

Christi Smith-Ryan

Christi Smith-Ryan joined New World Track Club as a twelve-year-old in 1989. Right away, Christi distinguished herself as a uniquely talented athlete. She was a perennial qualifier to the Jr. Olympics and USA Track & Field Youth National Championship meets, primarily in the 200 and 400 meter dashes.

After three years with New World, Christi convinced the coaches to let her try the long jump. Christi became New World Track Club's first national champion in 1993 when she won the Intermediate (15&16-year-old) Division long jump at the USATF Jr. Olympics.

Over the years, Christi won several medals at Youth and Jr. Olympics National Championship meets. In high school, Christi was a two-time Ohio state champion in the long jump. She set a Division II Ohio State Meet record with a leap of 19'3.25" while winning the long jump her senior year. That record stood for eleven years.

Christi remained with New World through age 19 when she graduated from Bexley High School and entered the University of Akron. In her four years at Akron, Christi won eleven Mid-American Conference (MAC) indoor and outdoor titles and earned All-MAC honors seven times. Christi was also Akron's first multiple All-American, receiving that honor 4 times. She broke women's records at Akron in every event in which she competed including a school and MAC record (5797 points) in the Heptathlon in 2000. Christi was the NCAA runner-up Heptathlete in 1999 and in 2000 became Akron's first NCAA Champion in the same event. Later that summer she competed as Akron's first female athlete to qualify for the US Olympic Trials.

Christi has been inducted into the Bexley High School Hall of Fame (2007), the University of Akron Hall of Fame (2011) and the MAC Hall of Fame (2013). In 2012, the University of Akron recognized her as its number one athlete of all time.

Smith-Ryan has coaching experience at the youth club, high school and college level. Upon graduation from Akron, Christi returned to her roots, serving as an assistant coach for New World Track Club. Christi's college coaching experience includes assistant coach at Ohio University, Kent State University, and the University of Iowa. She also spent time in Eugene as a Strength and Conditioning Intern for the University of Oregon and coached at South Eugene High School.

Christi Smith-Ryan recently completed her first season as Head Track and Field Coach at Central Catholic High School in Portland, Oregon. Christi joined the Central Catholic Track and Field program in 2015 as an assistant coach.

Smith-Ryan currently resides in Portland, Oregon with her wife, Nicole Smith-Ryan.

