



Media Release

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Star Takes the GSV Track and Field Championship for the Fifth Year in a Row!

Star of the Sea College has proven an invincible force on the Athletics field, winning the Girls Sport Victoria Division One Track and Field Championships for the fifth year in a row!

Held at Olympic Park, Star of the Sea was triumphant in each of the Junior, Intermediate and Senior age categories as well as the overall Championship.

Traditional Track and Field rivals, MLC and Ruyton also fielded very strong teams, with MLC coming second and Ruyton third.

Star's Head of Sport Dean Rossato said the school was incredibly proud of its achievement.

"This is by far the biggest sporting event on our calendar and to win it every year since GSV's inception is just fantastic," he said.

Mr Rossato put the school's success down to the depth of the team.

"With around 100 girls on the track team, we have a number of extremely talented girls, but it is our depth across all age groups and grades that make us so successful."

Mr Rossato said the team started training two weeks before the end of second term and had built up its intensity throughout third term.

"The majority of our girls aren't members of any Athletics club and only compete in Athletics in the school environment, which makes their performances even more impressive.

"Almost all the girls achieved personal bests on the day and are really proud of themselves."

Star of the Sea now holds an impressive 32 GSV individual records, as well as 11 of the 15 relay records.

In the second Division Championship, PLC won for the second year in a row with Lauriston Girls' School second and Toorak College third.

Led by Sports Captain Michelle Phillips, PLC won 42 events, with Michelle achieving a new GSV record in the Girls' High Jump (A Grade). Michelle played an integral role in the team's distance medley relay win as well as winning an impressive four individual events.

PLC's Director of Sport, Jenni McIntyre, was very proud of all of the girls' achievements and commended them for their efforts.

"The girls all performed magnificently and everyone was just ecstatic with the win. It was fantastic to see so many girls achieving great results and we congratulate everybody involved," said Ms. McIntyre.

Third Division was won by Korowa, followed by Sacre Coeur and St Margaret's were third.

Korowa's Director of Sport Maryanne Karoussos said that, being one of the smaller GSV schools, they were particularly proud of their Athletics success.

"The whole team contributed to the result, but it was our Intermediate girls who gave the team the extra strength we needed to win the Division Three Championship.

"Our 800m runners across all age groups also excelled, placing second in seven of the nine events, and third in another.

"And our relay teams were also strong, placing in 10 of the 14 events."

Overall, 27 records were broken across all three Championship events including an impressive 7cm off the Year 7 A Grade High Jump. Thirteen year old Gaby Howard from Firbank Grammar School had set the record (previously 1.50m) at 1.53m in the Preliminary event earlier in the month, before taking it to 1.60m at the Championships.

Gaby, who trains at Sandringham Athletics Club is ranked third in Victoria for the u/14 High Jump, also won the GSV Division One Year 7 Triple Jump and 200m at the GSV Championships. Gaby is looking forward to competing in the trials for the Pacific School Games in early September.

Firbank Head of Sport Craig Harris was proud of Gaby's efforts as well as the entire team.

"This was the first year we made the Division One Championship and the whole school has been excited by that achievement.

“We have some really talented Juniors coming through and their performances have spurred on our Senior girls to achieve their personal bests.

“There’s just a great feeling of pride throughout the whole school and we can’t wait for Track and Field 2006 to roll around.”

Ends

For more information please contact Leonie Mawkes on 0407 742 268.