

NBHS Senior to participate in Australian track & field tournament



One of the more polite versions of "Cup of Joe." This image has become a popular meme.

Leslie Roda, a New Bedford High School senior, was recently selected to participate in the Down Under Sports Track & Field Meet in Brisbane, Australia, in July 2015.

Leslie will represent the United States and participate on the East Conference Team. She will compete in the javelin throw at the tournament.

"This is a great opportunity for me to not only compete but also travel," said Leslie. "I'm excited for this opportunity and proud to be a part of the East Conference track and field team."

As part of her trip to Australia, Leslie has already raised more than \$2,000 from donations to sponsor her participation in the tournament, with a little over \$3,000 left to fulfill sponsorship of the trip. Anyone who wishes to sponsor Leslie can visit www.downundersports.com; checks cannot be made out

to competitors and must be written to Down Under Sports.

Leslie has competed in spring and winter track and field since her sophomore year. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the New Bedford High Marching Band, the NBHS Concert Band and the NBHS Jazz band. Leslie is also a battalion executive officer in the JROTC.

“Leslie is another in a long line of examples of a student from New Bedford High School that the community can be proud of, representing the East Conference at an international sports tournament,” said acting Headmaster Bernadette Coelho. “We wish her the very best in her endeavor and her experience.”

About Down Under Sports:

Down Under Sports was founded in February 1989 based upon the dream of a New Zealander by the name of George O'Scanlon. George fell in love with athletics, especially American football (gridiron) as a young man growing up in his native country of New Zealand. His desire over the years has been to promote gridiron, not only to the people of New Zealand, but also to Australia where he lived for many years. That is why George started the Down Under Bowl which eventually led to the establishment of the Down Under Hoops Classic and the Down Under International Games. The Down Under Sports programs use the common language of sports to bridge the continents and provide a forum for athletes from around the globe to compete head-to-head in the sport they love. During the past twenty-six years, Down Under Sports has had the opportunity to share the land Down Under with tens of thousands of individuals from across the United States. Some prior standouts of the down Under Bowl include Jake “The Snake” Plummer (Denver Broncos), Ahman Green (Green Bay Packers), Rob Morris (Indianapolis Colts), Dave Dixon (Minnesota Vikings) and Jesse Williams (Seattle Seahawks).

The 2015 Down Under Sports program will include competition in wrestling, football, cross country, golf, track and field, basketball and volleyball. Down Under Sports' goal is to continue to provide athletes who excel in their sport the opportunity to experience the culture, beauty and grandeur of the land Down Under all within the framework of spirited and intense competition.