

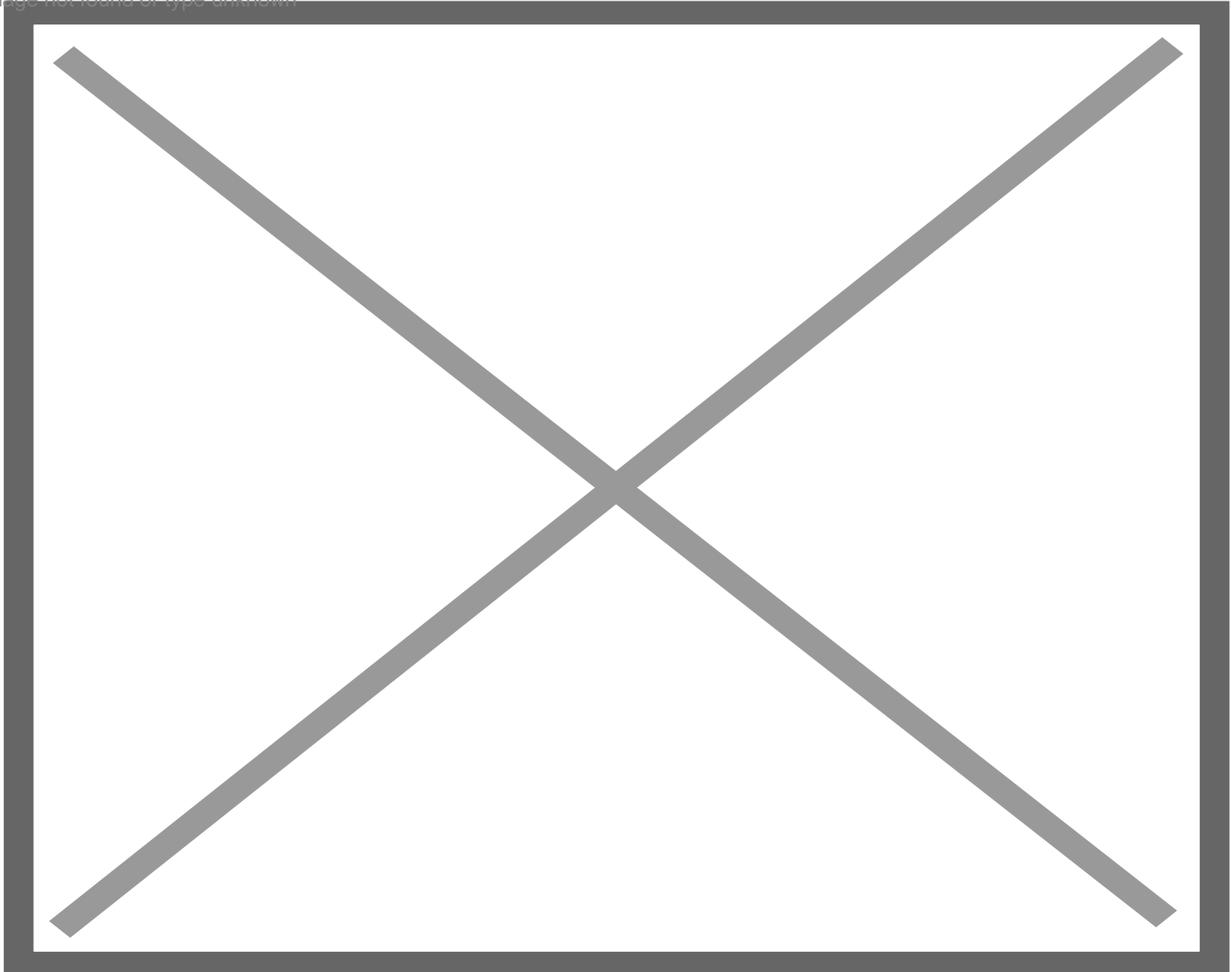
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Crucian Star Jacob Andrews Helps Team USA Secure Gold at Pan American U20 Championships

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Jacob Andrews following TEAM USA'S gold medal win at the 21st Pan American Under 20 Track and Field Championships over the weekend.

The 21st Pan American Under 20 Track and Field Championships, held from August 4-6 in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, witnessed a scintillating performance by Jacob Andrews, son of St. Croix native Dean Andrews. Jacob played an instrumental role in securing a gold medal for Team USA in the Men's 1600 Relay alongside teammates George Garcia, Jace McGavock, and Grant Buckmiller.

Jacob's exceptional prowess on the track was cheered on by a vibrant group of loved ones and friends, creating a heartwarming ambiance in Mayaguez. Among the most notable supporters were

his father, the well-known Chef Ricky Dean, Kai Nielsen, Dr. Faith Andrews, Tawana Albany Nicholas, and Akima Williams. The ground echoed with Virgin Islanders proudly waving their VI flag, their loud cheers ringing through the stadium with chants like "Go Jake-Jake," "Jake-n-Bake," and "Smoke Show."

Their exuberance was matched by Senator Franklin Johnson, who was seen facetimeing throughout the event, sharing the proud moment with residents of St. Croix. The Virgin Islands Track Team also graced the event, offering their enthusiastic support in distinct Virgin Islands style.

Jacob, who has committed to attending the University of Southern California, is no stranger to the sporting world and is a familiar face in the Virgin Islands. He spent his formative years at the Good Hope School before relocating to Washington State, and holds a close bond with his roots. He's known for his summer visits to St. Croix and his representation of the Virgin Islands in soccer at the Dana Cup in 2018. Locals might also spot Jacob as the young boy featured on Ricky D's Lious Eats Banner, clutching a mango.

It was in the summer of 2019 that Jacob's affection for track and field grew. Training on the Christiansted Bypass with Kai, he explored a newfound passion. His transition from soccer to running raised some eyebrows, especially among his local soccer coaches, Coach Bailey, and Coach Kym. Their surprise, however, was eclipsed by their unwavering support.

Jacob's future looks bright as he prepares to join the University of Southern California. Boasting wind-legal victories in the 100m, 200m, 400m races, and the 4x100 relay, his journey has only just begun.

Closing on an emotional note, Dean Andrews expressed, "Jake, my son, our pride knows no bounds. Your representation was not only for our nation but also for the Virgin Islands, our home. The world awaits your light, and may you always remember, 'Life is like a square. Hold your 90, and the other 90 will fall into place.'"