NCAA Team Titles
To Texas Tech & Arkansas

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Dash Double For Divine Oduduru

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From The Editor — Say Farewell To IAAF, Hello To… WA?!

by E. Garry Hill

IF YOU ASKED A WIDE VARIETY of fans what’s wrong with the IAAF, I’m pretty sure that “they need to change their name” would not be very high on anybody’s list. Nonetheless, the international governing body indeed has a new name. And a new logo to boot. So welcome to “World Athletics,” which will be represented as WA. It will be interesting to see whether common parlance will turn that into an initialism (double-u-eh) or an acronym (“wah”).

I’m a big fan of good acronyms, as I explained in my column of February ’93 in discussing the change of the U.S., governing body’s name from The Athletics Congress to USA Track & Field:

Would you believe that I like our national governing body’s old name better? Dumb as it was, “The Athletics Congress” translated into “TAC,” the very model of a perfect acronym. Let’s face it, in everyday usage there isn’t a body around that you don’t refer to by its acronym [or initialism]. The best ones are all of the 3-letter variety (pro sports, TV networks, shady government agencies) and there are good ones with 4 (NCAA, USOC). Our new one—and what it is hasn’t been decided yet—is going to be stuck with at least 5 letters and lacks a good sound, as “USA Track & Field” converts poorly. We’ve been using USATF in our pages, for ease’s sake. I mean, how do you pronounce an ampersand? An easier way may be to shorten the country to “U.S.” and change the ampersand to “and,” so you get a pronounceable “USTAF” (you-staff). But all in all, give me back my TAC.

But is WA destined to be a great acronym? I think not. Great acronyms have at least 3 letters and a nice hard consonantal component in there somewhere. WA fails on both counts. On the other hand, IAAF (which nobody ever tried to pronounce as “yaff”) is a clumsy initialism and I can see why Monaco’s hired guns wanted it changed. I just wish they had been able to come up with something that flows off the tongue and sticks in the mind a little bit better. As for the new logo I can see the desire for a more “modern” look. I just wish my mind translated all the elements the way the IAAF described them in their release. But I guess I’m not artsy-fartsy enough, because about all I see when I look at it is a Japanese fan.

If commentary on our Message Board was any kind of accurate gauge of general reaction, the change isn’t going over well. A sampling follows.

Juicy News: “I don’t understand how changing the name and logo will attract youngsters to participate in/watch track & field.”

El Toro: “Rebranding is what sad, useless S%# do to show their ‘innovative dynamism’ when they have nothing even slightly useful to contribute. For those with a brain, this strongly flags the rapidly approaching death knell of the sport.”

Trickstat: “As an organisation, it makes sense for the IAAF to give itself a snappier, more straightforward name. For the sport overall, it makes very little difference.”

player: “Problem is WA is not in the logo and there is no suggestion it will be a self-identifier. Sure, it will be shortened to WA on the message board but that’s not going to be helpful in all contexts.”

lonewolf: “Maybe they hope it will be confused with World Cup soccer.”

Atticus: “I’m sorry, that abbr. is already spoken for, as in the state of Washington!! I agree with the poster above, but add an H at the end – the World Athletics Hegemony, so it’s just… WAH!!”

tandfman: “And Down Under, everyone knows that WA is Western Australia.”

Flumpy: “This is legit tragic.”

Halfmiler2: “The amusing thing is that USATF used to be The Athletics Congress (TAC/USA) from 1980 until it gave up and changed its name at the end of 1992. They used to get calls at the National Office in Indy asking about basketball schedules and the like. The TAC/USA name was used for two reasons: because the rest of the world uses Athletics as the name of our sport, and to avoid some of the old AAU controversies between the Track & Field and LDR Committees. But in the USA, it just didn’t work, I recall that journalists who knew what TAC was would sometimes mistakenly say it was the ‘Track Athletics Congress.'”

Merner521: “From a USA point of view, WTF would have been the obvious choice.”

bambam1729: “That actually was the acronym for the IF of taekwondo—the World Taekwondo Federation. They changed it last year after they found out what WTF stood for in many minds. They shortened it to simply World Taekwondo.”

1899s: “Stupid move. NBA, NHL, MLB, NFL, PGA, WTA, FIFA, WBA, UFC… every successful pro sports organization has a 3-letter or longer abbreviation. Two letters or full words just won’t work.”

DJG: “Don’t mind the name change, but the logo is not making it for me. Looks like the ATT logo that was hacked with a knife to form a W. And if anyone can picture the A, you could easily find work interpreting abstract Art. How many millions of dollars On advertising will it take to make this change a winner? More than it was worth. Sorry, Coe, this is another Brexit folly!”

Alan Shank: “Who gives a $#%?$ I don’t care what they call it or how they ‘brand’ it, but I wish they would leave the events themselves alone.”

Vault-embort: “The new logo does look a bit like someone in a pair of lycra shorts bending over. The worst thing about a new logo and name means they will probably redo the website in a few months and make it even less functional.”

Hardly a rave set of reviews. The reason there is no positive commentary in there is because there wasn’t any. The closest anybody came was the already-quoted player, who said, “Acronyms are snappy. Every major sports organization I can think of offhand is known by its acronym. And acronyms lend themselves to efficient computer searches for pertinent information. WAF wouldn’t have had a problem with.”

WAF (World Athletics Federation) was the first thing that came to my mind too. I’d hate to think that the reason we ended up with such a truncated name is because it was chosen to fit the artwork, rather than the other way round. Managing editor Sieg Lindstrom has suggested that TFA (Track & Field Athletics) might work, and that addresses an important point: the fact that “athletics” means nothing to American audiences and never has. That was a problem with IAAF from the get-go. It might sound parochial to suggest that the federation’s name should try to accommodate basically just a single nation, but when that nation provides the biggest share the professional athletes and that nation’s TV revenue is indispensable… just sayin’.

Of course, years from now we’ll probably look back and laugh at what a tempest in a steeplechase pit this whole subject was, and agree what a perfectly good choice the change was. Hmmm… better make that “many” years from now, given people’s lag time on things like this. When TAC (which was adopted in November of ’79) was changed to USATF in December of ’92, there were still people calling the organization by its original name of AAU. Indeed, there are those of an age who probably still do. I do know that it was several years after the TAC/USATF switch that I quit using the former, just because the acronym was so much easier.

For now, all I can say is, “Whaaaaa?!”
by Sieg Lindstrom

AUSTIN, TEXAS, June 05-08—Sure, there were weather delays and when the sun came out it was hot-hot-hot (and steamy) but so were the athletes at the 98th NCAA Championships. Two long-in-the-tooth Collegiate Records were smashed and close calls rolled past in abundance. On the track Divine Oduduru missed the dash CRs each by just 0.04, Daniel Roberts trailed Grant Holloway's new 110H mark by half that, 0.02. Texas A&M's 2:59.05 long relay time struck 0.05 shy of the CR that USC set last year, and in the vault Chris Nilsen soared within 5cm of Mondo Duplantis's CR set this season, upsetting the wunderkind in the process.

LSU frosh Sha'Carri Richardson, responsible for the stunning women's 100 CR, also tore down a pair of World Junior Records. Janeek Brown of team titlist Arkansas hurdles 0.01 off the CR. Oklahoma State's Sinclaire Johnson ran the No. 2 all-time collegiate 1500 in a thoroughly unexpected race to the event crown.

Tight, dramatic contests, juiced the cheers and applause from the ample and boisterous crowd in Mike A. Myers. Two falls, one heartbreaking, the other a miraculous save, in the last 150 of the men's steeple? Hollywood stuff, incredible and real. Weini Kelati's 10K win watched like a game 7 World Series save over the last lap, crowd in full throat as Carmela Cardama Baez nearly stole it with a fire alarm rush before the New Mexico soph woke up. All of 0.003 separated the lead pair in the men's 1500. There was scanty more daylight betweenfinishers in the men's 400, 0.02 the lap title settled at the line.

On the field? Juvaughn Harrison's high jump/long jump double. That doesn't happen but did this time. An unexpected Razorback won the women's vault. Not the twin you expected even if you did expect that, and she needed an outdoor PR to tie it down. Another twin won the triple jump, though on the formchart her sister looked a more likely champion—in the discus.

This NCAA will live long in the memory banks.

Texas has hosted the NCAA 8 times, but iteration No. 4 in Mike A. Myers stadium was probably the best of them all.

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Track & Field News June 2019 — 4
NCaa Men’s Teams —
Texas Tech Success Started Wednesday

by Roy Conrad

AFTER THE MEET Texas Tech head West Kittley analyzed his team’s top-of-the-podium success by saying, “Once you fail once or twice, you kind of learn from it, and I think we really learned how to handle the moment better on the first day. Learning how to run on Wednesday—because Wednesday’s really the most important day—you have to make the finals, and we filled up lanes on that Wednesday. That’s something in the past that we have not done, and I really emphasized with our coaching staff and our kids that we have to be ready to go on Wednesday.”

Our formchart coming in had the Red Raiders as a 10-point favorite over LSU, 62–52, with Florida another 7 back at 45 and Houston tied for 6th at 30. The chart required some significant emendation before Friday’s finals kicked off, as Tech took some minor hits, Florida had some minor gains and Houston really surged. When the day began the chart said Texas Tech 56, Houston 55, Florida 40; when it ended it was Texas Tech 60, Florida 50, Houston 40. Credit Divine Oduduru for most of the Tech gain. Projected as 3rd in the 100, he won, and as expected also won the 200 and played an important role on the 3rd-place 4×1. Houston’s big hit came in the 100/200 where it picked up only 8 points instead of our projected 18.

“I’m so proud for Texas Tech,” concluded Kittley after marking his 20th season as boss of the Red Raiders. “That is just everything to me. They’d never won a national championship on the men’s side, and to be able to bring that back to Lubbock, Texas, the greatest place on Earth I think, it’s just great and special for me.”

NCAA MEN’S TEAM RESULTS

(8 places scored 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1)
1. Texas Tech 60;
2. Florida 50;
3. Houston 40;
4. Georgia 32½;
5. Stanford 32;
6. Texas A&M 29;
7. LSU 28;
8. BYU 27;
9. Texas 26;
10. Alabama 25;
11. Mississippi State 24;
=12. Oregon 23;
=12. South Carolina 23;
14. Kansas 21;
=15. Arkansas 19;
=15. North Carolina A&T 19;
17. Florida State 18;
=18. Oklahoma State 16;
=18. UCLA 16;
=18. Virginia 16;
=18. Wisconsin 16;
=22. Arizona 14;
=22. Baylor 14;
=24. North Dakota State 13;
=24. Southern Mississippi 13;
=26. Kansas State 12;
=26. Michigan 12;
=28. Iowa State 10;
=28. Kennesaw State 10;
=28. Notre Dame 10;
=28. South Dakota 10;
=28. TCU 10;
33. Indiana 9;
=34. Kentucky 8;
=34. Michigan State 8;
36. Purdue 7;
=37. Middle Tennessee State 6;
=37. Sam Houston State 6;
=37. USC 6;
=40. Iowa 5;
=40. Liberty 5;
=40. Minnesota 5;
=40. St. Francis 5;
=40. Utah State 5;
45. Southern Utah 4½;
=46. Arizona State 4;
=46. Arkansas State 4;
=46. Coppin State 4;
=46. Wichita State 4;
=50. Air Force 3;
=50. Alabama State 3;
=50. Harvard 3;
=50. Northern Arizona 3;
=50. Washington 3;
=55. Houston Baptist 2;
=55. Illinois 2;
=55. Illinois State 2;
=55. Long Beach State 2;
=55. Louisville 2;
=55. Penn State 2;
=61. Akron 1;
=61. Cal 1;
=61. Tennessee 1;
=61. Villanova 1.
100: Divine Oduduru Starts His Double

FOR MUCH OF his Texas Tech career, Divine Oduduru found that his performances in the 100 never matched up to his championship pedigree in the 200. For a simple reason. “He had one of the worst starts,” sprint coach Calvin Robinson explained. But that is just half of that quote: “Now he has one of the better starts,” Robinson added.

But on this 100 championship day, in an event that has always lagged for him (he didn’t make the final a year ago and didn’t advance from the Regional as a frosh), the Red Raider junior had the best start and in the process, filled in a big hole in his résumé. Leading from the gun, he powered his way to a world-lead-equaling 9.86 that stands as the second fastest in collegiate history, trailing only Christian Coleman’s 9.82 from the ’17 NCAA semis.

