

HOT SHOT

Nationally ranked freshman breaks indoor shot put record

Charlie MacKenzie | Staff Writer

In a sport where age helps performance, freshman Amaya King is throwing her way to the top.

On her first throw as a Comet, Amaya topped Mason's indoor shot put record. Amaya threw a length of 41'09", receiving second at the indoor state meet. Amaya's indoor throw landed inches short of Mason's current outdoor record of 42'04", which was set by Catherine Earl in 2007. Amaya isn't a rookie in the world of throwing. At the age of 10, Amaya won her third consecutive shot put national title at the AAU Junior Olympic Games with a throw of 31'08". As of now, Amaya is the second best shot put thrower in the state. The only thrower ahead of her is senior Kaylee Antill of Tri-Valley who has already signed to Arizona State. Although Amaya is on the edge of shattering yet another record, she said that her main goal is to continue placing high at meets.

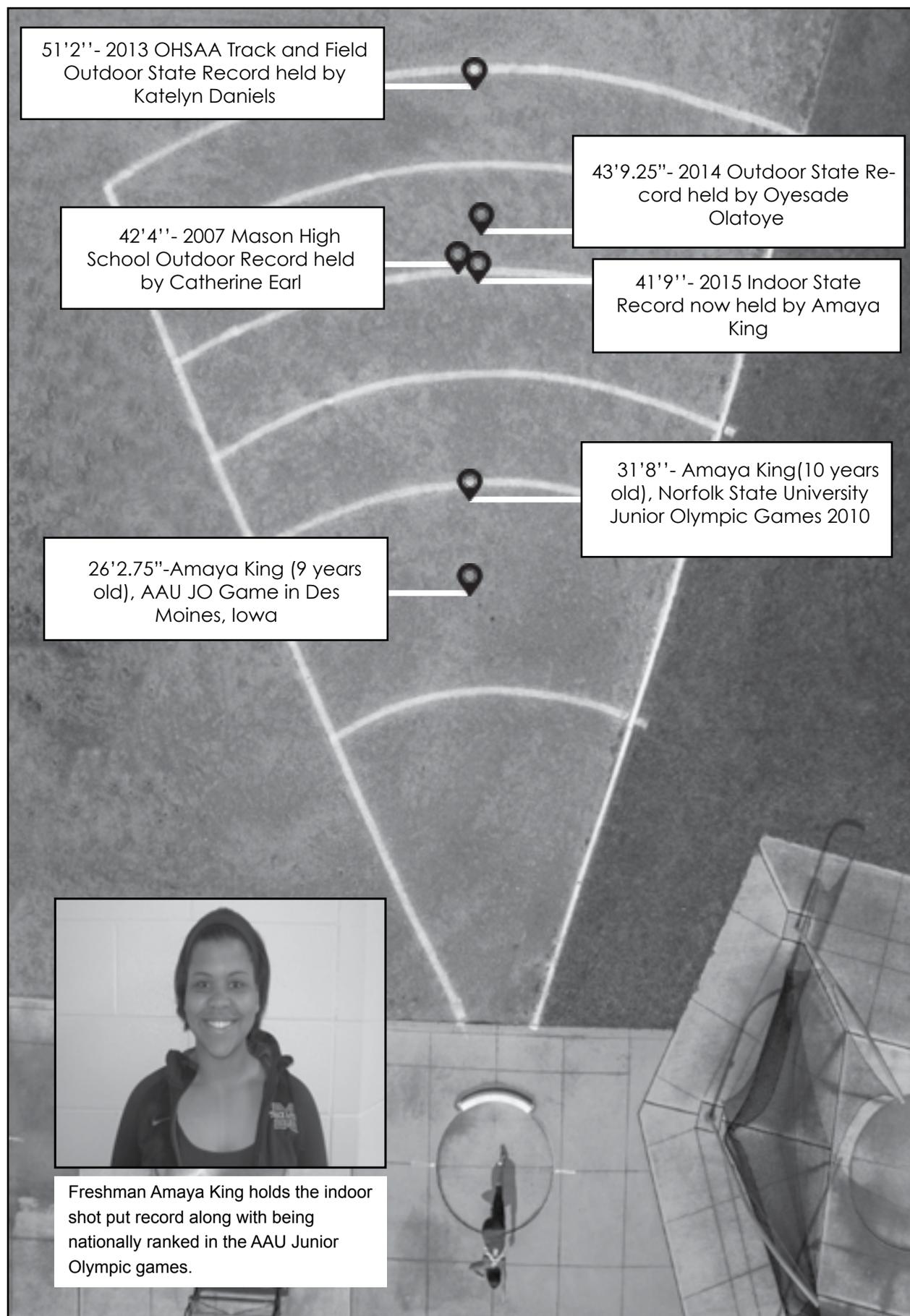
"I wasn't really worried about (breaking the record)," Amaya said. "I just wanted to get a good place. Breaking the record wasn't my goal. I just want to work as hard as I possibly can."

Amaya's mother, Andrea King, was a shot put thrower in high school and did long jump and triple jump at Bowling Green State University. Andrea has helped coach Amaya through her junior career and said she was not surprised that Amaya broke the record.

"I wasn't (surprised)," Andrea said. "We had checked out the school and went out to the track. She said, 'Mom, I think I can probably get that record,' and I said, 'Well, go for it.' There's nothing wrong with going for it. She was throwing pretty well the previous year and it was there for her."

According to throwing head coach Paul Barry, Amaya's ability to break records at such a young age in a sport that requires a tremendous amount of strength is very remarkable.

"The expectations for freshman are usually not as high as they are for older kids," Barry said. "And when you look at a 14-year-old competing in a physical event against 18-year-olds, I think it is impressive especially on her first throw ever as a Mason Comet she breaks the indoor record. She has been doing it her whole life, and she is going to be really good by the time she is done."



Freshman Amaya King holds the indoor shot put record along with being nationally ranked in the AAU Junior Olympic games.

Freshman Amaya King measures up to previous shot put record holders.

Aerial photo by Madison Krell

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