



NATIONAL CHAMPION: Alton's LaJarvia Brown earns U.S. long jump title in AAU Meet in Norfolk, Va.

by Dan Brannan, Content Director
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NORFOLK, VA. - LaJarvia Brown can now say she is a national champion.

Brown, an upcoming Alton High School senior, has had an incredible summer in track and field, competing throughout the world. She topped everything on Monday morning

with a 19-6 leap in the long jump to win the AAU Junior Olympics Track and Field Meet at Norfolk State in Norfolk, Va.

Brown's Alton High School track and field coach **Terry Mitchell** said his star athlete texted him the news just a few minutes ago that she won the national championship in the 17-18 **AAU Junior Olympics**.

He said she was exceptionally excited about taking top honors.

"Her jump of 19-6 would have won state in Illinois in the long jump last year," he said. "Last year, the winning jump was 19-5. LaJarvia has the best jump by 3 feet going into the triple jump in the AAU Meet tomorrow. Her best going in is 41-9.5. She won the long jump at 10 o'clock this morning in Norfolk. I couldn't believe it, I am so proud of her. She potentially could win the long jump, triple jump and place high in the 300 low hurdles at state next year. I am excited about the upcoming track and field season in the spring for Alton's girls."

In addition to the triple jump, Brown will compete on a 4 x 100 relay team on Wednesday.

Olympians such as **Jackie Joyner-Kersey**, **Bershawn Jackson** and **Sanya Richards Ross** have competed at AAU track and field events.