

## SPORTS

BOYS' TRACK &amp; FIELD // Thousand Oaks Lancers

## Brown is the new black

■ Scholar athlete bound for the Ivy League to sprint, study international relations

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Plenty of athletes around the country look good on paper.

To get into the Ivy League, Danny Sarisky had to do more than simply mark boxes on a checklist.

Sarisky, 17, has good grades and excels athletically, but he's distinguished himself from the madding crowd with his impressive resume.

The Thousand Oaks High senior volunteered at the United Nations' Casa Monarca immigration center near Monterrey, Mexico, three times over the past five years. In 2019, he made a presentation in Spanish and English about issues migrants face around the world.

At the UN center, Sarisky interacted with migrants from Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, South America and Africa. He learned about what migrants need to earn degrees and gain citizenship.

That experience will be invaluable for Sarisky, who will attend Brown University and study international relations while sprinting for the Bears' track and field team.

"It's exciting," Sarisky said. "I wasn't expecting to go there. It was a long process. It was a good

## Lancers focus on training

Marlene Wilcox led Thousand Oaks High's track and field teams through two meets her first season as head coach in 2020.

Last season was canceled prematurely due to the coronavirus, but Wilcox and the Lancers remain optimistic.

"I hope we can get out there and return safely," said Wilcox, a 1980 T.O. grad and member of the U.S. Olympics team. "We are definitely going to come out the other side of this."

In addition to boys' sprinter Danny Sarisky, who committed to Brown University, many Lancers continue to train hard under adverse conditions.

Ryan Tischhauser, a senior sprinter and hurdler, is considering competing for UC Davis. He said he wants to study aerospace engineering or mechanical engineering.

Colin Quinn, a senior, has been running well at practice.

Levi Hammond and James Stuver, who also play football, are springy sprinters. Hammond also wrestles.

Powell Williams, a 400-meter runner, is a freshman to

## IN A NUTSHELL

Danny Sarisky, 17, is a senior sprinter for the Thousand Oaks High boys' track and field team. The 4.0 GPA honors student will sprint and study international relations at Brown University of the Ivy League. He's chasing the T.O. record for fastest 100-meter dash of 10.76 seconds, set in 1990. Sarisky's personal record is 10.85 seconds, which he ran in 2019.

### Danny's favorites

- **Teams:** Ohio State football and Los Angeles Rams
- **Athlete:** Noah Lyles
- **Movies:** Indiana Jones series
- **Books:** Dune series
- **Food:** Stir-fry
- **App:** Instagram
- **Dream destination:** Europe

surprise at the end."

Sarisky, a dual citizen of the U.S. and Mexico, said he'd like to work for the U.S. Department of State and perhaps become an ambassador.

He has never stepped foot in Rhode Island, and the entire recruiting process with Brown was done virtually on Zoom.

The Lancer's prolific evolution impresses teammates, friends and coaches.

Miles Zoltak, a Stanford sprinter who prepped at Thousand Oaks, was a senior when he met Sarisky during the youngster's freshman year of high school. Despite the age gap, the two sprinters developed a close friendship.

"I'm glad to see he's stayed motivated," said Zoltak, who owns T.O. records in the 200-meter (21.16 seconds) and 400

watch.

Jeremy Frank is a sophomore hurdler oozing with potential.

Matthew Crellin, a junior 400 specialist, hasn't missed a practice during the pandemic, Wilcox said.

On the girls' side, Shelby Richmond fortifies a solid junior group. Richmond competes in the 100, 200 and 400 sprints.

Gabby Htway is a talented senior high jumper.

Katie Edwards and Rachel Valencia are dynamic junior sprinters.

Wilcox was a sprints coach at Calabasas from 2016 to 2019. She also assisted at El Camino Real from 2009 to 2012.

As an athlete at T.O., she captured gold in the long jump and silver in the 100 hurdles at the state meet. Her name is still attached to a school record in the 4x400 relay.

"They're working hard," the coach said of her athletes. "It's been definitely very challenging. I have to say, once we get out there, we've had a good go of it. I feel very fortunate."

—Eliav Appelbaum

(48.15 seconds) races. "Danny clearly has his head on straight. It's no small feat to get into a school like Brown and excel in athletics and academics. I'm super proud of him."

Sarisky zoomed through the 100 in a personal record 10.85 seconds, which he set during a home meet his sophomore year against rival Newbury Park. Jack Bellamy owns the fastest 100 time in Thousand Oaks history at 10.76 seconds, a record established in 1990.

Sarisky finished the 200 in a PR of 22.13 seconds in 2019. He ran his first 400 in 51.04 seconds during the last meet of 2020, the Don Green Invitational in Moorpark, before the coronavirus wiped out the rest of the season.

Sarisky has continued to develop on the track during the pandemic. The Lancers have been training in outdoor pods on campus since October.

"Danny is very coachable. He's willing to work on things, he shows up to practice on time, he's prepared and he works hard," second-year head coach Marlene Wilcox said.

Wilcox, who helped Thousand Oaks win a state title in 1980 and earn a spot on that summer's U.S. Olympics team, said she's excited for the next leg of Sarisky's journey.

"Danny deserves this opportunity. He's worked really hard for it. Getting into Brown isn't just about the physical accomplishments, it's also about his academics and the person he's become. Those are all things that a coach or institution like Brown take into consideration," Wilcox said. "I'm thrilled to death that he has this opportunity."

"I think he's going to soar. I think he's absolutely going to soar."

Ryan Tischhauser and Sarisky met, by Tischhauser's recollection, in first or second grade at Weathersfield Elementary School.

