

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Meet All-Area Boys Track and Field Team

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Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jordan Haymon leaned over the finish line as Flagler Palm Coast's anchor in the 4x400-meter relay final at the FHSAA Class 4A championships.

His lean was just enough to earn the Bulldogs a state title by 0.008 seconds, barely holding off Miami Columbus' push in the final 100 meters.

But Flagler Palm Coast's 4x400 relay team wasn't the only boys state champion from the Volusia-Flagler area. New Smyrna Beach's Brison Sullivan broke an FHSAA record with a 65.21-meter heave in the javelin to cruise to a title.

And Haymon himself almost had an individual crown after placing second in the 400-meter.

With a plethora of events, there were plenty of athletes to choose from for the 2026 Volusia-Flagler All-Area boys track and field team. Here's who made it.

First Team

Jordan Haymon, Flagler Palm Coast: Haymon's 46.88-second 400-meter personal best is the fourth fastest in all of Florida and the fastest in the Volusia-Flagler area by more than two seconds. He was the anchor leg of Flagler Palm Coast's state champion 4x400-meter relay team, and he boasts area top-three times in the 100- and 200-meter sprints.

Logan Jacobelli, Flagler Palm Coast: The junior sprinter holds the fastest local personal bests with a 10.53-second 100-meter and a 21.23-second 200-meter. Jacobelli's 400-meter time is the second fastest in the area, and he won regional, district and Five Star Conference titles in all three sprints. He also won a state title as a member of FPC's 4x400-meter relay team.

Michael London, Mainland: London was the area's top discus thrower with a 49.47-meter toss at the Class 3A state championships, earning him seventh place and a spot on the podium. London also won a Five Star Conference discus championship.

Tryce Mills, Spruce Creek: Mills was one of four Volusia-Flagler javelin throwers to place in the top five at the Class 4A championships. He placed third with a 54.77-meter toss, and his personal best of 57.96 meters won him a regional title and put him 10th in the state. Mills was also a district champion.

Michael Najpaver, Flagler Palm Coast: Najpaver is one of four Flagler Palm Coast runners to have a sub-50-second 400-meter personal best, and it resulted in second-place finishes at the Five Star Conference and district meets. He won a state championship on Flagler Palm Coast's 4x400-meter relay team.

Tauren Nicholson, DeLand: Nicholson had the farthest long jump of all local jumpers, with his 7.21-meter personal best leading the area by more than a third of a meter and earning him a runner-up finish at regionals. Nicholson also runs a sub-11-second 100-meter dash.

William Roberts, Flagler Palm Coast: Roberts was a district 400-meter champion for Flagler Palm Coast with a 49.73-second run. He won a state title on the aforementioned Bulldog 4x400-meter relay team.

La'Darius Simmons, Flagler Palm Coast: Simmons contributed to the Volusia-Flagler area javelin hotbed with a personal best of 62.09 meters, which is the third-farthest throw of anybody in Florida. Simmons placed fourth at the FHSAA Class 4A meet.

Brison Sullivan, New Smyrna Beach: Sullivan is the Volusia-Flagler area's king of throws. Sullivan launched a javelin 65.21 meters at the FHSAA Class 3A championships to break a state record and win a title by more than seven meters. His heave put him eighth in the United States. Sullivan was also a district champion in the discus and shot put.

Logan Whitehurst, Spruce Creek: Whitehurst finished sixth in the high jump at the Class 4A championships and was a district champion with a 1.92-meter jump at each meet. His 1.97-meter personal best was the second-highest in the area.

Mekhi Yan, Atlantic: Yan's high jump of 2.02 meters was the only local competitor at the Class 2A championships earned him a second-place finish and a spot in the top-10 high jumpers in Florida. Yan was a regional and district champion in the event.

Connor York, DeLand: York's best javelin heave of 56.88 meters was the



New Smyrna Beach's Brison Sullivan competes in the javelin event during the Five Star Conference Track and Field meet at Flagler Palm Coast, April 10, 2026. NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL



Mainland's Ethan Figueroa competes in the high jump at the Five Star Conference Track and Field meet at Spruce Creek High School, Thursday, April 10, 2025. NIGEL COOK/NEWS-JOURNAL

12th-farthest in Florida and probably wins multiple trophies in any other market. In the Volusia-Flagler area, York was a runner-up at the Region 1-4A meet and finished fifth at Class 4A states.

Second Team

Brian Boyle, Pine Ridge: Boyle paced the Volusia-Flagler area with a 1,600-meter personal best of 4:27.83, which led him to a district title.

Drayton Brackett, Seabreeze: Brackett is the only Volusia-Flagler area hurdler to break the 15-second mark, and he did it with a personal best of 14.75 seconds. He was a Five Star Conference and district champion in the event.

