

# Zone 8 athletes ready to take a run at medals in Lethbridge

IVAN DANIELEWICZ Herald-Tribune staff

It's a big team with plenty of excitement. At this weekend's 2012 Alberta Summer Games in Lethbridge, a total of 38 athletes from Zone 8 will be competing in various track and field events in the Athletics competition. At the team's last practice on Monday afternoon it was clear the upcoming competition had the athletes in high spirits, with plenty of visible ear-to-ear smiles ranging from "It's very exciting... and nerve-wracking too because there's going to be lots of good competition," said Zone 8 athlete Danae Keddie, who will be competing in the 800 metre, 1,200m, 2,000m individual runs and she'll also be running the 800m leg of the U15 medley relay. "It will be a good experience." Fourteen-year-old Danae, who hails from Grande Prairie, will be joined at the competition by her brother Tyson. While Tyson is only competing in two events, he's been selected to compete in one of the more difficult events: The pentathlon. The pentathlon is a one-day competition where the winner is determined by the placement points they capture in the 100m dash, long jump, shot put, high jump and the 1000m run events. "It'll be exciting and nervous at the same time," said 12-year-old Tyson. "You just always have to try your best on every event. It will be a lot of work to cover all the bases." The Zone 8 athletes will compete in as few as two track and fields events or as many as seven over the quick two-day track competition at the Summer Games. While many of these youngsters have been to track meets before, Zone 8 athletics head coach Bill Corcoran said this is a very new crop of athletes heading south to compete in Lethbridge. "It is a really, really young team heading this time," Corcoran said. "For most of them, this is the first big meet that they have ever been to in the province, so it's going to be a really neat experience for most of them." In years past, Corcoran said it's been a challenge coaching so many young athletes competing across a wide variety of events, but this year he's had help. In the build-up to the Alberta games, past Summer Games athletes Troy Both, Rigel Carias, Megan Craley, Evan Paul and Adrian Schadeck and volunteer coaches Eric Martinek and Malloreay Pinnock have helped Corcoran to train and prepare the 2012 team. "Rather than just me trying to corral 40 kids, I've been able to break them into little groups and that's been really helpful," Corcoran said. "I'm primarily a distance running coach and I know a little bit of shot put, but after that my level of expertise goes down, so it's been really helpful having another few sets of hands to work with the kids." Similar to the swimming competition, the Alberta Summer Games athletics competition is one of the big medal producers for Zone 8. In 2008, Zone 8 captured 24 medals – seven gold, nine silver and eight bronze – and in 2010 the zone won 13 medals – two gold, three silver and eight bronze. Regardless of how the team finishes medal-wise, Corcoran said one of the biggest things the kids can take from the Alberta Summer Games is a passion for track and field. "If we get eight or 10 with this group than I think we'll have done really well," he said. "The important thing to remember about the Alberta Games is it's a first start." The athletics competition at the 2012 Alberta Summer Games runs Friday and Saturday.



IVAN DANIELEWICZ/DAILY HERALD-TRIBUNE  
Twelve-year-old Tyson Keddie flies through the air as he works on his long jump at Avondale School on Monday. Tyson is the youngest member of the Zone 8 athletics team that will compete at the 2012 Alberta Summer Games in Lethbridge this weekend.

**The 2012 Alberta Summer Games Athletics team:**

Tamica Campbell High Level	Kit Liske Fox Creek
Cassandra Ellery Berwyn	Josh Malmsten GP
Sierra Esau GP	Zach Malmsten GP
Cianna Forseille GP	Jimmy Marios Donnelly
Marc Girouard GP	Matthew Gorman GP
Matthew Gorman GP	Taylor Murray Sexsmith
Jilian Handfield Sexsmith	Kelly-Anne Osmond GP
Danae Keddie GP	Katrina Rottmerhusen Valleyview
Tyson Keddie GP	Fernando Sanchez Falher
Sydney Kickbush GP	Riley Stark Sexsmith
Jalaney Klassen La Crete	Lowell Thompson Peace River
Christian Lambert Fort Vermilion	Evan Tordiff GP
Jared Larson GP	Sam West GP
Analise Lehnars GP	McKenna Wolstenholme GP
Tyler Leicht GP	Kelsey Wudkevich GP
Cassidy Leys High Level	Dylan Zambonelli GP