

Campolindo Pole Vaulter Finishes Fourth at State Meet

By Garrett Ley



running down



going up



flying over



going down

When Stacey Jung arrived at Campolindo as a freshman, she identified herself as a sprinter. But after two straight appearances at the California State Championships, she will now likely be identified with another sport: pole vaulting.

The Harvard-bound senior cleared 12 feet, six inches at the 2008 CIF State Track and Field Championships at Cerritos College in Norwalk, California—a feat that earned

her the fourth best mark in the state. Not bad for someone who took up pole vaulting as an afterthought.

“I went into high school track and field thinking that I was not going to be a pole vaulter,” says Jung. “My coach handed me a pole the first day of practice and had me try it, and I thought I might as well go for it. I kept at it and eventually got better, and I found that I actually really liked it.”

Jung not only enjoyed the sport, she dominated it. Even when she was hampered by illness, Jung cleared 11 feet or higher in both the DFAL Championships and the NCS Championships. When she was back to 100 percent strength for the State meet, she leaped 12’6” to shatter the Campolindo school record of 11’8” set by Tiffany Chang in 2004.

“I did have higher goals,” Jung said. “I wanted to clear 13 feet, but I’m still really happy with 12’6”.”

Jung’s success stems from her hard work during the off-season. She trains in the summer, fall and winter before the track season be-

gins in February.

“I don’t stop practicing,” she says. “With the exception of a few weeks here and there, I practice year-round.”

Her hard work was worth it, and she now has back-to-back top-five finishes in the State. After she cleared 12’3” to capture fifth place at the 2007 State Championships in Sacramento, she reached State once again in 2008.

“Knowing that I could reach State again was really gratifying,” she said.

Though Jung has experienced a lot of success, the best part of pole vaulting in her mind is the people she has met over the years.

“The pole vaulting community is really awesome because everyone is supportive of each other,” Jung says. “It’s always really nice to have people—even if they are on other teams—route for you.”

After a laurelled high school athletic career, Jung looks for her success to carry over to her college years, as she plans to continue pole vaulting at Harvard University next fall.