

Langley Times- Sports

Langley's Ellenwood books ticket for Spain



Langley Secondary's Georgia Ellenwood has qualified to represent Canada at this summer's world junior track and field championships in Barcelona.
Gary Ahuja/Langley Times

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Last summer it was France, and this year it will be Spain.

That is the jet-setting life of Georgia Ellenwood.

Just 16 years old, Ellenwood continues to earn air miles as she works towards her goal of representing Canada on the biggest stage of them all: the Olympic Games.

Ellenwood is aiming for the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Ellenwood scored 5,198 points to win the gold medal in the heptathlon at the Whitworth University Last Chance Qualifier meet held in Spokane at the Boppell Track last week (May 15 and 16).

The heptathlon consists of the hurdles, high jump, shot put, long jump, javelin, 200m and 800m.

Her score shattered the track's previous record, which was 4,725 points and was set back in 1999 by Pacific Lutheran University student Kirsti Osborne.

Ellenwood attended the meet with her local club team, the Langley Mustangs, and her score was 2,001 points ahead of the nearest competitor.

She overcame a slow start on the first day of the competition.

The key was to concentrate on just one event at a time, she said.

And in addition to the gold medal, Ellenwood qualified for the next month's world junior track and field championships, which will be held in Barcelona, Spain.

This comes on the heels of last summer when Ellenwood placed 12th at the world youth championships in France, scoring 4,952 points, a new Canadian youth record.

The youth level is for athletes ages 16 and 17, while junior is classified as 19 and under, which means she will be up against athletes three years her senior.

"I think (worlds) will be a little more stressful this time because of my age," Ellenwood said.

Ellenwood had three chances to achieve the necessary qualifying time to attend the junior worlds, but she is glad to get it over with on the first try.

"I knew if I put in the work and trained as hard as I could, I knew I would get the (necessary) score," she said.

"Now I can just concentrate on improving in the events," Ellenwood said.

"There is always room to improve."