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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Meet All-Area Girls Track and Field Team

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Flagler Palm Coast's Karina Marcelus and Spruce Creek's Mikayla Palmer won individual Class 4A titles to establish Volusia-Flagler jumping dominance.

Marcelus won gold in the triple jump and Palmer did the same in the high jump to finish as the two local state track and field champions in 2026. Marcelus nearly won a second title in the 100-meter hurdles, but silver isn't too shabby.

A couple others placed at various FHSAA championship meets. Here's who made the cut for the 2026 girls track and field All-Area team.

First Team

Riley Bennett, Spruce Creek: Bennett finished sixth in the state in the javelin with a 35.54-meter throw, which was the third-farthest personal best in the area.

Molly Brock, New Smyrna Beach: Brock's personal best of 3.15 meters in the pole vault was a Volusia-Flagler area best. She was a regional and district pole vault champion.

Peyton Cerasi, Matanzas: Cerasi was the fastest distance runner in the area and one of the quickest in Florida. She finished fourth in the 1,600-meter at the Class 3A championships with a personal-best 4:55.78 and seventh in the 3,200-meter. The sophomore was a regional champion.

Celeste Coney, New Smyrna Beach: Coney posted the area's fastest times in the 100-meter (12.17 seconds) and 200-meter (24.93) sprints. She was a three-event district champion, adding her performance as the anchor leg of the Barracudas' 4x100-meter relay team.

Krista Hansen, DeLand: Hansen finished fifth in the javelin at the Class 4A state meet with a 35.63-meter throw. She also held the Volusia-Flagler area's fastest time in the 400-meter hurdles with a 1:06.55. Hansen won Five Star Conference and district titles in both events.

Jada Hawkins, Spruce Creek: Hawkins was perhaps the most complete sprinter in the area with the fastest local 400-meter time and second-quickest finishes in the 100-, 200- and 800-meter runs. Hawkins finished fifth at states and won district and Five Star Conference titles in the 400-meter. She also won the Five Star 100- and 200-meter crowns.

Karina Marcelus, Flagler Palm Coast: Marcelus won a Class 4A title with a 12.41-meter triple jump, an area best, and nearly took home a second state championship with a runner-up finish in the 100-meter hurdles. She won both events at the regional, district and Five Star Conference meets, and she also had the area's farthest long jump.

Mikayla Palmer, Spruce Creek: Palmer was the Volusia-Flagler area's other individual state champion with a 172-meter high jump. Her personal best of 175 meters was the highest in the area and delivered her a Five Star Conference title. She also won district gold.

Danteria Rankin, Flagler Palm Coast: Rankin was the area's farthest shot put thrower with a 10.65-meter heave. She was a state qualifier in the same event.

Aquila Rivers, Mainland: Rivers was a regional and district champion in the 400-meter dash, and her personal best of 58.64 seconds was the second-fastest in the area.

Arianna Slaughter, Flagler Palm Coast: Slaughter, a two-event district and Five Star champion, had the fastest time in the 800-meter (2:18.14) and the second-fastest mark in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs.

Grace Taylor, Flagler Palm Coast: Taylor had the farthest local javelin throw of 35.8 meters, earning her a 10th-place finish at states.

Second Team

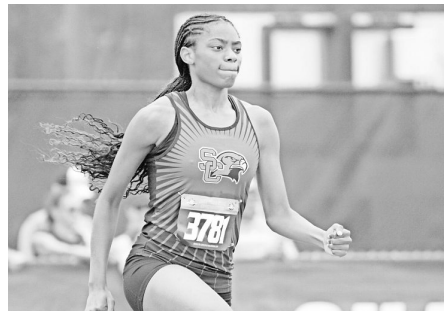
Jaycee Alley, Spruce Creek: Alley was the second-fastest Volusia-Flagler athlete in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:08.69.

Keylani Cates, DeLand: Cates was a Five Star Conference champion in the shot put and had the second-farthest personal best in the area. She was the top local discus thrower with a 36.98-meter heave.

