

Shulton Whitley

Track

Class of 1977

Shulton Whitley ranks as one of Nyack's greatest all time track stars. Competing in hurdling, jumping, and relay events, Whitley won several championships and set impressive new records. He continued to excel in track after high school, winning medals at the collegiate and post-collegiate level.

Shulton's track career at Nyack was full of accomplishments, especially during his senior season in 1977. After finishing third in the 120-yard high hurdles at the state championships as a junior, Whitley reached even greater heights as a senior. He achieved the remarkable feat of being Rockland County champion in the 120-yard high hurdles, the 330-yard intermediate hurdles (with a County meet record 38.4 seconds), and long jump as a senior. This made him the first athlete to win three individual events at the County meet, earning him the Nicholas Cozza award for best individual performance. Shulton then proceeded to win a Section 9 championship in the 120-yard high hurdles before finishing in second in the event to rival Paul Lankford at the state championships in a tight race. Whitley also ran on Nyack's 440- and 880-yard relay teams, helping them set Rockland and Section 9 records.

Shulton defeated Lankford, who would later become an NFL wide receiver, at the 1977 Loucks Games by running a 13.6-second 120 yard high hurdles, setting a Rockland and Section 9 record. Whitley then finished fourth at the Eastern States Meet. His incredible senior campaign led him to be named the Rockland Track Athlete of the Year in 1977.

Whitley went on to excel at Rutgers, winning the 1979 New Jersey and Metropolitan Conference title in the 55-meter hurdles indoors and the 110-meter hurdles outdoors. He also won the 55-meter hurdles at the East Coast Championships, three silver medals in the 4x110-meter shuttle hurdle relay at the Penn Relays, and defeated Lankford in the 55-meter hurdles.

After college, Shulton continued to compete for another 10 years. He qualified for the 1984 U.S. Olympic Trials in the 110-meter high hurdles and ran a record-setting 13.5 seconds in the event at the Empire State Games in 1984. Whitley also won medals at meets such as the Penn Relays, the Millrose Games and the U.S. Indoor National Championships. Shulton has remained a significant figure in the Nyack athletic scene as a coach for the track and field team, and his incredible exploits in high school track earned him an induction into the Rockland County Track Field Hall of Fame in 2004.