

Athletes Highlight

My name is... Daniel Wright

Countdown To Champs - This Week The Spotlight is Daniel Wright

DASH Athletics -Feb 8, 2023,

As we countdown the weeks to Jamaica's number 1 annual sporting event, we turn the spotlight on XLCR Eagle Daniel Wright, 2022 Champs 400mH Class 2 gold medallist, who's ranked in the top four in both his individual events.

Name: Daniel Wright - **Age:** 16 yrs **Hometown:** Kingston **Team:** XLCR Eagles -**Grade:** 11 (5th Form)

Academic Honours: Passed CSEC Math in 4th Form

Academic Goals 2023: Attain good passes in all 7 CSEC subjects enrolled.

Career Interests: Business Management

Athletic Events: 110mH; 400mH; 4x400mR

Athletic Accolades: Corporate Area Champs medallist; Champs Gold & Silver Medallist. Penn Relays Championship of America Finalist.

Athletic Goals 2023: Achieve PBs of sub 14s and 52s in the 110mHm and 400mH respectively while medalling at Champs, and to represent Jamaica at the Junior level.

General Interests: Music Appreciation; Researching and studying T&F.

Role Models: Roger Kingdom, Grant Holloway, Hansle Parchment

Being a very humble individual, Daniel Wright may not consider himself a rising star among the ranks of Jamaica's young hurdlers, but his achievements in this athletic discipline certainly places him among Jamaica's future hurdling prospects. He won gold and bronze medals in the 400mH and 110mH Class 2 events last year and as a first year Class 1 athlete is currently ranked in the top 4 in both events.

Earlier in the season when asked about his transition to the Class 1 events his response was, "Sir I am just trusting the process". This is in keeping with his humility, dedication and focus to a sport he loves as well as his confidence in Coach David Riley's programme.

He not only spends his time studying his event online, he also does extra academic studies utilising the internet. Another source of knowledge for the young man are "the elders" as he puts it. Again this reference and attitude towards those more knowledgeable and experienced than he, is in keeping with his kind, gentle and humble spirit.

A Havendale resident, Daniel matriculated to Excelsior from Rollington Town Primary School in September 2018, representing the Eagles for the first time at Champs 2019. With the intervention of the COVID pandemic he never got to

compete at Champs in an individual event until 2021, his first year in Class 2. Not making it out of the preliminary rounds of both hurdle events did not faze him as he returned the following year with greater determination and resolve and under the guidance of Coach Riley seemingly rose from obscurity to become the XLCR Eagles great success story at Champs 2022. He was also a member of the Eagles 4x400mR team which was 4th in the Penn Relays Championship of America final last year.

A very capable student, Daniel lists his favourite subjects as Principles of Business, Mathematics and Information Technology. He's currently pursuing 7 subjects at the Caribbean Secondary Examination Certificate (CSEC) level and hopes to gain passes this June in those exams, thus enabling him to enter 6th Form come September. In the medium term he hopes to gain an athletic scholarship to university where he intends to pursue studies in business management. He also has his eyes set on a career as a professional athlete, before pursuing an occupation in business administration.

In the interim his athletic goals for 2023 are to medal at Boys Champs in both events, represent the Eagles at the Penn Relays and Jamaica at the Carifta Games, the NACAC U18, and Pan Am U20 Championships. For a normal student-athlete these would represent some lofty goals, but Daniel Wright is no normal individual.

Age Animo,

Writer: Desmond Shakespeare

