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Despite Eighth-Place Finish, Michelle Smith Breaks Own National 800m Record at SEC Championships

Competing in Fayetteville, Arkansas, Smith clocked 2:04.52 in the 800m preliminaries, eclipsing both her previous indoor and outdoor national records before finishing eighth in a final stacked with seasoned collegiate and international-level runners.

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USVI Track & Field star Michelle Smith.

Virgin Islands track standout Michelle Smith delivered a record-breaking performance at the 2026 SEC Indoor Track & Field Championships in Fayetteville, Arkansas, setting a new national mark in the women's 800 meters despite finishing outside the podium in the final.

Competing in the preliminary round, Smith clocked a time of 2:04.52. The performance shattered her previous national indoor record of 2:06.72 and surpassed her national outdoor record of 2:06.18.

Although she ultimately placed eighth in the final, her showing against a deep field of collegiate and international-caliber competitors was highlighted as a significant achievement for the territory by the Virgin Islands Track & Field Federation.

According to Mireille Smith, General Secretary of VITFF, the record-breaking run “stood out as one of the most meaningful achievements of the meet for the Virgin Islands.” She noted that the level of competition — including seasoned collegiate standouts and international-level runners — made Smith’s eighth-place finish “a result that underscore both the depth of the field and her growing ability to compete at the highest level.”

Michelle’s new national records represent what officials describe as “a significant leap forward” in her development as both an athlete and a Virgin Islands Sports Ambassador.