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## Stellar Performances for USVI Athletes at Recent Meets; Eduardo Garcia Qualifies for 2024 Olympics

Local athletes Garcia, Smith, Peters, Conhoff, and Swindell excel in a variety of track and field events worldwide

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**Eduardo Garcia** By. INSTAGRAM

Eduardo Garcia, who recently set a new VI record when he ran the Half Marathon in Istanbul Turkey in a time of 1:03:53 on April 28, has been selected to represent the territory in the 2024 Olympic Games. He is scheduled to participate in the Marathon event, slated for August 10.

Meanwhile, Michelle Smith continues her winning season with a clutch of gold medals following the Florida High Schools District Championships on April 30.

She began the day with a leap of 5.38 meters in the Long Jump, securing first place in that event. Next, she won gold in the 100m hurdles, completing the race in 14.31 seconds. Michelle moved on to the 400m hurdles, finishing first in a time of 57.56 seconds. For her final event, the track star helped her 4x400 relay team cruise to the finish line in a blistering 3:41.28, claiming her last gold of the day.

Smith is currently within the top 40 global athletes for the 400m Hurdles event, which places her within the pool of individuals who are able to qualify to the Olympics later this year.

For her part, Nicola Peters was dripping in silver following her participation in the Alabama High Schools District Championships on April 26 and 27. Her time of 12.27 in the 100m event earned her the second spot at the podium, followed by another silver medal performance in the 200m finals, with a time of 24.84. Nicola next joined her Sparkman High teammates in the 4x100m, where she picked up her third silver of the meet.

Peters has qualified for the Alabama State Championships as well, which will be held on May 13.

Long distance runner Rachel Conhoff, a graduate student at Indiana State University, recently demolished the Virgin Islands national record for the 1500m event, which she had previously set. At the Bill Hayes Invitational in Bloomington Indiana on May 3, Ms. Conhoff finished the race in 4:26.72, a blistering four seconds faster than her previous best time. The new national record is also the 5th fastest time in Indiana State University's history.

In other competition news, sprint specialist Sofia Swindell has qualified for the Under 20 World Championships in Lima, Peru in August. She participated in the Ed Poreda Invitational meet in Lawrenceville, NJ, placing first in the 100m hurdles with a time of 14.20 seconds. Apart from her qualifying hurdles run, Ms. Swindell also captured first place in the 100m dash, setting a personal record of 11.96 seconds in the process.