The longtime friends spent fourth grade running with the Thousand Oaks Flyers youth track and field team.

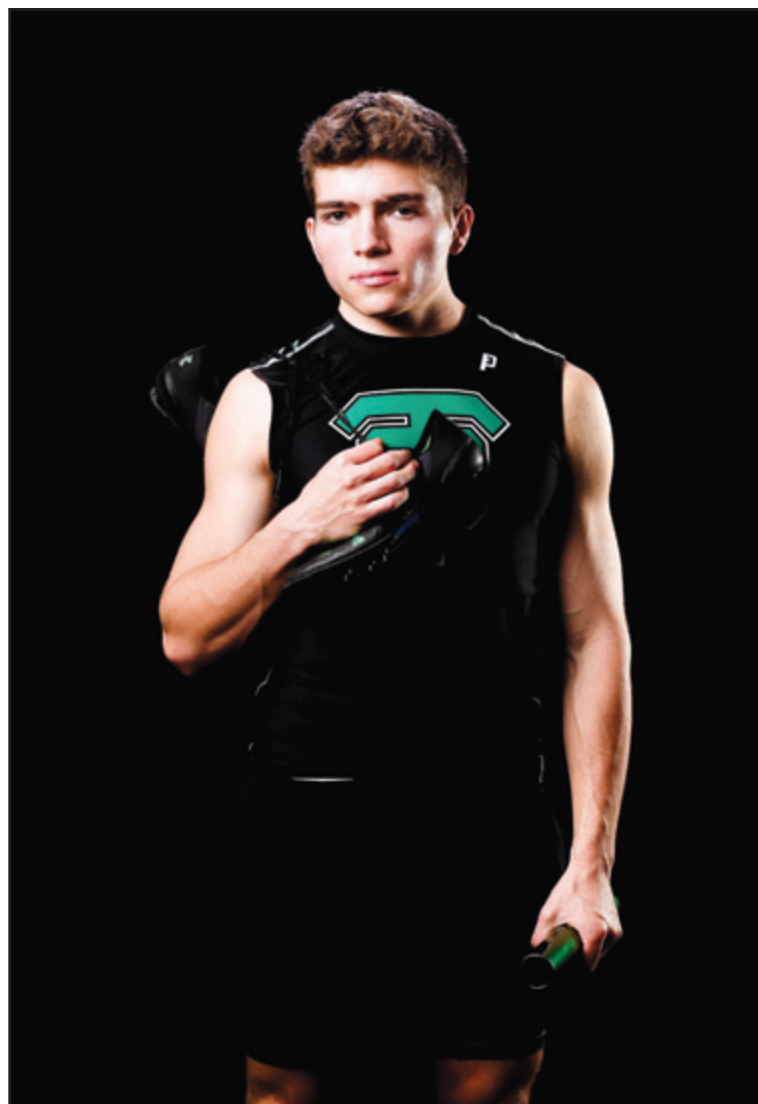
"He's a hard worker in practice, but he has a different mentality during meets and actual races," said Tischhauser, a Thousand Oaks senior sprinter and hurdler. "It's crazy. He shows up."

Some of Tischhauser's favorite memories with Sarisky include playing the Minecraft video game after school with a group of friends while talking on landline phones. Tischhauser said he wants to run track at UC Davis.

If COVID-19 wasn't plaguing the land, Zoltak and Sarisky would be hanging out before the Cardinal treks to Silicon Valley for school and practice next week.

"He's a great guy," Zoltak said. "I'm really blessed to have met him and have him be a part of my athletic experience. We have a mentor-mentee dynamic on top of an earnest friendship. . . ."

"He's just continuing on building a great legacy (at T.O.) In a way, I was able to leave the team



Courtesy of Cornerstone Photography

**KICK OUT THE JAMS**—Danny Sarisky is a standout senior sprinter for the Thousand Oaks High boys' track and field team. The scholar athlete with a 4.0 GPA earned a spot on Brown University's squad.

in good hands because Danny was young and fresh and talented. And hopefully he has the same impact on other teammates."

Sarisky said he hopes he and teammates Tischhauser, Colin Quinn and James Stuver can qualify for the state meet in the 4x100 relay.

"I really want to go to state with them," Sarisky said. "We've been running track for a long time and we have a lot of fun at practice. We're all pretty fast."

The Lancer is also chasing that 100 school record.

Sarisky, a 4.0 GPA honors student, considered attending UCLA, UC San Diego and New York University before selecting Brown. He praised former T.O. coaches James Craft and Tracy Spencer.

The son of Sylvia and David, Sarisky has an older sister, Madeline, a former Thousand Oaks swimmer and current Loyola Marymount University student.

In addition to school, sports and his UN experience, Sarisky works as a delivery driver for

Winners Pizza.

He has a bright future, no doubt. The Lancers literally can't wait for him to get going again.

"I wish he could compete right now," Wilcox said. "He put in the work before the opportunity came to him, and I think that's so important. He was willing to lay it on the line and commit, and the fruition of his hard work and commitment was given back."

Follow sports editor Eliav Appelbaum on Twitter @EliavAppelbaum.

## CIF update

The CIF-Southern Section announced on Tuesday that there will be no postseason championships for fall and winter high school sports.

Cross country, however, can begin competing next week. These decisions affect all Acorn schools, including Newbury Park, Thousand Oaks, Westlake, Oaks Christian and La Reina.



Courtesy of Sylvia Sarisky

**CLAMPDOWN**—Thousand Oaks sprinter Danny Sarisky will try to break the school record in the 100-meter sprint from 1990.