“I think I had that in me because I’ve run more than twice this season [this was his eighth 100], so coming in, I know I’ve done it several times, but I just needed to execute because there are fast guys on the track on those runs, too,” Oduduru said. “I moved away from the blocks and I knew when I got to my transition that it was going to be good, and then the race was over.”

He needed all of that in a fast race that provided the fastest times in each place for a legal-wind NCAA final, with the first 5—all of whom half an hour earlier, had all run in the 4x1—notching PRs. Oregon’s Cravon Gillespie was 2nd in 9.93 and Florida’s Hakim Sani Brown, 3rd in 9.97, also a Japanese Record. Lifetime bests also went to Purdue’s Waseem Williams (10.04) and Florida State’s Bryand Rincher (10.06). But only 45 minutes was scheduled between the century and the half-lapper, and the weather was warm and sweaty.

“The weather is similar to Nigeria, so that wasn’t a problem,” the Texas Tech junior said. “And it’s something we’ve been doing in practice, so we are just here to execute and go through what we’ve been doing.” Simple, right? Well, that’s the appearance he gave. A quick start in lane 5 and by the apex of the curve, he had made up the stagger on Houston’s Mario Burke in 6.

“I wanted to drive the first 30 hard and then go hard down the stretch,” said the winner. Check and check.

At the head of the stretch, he was already past those who had been closest to him in the 100, Florida soph Hakim Sani Brown (8) and Oregon senior Cravon Gillespie (9). Oduduru may not be a super-smooth runner, but he is fast. And determined. He burst across the line in 19.73, the No. 2 collegiate time ever, trailing only Walter Dix’s CR 19.69. It also moved him to No. 3 on the yearly world list, which caused him to smile, “Third in world makes me feel good!”

Some other battles were being contested. Pac-12 champ Gillespie edged past Brown with about 30m left to take 2nd and dip under 20 for the first time (19.93 to 20.08).

Gillespie was especially proud of dropping under 20 seconds. “It’s all about confidence at this level,” he said. “There are times in the winter when you might want to quit and give up during workouts, but then you hear this crowd and exceed your expectations—it’s awesome.”

The race was fast top to bottom, with the fastest marks-for-NCAA-place ever in every position. The semis had also been fast, with fastest qualifier Oduduru (19.97) joining Tyson Gay (’05) as the meet’s only sub-20 prelim runners. Devin Quinn of Illinois ran 20.31 to become the equal-fastest non-qualifier in meet history.

400: Montgomery Does The Job For Houston

THE 400 WAS one of the key races for Houston’s chances to win the team title. The Cougars had two serious senior contenders: Kahmari Montgomery, a transfer from Missouri rated No. 2 on our formchart, and Obi Igbokwe, a transfer from Arkansas rated No. 9. The field...
Despite his last-barrier mishap, Steven Fahy was able to keep his eyes on the prize.

Taking advantage of lane 1 in the homestretch, Bryce Hoppel claimed his second national title of the year.

also included veteran Baylor senior Wil London and several frosh newcomers that included Jonathan Jones (Texas); Wayne Lawrence (Iowa), and Jacory Patterson, who made a splash indoors for Virginia Tech. Lawrence (45.33), Patterson (45.46) and Jones (45.02) had all PRd at Regionals, the last an NR for Barbados. London was a threat because of his experience, including the 2017 campaign when he finished 3rd at USATF, made the World Championships team and ran his PR of 44.47. Lawrence failed to qualify, while Patterson was a no-show.

As they lined up for the final, the favorite was in fact the junior from North Carolina A&T, Trevor Stewart. After winning the Florida Relays with a world-leading 45.18 in March, he had peeled off six straight races in the 44s, including a PR 44.38 to win the MEAC. He was in lane 6. To his inside in 5 was Montgomery, whose 18 race had ended poorly as he faded badly to 7th—but had been followed weeks later by a surprise 44.58 PR win in the USATF Nationals. Igbokwe was in Lane 2, London in 7, Jones in 8.

Through 200 Stewart’s 21.4 had built a solid 0.3 lead over Montgomery, a gap which he maintained through the 300 (32.2 & 32.5), at which point Montgomery began a gradual, inexorable, desperate chase to run him down. Stewart tied point Montgomery began a gradual, inexorable, tained through the 300 (32.2 & 32.5), at which

1:44.84. A valiant late-race rush lifted Iowa State junior Festus Lagat to a PR 1:45.05, the fastest 3rd in meet history.

"Of course, I'm always going for a PR," said the 21-year-old Hoppel, who anticipated a quick opening tempo. "I knew it was going to be fast." He was not flustered at Dixon's slight lead with a half lap to go. "I knew I had him within range," he explained. "That's how I planned to do the race: keep him right there in front of me and wait for the last stretch." But he wasn’t expecting an inside opening as the race approached the final curve. "It actually was a present. I knew he was going to do something to try and hold me off. I saw it opening up and I thought I had a chance to get through." Asked about the ingredients needed to produce his '19 undefeated streak—now at 10 meets in the 800—the Midland, Texas native offered, "You just have to have a little bit of confidence."

Dixon was disconsolate. "I let him get on the inside. I tried to up the tempo the way I was supposed to. I went out in 50–51. I don't know. What can you say?" asked the runner-up, who revealed that he was uncertain just where Hoppel was able to keep his eyes on the prize.

800: Hoppel Had The Inside Track

THE MEN’S 800 showcased a last-lap battle between Nos. 1 & 2 on our formchart, Kansas junior Bryce Hoppel of Kansas and Devin Dixon of Texas A&M. Cooper Williams of Indiana had rushed to the front at the start, only to cede the lead to Dixon as they entered the homestretch for the first time. Dixon’s fast-paced tactics took the field through 400 in 50.00 with Hoppel (50.20) tucked in behind at the bell. The pair of juniors created separation from the field on the backstretch and list leader Dixon enjoyed a 2m lead over his Jayhawk rival, this year’s Indoor champion, with 200 to go.

But then: a critical moment. With 140m remaining, Dixon inexplicably drifted away from the curb. His inat tentiveness was just enough to allow an alert Hoppel to drive by on the inside for the lead. He sailed on for a 1:44.41 win that moved him to No. 5 on the all-time collegiate list. His previous PR was a 1:45.26 to lead the qualifying round. The stunned Dixon, unable to summon a surge of his own, crossed 2nd at...
Divine Oduduru — Texas Tech’s Double World Leader

by Bret Bloomquist

TEXAS TECH’S Divine Oduduru has had many special days on the track, and he certainly put himself in position to have another at the late-April Michael Johnson Invitational, but he confessed what happened next he didn’t see coming. That’s actually not a big statement. The sprinter deliberately keeps himself in a state of mind that leads to stunned bliss. “I surprised myself,” he says of one of collegiate sprinting’s greatest days ever, which saw him produce a pair of yearly world leads. “I don’t think something good is going to happen. That way, I’m happy when I do do it.”

What he did in Waco in less than an hour certainly qualifies as “something good.” First, Ejiowokoghene Divine Oduduru became the ninth Nigerian and first Red Raider to break the magic 10-second barrier in the 100 with a 9.94 that made him No. 10 in collegiate history. Then he came back 45 minutes later in his “better” race, the 200, and ran a 19.76, the second-fastest in collegiate history behind Walter Dix’s 19.69 from ’07. The wind reading on each of Oduduru’s races was an almost imperceptible 0.8.

“It was the most impressive thing I’ve seen as a coach,” says Texas Tech coach Wes Kittley, who has been coaching for three and a half decades. “It was special,” echoes event coach Calvin Robertson, who incidentally coached the previous great Nigerian sprinter, Blessing Okagbare, when she was at UTEP.

Though the Collegiate Record in the 200 is obviously right in front of Oduduru, coach Robinson says that’s not something he’s circling, explaining, “Time is never the goal. The goal is to win the NCAAs. Do that, the times will take care of themselves.”

First up will be recovering, then consolidating those fast times. When a sprinter throws out a marker like Oduduru did, sometimes it does things to the body that can lead to a short-term regression. That, though, may not be the case with Oduduru. “Once you run something like that, the key is to try to maintain it, stay consistent,” Robinson says. “Right now he’s resting up. But he wasn’t even sore. The thing is, he didn’t do something he wasn’t ready to do. Usually when somebody blows out a time like that, they weren’t quite ready. He was ready to put up that performance.”

It was brewing. Though Oduduru had that World U20 title under his belt, he felt his first real brush with greatness came in the Rio 200 when as a 19-year-old he was paired against his idol, Usain Bolt, in the heats. He ended up running with Bolt the whole way, finishing 2nd with a PR 20.34 to Bolt’s 20.28. His mindset changed. “It showed me that I can do anything I want if I focus and work hard,” Oduduru says. “It changed my mentality, it taught me I will get where I am going. I have to make sure I am in the right environment, the right situation, and I can do some good things.”

He felt he kept himself in the right situation when he went to Lubbock. “Being with a great coach has helped me very much,” he says. One area where that’s showed up has been shoring up what used to be the weakest part of his races, something that probably played a role in him not placing in the NCAA 100 last year.

“We’ve worked on his start a lot since he got here, we’d been working that part of the race and it’s made a big difference over the last year and a half,” Robinson says. “He had one of the worst starts, now he has one of the better starts.”

“Things to the body that can lead to a short-term regression. That, though, may not be the case with Oduduru. “Once you run something like that, it’s never the goal,” Robinson says. “Time is never the goal. The goal is to win the NCAAs. Do that, the times will take care of themselves.”

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Red Raider junior Divine Oduduru is atop the lists with his 9.94 and 19.76 clockings.

Oududuru To No. 2 On The All-Time Collegiate 200 List

With his brilliant 19.76 in Waco, Divine Oduduru of Texas Tech became only the second collegian to break the 19.8 barrier. The all-time top 10 (* = athlete not eligible for U.S. international teams):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Athlete</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.69</td>
<td>Walter Dix (Florida St)</td>
<td>5/26/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.76</td>
<td>Divine Oduduru* (Texas Tech)</td>
<td>4/20/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Christian Coleman (Tennessee)</td>
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<td>John Capel (Florida)</td>
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<td>Floyd Heard (Texas A&amp;M)</td>
<td>5/17/87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.95</td>
<td>Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake* (LSU)</td>
<td>5/14/16</td>
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was. “I shouldn’t have let that happen. I thought he was on my outside so I was just running on the outside of lane 1.” /Dave Hunter/

1500: Why We Have Photofinish Cameras

LOOKING AT THE yearly list before the meet or remembering the Indoor mile won with a 4:07 time, you might have guessed this would be a survival-of-the-kickingest year in the men’s 1500. If you did, you were right. Indoor winner Georgie Beamish wasn’t in the race—he opted for the 5000—but Yared Nuguse was, and the Notre Dame soph had left quite an impression fast-finishing his Irish squad to the Indoor distance medley title. Nuguse, however, placed 3rd (3:38.32) in the fastest collegiate race of the season, at April’s Clay Invitational. Defending NCAA champ Oliver Hoare of Wisconsin won that clash from Arizona’s Carlos Villareal in 3:37.20. Villareal placed 11th in his semi here on the outside of lane 1.” he was on my outside so I was just running on the outside of lane 1.” /Dave Hunter/

Yared Nuguse’s margin over Justine Kiprotich was a mere 0.003.

and failed to advance. The semis were all tactical, Hoare winning the fastest in 3:44.25 from Nuguse’s 3:44.33. In the final the pair did the early leading, absent urgency; 58.1 at 400, 2:01.4 with Nuguse a step in front at 800, 3:01.5 with Hoare inches ahead at 1200. At that point 5 contenders were bunched at the front and just a second separated the full 12-man field. Just behind the lead duo were Casey Comber (Villanova), William Paulson (Arizona State) and Justine Kiprotich (Michigan State). The race was on. For a moment, the Aussie Hoare went to the front; could he really win this race from the front? In the middle of the backstretch, Kiprotich made what appeared to be the decisive move of the race, passing the others on the outside, surging ahead around the final turn. Down the straightaway, he had put 5m on the field.

