

California (CIF) State 400 Meter Silver Medalist

DUAL CITIZEN MADDY PRICE QUALIFIES EASILY IN FIRST ROUND OF 400 METERS AT IAAF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Fred Baer

EUGENE, Ore. -- Maddy Price was pleased with her first international competition Wednesday at the IAAF World Junior Championships at the University of Oregon, qualifying easily in the first round of the women's 400 meters. .

Running for Canada, the recent Menlo School (Atherton) grad was the runner-up in her heat in 53.86 seconds, just behind Gilda Casanova of Cuba (53.43). Price's time was fourth among the 24 qualifiers from the five heats.

"I felt really good," Price said. "My next goal is to make the finals." The semifinals are on Thursday evening and the finals on Friday.

She was faster than this season's national high school leader Olivia Baker of Columbia (Maplewood, N.J.), who was No. 5 overall at 54.09 – and who is headed to Stanford. Leading qualifier was USA Junior champion Kendall Baisen of University of Texas in 53.28. She is the World Junior (under age 20) leader this season at 50.46 – which is nearly two seconds faster than anyone else in the field.

Price has dual citizenship. She was born on the Peninsula -- at Stanford's Lucille Packard Hospital. Her parents are both from Canada, however. So she has spent summertime with family in

Canada on a regular basis. Recently that has also included national competition – and winning the Canadian Junior title earlier this month in 53.20, a personal best. That brought her into the World meet with the No. 7 time among the 35 entrants.

“Last year I barely missed making the Junior Pan Am Games team, Price said. “It’s amazing to make a country’s team.”

Price credits her improvement this year with starting training earlier in the year. “It helped me not playing basketball,” she said.

Price, who will enroll at Duke in the fall, finished second in the 400 at the CIF State high school meet last month in Clovis.

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