



NJSIAA TRAILBLAZER

From the days when she would run for fun on the Neptune High School track as a young girl, Ajee Wilson showed potential to be a champion.

Growing up in an age where the existence of Title IX gave her optimal opportunities to develop and compete, Wilson has been able to take full advantage of the federal law that gave unprecedented opportunities to female students and athletes such as herself.

As she reached high school, attending Neptune's Academy of Allied Health and Science, it wasn't long before she established herself as one of the state's all-time greats. Specializing in the 800 meters from the outset, she won enough races to be considering the finest track athlete to hail from the Shore. And concurrent to her many record-setting victories in NJSIAA competition, which included eight overall championships, she won a world youth championship in 2011 in France and a world junior championship in 2012 in Spain, in two of the early stops in her globe-trotting career.

After turning pro out of high school, she's been the premier 800 runner in the United States for most of the past decade. She was an Olympian in 2016 and '21 and has won 17 different national championship events throughout her career while setting American records along the way.

The one elusive item on her list was checked off on March 20 in Belgrade, Serbia, when she ran the 800 meters in 1:59.09 to win her first professional world championship. She had previously finished second at the world indoors in 2016 and '18, and third at the world outdoors in 2017 and '19. She also won a bronze medal at the 2016 Olympics.

Her career has been so special and her impact on her town so great that Neptune named its track after her in 2021, the same one that grew up running on the same that she still visits to instill confidence in the current wave of girl runners in town.