At the last possible moment, a final challenger emerged. As the others swung to the outside, a lane opened on the rail, and flying down the inside was the same young man whose dramatic finish had won the indoor DMR—Nuguse, the 20-year-old from Louisville. The question was, would he get there in time? “I was definitely a little worried heading into that last 100,” he said. “But I really dug down and thought about why I’m doing this… that’s always been my teammates watching me. I know they’re cheering me on, and I didn’t want to let them down. It was definitely exciting, but I knew in the end if I just gave it all I was going to be comfortable, and I did, and I’m happy with the result.”

Drawing abreast only with his last two steps, Nuguse beat Kiprotich by 0.003, both running 3:41.39s. It was the first NCAA outdoor championship in the event for Notre Dame in 93 years, since Charles Judge won in ‘26. Next across the line was not Hoare but Cameron Griffith; the Arkansas senior was in 10th at 1200m but hauled to 3rd with a 26.4 final 200, fastest in the field.

“It was pretty intense,” Nuguse allowed. “I definitely knew that going in. You’re here and you’ve never done any individual feat like this. It was definitely exciting, but I knew in the end, if I just gave it my all I was going to be comfortable, and I did, and I’m happy with the result.” /Jack Pfeifer/

Morgan McDonald salted away his first NCAA Outdoor title by kicking away from Grant Fisher in the last half-lap.
with a lap remaining: “My coach and I decided to go for it early,” he said, “with a lap to go. It was aggressive. Approaching the final water jump, I could feel that Fahy was coming, I freaked out a little. I was a little far out and I thought I would long-step it. I guess my trail leg hit the top of the barrier.” He fell awkwardly into the water.

“He happened that way—it’s not the end of the race.” With 400 to go, McDonald stalked, then caught the Stanford runner before the last 100, because at Millrose, “I had the lead and he wasn’t able to pass me. So I thought in his mind it was going to be a big thing to make sure he had the lead at 400 or 500.” 

5000: Morgan McDonald Fills In

IN THE CONTEXT of his last season at Wisconsin Morgan McDonald had just one more box to check to complete a golden year: the Outdoor 5000 to go with his XC crown and Indoor 3K and 5K titles. In the context of the entirety of his résumé, that was a huge box to check because an outdoor title was the noticeable hole in it. His best finish coming in was 5th back in ’16. With a pro career looming, this was McDonald’s last chance to complete his trophy case. He took full advantage, beating his chief challenger Grant Fisher (runner-up to McDonald in cross and indoor 3K, and now this outdoor race) with a lethal kick in the last 100.

“It’s hard to put into words,” the 23-year-old Aussie said. “I’ve been looking forward to this one for so long, and I’ve been at home for the last two, and I’ve been watching, being like, ‘I think I can win that.’ It’s been frustrating. This one’s been on my mind for so long, and it’s just amazing. There’s always the goal, but I didn’t know I was really going to get here. I was really nervous for this one.”

As expected on a muggy night, the pace was tactical and McDonald finally took the lead at the mid-point. Fisher, who had sat on McDonald’s outside shoulder for two laps, began his push with 500 to go and nudged past the Badger just in time to grab the rail with 400 left.

McDonald stalked, then caught the Stanford senior with 200 to go. With 100 left, McDonald unleashed a definitive kick that quickly settled the race, allowing him to coast across the finish in 14:06.01. His 52.91 last lap trumped Fisher’s 53.61. Fisher (14:06.63) was never challenged for 2nd and his teammate, soph Thomas Ratcliffe, made a move on the final curve to take 3rd in 14:07.92. His kick caught, among others, 10K winner Clayton Young of BYU, who was 3rd with 200 left but faded to 6th.

The way the last lap played out was just another chapter in the McDonald–Fisher rivalry. McDonald said he was OK, with Fisher passing at the bell, explaining, “I’ve raced Grant so many times, I thought that he might fight pretty hard for the lead before the last 100, because at Millrose that’s how he beat me, and then at Indoors, I had the lead and he wasn’t able to pass me. So I thought in his mind it was going to be a big thing to make sure he had the lead at 400 or 500.”

10,000: Patience The Key For Young

A SENSE OF URGENCY actually helped Clayton Young remain patient during the longest track race. “I’ve been at Nationals 6 different times and I’ve led going into the last 400 two or three times,” the 25-year-old BYU senior explained, “and I got eaten up every time. This race was all about patience.” And, of course, outpunting the other 23 runners during the final lap despite being tagged as No. 7 on our formchart coming in. Nemesis Gerald Kigen of Alabama, like Young, was always near the lead from the start. They both sped up with 2 laps to go, but the Kenyan could never quite catch Young, who won 29:16.60–29:18.10. Young, who covered his last 800 in 1:59.43, reeled off a 55.88 final lap and 28.2 closing 200, outspringing Kigen’s 57.20.

BYU, with no fewer than a half-dozen runners in the race, added senior Connor McMillan in 3rd (29:19.85) and soph Conner Mantz in 4th (29:19.93). Oklahoma State’s Hassan Abdi, never a threat to win, sped up during the final round to pass favored Tyler Day of Northern Arizona and Robert Brandt of UCLA with a 59.56. He was bearing down on Mantz but his 29:20.73 came up 0.80 short. Day edged Brandt, 29:25.23–29:26.34.

The first 9 laps of the race were led by Coastal Carolina’s Nadeel Wildschutt, with his brother Adriaan always close. With 8½ laps left, Nadeel was stepped on by another runner and lost a shoe. He knelt to retie it, and both brothers lost contact with the pack. The pace was understandably slowish throughout considering the 80-plus temps and high humidity after a couple of rain showers during the day. The Cougars were ready for the less-than-ideal conditions, thanks to coach Ed Eyestone’s personal story of passing out at the ‘83 NCs, then coming back to win a 5/10 double here in ‘85. “He prepared us for the race,” said Young, whose wife Ashley and 5-month-old daughter Lucy, were watching. “We practiced our finish over and over. We spent time in a sauna to get accustomed to the heat.”

Mantz, who had beaten Young at the early-season Stanford 10K, finished in 58.62 and was confident. “I knew if he ran well, he would pull all of us along. After the 5K, we were right with him.” Coincidentally, Young edged Kigen in that...
110H: A Summit Race Worth Every Penny

OVER THE COURSE of the month leading into the NCAA, the men’s 110 hurdles went from a presumed coronation for Grant Holloway in his likely last individual race in a Gators uniform to one of the marquee showdowns of the meet. That summit meeting was set up at the SEC when Kentucky’s Daniel Roberts handed Holloway his first hurdles loss to a collegian since the ’17 Conference final. The plot heated up some more after Roberts’ 13.06 semi: 0.01 faster than Holloway has ever run and 0.10 faster than Holloway ran in his prelim. So the final would be between the second- and third-fastest in collegiate history, calling to mind the epic Renaldo Nehemiah/Greg Foster clash at the ’79 NCAA when they were the top 2 Americans (let alone collegians) of all time.

Just 13 seconds later, there were two big storylines. The race lived up to—and perhaps exceeded—all hype, and Holloway wasn’t about to allow his crown to be wrestled away. The Gator junior finally chased down Nehemiah’s 40-year-old CR of 13.00, turning in a 12.98 that just did edge out hard-closing Roberts’ 13.00 that obviously rated as the best non-winning race ever.

So if a PR national championship is what happens with poor form, what happens when he refines his technique? “The sky’s the limit, then,” Hall said. “We’re looking at 47... 47-low. I got out pretty alright, but down the backstretch I was running up on the hurdles. I need to learn to hurdle with my other leg because I can 12-step, but I just wanted to just stick with the pattern I’ve stayed with all year. I had to jump the hurdles pretty high, so there was pretty much no technique in my hurdling form today. But we’re going to get better at it over the summer so we can go to USAs.”

That speed makes for a nice security blanket, but Hall said he won’t take it for granted. “I knew if I kept them within striking distance I could use my speed coming home, but those are really good 400H final can understand why he felt sour. The favorite, he looked ragged and came into the stretch only 3rd, behind Texas Tech’s Norman Grimes and Michigan’s Taylor McLaughlin. The former appeared ready to pad the point total for what would eventually be a Red Raider team title. But Hall possess 44.53 flat speed and used it coming off the final hurdle, clocking 48.48 to Grimes’ PR 48.71. Lifetime bests also went to the next two placers, Amere Lattin of Houston (48.72) and McLaughlin (48.85).

400H: Bad Race Good Enough

AFTER A come-from-behind win in PR time to claim a national title, the first words out of Quincy Hall’s mouth weren’t what one might expect. “It was a bad race,” the South Carolina junior said. Actually, anyone who watched the
I’m tired!” he reflected on a wild day. “The time I’m tired. A 43.7, that speaks for itself, I’m tired, less energy after a 43.74 closer on the 4×4 (“Now Eat your words! Eat your words!”

loose, went to the first camera he could find, and prepare for an anchor leg on the 4×4, he broke was ushered through the interview zone, off to

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hurdles that should have stood as his best

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why do you ask questions you know the answer

Roberts’ times. “You know the answer to that,

speedy semi, Holloway was asked if he noticed

someone with something more to prove. After the

on his shoulder all week. He looked and ran like

derdog, but don’t tell him that. Normally a jolly

presence, Holloway carried around a notable chip

a disappointing 12th in the first-day’s long jump.

That didn’t really make Holloway an underdog, but don’t tell him that. Normally a jolly presence, Holloway carried around a notable chip on his shoulder all week. He looked and ran like someone with something more to prove. After the speedy semi, Holloway was asked if he noticed Roberts’ times. “You know the answer to that, why do you ask questions you know the answer to?” he shot back.

Then on the Friday that counted, in a span of 40 minutes, Holloway was part of a CR 37.97 sprint relay and a CR 12.98 to Roberts’ 13.00 in the hurdles that should have stood as his best moment on the track to date. Post-hurdles, as he was ushered through the interview zone, off to prepare for an anchor leg on the 4×4, he broke loose, went to the first camera he could find, and started emotionally shouting, “Eat your words! Eat your words! Eat your words!”

By the end of the meet, clearly with a little less energy after a 43.74 closer on the 4×4 (“Now I’m tired. A 43.7, that speaks for itself, I’m tired, I’m tired!”) he reflected on a wild day. “The time was good, something I’ve been training for the whole season, it finally paid off after a bitter loss at the SECs,” he said of the 12.98. “You know, a lot of people were saying I wasn’t going to be able to execute and finish the race. But I came out here, just be me, let the time speak for itself. We did what we had to do. We’ve been training since August and everything’s paying off. We broke the Collegiate Record in the 4 x 100m, and I came back in 30 minutes and broke the Collegiate Record in the hurdles. Then 40 minutes later I split 43.7 on the 4 x 400m, so that’s a great day. I can’t be mad that we didn’t win the team title, but at the same time, it’s just one of those things where you’ve got to be thankful for what you’ve got.”

Even his coach, Mike Holloway, indicated Florida came in playing the underdog card. Speaking of the relay record, he said, “We knew we were capable of it, we just put it together. I told them before the race, we’ve been training for this all year long, let’s just go out here and put it together. There were some people out there doubting we could do it, so why not just prove them wrong?”

Grant Holloway was all about letting inanimate objects talk: “We’ve been training for that time, preparing to run that time, we said we were going to do what we were going to do. I just got the baton around the track, I let the baton speak for itself. It was a team effort from Coach Holloway’s standpoint, from my standpoint, from a relay standpoint. Everybody contributed to this and we all had fun as we were all doing it.”

all that, was that span from relay CR to hurdles CR the greatest thing he’s ever been part of? “I’ve had better half-hours in football games,” he deadpanned. “But for track & field, this was good.”

There was probably some deliberate understatement there, but his coach did draw a distinction between good and great. “He can still be better,” Mike Holloway said. “I told him a little while ago, he didn’t really run through the line, he got a little too excited. But he’s embraced what I’ve been saying in hurdle 6 through hurdle 10. But there’s still more there. When he came to Florida he said he wanted to be the best hurdler in the world. Until he runs 12.7, there’s more to do.”

Grant admitted, “There are a couple of things I can fix. There are a couple of things I can fix in that race, go back, watch some film, call my Mom, call my Dad, keep everything simple.”

