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News

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450 OF THE NATION'S TOP FEMALE ATHLETES OF ALL AGES HEAD TO THE SEMI-FINALS OF THE COLGATE WOMEN'S GAMES

Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY (January 18-20) — Top point scorers emerged and fates were decided throughout the final weekend of **Colgate Women's Games** preliminary meets. From an initial field of more than 11,000 girls and young women, 450 have persevered through four preliminary meets to advance to next Saturday's Semi-Finals at Pratt Institute.

On Friday night **Amber Allen**, of New Jersey's Passaic County Technical Institute, won this week's High School division 400 Meters, finishing in 58.1 seconds. Fellow New Jersey athlete **Briana Barlow** of New Brunswick won the High School 55 Meters Hurdles in 8.2, while **Whitney Fountain** of The Bronx's Pelham Prep topped both the 55 Meters (6.8) and 200 Meters (25.1). All three ladies will advance to the Semi-Finals.

College/Open athletes competed on Saturday, with Pace Law School graduate **Tara DiLuca** coming in first in her division's 55 Meters Hurdles competition in 8.4 seconds and **Toya Woods** of New Rochelle throwing 13.09 M to take the Shot Put event. Also on Saturday, identical twin sisters **Dominique and Mariah Claudio** of Brooklyn's St. Pancras proved to be double threats. They finished second and third respectively, in the Middle School 400 Meters. Mariah also competes in the 200 Meters, while Dominique competes in the 800 Meters. All four athletes advance to the Semis.

"It's a testament to the demand for athletic programs that so many young ladies show up to compete each week at the Colgate Women's Game. What these young ladies are not getting at school, they're finding here. There's a need for more free athletic programs like ours and more recreational facilities for the youth," noted Meet Director **Fred Thompson**, who founded the Games 34 years ago. "We can't even begin to measure the ripple effects of getting these kids involved with something so positive so young."

The Colgate Women's Games, the nation's largest amateur track and field series, attract more than 11,000 participants each year. Every weekend in January, girls and young women from elementary school through college and beyond compete in sprints, hurdles, distance runs, high jump and the shot put. Athletes compete against peers in one of six divisions: Elementary School A, Elementary School B, Middle School, High School, College and 30+.

This weekend was the fourth of four weekends of Colgate Women's Games preliminaries held at the Pratt Institute's indoor track, leading up to a semi-finals of all top point scorers.

The semi-finals determine who will compete in the Colgate Women's Games Finals at the world's most famous arena, Madison Square Garden, on Saturday, February 2, for trophies and educational grants-in-aid from Colgate-Palmolive Company.

Free tickets to the Madison Square Garden finals are available to the general public by emailing colgategames@aol.com. Ticket requests should include the number of tickets needed and a complete address where tickets should be mailed.

Follow scores of all top competitors at www.colgategames.com

To download hi-resolution photos of Colgate Women's Games competitors, please visit <http://www.colgategames.com/Gallery.htm>. To request press passes to the Pratt Institute preliminaries or Madison Square Garden Finals, please contact Eva Dilmanian at 646.654.9324 or eva@buzzwordpr.com.