

Crestwood Track Team Honored For 2023 County Championship

By Mike May
Town-Crier Staff Report

Back in May, the team from Royal Palm Beach's Crestwood Middle School won the Palm Beach County Middle School Boys Track & Field Championship. It was the sixth Palm Beach County title in school history, all under the direction of track & field head coach Marque Drummond. It was a memorable day for Drummond and his squad of 19 runners, jumpers, throwers and sprinters.

While the Crestwood squad won its county championship title on May 22, the official celebration of

the victory didn't take place until Saturday, Sept. 9 in the Crestwood Middle School media center. On that day, Drummond, Principal Dr. Stephanie Nance, and 17 out of the 19 members of the championship team assembled for a formal celebration featuring remarks from Nance and Drummond, plus food, beverages, cake and a championship letterman's jacket for each member of the team.

Seeing his track & field team back together rekindled a great memory of his team's championship performance at Park Vista High School. The county champi-

onship track & field meet started in a perfect way for Drummond's squad.

"That day, Alphonzo Carter and Nazier Watkins finished first and second in the 110-meter hurdles, which was the opening race of the meet," Drummond recalled. "We picked up 18 points, which set the tone for the meet and excited the entire team. For the rest of the meet, we kept putting points in the bucket, eventually finishing first."

At the end of the meet, Crestwood had earned 65 points to top Howell Watkins Middle School from Palm Beach Gardens, which

finished second with 58 points.

One of the younger members of last spring's team was sixth-grader Brandon Pendergrass II. He's now in the seventh grade, and he's committed to leading by example next

spring. He feels that his school has a chance to successfully defend its title during the upcoming spring 2024 track season.

"I am dedicating my time to the track team and to working harder

than last year," Pendergrass said.

Last spring, Pendergrass ran two individual events at the county championship meet, and he was a member of two relays. His indi-
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Coach Marque Drummond presents jackets to Jayden Espino (left) and Caleb Fulbright (right).



The Crestwood Middle School track & field team in their new letterman jackets. (Front row) Blake Girard, Jayden Espino, Alphonzo Carter, Jaleel Stitt, Daniel Civil and Caleb Fulbright; and (back row) Rajon Fleurima, Jamarian Kelly, Mateo Hubbard, Christopher Jones, David Alexis, Joshua Destefano, Ja'Quan Johnson, Xavier Police, Treven Tipton, Michael Chambers, Brandon Pendergrass II and coach Marque Drummond. Not shown: Nazier Watkins and K'Mari Dixon.