That probably won’t happen at Florida, at least in a Gator uniform. Coach Holloway cut off “What’s next?” questions that were posed to Grant, but later clarified, “I think everyone knows Grant is not going to be back next year. He’ll go down as one of the all-time Gator greats.

He didn’t have to run the [4×4], we would have been second (in the team race) without him, but he wanted to close it out the right way.”

He then expounded on the legacy question. “There’s people who think he made Florida track & field. We were pretty good before he got here, but he helped us sustain it. Obviously Grant has taken the sport and become the face of the sport: he’s happy, he’s jovial, he’s kind, he’s caring, he’s the type of person you want around.”

“It was really good,” Grant said of apparently his last day as a Gator. “It was a good day just to have everybody here, have my parents here, but most of all, I finally broke the Collegiate Record, so it was really good. It hasn’t hit me yet, but it probably will in about 2–3 weeks.”

Grant Holloway Has His Day Of Days

He began and ended his final NCAA day with impressive relay running, but the highlight of Grant Holloway’s collegiate career came with his recordsetting 12.98 in the hurdles.

by Bret Bloomquist

EVER SINCE HE ARRIVED in Gainesville—really ever since he laced up his first pair of spikes—Grant Holloway has been a perennial, perpetual favorite. Realistically, that didn’t change heading into the NCAA, the 4 NCAA titles and the totality of his résumé didn’t truly have people discounting him, but there were some dents in his aura of invincibility. Notably, he had been beaten in the 110s at the SEC by Kentucky’s Daniel Roberts, and Roberts then turned in a better qualifying time in Austin. There was also a disappointing 12th in the first-day’s long jump.

Not only can Florida’s Grant Holloway claim the Collegiate Record in the hurdles, he can also boast of having 5 of the fastest 10 times ever. Not only can Florida’s Grant Holloway claim the Collegiate Record in

Holloway Takes Over The All-Time Collegiate List

Not only can Florida’s Grant Holloway claim the Collegiate Record in the 110H, he can also boast of having 5 of the fastest 10 times ever. Of the other 5, 4 belong to his arch-rival, Daniel Roberts, and 1 to former CR holder Renaldo Nehemiah. “Skeets” can still claim the fastest all-conditions time, though, having won the ’79 NCAA with a 12.91w. The Top 10 legal times:

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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runners, so you really couldn’t tell what you had until you actually do it. I just have to learn to get my other leg down and I’m going to go 12, and then 13 the rest of the way.”

Hall said a possible repeat next year is up in the air, explaining, “I really don’t know yet. I really do want to come back to school and finish my degree, but if I can get a contract I guess, you know, it is what it is.”

For the immediate future, he plans on doing the hurdles in Des Moines but the flat quarter at the Pan-Am Games.

MIKE SCOTT

Duke Kicinski helped Texas Tech’s title chase by scoring the only Red Raider throws points of the meet.

4x1: Collegiate Record For The Gators

ANTICIPATION RAN HIGH after semis that were as fast as the typical final. Florida topped Texas Tech in heat I, 38.35–38.57, the Gator time a yearly leader and No. 10 on the all-time collegiate list. In the second Florida State dominated Oregon 38.43–38.81, the Seminoles becoming the No. 7 school ever. And in the third LSU romped to a 38.37 over Arkansas (38.90), the Tigers recording the second-fastest semi ever. It took a 39.00 for North Carolina A&T to grab the last qualifier.

For the final, Florida State drew lane 4, Florida 5, LSU 6 and Tech 7. Temps were in the low 90s when the crack of the starter’s pistol sounded. Gator leadoff Raymond Ekevwo got out well, but LSU’s Kary Vincent was faster. The Bengals led at the first exchange but created the biggest crowd gasp of the race when Vincent failed to connect with Akanni Hislop, LSU’s race ending with the baton bouncing off the track. Divine Oduduru lit up the backstretch for Texas Tech, making up half of the stagger with Arkansas in lane 8 and getting ahead of Florida’s Hakim Sani Brown. Florida State, after a lightning opener by Bryant Rincher, ran even with the Gators down the backstretch.

The third leg transformed the race. Florida do-it-all Grant Holloway took the baton from Brown and attacked the turn with everything he had, making up the stagger on Tech and bringing the Gators to the lead just in time for a perfect handoff to Ryan Clark. With a stride advantage over Florida State anchor Andre Ewers, Clark padded that lead ever-so-slightly as the cross-state rivals built a 5m margin over Texas Tech. Clark crossed the line with his arms thrown back, immediately looking at the clock. It read 37.98 initially, creating another audible gasp from the crowd. It was soon corrected to a stunning 37.97, fully two-tenths faster than the Collegiate Record, and a yearly world leader to boot.

Florida State also dipped under the old best with its 38.08, as Texas Tech finished in 38.45, the meet’s best 3rd-place time ever. Notably, 7th went to Purdue in 38.92, a time that would have won as recently as the ’10 edition.

Said Gator leadoff Ekevwo, “We’ve been working for this moment from the very start. We got the work done—the baton exchanges were smooth, everything was smooth. We got it done.”

Clark chimed in, adding, “It means everything to me. I didn’t get to have the season I wanted to, but I ended it the way I wanted to. That’s what we talked about since August. We’ve trained for this moment and it happened. We knew it was going to be a close race, and we never slept on anybody during it. We just focused, got the exchanges right and that’s all we could pray on. We didn’t try to block out anybody. It was just to focus on our own lane and focus on our own sticks and that’s all we needed.”

4x1: The 10 Fastest Schools Ever

When the dust had settled in Austin, speed merchants Florida, Florida State & Texas Tech claimed the Nos. 1, 2 & =8 positions on the 4×1’s all-time fastest schools list. The Top 10 (# = team contained non-Americans):

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<td>10.</td>
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Devin Dixon’s brilliant 44.11 anchor left Texas A&M just 0.05 shy of the Collegiate Record; meanwhile, the fastest anchor went to Grant Holloway at a scorching 43.74.
4x4: Aggies Fall Just Short Of The CR

TEXAS A&M ran 2:59.05, the second-fastest collegiate time ever, and a record for an all-American college team. The Aggies led the entire way, but the next three teams—Florida, Houston and Iowa—traded positions with each leg, never letting A&M get out to a comfortable lead. As the 8 teams came to their blocks for the final, the team title had already been decided. Among the 4×4 finalists, only Florida and Houston were in the running for one of the four team trophies. This race would decide which team would finish 2nd and which would be 3rd.

Opening Leg: Starting On Record Pace

Texas A&M leadoff Bryce Deadmon was out best, running 45.3 and holding a slight lead down the backstretch with Florida’s Benjamin Lobo Vedel running well and staying close until the homestretch, where he faded, running 46.2. Deadmon’s carry put the Aggies 0.6 up on the pace set by USC in its CR 2:59.00 at last year’s meet. Iowa’s Wayne Lawrence had run well throughout and passed Vedel in the homestretch, his 45.5 bringing Iowa up to 2nd at the exchange. Houston had lagged down the backstretch, but only because of leading off with 400H 3rd-placer Amere Lattin, who ran with the well-paced rhythm of a 1-lap hurdler. He had the best homestretch of anyone, running 45.7 for one of the four team trophies. This race would decide which team would finish 2nd and which would be 3rd.

Standings:
1. Texas A&M 45.3; 2. Iowa 45.5; 3. Houston 45.7; 4. Florida 46.2; 5. South Carolina 46.3; 6. tie, Baylor & North Carolina A&T 46.4; 7. Arkansas 47.0

Second Leg: A&M’s Margin Grows, Record Pace Slows

Robert Grant, a long hurdles finalist, took the stick for A&M with a 2m lead over Iowa’s Antonio Pace. He stretched that slightly through the first turn, and when the teams broke from their lanes it was A&M holding 3m, with Houston almost another 10m back. But over the course of the next half lap, 400 champ Kahmari Montgomery had pulled Houston even with Iowa, with A&M still leading by 6m. Florida’s Chantz Sawyers had tailored Montgomery and was a close 4th at the top of the final straight. Montgomery, having run 44.7, led Sawyers (44.4) down the straight as they ran nearly stride for stride, closing well on Grant (44.4) and pulling away from Woodard (45.7). Overall, A&M now had an 0.71 lead but at the same time was now 0.17 behind record pace.

Standings:

Third Leg: Record Chase Back On

A&M’s Kyree Johnson started with a margin of almost 5m over Houston’s Jermain Holt with Denzel Villaman of Florida little more than another meter back. Johnson tore around the first curve, quickly extending the lead to almost 10m over Holt as Iowa’s Karayme Bartley closed on Villaman. Going into the second curve Johnson was just beginning to relinquish his big margin, which Holt cut to 7m by the top of the homestretch. Bartley passed Villaman some 30m before the stretch, and ran past Holt with 40 left. Johnson had held A&M’s lead with a 45.24, but now Iowa was back in the hunt, Bartley’s 44.22 bringing the Hawkeyes in 2nd, some 3m in arrears. Running 3rd was Houston, 2m back after Holt’s 45.26, with Florida slightly another meter behind Villaman’s 45.26. A&M was once again ahead of USC’s record pace, now by 0.44.

Standings:

Anchor Leg: Dixon Comes Up Just Short

A&M anchor Devin Dixon, the 800 runner-up, might be a halfmiler by trade, but remember that this past indoor season he turned in the fastest undercover split ever, 44.24. Here he strode around the first turn with the field in pursuit and trying to close the gap. At the top of the backstretch, he held 2m over Iowa’s Mar’yea Harris, with Houston’s Obi Igbokwe 4m back and holding another 4 over Florida’s do-everything, Grant Holloway. Entering the final curve, Dixon’s lead was down to little more than a meter over Igbokwe, with another meter to Harris. Holloway had tightened the race and was less than two strides back of Harris and closing, but midway through the bend it appeared Holloway had run himself out and he closed no further. Igbokwe passed Harris at the top of the final homestretch, now less than 2m from the lead. But at that point Dixon began drawing away, the margin over the chasers gradually widening. But Holloway, who had entered the homestretch almost 6m back of Igbokwe and Harris, began an impassioned charge along the curb, passing Harris and then Igbokwe within 40m of the finish. Dixon’s 44.11 clinched Texas A&M’s 2:59.05, just 0.05 off the CR, with Holloway running the night’s fastest lap, a 43.74 which brought Florida home in 2:59.60, making the Gators the fourth-fastest school ever and giving the school the 2nd-place team trophy. Igbokwe’s 44.40 closed out Houston’s 3:00.07, with Iowa 4th in 3:00.14 following Harris’s 44.75.

Aggie head Pat Henry summed up his squad’s race simply, noting, “Bryce had his fastest leadoff leg ever on the 4 x 400, and the rest of the guys ran fast to get a 2:59.05. Devin knows how to run the anchor leg, and in the last 110m you’re not going to catch him. The guy is phenomenal and he knows how to win.” /Dave Johnson/

HJ: Harrison Completes Unique Double

With dusky temperatures still in the 90s, 24 of the best collegiate high jumpers squared off on the griddle-hot jump apron. Among them was JuVaughn Harrison who two days earlier had prevailed in a tight long jump battle. Even before this competition got underway, the LSU

Collegiate History’s 12 Sub-3:00 Times

The Austin times of Texas A&M and Florida at the NCAA raised the all-time total of collegiate sub-3:00s to a dozen. All but one of them (Florida ’14 at the Florida Relays) were set at the National Championships. Texas A&M is the big hitter, with 5 of the 12 times. The list (with anchor legs):

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<td>UCLA (Henry Thomas 43.52)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:59.99</td>
<td>Florida State (Jonathan Borlée 43.78)</td>
<td>6/13/09</td>
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soph sensed this could be a special day. “I knew early on during the warmups that it was going to be a very good meet,” said the SEC champ.  

16 remained alive as the bar went up to 7-3 (2.21), led by clean-card performers Harrison and Keenon Laine of Georgia. When it was raised to 7-4¼ (2.24) Harrison and Laine—still jumping without a miss—were joined only by defending champ Tejaswin Shankar of Kansas State, Alabama’s Shelby McEwen and Southern Mississippi’s Eric Richards. All 5 were still in play at 7-5¼ (2.27), but the only clearances made were by Harrison—with his sixth consecutive first-attempt clearance—and the favored Shankar on his second attempt. When neither could clear 7-6½ (2.30), Harrison had a unique jump double, with Shankar 2nd and McEwen 3rd.  