Dominic Dowell, Seabreeze: Dowell is a district champion in the 400-meter hurdles. He's the second-fastest 400-meter hurdler in the area with a 57.49-second personal best.

Najir Eddins, Flagler Palm Coast: Eddins' 56.88-second 400-meter hurdles won him the Five Star Conference title and made him the fastest in the Volusia-Flagler area in that event. Eddins also won a district title in the 110-meter hurdles, and his 15.09-second personal best trails only Brackett.

Ethan Figueroa, Mainland: Figueroa has personal bests inside the Volusia-Flagler area's top four in the high, long and triple jumps. He won gold in the Five Star Conference high jump and triple jump and also won the high jump and long jump at the district level.

Ignacio Gavaldon, New Smyrna Beach: Gavaldon had the highest pole

vault in the area at 3.7 meters.

Raymon Hunter, DeLand: Hunter was the Five Star champion in the long jump. His 6.82-meter personal best was the third-farthest in the area.

Jayden McCoy, Matanzas: McCoy's 13.71-meter triple jump was the farthest in the area, narrowly beating New Smyrna Beach's Denairo Peyton-Ferguson for the top spot.

Sam McDuffie, New Smyrna Beach: McDuffie's 155.63 was the fastest 800-meter split in the Volusia-Flagler area. His 1,600-meter personal best of 4:29.9 was the third-fastest in the area.

Aidan O'Brien, Seabreeze: O'Brien was the Five Star Conference 100-meter champion with a 10.7-second sprint, which only trails Jacobelli's time as the second-fastest in the area. He's also one of three Volusia-Flagler athletes to run a sub-22-second 200-meter with a 21.77-second time.

Rhett Opalewski, Flagler Palm Coast: Opalewski was a Five Star Conference champion in the 800-meter, and his personal best of 1:56.83 was the second-fastest in the Volusia-Flagler area.

Douglas Seth, Flagler Palm Coast: Seth's 4:29.13 at the Five Star Conference meet won him the title and the area's second-fastest time in the 1,600-meter. He posted the fastest 3,200-meter time (9:34.34) as a freshman.

Honorable Mention

Atlantic: Taveon Orr
DeLand: Marcelles Carey, Kaveon Jackson, Michael Mandell, Owen Smith

Deltona: Lowell Cummings, Marcus Morris, Al Pena

Flagler Palm Coast: Mateo Almeida, Isaiah Chatman, Earnest Fingers, Cruz Finnicum, Tyler Garrison, Jacob Harnisch, Mekhi Jones, Samuel Lendor, Zac-Chae'us Murphy, Ayden Peterson, Kenneth Robinson, Ethan Ruiz, Jack Wronowski

Mainland: Zarrion Dowdell, Javaris Estes, Javon Estes, Christian Robinson, Jaelyn Thompson

Matanzas: Dylan Ciardi, Kevin Gilpin, Enzo McGovern, Joshua Mills, Brant Tarsitano, Jordan Theus-Vale, Blaine Vogel

New Smyrna Beach: Jackson Alley, Reece Ebaugh, Cole Engler, JD Fieser, Chase Giberson-Hay, Phillip Hibbert, Maddox Kokin, Denairo Peyton-Ferguson, Gavin Smith, Tres Walton

Pine Ridge: Kaden Boddie, Braylon Robinson, Ruben Smith

Seabreeze: Jeremias George, Alex Schagen, Hunter Shuler

Spruce Creek: Logan Archer, Carter Bell, Ashton Hamilton, Xavier Lucas, Xavier Miranda, Lorenzo Maldonado, Colton Prospect

Trinity Christian: Eduardo Cruz, Cameron Jack, Ryan Thompson
University: Aden Andrews, Caleb Burns, Theo Schnabel, Dax Yazdani

Boys Track and Field Coach of the Year

David Halladay, Flagler Palm Coast: The Bulldogs' boys track team was on another level when it came to local competition. Under Halladay, Flagler Palm Coast's longtime head coach, the Bulldogs won the Five Star Conference meet by 105 points and more than doubled the points of their nearest competitor. Flagler Palm Coast then finished second as a team at the district and regional level. The Bulldog boys also featured a state-champion relay team in the 4x400-meter.

Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year

Brison Sullivan, New Smyrna Beach: Sullivan is one of the best high school javeliners with a 65.21-meter heave that won him a Class 3A state title by more than seven meters and broke an FHSAA record. It was a personal best that placed him eighth in the United States and first in Florida, but Sullivan has found success in more than one throwing event. While he picked up Five Star, district and regional titles in the javelin, he also won district titles in the discus and shot put. His shot put high mark of 15.08 meters also led the Volusia-Flagler area.