**Local Champion Race Walker Receives National Travel & Training Fund Grant Awarded By The Women’s Sports Foundation**

*Miranda Melville is Among 23 Athletes to Receive Funding to Assist*

*In Reaching Her Sporting Greatness*

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|  **Rochester, New York** (November *23*, 2014) – The Women’s Sports Foundation (WSF) has announced that MIRANDA MELVILLE , a 2007 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is one of twenty-three grant recipients of its 2014 [Travel & Training Fund](http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/home/programs/travel-and-training-fund) fueled by partner Gatorade®. Melville will receive $5000 to support travel and training overseas to compete with some of the best athletes in race walking. This past season Melville won her third National **15K** Race Walk Championship title and second **5K** National Championship Title**.**  She is ranked **second** in the nation, #46 in the world. She is the **4th Fastest American Woman ever** in US race walking history. In 2014 she competed for Team USA at the IAAF **World Cup in Taicing, China** where she was the 2nd best American finisher; placing the highest she has ever placed at a major international competition. |  |

The Travel & Training Fund helps aspiring athletes and teams with significant potential to achieve even higher performance levels and rankings by providing direct financial assistance. Grants are used to offset the costs involved with coaching, specialized training, equipment, athletic attire and travel, thereby giving them the opportunity to attain their next great achievement in sport and preparing them for leadership roles now and in the future.

"Miranda is one of the most talented athletes that I have seen in the US in a long time, and receiving the Women's Sports Foundation Grant will go a long way in assisting her on her way to being on the 2016 USA team", said her Coach Tim Seaman, 2x Olympian, Head Women’s Track and Field Coach & Head Men’s Cross Country Coach at Cuyamaca College.

“Thank you Women's Sports Foundation for choosing me to be one of the recipients of your Grant! Words cannot express my gratitude, I am so incredibly fortunate to be given this opportunity to continue to follow my dreams and represent the WSF, my club and country as an athlete”, said Melville. She added, “with this grant I will be able to continue my training under my talented coach Tim Seaman. I will also be able to travel and train overseas to compete with some of the best athletes in race walking”.

“Playing sports in high school, college and on the USA Women’s Team was a huge expense for me and my family, as is the pursuit of big dreams for so many athletes and their families,” said [Angela Ruggiero](http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/home/athletes/our-athletes/angela-ruggiero), WSF President and a four-time Olympian. “There is so much untapped greatness in women’s sports today: the Women’s Sports Foundation and Gatorade are proud to fuel the dreams of more than 80 female athletes with this year’s grant.”

Miranda will be defending her 5K title and meet record at the Upstate Holiday Classic held at Rochester Institute of Technology’s Gordon Field House 0n 12/27/2014, for more information on Miranda visit: [www.MirandaRaceWalks.com](http://www.MirandaRaceWalks.com) email manager@mirandaracewa;ls.com

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**About The Women’s Sports Foundation**

The Women’s Sports Foundation was the first organization to offer grants to female athletes with elite potential. Since 1984, WSF has awarded nearly 1,400 grants to individual athletes and teams, many of whom went on capture national, world and Olympic titles. Past recipients include Abby Wambach, 2011 Sportswoman of the year, figure skater Michelle Kwan, ski jumper Alissa Johnson, swimmer Mallory Weggemann and the US National Water Polo Team.

This year, the Women’s Sports Foundation awarded $100,000 in grants ranging from $3,000 to $10,000 to 23 applicants across 20 sports. For more information about how to apply for 2015 Travel & Training funding, please visit: <http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/home/programs/travel-and-training-fund/how-to-apply>

The Women’s Sports Foundation — the leading authority on the participation of women and girls in sports — is dedicated to creating leaders by ensuring girls access to sports. Founded by Billie Jean King in 1974, our work shapes public attitude about women’s sports and athletes, builds capacities for organizations that get girls active, ensures equal opportunities for girls and women, and supports physically and emotionally healthy lifestyles. The Women’s Sports Foundation is has relationships with more than 1,000 of the world’s elite female athletes and is recognized globally for its leadership, vision, strength, expertise and influence. For more information, visit [www.WomensSportsFoundation.org](http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/). Follow the Foundation at [www.Facebook.com/WomensSportsFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/WomensSportsFoundation) or on Twitter [(@WomensSportsFdn](http://www.twitter.com/WomensSportsFdn)).

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