“It was a great competition. I was able to go out and clear all the bars,” declared the composed victor afterwards. “I was upset that I was unable to clear the final bar because that was my goal. But I am very happy that I was able to come out a winner.”  

For the new champion, the jump double took on special meaning in light of his performance at last year’s meet. He explained, “It was very significant to me because last year I went out early in both events and then to finish 2nd indoors [in the HJ] and to not make it to finals indoors in the long jump was a great disappointment.”  

Those earlier field event experiences inspired Harrison to reshape his competitive approach. “Go out there and just have fun and just jump the way I’m supposed to jump and don’t worry about anybody else,” explained the winner with a smile. “And that’s what I wanted to go out there and do today. And I am very happy they let me do that.”  

He readily admits he likes the high jump more but believes he currently is better in the long jump, so competing in both has long been in his plans. “I’ve always said I was going to do high and long jumps when I came to college,” he said. “And my school was able to let me do that.”  

He knows he will face stiffer competition in the years ahead and one day may have to choose between the two events he loves. “I’ve thought about it,” he admitted. “But my goal is to be great in both and not to have to choose.” In this championship, JuVaughn Harrison undoubtedly was. /Dave Hunter/  

PV: Nilsen Wins A Duel For The Ages  
DAVID BEAT GOLIATH. The only thing wrong with using that metaphor for the NCAA vault is that “David” was the big, herking collegiate vet Chris Nilsen and “Goliath” was the wispy frosh (Mondo Duplantis). It might seem strange for Nilsen to have found himself in the underdog role, given his status as the defending champion and owner of four 19-foot meets already this year. But nobody was begrudging Mondo’s status as the favorite, given his transcendent body of work over the last year. He came in with a half-dozen 19-footers, including the world’s only 6-meter (19-8¾) clearance on the year so far.  

The extended competition, despite (or because of?) a more aggressive progression than usual, would carry on for no fewer than 11 heights, with a record dozen vaulters breaking the 18-foot barrier (previous high 9 in ’91). Rain earlier in the day delayed the planned start by 2 hours, but things ended up perfect for vaulting in a venue known to be generous in giving up high heights.  

The two biggies both passed 17-3¼ (5.20), then Nilsen opened at 17-6½ (5.35) with a make. At 18-1½ (5.50) each needed a pair, surprisingly, as a dozen moved on to 18-4½ (5.60), where only 3 were eliminated. Nilsen cleared on first, but was still only in 3rd as surprising PR-setters Michael Carr (Arkansas State) and Drew McMichael (Texas Tech) led with perfect records. Mondo passed again.  

On to 18-8½ (5.70) with an unprecedented 9 still involved, with only 1 being knocked out. Nilsen and Duplantis were joined by KC Lightfoot as first-time clearers, all three now sharing the lead as the crosspiece was raised to 18-10¼ (5.75). The two heavyweights passed, with the lead being handed off to the only successful performer, Stephen F. Austin’s Clayton Fritsch, with a PR.  

The first to jump at 19-1¼ (5.80), Mondo began to assert himself with one of the monster clearances that have come to typify his career. Fritsch would miss all three of his shots and Nilsen was over on his second. So David & Goliath (or was it Goliath & David?) were set to go head-to-head at 19-2¼ (5.85), but even though it was a meet record setting, both passed, again taking up arms at 19-4½ (5.90), PR territory for the defending champ.  

After a Mondo miss, Nilsen slithered over, garnering a pat on the back from his friendly rival, who then passed, choosing to save 2 tries for 19-6½ (5.95). He missed his first and then Nilsen made solid contact with the bar, but it stayed, giving him another PR. Replays from the standard-cam showed the crosspiece sliding across most of the width of the pegs before coming to a halt. Mondo’s final try wasn’t close and Nilsen’s attempts at a CR 19-8½ (6.01) were anticlimactic, but the winner had moved to No. 3 on the all-time collegiate list.  

Said Nilsen, after a remarkable all-around day of vaulting, “I had a Texas tailwind, and it’s a really good spot to jump. I’m not really coming out of this thinking, ‘Oh I beat Mondo,’ because he still jumped higher than me way more times. He’s jumped 6.05 before. I’m happy to be taking shots at the Collegiate Record.”  

Said Duplantis, who was working his way through some larger poles, “I have to tip my hat to Chris. That was an outstanding day by him. It was a remarkable day. He was just better than me and I didn’t adjust.” /E. Garry Hall/  

LJ: This Time Harrison Scores  
JuVAUGHN HARRISON came to Austin looking for redemption. The LSU soph, who finished just 19th at last year’s NCAA—and then only 10th in the Indoor 3 months ago—staked his claim to the lead with a first-round leap of 25-10½ (7.89). In round 2, however, Texas Tech’s Justin Hall reached 26-0w (7.92) to take the lead, then Houston senior Trumaine Jefferson, the Indoor runner-up, popped a big PR 26-10 (8.18), in his first-ever NCAA Outdoor jump appearance.  

P'Ring continued on the next jump, as South Carolina senior Yann Randrianasolo leaped 26-6¼ (8.08) to move into 2nd. (Continued on page 17)
“This Competition Was Nuts,” Says Chris Nilsen

by Bret Bloomquist

WHAT STRUCK Chris Nilsen on the greatest pole vaulting day of his life wasn’t the stunning upset that was his successful defense of his national title. And it wasn’t his hakedown of heavily favored Mondo Duplantis. And it also wasn’t getting back-to-back PRs at 19-4¼ (5.90) and 19-6¼ (5.95) after so many near misses.

What sent his spirits soaring as high as his body was how much fun he was having on his afternoon romp in Austin. “I was just thinking, ‘This competition was nuts,’” says the South Dakota junior, who at this point is completely committed to returning to the Coyotes for his senior season. “I love that I get to come out here and compete against all of my friends. It makes it even better that I’m friends with all the guys. If I had been overseas at a meet in Europe and I had jumped high, it would have been, ‘OK, that’s kind of cool.’ But I get to share this with a bunch of college guys. It might be the best NCAA comp in the world, the best pole vault in the world in a very long time.”

Of everyone in Austin for national championship weekend, the 21-year-old Nilsen may have the best appreciation of spending a day with his college buddies because he’s such an atypical collegian. He has been married to Kelly Vogel for 2 years, he has a 1-year-old son (Roman), he scrapes together a living by working with his wife as a barista at Café Brulé on Vermillion’s Main Street. After taking down track’s Boy Wonder, the only piece of smack on Vermillion’s Main Street. After taking down working with his wife as a barista at Café Brulé

son (Roman), he scrapes together a living by working with his wife as a barista at Café Brulé on Vermillion’s Main Street. After taking down track’s Boy Wonder, the only piece of smack on Vermillion’s Main Street. After taking down what he was going to do with his latest national championship trophy. “I’ll drop it off with my parents,” he said. “It’ll give us a little more room for things like books for the kiddo, toys.” Such is the life of the man who on this spectacular day, against all expectations, was again the best college vaulter in America.

In his post-competition interviews, Nilsen was asked what he was going to do with his latest national championship trophy. “I’ll drop it off with my parents,” he said. “It’ll give us a little more room for things like books for the kiddo, toys.” Such is the life of the man who on this spectacular day, against all expectations, was again the best college vaulter in America.

To quite an extent, actually. In the way these matters often work, Nilsen had been laying siege to that 5.90 setting for quite a while before championship day, and his clearance there easily could have been a near miss, as he did make contact with the bar. Get enough moments like that, though, and sooner or later the bar doesn’t fall. That happened at the right time for Nilsen, who with that jump suddenly grabbed the lead over Mondo.

“Surprised,” Nilsen admits. “I think some people take for granted how high those bars are: 5.90 is not an easy bar to jump, and neither are 5.95, 6.00, 6.05 [19-6¼, 19-8¼, 19-10¼]. They’re ridiculously hard to jump. I knew I was ready to because I’ve been jumping at it every meet for the past 5–6 meets, taking shots at it. I knew eventually it would stay up, whether luck or a good jump. It turned out it was a little bit of both. It was a good jump, I tapped it, I looked up and it was there. ‘Whoa! OK, it stayed!’ Surprise, happiness, joy, then motivation because there was no way I could win this at 5.90 [19-4¼]. I had to go higher if I wanted to win.”

So he nailed 5.95 (19-6¼) on his first attempt to close out his title before taking three shots at a Collegiate Record 6.01 (19-8¼). The key to his day, Nilsen felt, was narrowing his attention to himself, the runway and the bar rather than the enormity of taking on Duplantis. “Coming in I wasn’t, ‘I have to beat Mondo.’ I was more focused on, I wanted to jump high, I wanted to jump 5.90 or higher and I completed my goal,” Nilsen says. “I didn’t think about it as coming in and wanting to beat Mondo. Competing against him is just fun.”

He hopes to have more fun competing against Duplantis, who represents Sweden internationally, in Doha later this summer, though first there is the always-competitive USATF meet to contend with. Between now and then, Nilsen will get back to his busy routine that juggles so many roles, explaining, “It’s all about priorities. When I started, it was pole vault and school. Then Roman was born and in 5 seconds all your priorities change. Then it was Kelly and Roman, then school, then pole vault. Balancing all those things one at a time, that’s the key. I’m 21, I’m still learning to be a dad.”

In his post-competition interviews, Nilsen was asked what he was going to do with his latest national championship trophy. “I’ll drop it off with my parents,” he said. “It’ll give us a little more room for things like books for the kiddo, toys.” Such is the life of the man who on this spectacular day, against all expectations, was again the best college vaulter in America.

**Nilsen Is Now The No. 3 Collegian Ever**

Coming into the NCAA, Chris Nilsen had a PR of 19-2¾ (5.86) and a share of No. 5 on the all-time collegiate list, which doesn’t include any summer marks made after the NCAA: In his post-competition interviews, Nilsen was asked what he was going to do with his latest national championship trophy. “I’ll drop it off with my parents,” he said. “It’ll give us a little more room for things like books for the kiddo, toys.” Such is the life of the man who on this spectacular day, against all expectations, was again the best college vaulter in America.

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None too happy about being relegated to 4th, the favored Harrison gathered himself, then sprinted down the runway, launching himself into the air and landing a lifetime best 26-11 (8.20) from the board.

Jefferson, who had entered the meet with a best (indoors) of just 26-1½ (7.96), sailed to 26-7¼ (8.05) from the board, which would end up garnering them 4th and 5th.

The shocker of the preliminary jumps was Chengetayi Mapaya, who found himself in 5th as round 3 began. Leading was O'Brien Wasome of Texas, who had gone 54-10w (16.71), a mark he would not better. Mapaya bounded a PR 55-2¼ (16.82) to take over the lead. Scott, meanwhile, struggled to find his steps, barely making it into the final rounds with his 53-10½ (16.42) that positioned him in 8th.

In round 4, both Scott and Mapaya fouled, but Florida State senior Armani Wallace moved up from 6th to take the lead with his PR 55-9 (16.99). In round 5, first Scott responded with a 55-1 (16.79) to take over 3rd, then Mapaya strengthened his hold on 2nd with another PR, 55-7 (16.94). Scott made his best effort in the final round, reaching 55-9¼ (17.13) for a slim lead over Wallace. The Seminole senior, who had fouled his fifth attempt, finished off with another foul. Then Southern Mississippi's John Warren hit 55-¾ (16.78) for 4th with his second outdoor PR of the day.

Meanwhile, Mapaya waited. The 20-year-old Zimbabwean would be the final performer of the day. He knew exactly what he would have to do to win. “I had the advantage in that I was the last jumper, so I actually knew what I had to jump,” he said. He put together a clutch effort, hitting the sand at 56-2¼ (17.13) to capture TCU’s first-ever title in the event. “It was amazing,” he said. I’ve always wanted to jump 17m and 56ft. I believed and I did it.” As an added bonus, the leap made WC standard and gave Mapaya a berth on his nation’s team for Doha.

