

ESAA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

JENNIE Batten delivered a stunning performance to win the junior girls' 200m title to add to the opening day gold achieved by hammer thrower Kate Yhnell.

Batten, a 14-year-old Stroud High School student, smashed her personal best by almost half a second as she powered to victory in 24.77secs.

"It is every athlete's dream to win an English Schools' title and to be honest it still hasn't sunk in yet," said Batten. Yhnell gave her coach Lorraine Shaw a few nervous moments before securing her first major title in the inter girls' event with a throw of 46.54m.

That win has earned the 16-year-old Chosen Hill School student her first England vest for the British Schools' Championships, in Newport, next weekend.

The third local gold was delivered in the final event of the afternoon in the senior boys' 2000m steeplechase but sadly it didn't happen in the colours of Gloucestershire.

Ed Womersley lives in Minchinhampton and competes for Stroud & District AC but was wearing an Oxfordshire vest as he is at boarding school at St Edward's School, in Oxford. Twelve months ago Womersley finished fifth in 6:09.01 but on Saturday he carved 15 seconds off that time with a PB of 5mins 52.64secs to go top of the UK Under 20 Rankings.

The county also won three bronze medals and achieved five top eight finishes. Amber Watson, aged 13, was third in the junior girls' 1500m and 14-year-old Tom Purnell ran the race of his life to make the podium in a time of 4mins 14.50secs in the junior boys' event having run a PB of 4:15.26 in his heat. "I did not expect to get anything here at all," said Purnell. "I am primarily a 3000m runner (he is ranked No 1 in the UK) but they don't hold that for junior boys so I had to do the 1500m."

The third bronze medal was won by hammer thrower Alex Warner. Fourth as an inter boy in Gateshead twelve months ago the 17-year-old, also coached by Shaw, produced the third best throw of his young career with 56.13m to clinch third spot. "I just missed out last year so it is great to get a medal this time," said Warner.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE RESULTS

Junior Boys 1500: 3 Tom Curr 4:14.50; 8 Luke Carroll 4:22.28; Ht 2: 6 Tom Purnell 4:21.31; JT: 9 Louie Barnfather 42.08; HT: 5 Jimmy Coleman 46.18.

Inter boys - 3000: 15 Joe Dagleish 9:22.02; 20 Ben Coldray 9:47.19; LJ: 16 Jamie Batten 5.56; SP: 15 Jamie Courtenay 12.63; HT: 10 Tim Williams 49.04; 16 Mike Tommey 44.58.

Senior boys -11 OH: 6 Joe Hylton 15.29 (hts 15.08); 400H: 8 Jamie Horder 58.72; JT: 10 Matthew Hartley 50.18; HT: 3 Alex Warner 56.13.

Junior girls - 200: 1 Jennie Batten 24.77 (PB); ht 3; 7 Keziah Rust 27.77; 1500: 3 Amber Watson 4:34.52; ht 2: 12 Emily Fitzhugh 4:55.48.

Inter girls - 300 ht 2: 4 Louise Hawkins 41.29; HT: 1 Kate Yhnell 46.54.

Senior girls - 400: 6 Francesca Keeble 57.40; 800: ht 2: 4 Julia Cooke 2:18.2; HT: 11 Nikita Morgan 38.50.