



England Athletic Championships, Manchester 7th & 8th August 2021

Stephanie Okoro and Jacob Blanc added England Athletics gold to their English Schools' titles at the Age Group Championships at Manchester this weekend.

Stephanie travelled to the north-west as the UK Number 1 and odds-on favourite to lift the Under 17 Women's 300m hurdles crown and the Romford 15-year-old did not disappoint. After a comfortable heat win on Saturday, she took the lead early on and despite stutters at the early barriers was faultless after that and came home in a new PB and club record of 42.82s to cross the line 20 metres ahead of the field. With two national competitions to come, at the School Games Finals and the Home Countries International, her club best is likely to fall further.

Jacob Blanc also topped the rankings in the Under 17 100m sprint hurdles going into his competition. He made light of the blustery wind and damp conditions to run a flawless race to record his second fastest time of 13.07s to win his first England Athletics gold, almost four metres clear of the rest – a huge margin in a sprint event.

Bobby Williams was unable to repeat his English Schools medal winning performance in the Under 15 Boys' javelin and his 45.94m throw placed him fourth. Al-Ameen Salaam opted to tackle the sprint hurdles and he set a new PB of 11.50s in his winning his heat but was edged into fourth in the final by one-hundredth. Karis Thomas made her first National final, placing eighth in the U17W 100m, after running faster than before with a 12.21 semi final clocking, after her 12.29s heat.

Ayo Babatunde equalled his best in his 200m heat and went event faster in his semi-final, clocking 22.51s – the sixth fastest ever by a club U17, and Paris King was just outside her best in her U17 80m hurdles heat. Ridwan Salaam clocked 11.39 seconds in his Under 17M 100m heat and Dan Peters was timed at 2m 8.64s in a slow tactical 800m heat.

RESULTS

U17M: 100m Ridwan Salaam 11.39w; 200m: Ayo Babatunde 22.51s (Heat 22.58s); 800m: Dan Peters 2:08.64s; 100m Hurdles 1st Jacob Blanc 13.07s (13.55s heat); Long Jump: 4th Jacob Blanc 6.47m

U15B: 80m Hurdles 4th Al-Ameen Salaam 11.78s (Heat 11.50s); Javelin: 4th Bobby Williams 45.94m

U17W: 100m. 8th Karis Thomas 12.38s (Semi: 12.21w, Heat: 12.29); 80m Hurdles Heat Paris King 11.98s; 300m Hurdles: 1st Stephanie Okoro 42.82s Club record (Heat: 44.57s); Long Jump 9th Stephanie Okoro 5.39m