He revealed later that his grandfather had died 3 days previously: “I just wanted to win it for him. I think it gave me some power. Every time I jumped, I wanted to do it for him.” /Jeff Hollobaugh/

SP: A Lifetime Best At The Best Time

ONE OF THE BEST techniques for winning a big meet is to put up a PR when all those around you are not. And that’s just what Tripp Piperi did, although truth be told, he could have had only the fourth-best meet of his life and still won. The Texas soph fouled on 4 of his 6 attempts but at his best hit 69-3¼ (21.11) to win by more than a foot over defending champ Denzel Comenentia of Georgia (68-1¾/20.77).

Piperi, the No. 2 choice on the formchart coming in, fouled his first put, so Jordan Geist of Arizona led after the initial round at 66-3¼ (20.20), followed by Comenentia (65-6/19.96) and favored Payton Otterdahl of North Dakota State (65-3¼/19.89). Otterdahl had raised the indoor CR to 71-6¼ (21.81) but hadn’t had a 70-footer since April 20. He wouldn’t improve here and ended up 4th.

Piperi banged out his biggie in round 2, and while the rest of his series was a less-than-write-home-about 67-3¼ (20.50), foul, foul, foul, he was still able to win by more than a foot. Comenentia threw progressively farther in rounds 2-3-4 (66-5¼/20.26, 67-2¼/20.48, 68-1¾/20.77) but despite improving by half a foot over last year couldn’t successfully defend. Geist improved to 66-7¼ (20.33) in round 3 but didn’t change places. Nor did Otterdahl, who ended up 4th.

Said the homestanding Piperi, “I don’t think people are used to this heat and humidity, so that’s always a plus, and I’ve got a lot of my family and friends here to support me. I wouldn’t say those
The day's final effort would see Otterdahl hit fouled his second in a row; he would stay in 3rd. to see what his competitors would do. Ferguson a solid 204-1 (62.22) for his closer. He had to wait (62.12). After a foul in round 5, Kicinski reached with a 199-5 (60.79) and Otterdahl would hit 203-10 the lead, by a mere 2 inches. Ferguson responded whirl the platter out to 205-2 (62.53) to regain the Red Raiders than 6. On his fourth attempt, he but he also knew that 10 would do a lot more for three rounds.

Kicinski one-upped them both, putting himself at the top of the results with a 203-7 (61.63) and watched a as Alabama's Kord Ferguson put himself at the top of the results with a 203-7 (62.07). Then Otterdahl one-upped them both, reaching 205-0 (62.48) to lead going into the final stanza.

"The only thought that comes to mind is thankful," said Haugh. "Thankful for the Lord who makes this possible, thankful for my parents, my coaching staff, my friends and family who believe in me and push me day in and day out. None of this would be possible without the community that I am surrounded with on a daily basis." He concluded, "It was just my training. "You know in these types of conditions and this environment you always fall back to the level of your training. I think that showed today." /Mark Cullen/

**DT: Kicinski Does His Part**

"I WAS REALLY ANXIOUS in that hotel room, ready to get going," said Duke Kicinski, who couldn't wait to do his part to help Texas Tech get the points it would need to capture the team title.

The Red Raider senior's excitement showed on his opener, a 199-3 (60.63) that put him in the lead after the first round. Payton Otterdahl of North Dakota State indicated that he too would be in contention with his 196-10 (60.00) opener. Favored Greg Thompson of Maryland got a rough start with his 177-4 (54.95); he would reach a best

are the biggest factors, but it was nice having them here and being able to show out for the fans and being at home, it's great. A lot of [the key to success] is just being in the right mindset. I listen to a lot of music and I get really fired up, which is one way to put it. Coming into big meets like this, I've just got to trust my form. I've been doing it all year. I've been practicing non-stop, just working at it, and this is not the meet to really think about it, it's just ‘go.’

“Winning was great. I can’t really explain that much, I was just ecstatic. I’ve been thinking about that for weeks—just being able to look up to the stands and be like, ‘I did it here at home. I did it for y’all.’ That type of feeling is unbeatable, especially now.” /E. Garry Hill/

**HT: First First For Haugh**

DANIEL HAUGH took the road less traveled to his—and Kennesaw State’s—first NCAA title. In his first season throwing for the Owls, Haugh, a senior transfer from Alabama, won a highly competitive hammer with his fifth-round 244-10 (74.63). Kansas’s Gleb Dudarev had come into the meet riding a 4-meet win streak which included titles at the Big 12 and West Regional 200-4 (61.07) to remain in 2nd.

Said the 23-year-old Kicinski, who won the Div. II title for West Texas A&M in ’16, “I felt really good coming into the day, I felt like I was ready to throw well. I felt confident.” He added, “I started off pretty well. I got a few good throws in to get me into the finals. I really wasn’t throwing well. I thought I could have thrown further but I put a good throw together and it was far enough.” /Jeff Hollobaugh/

Favored Greg Thompson of Maryland got a rough start with his 199-3 (60.63) that put him in the points safely, but he also knew that 10 would do a lot more for the Red Raiders than 6. On his fourth attempt, he whirled the platter out to 205-2 (62.53) to regain the lead, by a mere 2 inches. Ferguson responded with a 199-5 (60.79) and Otterdahl would hit 203-10 (62.12). After a foul in round 5, Kicinski reached a solid 204-1 (62.22) for his closer. He had to wait to see what his competitors would do. Ferguson fouled his second in a row; he would stay in 3rd. The day’s final effort would see Otterdahl hit 203-10 (61.07) to remain in 2nd.

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JT: 1-2-3 For Mississippi State

TAKE A BOW, April Thomas: your javelin dynasty is complete. With 5 straight years of putting men on the podium, including the ’16 winner and a 1-2 last year, the Mississippi State assistant now has a medal sweep on her coaching resume—only the second in meet history (Oregon did it in ’64).

Defending champion Andierson Peters led the way and the Bulldog soph’s dominance was unchallenged, as he was the only thrower to score a PR on the day. The favorite’s opening 277-11 (84.70) would have won it—indeed, as a meet record it would have won all previous editions of the meet—but he wasn’t done, spear ing a Grenadan Record 284-2 (86.62) in the third round and for good measure a 283-9 (86.48) in the fourth. “It feels good being part of a team that was able to go 1-2-3,” he said, “and it feels good being able to throw 86m again”—a feat he accomplished here earlier this season at the Texas Relays. “This is a special stadium for javelin throwing. I think most javelin throwers look forward to competing here.”

Behind him, history was happening as teammates Curtis Thompson and Tyriq Horsford were next in the queue. Thompson’s first-round 257-3 (78.43) would hold up for a set-filling silver to go with his ’15 bronze and ’16 gold. In the third round, frosh Horsford slipped into bronze with 248-0 (75.59). He wouldn’t come close to that for the nail-biting final three rounds, but when Sindri Gudmundsson’s final throw fell more than 6ft short, the sweep was sealed. “It was quite nerve-wracking,” Horsford said about the 3-round wait. “It was just being able to stay focused and do what I do.”

It was the second championship sweep of the season for the Bulldogs, a repeat of their SEC title. “To be able to do it again on a national level is really special,” Thompson said. “You can’t take things like this for granted. I’m just proud of these two, training with them. It was my last collegiate meet, so it was good to go out on a high note.”

“It was a good day,” Thomas said. “I’m very happy, I’m proud of those guys. This is the moment we live for. That’s why they train hard all year is to get to this moment.” —Lee Nichols/

Dec: A Big PR For Johannes Erm

WHEN THE DECATHLON 100 was held in a downpour, it seemed an ominous beginning to these championships. But while there were multiple weather delays over the next several days, these were the only races held in a rainstorm. Given those conditions, the USC frosh Ayden Owens’ 10.55 seemed excellent, as it was not far from his big 10.43 PR, set at Azusa in April when he upset Harrison Williams and scored a list-leading 8130. Alas, it would be the highlight of a short-lived NCAA outdoor debut for him.

Meantime, Georgisoph Johannes Erm (10.88) and favored Stanford senior Williams (10.85), got off to solid starts. Williams had entered the meet with the No. 2 seasonal mark, a PR 8112 in losing to Owens, while Erm had scored 7913 in early April in his lone multi of the spring. Erm’s PR 8046 came in finishing 3rd at the 18 NCAA as a frosh. Williams won the Indoor heptathlon this year, scored twice outdoors but never won. A fifth-year senior, this was his last chance.

Erm, an excellent jumper, immediately applied pressure with a big 25-4 (7.72) in the LJ, 15 inches up on Williams, to assume the points lead, while Owens fell back with a subpar 23-3¼ (7.09). Erm followed that with a PR in the shot (48-2¼/14.69), increasing his advantage to 145. In the high jump, Erm mysteriously stopped after clearing 6-4¼ (1.95), while Owens, a so-so performer in the event, opened at an aggressive 6-3¼ (1.86) and no-heighted. He nonetheless continued all the way through the vault before withdrawing.

Erm PR’d again in the 400 at 47.40, ending the day at 4345 and a 79-point lead. “I’m good on the first day, so I’ve got to lean on the first day,” he said. “I might have a big lead over someone who’s really good on the second day, and they might beat me.”

Not this day. Williams’s chances effectively ended in the DT when he fouled twice, followed by a conservative 128-11 (3930). Erm, meanwhile, kept pouring it on, including a PR 184-7 (56.27) jav for an 8352 total, surpassing the Olympic standard and scoring a 206-point PR. “I’m proud of winning and getting the Olympic standard,” Erm said, “but I think there’s a lot more to come, so I can’t just lay back and enjoy that.”

Williams finished at 8010, just his fourth 8000-plus score. “I’m a little disappointed,” he said. “I wanted to come out with a win. The main thing I’ve learned is just to stay consistent and put together a mark in every event, which is what I did, and I was fortunate to come out in 2nd place.”

Erm, 21, said that one of his ambitions in college is to get the Collegiate Record of 8539 by A&M’s Lindon Victor. “I have two more years,” he said. His total put him No. 6 all-time college and perhaps more impressively, No. 7 all-time Estonia. He missed Maicel Uibo’s school record—and the collegiate Estonian record—by a mere 4 points.

Gabe Moore of Arkansas won a spirited battle for 3rd with 7780, 42 points up on the PR of Michigan’s Jack Lint. Axel Hubert of Texas Tech inexplicably withdrew after seven events, while T.J. Lawson of Kent State, 3rd after the first day at 4216, fell in the highs and was carted off with a broken collarbone. /Jack Pfeifer/

DECATHLON LEADERS BY EVENT

**— Mid-Distance —**

**300 METERS**

1. **Bryce Hoppel (Ks) 1:44.41 PR (CL) (5, 5 C; 3, 3 AmC; 2, 2 NCAA); 2. **Devon Nixon (TXAM) 1:44.84 (9, 9 NCAA) (50.00/54.84); 3. **Festus Lagat** (Ia) 1:45.05 PR (50.10/54.95); 4. **Carlon Morton (TXAM) 1:46.40 PR (50.28/56.12); 5. **Cooper Williams (In) 1:46.45 (50.74/55.71); 6. **Michael Rhoads (AF) 1:46.58 PR (51.01/55.57); 7. **John Koczek** (TX) 1:47.28 (50.33/57.05); 8. **David Conner (IN) 1:47.48 (50.32/57.53).**

**5000 METERS**

1. **Yared Nigussie (NDm) 13:42.05 PR (12:51.56, 2:50.77); 2. **Robby Ketcham (CAR) 13:45.10 (12:54.82, 2:50.77); 3. **Bryan Brakey (MTn) 13:45.24; 4. **Shelby Jackson (SC) 13:45.33 (12:54.82, 2:50.77); 5. **Robert Alphee (Bktr) 13:45.44; 6. **Jordan Johnson (Army) 13:45.45 (12:54.82, 2:50.77).**

**1000 METERS**

1. **Grant Holloway (Fl) 2:28.73 (21.8, 53.6, 1:13.3); 2. **Nicholas Acosta (CAR) 2:28.80 (21.8, 53.7, 1:13.3); 3. **James Fenner (Lsu) 2:29.02 PR (21.8, 53.7, 1:13.3); 4. **Abdoulie Durosinmi (In) 2:29.02 (21.8, 53.7, 1:13.3); 5. **Khalil Bedell (Uch) 2:29.12 (21.8, 53.7, 1:13.3).**