Makayla Doe, Mainland: Doe had the second-farthest personal bests in the long and triple jumps, and she had the fourth-highest high jump of all Volu-



Flagler Palm Coast's Karina Marcelus competes in the long jump during the Five Star Conference Track and Field meet at Flagler Palm Coast, April 10, 2026. NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL



Spruce Creek's Mikayla Palmer begins her approach in the girls high jump during the FHSAA Class 4A high school track and field championships on May 9, 2026. CLAYTON FREEMAN/FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

sia-Flagler participants.

Anna Grigoruk, Flagler Palm Coast: Grigoruk was a versatile runner for the Bulldogs who had top-five local times in the 800-, 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs.

Fabitha Hick, Seabreeze: Hick had the third-fastest area times in the 100- and 400-meter hurdles.

Cameryn Irby, Spruce Creek: Irby was the fourth-fastest 1,600- and 3,200-meter runner in the area. She placed in the top three in both events at the Five Star Conference championships.

Channing Irby, Spruce Creek: Irby was a top-five runner in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter distance runs.

Erin Kealy, Father Lopez: Kealy won district championships in the long jump and triple jump at the 1A level.

Lauren Lancing, Father Lopez: Lancing recorded the area's second-fastest time in the 100-meter hurdles and fourth-fastest in the 100-meter sprint. She was a four-event district champion for the Green Wave.

Gabrielle Lett, Mainland: Lett had the third-fastest 100- and 200-meter sprints in the Volusia-Flagler area, and she was the 200-meter Five Star Conference champion.

Isla McGuirk, New Smyrna Beach: McGuirk was the Five Star pole vault champion, and her personal best of 2.95 meters was the second-highest in the area.

Sydney Noelien, Mainland: Noelien was a Five Star discus champion and held the second-farthest personal best in the area.

Honorable Mention

Atlanti: Nneoma Ukawuilulu

DeLand: Kylie Haynes, Anna Vandell, Sierra West

Deltona: Taiyari Diaz

Father Lopez: Mia Bruno-Lodwig, Caroline Curtis, Natalie Frances, Lucy Fulton, Ellen Svajko, Emma Torres

Flagler Palm Coast: Madison Ackron, Leya Affotey-Gaskin, Abigail Blu-

mengarten, Audrey Bowman, Favour Jegede, Taylor Jones, Ella Mballesube, Liliana Preston, Jazmin Tishenko, Stephanie Vargas, Laniyah Walker, Jayden Wright

Mainland: Tylar Darius, Nikyla Henderson, Ariana Kroytor, Ta'Najia Martin, Jalissa Rodney

Matanzas: Kyla Breckenridge, Kamryn Miller, Megan Rhee, Mia Tarsitano

New Smyrna Beach: Carleigh Austin, Kelsey Buttrich, Lilah Fusco, Reece Galerno, Alex Hansen, Jetta Heaps, Dakota Hudson, Zoe Kosmas, Sophia Nilsson, Iniya Reddicks, Kendall Shaw

Seabreeze: Alison Low

Spruce Creek: Mya Byrd, Liberty Conaway, Analeigh Jackson, Leila Marty, Adrianna Reyes, Nina Rodriguez-Inglett

Girls Track and Field Coach of the Year

Alycia Williams, Flagler Palm Coast: What a season it was for the Bulldogs. Under Williams' leadership, Flagler Palm Coast won its first Five Star Conference title since 2015 with a narrow victory over Spruce Creek. Then, the Bulldogs' placed fourth at the district and regional level with several athletes earning bids to the Class 4A state meet. Flagler Palm Coast ended its season with an individual state champion in Karina Marcelus.

Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year

Karina Marcelus, Flagler Palm Coast: Marcelus was the essence of track and field in 2026, as she won a state title in the field and nearly won another on the track. The senior was the Class 4A champ in the triple jump before finishing second in the 100-meter hurdles. Needless to say, Marcelus won both of those events in every meet leading up to states with victories at the regional, district and Five Star Conference meets. She was also the Volusia-Flagler leader in the long jump, which she won at the Five Star Conference meet to be one of two three-event winners.