

Indoor Track & Field ~ A Winning 2008-09 Season

- On February 4th, about the time of the NCCC championships, 54 students were still actively participating -- 30 girls and 24 boys.
- Many of the athletes (22 of the boys and 14 of the girls) were first time indoor track participants.
- They competed in seven regular season meets and three post-season tournament meets.
- Almost all practices were held outside through all weather conditions, braving the elements.
- Meets are typically hosted at a distance from Canton (Glastonbury, Middletown, Storrs, and New Haven) and the athletes are involved sometimes for up to ten hours ...almost always on Friday nights or Saturdays.
- At the NCCC championship, of the 12 teams competing, the boys finished 2nd in the conference and the girls finished 3rd.
- Canton's second and third place finishes were the first time since 1999 (when EO Smith left the NCCC) a team from a school other than Suffield, Ellington, Tolland or Stafford finished in the top three for either the boys or girls at the conference **championship meet**.

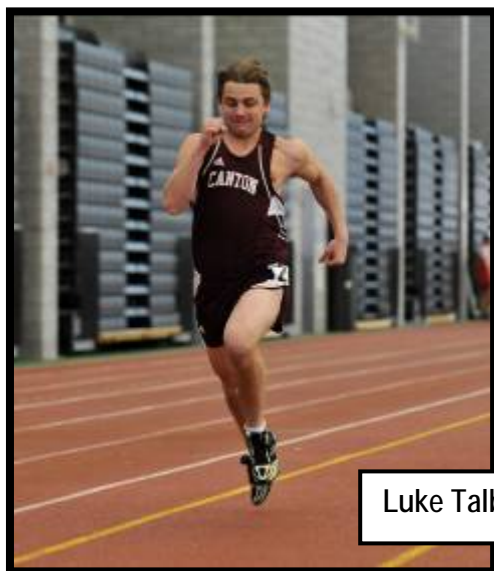
Indoor track & field requires commitment!



David Solomon

Canton's teams showed great depth and teamwork!

- Canton left the NCCC Championship with the most medalists (top 6 finishers) of any school, including Tolland, which had both the boys and girls team champions.
- Five girls were voted all-NCCC: Tyisha Alexander, Amanda Bronson, Katie Bussiere, Frances Klimczak and Deanna Nappi.
- Four boys earned all-NCCC honors: Brian Magna, Erik Nystrom, Dylan Petruskevicius, and Luke Talbot.
- Five girls earned medals at the State Class S championships: Katie Bussiere, Alaina Casioppo, Frances Klimczak, Deanna Nappi, and Alessandra Summa.



Luke Talbot

- Five boys also earned medals at the Class S championships: Ryan Gallagher, Chris Hyde, Brian Magna, Erik Nystrom, and Dylan Petruskevicius. Included among these boys was Canton's first ever track and field State Champion, Erik Nystrom, who won the 3200 meter event in a stunning upset.
- All five of the boys who medaled at Class S advanced to the State Open held the next week. The State Open is a meet combining the best performers from all classes and is typically dominated by teams from the Class L and LL schools. At that meet, Brian Magna finished 6th and qualified for the New England Championship in the 1000 meters.
- The Sprint Relay team of Chris Hyde, Ryan Gallagher, Dylan Petruskevicius, and Brian Magna placed 5th in an event where the top two teams broke the existing State Open record. Their performance also met the qualifying standard for the National Scholastic Indoor Championships, a rare feat for a relay team from a 'Class S' school.
- Based on the performances from the Class S meet and the State Open, five boys earned All-State honors: Ryan Gallagher, Chris Hyde, Brian Magna, Erik Nystrom and Dylan Petruskevicius.
- Indoor track served between 54 and 73 athletes over the course of the season. To accommodate the numbers of participants, the coaches set up staggered schedules that allowed for study time for athletes waiting for their specific events to practice and worked as hard as possible to allow students to participate in their other school activities while still maintaining a commitment to track. The team achieved at a high competitive level that is atypical of new teams and even more remarkable in a school without track and field facilities.


**Congratulations CHS
Indoor Track & Field
athletes and their
coaches!**



Camilla Rich



Dylan Petruskevicius



Lindsey Phelps



Sean Murphy



Nicole Batan



Frances Klimczak