**800 METERS**

1. **Divine Oduduru’ (TxT) 1:49.94 (21.8, 10.3, 32.2; 25.1, 10.1, 35.2); 2. **Chase Clayborne** (Ks) 1:49.96 (21.8, 10.3, 32.2); 3. **Andrew Hudson** (IN) 1:49.98 (21.8, 10.3, 32.2); 4. **Ad HRESULT** (Ia) 1:50.00 (21.8, 10.3, 32.2); 5. **Amere Lattin** (Hous) 1:50.04 (21.8, 10.3, 32.2).**

**50 METERS**

1. **Chris Nilsen** (sD) 5.92 (1.12, 1.50, 1.31, 1.50, 1.50); 2. **Morgan McDonald’ (Wi) 5.95 (1.12, 1.50, 1.31, 1.50, 1.50); 3. **Divine Oduduru’ (TxT) 5.95 (1.12, 1.50, 1.31, 1.50, 1.50); 4. **Matthew Moorer** (Kw) 5.95 (1.12, 1.50, 1.31, 1.50, 1.50); 5. **John Winn** 6.00 (1.12, 1.50, 1.31, 1.50, 1.50).**

**400 METERS**

1. **Luke Trayne (Us) 44.63 (21.8, 10.3, 32.2); 2. **Khalil Bedell** (Uch) 44.64 (21.8, 10.3, 32.2); 3. **Amere Lattin** (Hous) 44.65 (21.8, 10.3, 32.2); 4. **Abdoulie Durosinmi** (In) 44.66 (21.8, 10.3, 32.2); 5. **Johnny Whatley** (Va) 44.67 (21.8, 10.3, 32.2).**

**400 HURDLES**

1. **JuVaughn Harrison** (LSU) 53.83 (12.2, 12.2, 12.2, 12.2, 12.2); 2. **Connor Mantz** (BYU) 54.09 (12.2, 12.2, 12.2, 12.2, 12.2); 3. **Crisp Williams** (IN) 54.11 (12.2, 12.2, 12.2, 12.2, 12.2).**

**relay**

**TRIPLE JUMP** (winds ranged from -0.6 to +3.4)

1. **Chengsetay Mayapa** (TCU) 56-2¼ (17.13) PR (CL) 54-21¼w, 53-¾, 52-¼ 20.1; 22. **Santiago Basso (Al) 59-5 (18.11); 21. ***Kristoffer Thomsen’ (NDSt) 62-¼ (18.90); 16. **Jonah Bandel (Fl) 63-4 (19.30) PR; 12. Oghenakpobo Efekoro’ 63-9½ (19.44); 11. **Connor Igbokwe’ (Col) 49-8¼ (15.14).
NCaaS Women’s Teams —
Arkansas Wins In Thrilling Fashion

by Roy Conrad

THERE WAS NO FAIRY-TALE ENDING for USC this time around. Last year the Trojans had come from behind in improbable fashion in the climactic 4x4 to win the team title. The crown indeed came down to the 4x4 once more, but the big trophy moved from SoCal to Arkansas. The Razorbacks had a chart-busting final day while the Trojans suffered a major hit.

Our premeet formchart had projected the closest of battles, with USC favored by a point 65–64. But when Saturday rolled around, our recast compilation showed the defending champs as overwhelming favorites, 72-52. It just didn’t work out that way. The changes were small and subtle as USC started losing points and Arkansas started gaining them. And when Razorback Taylor Werner got an unlooked-for 2nd in the 5000 the two squads were tied at 56 apiece going into the relay. One race for all the marbles. It didn’t matter where either team finished, just so long as it beat the other, even if in 7th and 8th. USC appeared to hold all the cards, being tabbed as No. 1 and with Arkansas back in 5th. But disaster struck the favorites on the third leg and they would end up last, with Arkansas 2nd, ending up 64–57 team winners.

Said Arkansas head Lance Harter, “This was 100% a team effort that came right down to the mile relay. ‘We have to do the challenge by USC, they were on a roll,’ we just told the mile relay, ‘You’ve just got to get the stick around.’ Fortunately, we were able to do that. Anytime you can win a national title, that’s a very special moment, no matter how many you accumulate. But I have a fantastic staff with Chris Johnson and Bryan Compton, and with the athletes we’re able to have, they’re so special, and they were so united in what they wanted to do and this weekend, and the national title was always the challenge at hand. We brought the largest squad here, and they rose to the challenge. Some people had an off day, but we had others fill the void. “Cumulatively, that was a total team effort.”

While his squad celebrates a comethrough win, Hog coach Lance Harter gets hugs, stage right.

(8 places scored 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1)
1. Arkansas 64;
2. USC 57;
3. LSU 43;
4. Texas A&M 38;
5. Oregon 34;
6. Florida 32;
7. Florida 28;
8. New Mexico 27;
9. Florida 24;
10. Florida State, South Carolina, Stanford & Texas 20;
11. Kentucky 19½;
12. North Carolina A&T 19;
13. Kansas State 18;
15. Boise State & Miami 13;
16. Arizona State & Oklahoma State 12;
17. Ohio State 11;
18. BYU, Cal, Iowa, Texas Tech & UCLA 10;
19. Notre Dame & Virginia 9;
20. Auburn, Indiana State, Northwestern Louisiana & San Diego State 8;
21. Missouri & Wofford 7;
22. Villanova 6½;
23. Colorado State & UNLV 6;
24. Georgetown, Georgia Tech, Kansas, Rhode Island, Rutgers, TCU & UCSB 5;
25. Akron, Arizona, Indiana, Michigan State, Monmouth, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota State & UC Davis 4;
26. Albany, Incarnate Word, Norfolk State, North Dakota, Oklahoma 3;
27. Baylor, Kennesaw State, Syracuse & South Dakota 2;
100: Recordsetting Run By A New Star

PERHAPS WE SHOULD have seen it coming. After all, 2 days before the final Sha’Carri Richardson laid down a PR-equaling 10.99 for the fastest 100 semi, then 50 minutes prior to this final ran a blazing 4×1 leg. But c’mon—does anyone ever really foresee a 19-year-old college frosh PRing by 0.24 and jumping to =No. 9 on the all-time world list?

That’s just one of the noteworthy things Richardson accomplished in just 10.75 seconds. More importantly, she also notched the Collegiate and World Junior Records (the latter being just her first of the day—she’d do it again 45 minutes later in the 200). That removed a pair of longstanding marks from the recordbooks: the altitude-aided 10.78 of her fellow Tiger Dawn Sowell (‘89) from the college books and the 10.88 of East Germany’s Marlies Göhr (‘77).

About 65m in, any of 5 different runners seemed to be possible threats to Richardson, but then she lifted onto another plane. Suddenly, her platinum blonde tresses emerged from the pack and an even race quickly became nearly a 2m lead over the 10.95 of North Carolina A&T’s Kayla White and 10.98 of USC’s ‘18 USATF Junior champ, Twanisha Terry, who had been favored coming into the meet. Her lead was comfortable enough that she was already celebrating, hands fully raised, with some 5m to go.

The 8-time Texas HS state champ may have entered the race thinking title, but not necessarily record. “Not at all,” she said. “I never give myself a time, because I say if you give yourself a goal, you limit yourself. As long as you expect greatness out of yourself, you’ll deliver greatness. I was just coming in thinking about what me and my team did in the 4 x 100m, it was really motivation to just come in and execute the race for everyone who supports me, everyone who’s against me, it was all just motivation to execute my best in the 100m. I just wanted to continue the [LSU] legacy, so I’m happy I was able to do something for my team.” /Lee Nichols/

200: Annelus Holds Off Richardson

CAPPING OFF a memorable day of sprinting by young collegiate women, the 200 finalists continued the clinic they had begun in the semis 2 days earlier, when 5 of them set PRs. LSU super-frosh Sha’Carri Richardson showed she was ready as she roared around the curve and crossed the line first in a PR 22.37 to move to =No. 3 on the all-time world Junior list. In the next heat, USC junior Angie Annelus delivered her own special message as the defending champion threw down a U.S./collegiate-leading 22.35 PR of her own.

After the early-round fireworks, everyone knew the final would be scintillating. Fueled with the excitement generated by the jaw-dropping 10.75 posted by Richardson to claim the 100 crown some 45 minutes earlier, the crowd’s anticipation was palpable. At the crack of the gun, the sprinters tore around the curve with Annelus (lane 5) and Richardson (6) separating themselves from the field as they entered the straightaway. A tense homestretch battle ensued. In the final meters, Richardson pressed for the lead, but her rival continued to fight on with the Trojan’s perfectly-timed lean making the difference. Her PR 22.16 made her the No. 4 collegian ever and claimed the yearly world lead.

Richardson’s PR 22.17, the fastest non-winning mark in meet history, claimed the World Junior Record, bettering the nearly 15-year-old 22.18 set by Allyson Felix in winning the silver medal at the ’04 Athens Olympics. The 22.17 will not be, however, an American Junior Record, as USATF ratified Felix’s altitude-aided 22.11 the year before, but the IAAF didn’t accept it as the WJR. Of breaking a Felix record, Richardson said, “That was amazing. I did not think I was going to do that.”

Annelus offered a poised summary of her performance, saying, “I just prayed to God before the race to just have a smooth race, and whatever the results are, I’m going to be happy with them. I’m just overjoyed right now. I was giving it my all. I’m so happy I was able to get a PR and come out here and defend the title.” In response to an inquiry about the blanket finish, Annelus, who had finished 7th in the 100, said “It was a tossup. I know we were both leaning at the line, so I was just happy to see my name pop up first.” /Dave Hunter/

400: New Division, New PR For Jonathas

FOR AN ATHLETE moving up a level—or two—finding one’s personal sweet spot can take time. There’s no better time to lock into it than at a championships. That’s exactly what Wadeline
Jonathas did, with a stretch run no competitor could match. A transfer from UMass Boston who won 9 NCAA III titles before her move up this year, Jonathas became South Carolina’s first winner in the event since Natasha Hastings in ’07.

Having come into the year with a 52.81 PR that earned her the ’17 Div. III win, Jonathas progressed steadily from 52.86 indoors in February to 51.19 at the SEC in May. That put the 21-year-old junior, who emigrated from Haiti to New England in ’09, as the No. 4 collegiate—and SEC—quartermiler on the year list, behind Florida’s Sharrrika Barnett, Kethlin Campbell of Arkansas and Syairra Richardson of Texas A&M.

The semis winners were Jonathas (51.63 looking relaxed), Gamecock teammate Aliyah Abrams (51.51) and Barnett (51.62), top returner from the ’18 final as Pac-12ers Kyra Constantine of USC and Hannah Waller of Oregon advanced to what but for them would have been an all-SEC final. Waller teammate Briyana Desrosiers ran 52.00 to earn the distinction of being the meet’s fastest non-qualifier ever. In the reshuffle of our formchart after the semis, Barnett and Jonathas jumped ahead of premeet favorite Campbell, albeit with zero sense of inevitability about the outcome.

For the 6:32pm final no shadow from the backstretch stands as yet blocked a sun that had baked the oval in mid-90s heat for hours. Waller (23.9 in lane 9) and Barnett (24.0 in 6) were first to strike with heat of their own. As Waller lost ground in the curve, Barnett, the only runner with a sub-51 on the year (50.96), powered on, yet by 300m (36.6 for the Gator senior) the field was closing in. Jonathas (lane 4), Abrams (5) and Abbott (7), the SEC 3rd-, 4th- and 5th-places, reached the mark next, all 0.4 or more behind.

That’s when Jonathas found her gear. 90m out she moved to solo 2nd. With 75m left she led. The rest of the homestretch belonged to the tall-striding Gamecock with close-cropped, gold-dyed hair. She ran home in 50.60, 2½ meters in front. A step out from the line, Abbott caught Barnett and as the pair leaned in unison

Wadeline Jonathas burned the homestraight in 13.6 in lowering her PR to 50.60.
Sha’Carri Richardson says, “I have seen her when I went to Nike elite camp and ran the 200. I saw and took pictures of the moment, but clearly she did not. Richardson says the NCAA times were not drawn up beforehand, telling reporters that she never sets a time goal because, “If you give yourself a goal, you limit yourself.” Tiger head Dennis Shaver admits he was also surprised, seeing, “She’s just a great competitor. I felt like she could win, but I’m not one that predicts times.”

