SASHA WALLACE

A four-time state high school champion and a national collegiate champ, Sasha Wallace next would like to compete in the 2020 Olympics.

The NCAA Indoor 60-meter hurdles champion currently trains with Lawrence Johnson, the track and field coach at Cal State Northridge and the 2013 USA Track and Field Coach of the Year. One of her training partners is Brianna Rollins, the gold medal winner in the 100-meter hurdles at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Wallace is working with the best.

Wallace, who won state titles in the 100-meter hurdles and triple jump in consecutive years (2012 and 2013) as a junior and senior in high school, began her track career back in the third grade as a member of the 3M Track Club in Oakland.

William Pittman, the 3M coach, introduced Wallace to many different events. It wasn’t until high school that she began concentrating on the hurdles and triple jump. For her first three years that high school was Holy Names in Oakland, a small college prep school for girls. Her first state titles, as a junior, came while wearing the Monarchs’ red and blue.

Fortunate for Castro Valley High was the fact that it offered academic courses that the much smaller Holy Names could not. When colleges began recruiting Wallace she discovered that she needed some classes that weren’t available at Holy Names. So, she transferred to CVHS as a senior and repeated as state champion in the 100-hurdles and triple jump in the Trojans’ green and gold. A high school Track and Field All-American, she was honored as the California Girls Track and Field Gatorade Athlete of the Year in 2012 and 2013.

At Oregon, Wallace qualified for the NCAA Championships in the hurdles her freshman year and kept getting better. She won two Pacific-12 titles – in the triple jump as a sophomore with a best mark of 42-feet, 3.25 inches, and in the 100-meter hurdles as a junior with a time of 13.09. She improved her hurdles time to 12.81, an Oregon school record, while finishing third in the NCAA Championships.

Wallace gave up the triple jump her senior season to concentrate on the hurdles. That led to her NCAA Championship in the Indoor 60-meter hurdles, which she considers the highlight of her career – so far – along with her participation in the 2016 Olympic Trials.

Always keeping a balance between athletics and academics, Wallace graduated Oregon in four years with a degree in business economics.