

# Bronx youth wins at Colgate games; - CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS NEXT -

by Jon Minners

Don't blink. You may just miss Bronx runner Whitney Fountain's latest race.

The Throggs Neck youth and Pelham Prep student has been burning up the track, paralleling her idol, the late Florence Griffith Joyner, most recently winning the 55-meter dash finals at the Colgate Games on Saturday, February 3, in front of a raucous Madison Square Garden crowd.

Fountain trains hard every day for competition, but it only took seven seconds to best her opponents in the high school division. For Fountain, who raced in Joyner-inspired attire created by her mother, it was her first year competing on the high school level, having taken first place in other divisions since she was eight years old.

Fountain would also win the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Award for Outstanding Performance. Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the sister-in-law of Florence Griffith Joyner, is another idol of Fountain's, making the win all the more sweet.

"It felt good," she said. "I am very proud of myself. It was my first time competing in the high school division and I was nervous, but I became very confident as I got closer to the race. I knew what challenge awaited me and I had a goal to win. It feels good that all my hard work paid off."

Fountain has a long history of first place finishes at the Colgate Games. In her second year, while attending P.S. 72, she took home first place in the 55-meter hurdles and then tied for first in the same race the following year.

Fountain, who is said to excel in all track events, moved over to the 55-meter dash three years ago, but was only able to achieve second place finishes at the Colgate Games, making this her first overall win at the annual event in that event.

On February 11, Fountain took home first place in the PSAL borough championship for both the 55-meter dash, with a 7.43 second finish and the

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Whitney Fountain (front and center) competing at the Colgate Games in the 55-meter dash. Fountain would finish the race in seven seconds, taking first place in the process.

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long jump, with a jump of 17'4" moving her into the upcoming city championship and currently making her undefeated in high school competition.

"I don't think any words could describe how I feel right now," said her

mother Kiya, when discussing her recent achievements. "Whitney is just so dedicated in everything she does. The effort she puts into practice is just amazing. She would be happy being in the top six, but she is now number one in the state and she's only 14. Her best years are yet to come."