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Ahwatukee

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Running With New Idea for Club Sports

Ahwatukee's Phoenix Flyers, started by two track and field coaches in 2013, already seeing growth.

by David Allison

Community contributor

The Phoenix Flyers Track Club, a youth and adult USA Track and Field (USATF) team, started its second season on Jan. 6 and has already tripled its numbers from last season. The team trains and practices out of Mountain Pointe High School in Ahwatukee and is co-founded by Larry Todd and David Allison.

Coach Larry Todd has been a track and field coach since 1995. He is currently the head sprint/jumps coach at Mountain Pointe. He had a successful collegiate career in horizontal jumps, coached by Olympic long jump gold medalist Arnie Robinson. He was Pacific Coast Conference Athlete of the Year in 1988.

In 2012, Todd coached the Mountain Pointe Boys' 4x100 team to a new Arizona state record of 40.46. Todd also trained Will Claye (2012 Olympic silver and bronze medalist in the triple and long jump, respectively) while in high school to an Arizona state record in the triple jump.

I have been a competitive middle distance and distance runner for over 35 years, and ran track and cross country for the University of Pennsylvania. I am an All-American Masters



Larry Todd is one of two coaches who started the Phoenix Flyers Track Club last year.

Photo courtesy of David Allison

track and field athlete at age 43, and have a marathon best of 2:27.17. My coaching experience includes youth club teams, middle school, high school and collegiate teams. From 2008 to 2012 I was the head cross-country and distance coach at Mountain Pointe.

Coach Todd and I started the Phoenix Flyers in 2013 because of a passion for track and field and to share our knowledge and experience with younger generations. The team now has over 40 members this year (up from just 15 in 2013), with 25 on the competitive team.

Track and field is a great sport for any type of kid, offering something for everyone. The Phoenix Flyers don't just run, they compete in long jump, triple jump, high jump, hurdles, shot put, discus and javelin. Unlike other club sports where every child may not get a chance to participate in games, everyone in track and field gets to compete in up to three to four events per meet.

Anyone looking for a sport for youth ages 5-18, or adults wanting to find out more can stop by the Mountain Pointe Track on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, 5:30-7 p.m., to see what the Flyers are about, or visit phoenixtrackclub.com.

—Coach David Allison is an Ahwatukee resident.