

Wow! It has been a very busy three days. The New Zealand team did very well, and we from FFCL who attended the Simplot Games were very impressed and proud of both their achievements and the way they conducted themselves on and off the field. We noticed how they thanked the event volunteers and judges when they completed each of their events. They were great ambassadors for NZ. To come away with medals and PBs is outstanding, but also very importantly we hope that the girls have come away with an experience they will remember for a very long time.

A huge thanks must go to Ed and Debbie for everything they have done. It was a pleasure to meet and work with them both on this.

Long Jump & Triple Jump:

Unfortunately Ellie, Faith and Olivia did not qualify for the long jump. In the Triple Jump, however, Ellie and Faith qualified and made it through to the next round. They both jumped 36.9 and were tied for 12th place to make it into the finals. Ellie had the higher second jump and was able to compete in the Triple Jump Finals. She managed to reach a big 'PB' of 37.6 and came in at 11th place.

60m Dash:

Faith competed very well in the 60m dash sprint - she looked to have the qualifying round in the bag, however slipped on the painted sign and did not make it through to the finals. Understandably, we were disappointed for her as she had been going so well.

Weight throw and shotput:

Nicole threw PBs in both the weight throw and shotput - she was unable to make it through the qualifiers for Shotput, however made it through to the final for the weight throw, where she got 7th place.

High Jump:

Danielle and Josephine were our high jumpers, unfortunately Danielle did not make it through the qualifying round, and injured her leg, which also meant she was unable to compete in the hurdles.

Josephine competed in the finals for the high jump and did enormously well! She won the gold with a jump of 5'11. Competing against Rylee Anderson from Colorado, they both were able to make the 5'11 jump, new PB's for both girls, however Josephine's other jumps meant that she took out the Gold medal. They both competed for 6'1, with no one able to quite get over without knocking the pole down. Josephine's previous PB was 1.76 meters.

From the conversations I had with the team, they enjoyed the interactions of fellow athletes from USA, Canada and Australia. They also seemed to enjoy meeting some of the Olympians who attended the games; Dick Fosbury, Andrew Phillips, Stacy Dragila and Tyson Gunter. We look forward to hearing from the team on their thoughts and experiences and what they 'got out of' attending the Simplot games - once they have had a chance to get home and recover of course :).

I have attached a few photos - if you click the link you will be able to view - https://wfl-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/alyxfindlay_wfl_co_nz/EvOBms9dm6pCl4T_gdIzHLQBKxMvP4EDhScOeolUt7OqoA?e=6eyEfa

Alyx Findlay