

# **Nike Panther Relays Preview – March 1 & 2, 2019**

*by Don Livingston*

This year's Nike Panther Relays brings together some of the top teams and individuals in Georgia plus an out of state team from Florida. With 22 high quality teams and over 800 athletes, expect to see fast times in every event.

## **The Men Events**

The **A teams** look strong, Alexander, Arabia Mountain, and Archer bring their all-around (sprint, distance, and field event) talented teams and look to dominate the team scores. East Coweta, Newton, and Starr's Mill with their distance talent will challenge.

## **Sprint Relays and Open Events**

**Showcase 100m** - 5 of the top 20 athletes in the state. Jordan Barrow-Arabia Mtn, Tyriq Hussie-Newnan, Danterius Chunn- East Coweta, Semaje Banks- Archer, Quinton Brown- Alexander

**Sprint Relays: 4x100, 4x200, Sprint Medley, and 4x400:** In the 4x100 relay, East Coweta has put

down the #7 time in the state all classifications, Arabia Mountain is #10 and Newnan is #12.

In the 4x400 relay, Arabia Mountain has the #10 time 'all classes' with Starr's Mill at #11. It is too early to predict who will win these relays given Archer's depth and Newton County teams.

## **Distance Relays and Open Races**

**4x800 and Distance Medley** pit some of the top distance programs against one another.

Alexander, Starr's Mill, Lakeside Evans with South Atlanta and Stockbridge to challenge. Watch for Fayette's team in the Distance Medley.

**1600m-** Will it be Kyle Harkabus- East Coweta, Harrison Fultz- Starr's Mill? The 2018 State champions of 7A and 5A go head to head.

**3200m-** Will it be Kyle Harkabus-East Coweta, Nick Nyman- Starr's Mill or Myles Collins of Archer? 3 of the best distance runners across all classifications.

## **Hurdles**

**100m H has 3 athletes in the 15's** Ahumad Williams – East Coweta, Brandon Smith – Arabia Mountain, and Devin Barnett – Whitewater come into the meet with strong times.

**300m has 4 athletes under 42 seconds:** Nathaniel Grimes – Alexander, Raml Holtson- East Coweta, Devin Barnett- Whitewater and Michale McCorvey – Arabia Mountain.

## **Horizontal Jumps**

**Long Jump- 4 athletes at 22 feet or further:**  
These 4 jumpers are separated by inches: Gabe Brown- Alexander, teammates Brayden Carey and Christopher Pitt of East Coweta, and Jordan Barrow- Arabia Mountain.

**Triple Jump- 4 athletes at 42-45 feet:** Gabe Brown – Alexander, is ranked #3 in the state all classifications with a jump of 45-8 (a PR for him). Challengers could be Kerrell Hurt – Arabia Mtn and Keneth Brooksill of Creekside

## **Vertical Jumps**

**High Jump- 1 jumpers at 6 feet or higher.** Jordan Watts of Alexander at 6'4" is the class of the field.

**Pole Vault-** Konner Johnson of East Coweta at 12 feet and Wes Rogers of Alexander are vaulting well early.

## **Throwing Events**

**Shot Put has 4 throwers at 40 feet or further-** Mason Robinson of Alexander has the further throw at 46-3.5 feet challengers will be Starr's Mill duo of Joseph Lynch and Joseph Rampey.

**Discus has 5 throwers over 136 feet:** Clinton Wallace of Lakeside Evans comes in with a 147-7 Mark. Challengers will be San Juan Warner – Newnan, and Alexander teammates: Alexander Robinson and Dahwon Bracero.

## **The Women's Events**

The **A teams** look strong, Alexander, Arabia Mountain, and Archer bring their all-around (sprint, distance, and field event) talented teams

and look to dominate the team scoring. Starr's Mill and Whitewater will challenge with strong distance runners and sprinters.

## **Sprint Relays and Open Events**

### **Showcase 100m - 8 athletes under 12.8:**

Standout- Synclair Savage of North Cobb Christian has the top time of 12.21. Ravyn Jackson- Arabia Mtn, Kyleeyah Whitehead- Archer and Tytiana Shaheed- Whitewater to challenge.

**Sprint Relays: 4x100, 4x200, Sprint Medley, and 4x400:** in the 4x100, Starr's Mill girls come in ranked #9 in the state all classifications, with Alexander ranked #20 and Arabia Mountain #22 less than a second back. In the 4x200 and Sprint Medley- watch for deep Alexander, Archer and Arabia Mountain to challenge for sprint relay supremacy.

## **Distance Relays and Open Races**

**4x800 and Distance Medley** pit some of the top distance programs against one another.

Alexander team is shooting for a 9:40 time in the 4x800, an impressive 2:25 per runner. Starr's Mill

could challenge if Alexander falters..

**In the Distance Medley,** Starr's Mill leverages its deep women's distance program and expect to challenge for the lead against Archer's talented and deep distance crew.

**1600m- 7 athletes in the 5:20s and lower 5:30s.** Archer's trio of Kelly Connerley, Sarah McCartney, and Olivia Henry have posted fast times this season. Look for Starr's Mill trio of Allie Walker, Megan Dobso, and Zemmie Steger to challenge for the top spots. Charlotte Augenstein from Deerfield Windsor could be a spoiler.

**3200m- 5 athletes under 12:20.** Another Archer trio of Sarah McCartney, Ashley Annis, and Olivia Henry look to sweep the top 3 spots. Megan Dobso of Starr's Mill and Holly Hind of East Coweta will challenge for the lead.

## **Hurdles**

**100m H.** this event is wide open with Alyssa Wright of Whitewater running 16.52. Challengers include Aulante Woodley – Dutchtown, Candace Taylor- Arabia Mountain, Lea Duben of Starr's Mill.

**300m H: Crawford or Duben? 2 of the top 5 athletes in the state go head to head.**

Kennedy Crawford- Alexander is ranked #4 in state all classification with Lea Duben of Starr's Mill ranked #5. Synclair Savage of North Cobb chasing.

## **Horizontal Jumps**

**Long Jump-2 athletes over 17':** Jada Grant-Lagrange at 17-7 and Tavana Williams – Alexander should be our top 2.

**Triple Jump- 1 athlete at 38 and 6 athletes over 33':** LaGrange's Jada Grant has jumped 38-1 already this season. This is one of the deeper fields with Natalie Brown – Alexander, LaDaijahnae Miller – Archer jumping well.

## **Vertical Jumps**

**High Jump- 5 jumpers at 5 feet or higher.**  
Alexander teammates: Jazzmin Taylor – 5-6 and Meah Davis at 5'2" look strong along with 5'2" jumpers Patra Williams-Arabia Mtn, Kaylen

Madrey-Newnan.

**Pole Vault-** Julia Colson of Starr's Mill has already vaulted 10'2" this year. Deena Wilcox-Deerfield Windsor and Ashton Smallwood – Alexander are both over 9 feet.

## **Throwing Events**

**Shot Put has a standout throw and 3 throwers over 34 feet.** - Morgan Johnson of Whitewater has thrown 45' 8" and is ranked #1 in the state All classifications. She has thrown 10 feet further than all other competitors.

**Discus has 3 throwers over 99 feet:** Whitewater throwing duo, Martina Takang and Morgan Johnson are 2 of the top 4 throwers. Look for Renaya Edmondson- LaGrange and Hannah Kunkle- East Coweta will challenge for the podium.