

## **Apps Impress at Penn Relays**

Written by Ryan Bower  
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Appalachian State University men's track and field broke a 28-year old record at the Penn Relays at Franklin Field over the weekend. The Mountaineers' distance medley relay team of Alex Taylor, Landon Powell, Raphael Rojas and Chris Moen took first place in the college division of the event with a time of 9:55.69 minutes. In the process, the Apps

edged out Big Ten foe Michigan and broke the previous school record of 9:55.71 set at Georgia back in 1984.

The Apps got an impressive performance from Sean Soderman on the first day of the meet. Soderman finished eight in the 3,000-meter steeplechase college championship (9:05.13) on Thursday evening while Josh Cox finished fourth (9:10.17) in the men's college division 3,000-meter steeplechase. On Saturday, the final day of competition in Philadelphia, several Mountaineers established themselves as some of the top athletes in the nation. Darius Purcell finished third in the college men's high jump championship with a mark of 7'7.25", just one inch away from tying his school record.

Jamal Tiller also turned in a solid performance by taking fifth in the triple jump with a mark of 48'2", his third-best performance of the season. On the track, Landon Powell turned in the seventh-fastest time in the preliminaries of the 100-meter dash (10.56) but did not compete in the finals. AJ Dohanic rounded out ASU's competitors by finishing 23rd in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.45 seconds.

On the women's side, Cassie Crawford delivered an impressive performance in the pole vault to help Appalachian State University women's track and field to an impressive weekend at the Penn Relays at Franklin Field. Crawford placed 11th in the pole vault with a mark of 11'11.75" to finish ahead of competitors from Penn State, Delaware, Kentucky, Princeton, Cornell and Yale.

Amanda Hamilton and Sarah Williamson each turned in top-15 performances in their events. Hamilton took 12th in the 5,000-meter championship with a time of 16:45.82 while Williamson finished 13th in the 10,000-meter championship with a time of 36:42.17.

The Apps capped off their performance with a 20th place finish from Erika Ivey (37'0.5" in the triple jump).

Appalachian State returns to action in two meets this coming weekend. Several athletes will head to Chapel Hill, N.C. for the UNC Invitational while others will travel to the Clemson Invitational.

**Photo Courtesy: Darius Purcell, ASU Athletics**

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