

Media Release

coles | Value the Australian way

Wednesday, 8 November 2023

WORLD CHAMPIONS HEADLINE AMBASSADOR VISITS FOR COLES COMMUNITY ROUND

Australia's latest World Athletics Champion Nina Kennedy headlines a group of 13 past, current and emerging Australian track and field stars who will be making special appearances at Little Athletics centres over the next two weeks for Coles Community Round.

Nina Kennedy (WA, pole vault) will be joined by current dual Para-Athletics World Champion **James Turner** (ACT, T36 400m & 100m), reigning Diamond League champion **Matthew Denny** (Qld, discus) and Australian track and field royalties **Sally Pearson OAM** and **Richard Colman AM** in visits to grassroots clubs and centres across Australia to share training and nutrition tips with aspiring athletes.

With five Paralympic and Olympic gold medals and 15 World Championships between them, the Aussie stars are set to be hit among the next generation of track and field athletes.

The appearances are part of Little Athletics Australia's Coles Community Round where kids and families participate in activities such as dress ups, banana relays and shopping basket races. Coles team members from stores across Australia will also be supporting their local Little Athletics centres with banana donations and visitations.

Nina Kennedy, who has recently re-signed as a Coles ambassador alongside Sally Pearson OAM, Matthew Denny, **Kelsey-Lee Barber** (Qld, javelin), **Brandon Starc** (NSW, high jump) and **Jaryd Clifford** (Vic T12/13 middle/long distance) said she was looking forward to sharing tips and insights with young athletes.

"I'm so excited to get out to grassroots Little Athletics centres over the next two weeks for Coles Community Round to see and meet Australia's future athletes," she said.

"Having started my career in Little Athletics, I know how important the Little Athletics program is for kids coming through the ranks. I also know how special it is for kids to see their idols and role models in real life so I hope I can inspire even just one athlete to perform a personal best or to take the next step in athletics."

Coles Little Athletics Australia CEO Myles Forman said nearly 300 centres will be taking part in Coles Community Round this year.

"Coles Community Round has gone from strength to strength since it was introduced nationally in 2021, with nearly 300 centres already signed up for this year's round," he said.

"We're delighted to be able support Coles Community Round by sending seven of our Little Athletics Australia ambassadors – James Turner, Richard Colman AM, **Nana Owusu** (Vic, sprints), **Jordi McMillan** (SA, sprints), **Jackson Mellor** (Tas, discus & hammer throw), **Emelia Surch** (Qld, long jump & hurdles) and **Sophie White** (WA, hurdles) to regional and metro centres over the next two weeks."

"The Little Athletics Australia Ambassador program is all about inspiring and guiding young athletes across Australia and Coles Community Round provides a great opportunity for our ambassadors to do just that."

In addition to supporting Little Athletics through Coles Community Round, Coles has donated more than 3.9 million bananas and distributed over \$2.4 million in sports equipment grants to grassroots Little Athletics clubs and centres since 2017.

Coles Community Round will take place from Wednesday, 8 November to Tuesday, 21 November. The Coles and Little Athletics Australia ambassadors who will be making appearances at local centres during Coles Community Round are:

Little Athletics Centre (Suburb)	Athlete	Date of appearance
ACT		
Ginninderra	Jaryd Clifford	Saturday, 11 November
Corroboree	Jaryd Clifford	Saturday, 11 November
Woden Thunder	Kelsey-Lee Barber	Saturday, 18 November
Tuggeranong Tornados	Kelsey-Lee Barber	Saturday, 18 November
Cooma	Jaryd Clifford	Saturday, 18 November
Calwell	James Turner	Saturday, 18 November
New South Wales		
Quirindi	Jordi McMillan	Thursday, 9 November
Tamworth	Jordi McMillan	Friday, 10 November
Gunnedah	Jordi McMillan	Friday, 10 November
Penrith Valley	Kelsey-Lee Barber	Friday, 10 November
Nepean	Kelsey-Lee Barber	Friday, 10 November
Mt Druitt	Brandon Starc	Friday, 10 November
Kings Langley	Brandon Starc	Friday, 10 November
The Ponds	Brandon Starc	Thursday, 16 November
Girraween	Brandon Starc	Friday, 17 November
Holroyd	Brandon Starc	Friday, 17 November
Inner West (Concord)	Nina Kennedy	Friday, 17 November
Canterbury	Nina Kennedy	Friday, 17 November
Randwick Botany	Nina Kennedy	Saturday, 18 November
South Eastern (Moore Park)	Nina Kennedy & Brandon Starc	Saturday, 18 November
Queensland		
Balmoral	Kelsey-Lee Barber	Wednesday, 10 November
Ipswich	Matthew Denny	Friday, 17 November
Laidley	Matthew Denny	Friday, 17 November
Gold Coast	Emelia Surch	Friday, 17 November
Runaway Bay	Emelia Surch	Friday, 17 November
Aspley	Emelia Surch	Saturday, 18 November
Wynnum Manly	Emelia Surch	Saturday, 18 November
Warwick *	Matthew Denny	Saturday, 18 November
Helensvale	Sally Pearson	Saturday, 18 November
South Australia		
Tea Tree Gully	Matthew Denny	Sunday, 12 November
Reynella East*	Matthew Denny	Sunday, 12 November
Eastern Districts (Glenunga)	Matthew Denny	Sunday, 12 November

Campbelltown*	Nana Owusu	Sunday, 12 November
South Coast (Victor Harbor)	Jordi McMillan	Friday, 17 November
Woodville	Jordi McMillan	Saturday, 18 November
Victoria		
Doncaster	Sally Pearson	Friday, 10 November
Camberwell-Malvern	Sally Pearson	Saturday, 11 November
Waverley (Glen Waverley)	Sally Pearson	Saturday, 11 November
Brimbank (Deer Park)	Richard Colman	Saturday, 11 November
Coburg	Richard Colman	Saturday, 11 November
Keilor	Richard Colman	Saturday, 11 November
Oakleigh	Nana Owusu	Saturday, 11 November
Buninyong	Richard Colman	Friday, 17 November
Sherbrooke	Nana Owusu	Saturday, 18 November
Tasmania		
Kingborough	Brandon Starc	Saturday, 11 November
Queenborough	Brandon Starc	Saturday, 11 November
South Launceston	Jackson Mellor	Saturday, 11 November
Launceston	Jackson Mellor	Saturday, 11 November
North Launceston	Jackson Mellor	Saturday, 11 November
Western Australia		
Baldivis	Nina Kennedy	Friday, 10 November
Swan Valley (Ellenbrook)	Sophie White	Saturday, 11 November
Hammersley	Sophie White	Saturday, 11 November

*Indicates locations where other local athletes/centres will be involved

NB. Athlete appearances are correct as of Wednesday, 8 November 2023, however all athlete visits listed are subject to change if affected by weather, COVID, illness or travel or other events.



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For further information, please contact
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