

Jenks eyes Metro record for state titles

Written by Mark Dukes

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Linn-Mar's Stephanie Jenks certainly has placed her face on the Mount Rushmore of Metro girls track. This weekend, she will attempt to make history.

And with a year left in her high school career.

Jenks will compete this week in the 800, 1500, 3000 and 400 hurdles at the girls' state track meet. She already holds the all-time Metro marks in all three distance events and the all-time state best in the 3000.

Jenks has won five individual state championships in her career, tying her with Jefferson's Robin Threatt.

Jenks' target is LaNeisha Waller of Washington, who has the most individual championships in Metro history with seven. She captured three wins in the long jump, three in the 100 meters and one in the 100 hurdles from 2001 to 2004.

Waller, who also excelled in basketball at Washington, enjoyed a terrific track career at the University of Illinois. Her father, Landy, was a state champion wrestler and long jump state titleist at Washington High School in the late 1960s.

In addition to winning five individual state track titles, Threatt was an all-state performer in basketball and softball at Jefferson. She is regarded as one of the top female athletes ever to come out of Iowa.

Threatt broke the University of Wisconsin scoring record in basketball during her career and was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2009.

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She played one year in the WNBA.

Jenks also has excelled in cross country and swimming at Linn-Mar. She won a state cross country individual title as a freshman in 2012 and was a member of the 400 freestyle relay swimming team that set a Metro area record last year.