

HOLYOKE

HCC athlete from S. Hadley earns All-American honors

The throw measured 53.35 meters, or 175 feet. With that, James Moriarty earned a spot on the medal stand and a place in Holyoke Community College athletic history.

Last month, Moriarty, who is from South Hadley, took second place in the men's javelin event at the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, New York. Though edged out of first by a mere 5 feet, his throw garnered Moriarty All-American honors.

He is the first HCC athlete ever to be named an All American in track and field, according to Thomas Stewart, the college's athletics director.

"It's great for the college and great for the kid," Stew-

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art said. "It's fantastic."

As a freshman, Moriarty was part of HCC's reconstituted track and field squad, which returned as a varsity sport in the spring of 2017 after a hiatus of more than 20 years.

In his first year, under the guidance of head coaches Nick Davis and Luke Archambault, Moriarty threw both the shot put and javelin.

In 2017, he qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association's national championship in the javelin throw and finished eighth. He was the only member of the HCC track and field team to qualify this year.

In an April 29 tournament at Yale University, Moriarty finished first against athletes from big-name schools all over the Northeast, including Yale, Columbia, Marist, Stony Brook, Sacred Heart and Hofstra.

Moriarty graduated from HCC on June 2 with honors and his associate degree in communications, media and theater arts. Stewart said Moriarty is transferring to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and intends to throw the javelin next year for the university's track and field team.



James Moriarty, of South Hadley, takes part in a meet this spring. He is the first HCC athlete ever to be named an All American in track and field, according to HCC's director of athletics.