

Lodi sisters leap onto podium at Armory Youth Championship



By Jake Courtepatte

A pair of Aurora sisters are making splashes in the sand.

Csenge and Blanka Lodi flew to the top of the podium at the recent Armory Youth Championship, held in New York, featuring track and field athletes from both sides of the border.

As longtime members of Flying Angels Track and Field Academy, home to a handful of athletes from the 2016 Summer Olympics, the Lodis came home with a whopping five medals to add to their already impressive collection.

Blanka, a student at Light of Christ Catholic Elementary School, won gold in her age category in long jump with a jump of 4.75m, good for a 0.07m reach past her second-place opponent.

She topped off her meet with a silver medal finish in the triple jump at 10.19m, all three medal recipients far above the rest of the field.

A student at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School, Csenge took to the track with the Flying Angels relay team to take gold in the 4x200m relay, before adding a silver medal in triple jump with a score of 10.10m. She finished off her podium sweep with a bronze medal in long jump, leaping 4.75m.

Showcasing their bevy of medals and ribbons at their Aurora home, neither sister is a stranger to the

spotlight at both the club and scholastic level, with numerous ribbons from the YCDSB. Both competed in the prestigious AAU Indoor Championship in Washington last March, where Csenge finished sixth in triple jump while Blanka reached her respective podium in a third-place finish.

Blanka continued to add to her collection at the recent Minor Track Association Ontario Championship, this time earning gold in the triple jump category with a distance of 10.61m.

Like all well-trained athletes, both young stars are already looking towards the future: Blanka is anticipating continuing to push herself at the high school level, adding that she "always wants track and field to be a part of (her) life", focusing on the 5m triple jump and the 11m long jump.

For Csenge, she has her sights set on a berth in the OFSAA Championship in Guelph this June, taking on the best in Ontario scholastic track and field. With similar goals to her sister of a 5.2m triple jump and an 11m long jump, Csenge is also hoping to land a spot on Team Ontario at the Summer Games, and eventually reach the international level.

It comes as no surprise that both Blanka and Csenge rank the long and triple jumps as their favourite events.

These lofty goals are certainly in reach: the young star siblings have a mindset well beyond their years.

"If you have a dream or goal, follow it," said Csenge. "Work hard for it, because you never know what your limit is. Anyone can go far and become someone big, and that someone can be you."

"Track and field is the sport for all because you will find the event that's special to you," added Blanka. "Everyone should give it a try!"