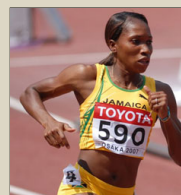


Novlene Williams

...at a glance



Track & Field

Career Highlights

- 2007 World Championships Silver Medalist (4x400m relay)
- 2007 World Championships Bronze Medalist (400m)
- 2005 World Championships Silver Medalist (4 x 400m relay)
- 2004 Olympic Bronze Medalist (4 x 400m relay)
- addidas Track Classic 400m Champion (2007, 2008)

Vital Statistics

- Born:** April 26, 1982
- Hometown:** St. Ann, Jamaica
- Resides:** Gainesville, Florida
- Height:** 5 '5
- Education:** University of Florida



getting to know... Novlene Williams

Biography

Novlene Williams might be an All-American on the track, but she is dedicated to winning a medal at the 2008 Olympics for her native Jamaica.

Already an Olympic medalist as a member of the third place 4x400-meter relay Jamaican squad in Athens, Novlene appears prime to secure an individual medal in Beijing.

If the 2007 season is indicative of Novlene's abilities she is well on the right track. In 14 races, all of which were in the 400m, Novlene reached the podium in 12. This includes victories in the adidas Track Classic, the Jamaican Track Classic and the Lausanne Grand Prix.

The World Championships in Osaka, Japan brought out a season best for Novlene as she posted a time of 49.66 to capture the bronze. Nearly a world champion, Novlene set the pace in each of the qualifying rounds and the start of the finals before nearly being edged out by five-hundredths of a second.

One of only four Jamaican born runners to break the 50-second mark, Novlene has accomplished the feat on three occasions, including a personal best of 49.63 in 2006. Lorraine Fenton's national mark of 49.30 is not far from Novlene's reach.

Despite a passionate love for her country, Novlene headed to the United States to pursue a collegiate track career. Newark, New Jersey's Essex CC was her initial destination. Here she earned both indoor and outdoor All-American honors while posting a junior college record of 52.05 in the 400m.

This record setting performance caught the eye of University of Florida track and field coach Tom Jones who lured Novlene down to Gainesville. As a gator Novlene was an NCAA All-American and All-SEC performer while helping lead Florida women's track and field team to a 2004 SEC and East Regional Championship in her senior year. Novlene won the 400m at the East Regional with a time of 51.53.

Tragedy struck Novlene's life when her mentor and coach Tom Jones passed away in 2007. Despite graduating from Florida in 2004 with a degree in commercial recreation and hotel management, Novlene continued to train with Jones in Gainesville. She went on to dedicate her silver medal from the World Championships to her deceased coach.

Now following in her footsteps is younger sister, Clora. Like Novlene, Clora runs the 400m and is an Olympic hopeful who started her collegiate career at Essex CC before transferring to a prestigious D-1 program. A national champion at Texas A&M University, Clora placed fourth at the Jamaican National Championships in the 400m, an event won by her sister.

In the fall of 2007 Novlene married Jameel Hill. With his support and her sister and country by her side, Novlene's hopes are high for Beijing.