-57 & SR 133, Arcola • 268-3712

Thank You **ARCOLA SPORTS SPONSORS**
WHOSE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF ARCOLA SCHOOL ATHLETICS MAKE THIS PAGE POSSIBLE

THE CITY OF ARCOLA
Good Luck Arcola Purple Riders!

SAPPENFIELD
Investment Advisors
Lisa Sappenfield Boyer, CFP
Stan G. Boyer
102 E. Main, Arcola
268-3216
"RIDERS RULE"

The Thomas Monahan Company
"GOOD LUCK RIDERS"

ARCOLA FIRST BANK
www.arcolafb.com
217-268-4911
GOOD LUCK RIDERS!
Member FDIC

LINDENMEYER INSURANCE AGENCY
A Division of Compass Insurance
406 E. Springfield Rd.,
Arcola, IL 61910
217-268-3041
Good Luck Riders

GRABER Building Supply & HARDWARE
111 W. Springfield Rd., Arcola, IL 61910
217-268-3014 • Mon.-Sat. 7:00-6:00, Closed Sunday

Arcola RECORD-HERALD
Serving Arcola since 1866
Better Newspapers Inc.
www.arcolarecordherald.com
@ArcolaRecordHerald

NOW OPEN!
217-268-4889
Sav-Mor PHARMACY
Store Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Wed. 8:30-5:00
121 W. Springfield Road • Arcola
GO RIDERS! Have a safe and rewarding year!
Your local Sav-Mor Pharmacy supports you!

woodshed health & fitness
Get Pumped Up Riders!
ARCOLA FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 100, Arcola, IL 61910 • 217-268-4911 • 217-246-6732
For more information contact: Jennifer Shafer
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE
& MAKE ARCOLA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

JBH inc.
SINCE 1975
& Employees
Arcola

MONICAL'S PIZZA RESTAURANT
AFTER THE GAME
Rt. 133, Arcola • 268-4141
GOOD LUCK PURPLE RIDERS!

Broomtown Cafe
Village Coffeehouse
est. 2019
Open Mon.-Sat. 6:30 am - 2 pm
Fri. 'til 8 pm
130 E. Main St.
Arcola, IL
217-518-1022
Good Food • Good Coffee • Good Neighbors
Order Online at:
www.broomtowncafearcola.com