But while the CR was set in Austin, it stayed in Baton Rouge. The baton was passed, so to speak, from her LSU predecessor Dawn Sowell, who clocked an altitude-adjusted 10.78 three decades ago at the ’89 NCAA in Provo. Says Richardson, “Knowing that she set the record… it made me feel like I had obligation to keep carrying that legacy.”

The World Junior marks knocked off even bigger names: East Germany’s Marlies Göhr and Allyson Felix. Of the latter, she says, “That is amazing, I did not think I was going to do that, so hearing [the announcer] say it afterward, it was like, ‘Did I really do it?’ It was really exciting to know that.”

It’s hard to believe we’ve almost reached the age where youngsters might not have heard of Felix, but we’re not quite there yet, as Richardson says, “I have seen her when I went to Nike elite camp and ran the 200. I saw and took pictures with her.”

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But come on, coach—a great competitor is one thing, but those times? Surely there was some hint at practice of what was to come? “She’s had great practices all year and every meet she’s gotten a little bit better, but I felt like if we were to rest her up like we do for championships meets that she’d be able to do some things. I’m not shocked. I’m surprised though that she broke the 100m Collegiate Record because that record has stood for so long and it belonged to one of our former athletes. Dawn Sowell held it for so many years.”

Richardson Impacting World Junior Lists

With many months to go in her final U20 year, Sha’Carri Richardson is already all over the all-time lists. The Texas teen can claim 100 performances Nos. 1, =5, =5 and 200 performances 2, =9. The dozen fastest Junior times ever in each sprint:

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<tr>
<th>100 Times</th>
<th>200 Times</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> 10.75 Sha’Carri Richardson (US)</td>
<td><strong>1.</strong> 22.11(A) Allyson Felix (US)</td>
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<td><strong>2.</strong> 10.88 Marlies Göhr (East Germany)</td>
<td><strong>2.</strong> 22.18 ——— ——— ——— ——— ———</td>
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<td><strong>3.</strong> 10.89 Katrin Krabbe (East Germany)</td>
<td><strong>3.</strong> 22.19 Natalya Bochina (Soviet Union)</td>
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<td><strong>4.</strong> 10.98 Candace Hill (US)</td>
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<td><strong>5.</strong> 11.02 Tamara Clark (US)</td>
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<td><strong>6.</strong> 11.03 Silke Möller (East Germany)</td>
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<td><strong>7.</strong> 11.03 English Gardner (US)</td>
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Richardson announced that she had turned pro.

“Running those two races together, my mindset was to refocus,” Richardson says. “My mindset was this my last race of the day, of my first season college-wise, so I was just giving my all and executing the best I can.”

Last race of her college season… but what about her down-the-road college career? She avoids that speculation, at the moment, saying she’s not even sure what she’s going to do at the USATF Championships.

Shaver, for his part, seemed optimistic he could hang on to his precocious talent and delay her entry into the pro ranks. Asked about Richardson’s future, the coach says, “Well, obviously it’s going to be good. We just don’t know where it’s going to be. You know how that goes. But she has a good head on her shoulders. She chose LSU because she knows she can get better there and she wants to be in the Olympic Games. And the Olympic Games are not this year, so I would anticipate she’s going to come back and prepare and get ready for the Olympic Games next year. And the NCAA next year—she didn’t win the 200 and she still has goals she wants to accomplish.”

“Today’s whole year has been incredible and unexplainable,” Richardson says. “I myself knew I was going to come into college knowing I was going to compete among the best, but to execute the way I have even shocked myself. I just give it all to God because I know He was the one who blessed me with this skill.”

[NOTE: on the Wednesday after the NCAA Richardson announced that she had turned pro.]
There was plenty of room to spare for Allie Ostrander as she became the first ever to win 3 in a row.

The ebullient Johnson, whose time met the World Champs Q-standard—but who will pass on Doha—was unrestrained in the mixed zone in describing her win over Hull: “I know she likes to sit a lot because I’ve watched her race before. I knew that if I was going to pass her, that was going to be the only time. So I really wanted to wait until the last possible moment. I knew I have a pretty strong kick, so when I passed her, I was like, ‘OK, this is it. I can’t let her come back.’ I just went for the home run. I knew I could [perform this way], but in the fashion I did it, I mean Jessica Hull is an awesome competitor. She hasn’t lost a race; she has two or three national titles to her name. To beather and to run what I did today, honestly, I’m at a loss for words. I really can’t believe it.”

Hull, far from depressed at losing, was exhilarated with her time. “I knew it was going to be a fast pace. I wanted to run fast,” she explained. “I think it brings out the best in everyone. And when you bring out the best in everyone you get a race to the line like we had today. I wanted to take it with 300 to go and give it everything I had.” /Dave Hunter/

Steeple: A 3-Peat For Allie Ostrander

SHE HAS SIMPLY “felt it” dozens of times during her 3-year career at Boise State. The “it” for Allie Ostrander is when to move; when to step up the pace; when to go for the win. Everyone knows it’s coming. Her opponents all expect it; they just don’t know when. And neither does she.

In Austin, “it” happened with just over 2 laps remaining. The Boise State junior had been biding her time in the middle of the pack, then, quickly, efficiently, she just sped into the lead and had opened a 5-meter gap by the next backstretch over New Mexico junior Charlotte Prouse. Prouse, the ’18 runner-up behind Ostrander, saw the inevitable happening again as the favorite went on to win easily, 9:37.73–9:44.50, PRs for both.

It was a significant win for the Alaska native as she became the first to capture 3 straight steeple titles. Jenny Barringer (now Simpson) of Colorado won a trio, but not consecutively. “I’ve been working on my kick,” said Ostrander. “The West Regional was really strong, and I wanted to be ready. The heat wasn’t really a factor for me in Austin—I just focus on the barriers, and that keeps my mind off the weather.”

Said Prouse, “I tried to stay close, just so I would have a chance to do something. Allie ran a great race. When she sped up, it shook everyone.” After Ostrander’s breakaway and Prouse’s step-up, the rest of the field did some basic reshuffling for a lap or so. On the final lap, Hannah Steelman of Wofford went to her knees in the water jump. As a result, BYU’s Erica Birk and New Mexico’s Adva Cohen sped past. Gathering herself, Steelman gave chase and caught both with about 15m left to take 3rd in a PR 9:46.08. Cohen surged in the final meters to nip Birk 9:46.36 – 9:46.47.

Ostrander’s last lap of 77.38—on an exterior waterjump course—ran away from the rest of the contenders, but it wasn’t the fastest finishing circuit. Rather it was Wichita State’s Rebekah Topham who was in last for the first 4 laps and finished in 76.18. That propelled her to 8th. /Don Steffens/

5000: Jones Lives Up To Her Pedigree

FOR SOME in the tea-leaves-reading crowd who seek to ID winners ahead of time, the 5000 presented an obvious analysis. Colorado’s fourth-year junior Dani Jones had already won 3 NCAA titles: ’17 Indoor 3000 & distance medley anchor and last fall’s XC (leading another team win). No one else had a résumé like that. Jones lived up to hers, notching trophy No. 4, though not without threading some real-world needles. In the Darjeeling cup, the most obvious challenger, New Mexico’s Weini Kelati, would be doubling back from a 10K win two nights before. Hard-finishing Jones had bested XC runner-up Kelati with a kick in the harrier nationals, and temperatures still above 90° (32C) for this meeting virtually ensured a tactical contest would ensue.

That was the tea leaves picture. The real-world twist was that after triumphing on the packed snow in cross country, Jones shortly thereafter developed a fibular stress reaction that hampered her preparation for 3½ months early in the year. She only returned to running on the ground—after a long stint of AlterG only—in April.

Hence the decision to race over 5000 and not tilt at her preferred distance, the 1500 (to which she plans on returning at USATF). Prior to the big dance this year Jones only raced the Pac-12’s 5k—taking the loop title in 15:54.86—and at the Regional. In her Conference victory, she had kicked to the finish with a 68.3 last lap; quick but not the kind of speed with which tactical NCAA
Sinclaire Johnson ’19 An Upgrade Over The ’18 Model

Sinclaire Johnson got another shot at Jessica Hull after beating her in last year’s Regional.

by Jeff Hollobaugh

A HECKUVA DIFFERENCE a year can make: Sinclaire Johnson, whose stunning kick won the NCAA 1500 in the No. 2 collegiate time ever is the same Oklahoma Stater who finished last in her heat a year before. “That was pretty heartbreaking,” she says of her ’18 experience in Eugene. “Going in I thought I was going to do really well and definitely make first-team All-American.”

However, she was slammed by a severe allergy to cottonwood once she got to a town that is infamous for its pollen challenges. “It inhibited me from being able to breathe properly,” she says. “My face was just swollen and I was very, very miserable. By the time I got to the race on Thursday, I was just exhausted and I think that took a toll on me.” She finished 12th in her semi—dead last—in 4:27.72 after a season that had seen her lead the West Regionals in 4:11.57.

“After that I was definitely ready to get back out there and redeem myself because that was such a huge letdown to what was probably considered my breakout season,” she says. “I definitely wanted to come back and show everyone—and even myself too—that that race was not who I was as an athlete. I strive to be a lot better than that.”

Ironically, the commentators in Austin who talked about Jessica Hull’s unbeaten streak in the 1500 failed to note that the last collegian to beat Hull—at that ’18 West Regional—was Johnson. “She had some credibility going into this,” says Cowboy coach Dave Smith. “She’s pretty good.”

Johnson says, “I really lacked an aerobic base in high school. How I got recruited was my 800 and 400 times. But I know going in that I was going to move up because most of the women who are in the same range I was in in high school have moved up to the mile and 1500. That was basically the plan. It was just a matter of when I would make that move. I think for the first year, Coach Dave just really wanted me to do something that I was comfortable with.”

In Stillwater, Johnson, an Econ & Finance major, started putting in the miles and developing an aerobic background. In ’17, she finished 28th in the Big 12 cross country. A year later she was the runner-up, and was the team’s top finisher at the NCAA.

Having put in a solid winter of training, Johnson focused this season on showing up big in Austin. A brief indoor season saw her anchor the Cowgirls to 3rd in the NCAA distance medley with a 4:30.22 for 1600. Outdoors, she won the 1500 at the Cardinal Classic in 4:13.35. At the Big 12, she took the 800 in 2:04.79. Once again she led the West Regional, this time in a PR 4:09.50.

“I think after Regionals, I knew I could run a lot faster, but I didn’t know exactly how much faster,” she says. “She came to Austin knowing that she could go with any pace and that she would probably still have a stinging kick. I’ve always known that I would be better suited for races that were sit-and-kick,” she explains. “It’s not necessarily something that we practice. It’s just something that has come naturally. I’ve found a way, whether I’m feeling good or feeling terrible, to find another gear. I try to push my kick as far as I can.”

Smith notes, “I tell them the most important part of the race is the last 50m. We talk about that and how a lot of people get excited and start going too hard too early and they get to the last 50 and they’re decelerating rapidly. Timing the kick is what’s important.”

The numbers on the board stunned the 21-year-old. “When I crossed the line and saw it, it really, really shocked me. More so to being able to do that in the conditions we were in—it was like 98-degrees [36.5C] on the starting line.”

Despite making the Doha standard, Johnson and Smith agree that shutting down the season is the right move. “The end goal for us was the NCAAs,” she explains. “After my race on Saturday, I think my mind was set on being done and I didn’t want to get too greedy and try to chase more and more times and possibly undo the magic of what happened this past weekend. I just want to end on a high note and take a little break and get ready for cross country season.”

Johnson To No. 2 On The All-Time Collegiate List

Jenny Simpson (now Barringer) can claim the fastest collegiate mile ever run, a sub-4:00 against pros in the Prefontaine Classic, but when it comes to pure college competition, nobody can match Sinclaire Johnson. The top 10 collegians ever (* = not eligible for U.S. international teams):

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Athlete</th>
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<td>3:59.90</td>
<td>Jenny Simpson (Colorado)</td>
<td>6/07/09</td>
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<td>4:05.98</td>
<td>Sinclaire Johnson (Oklahoma State)</td>
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<td>4:06.19</td>
<td>Hannah England (Florida State)</td>
<td>6/14/08</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:06.27</td>
<td>Jessica Hull (Oregon)</td>
<td>6/08/19</td>
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<td>4:06.67</td>
<td>Sally Kipyego (Texas Tech)</td>
<td>6/14/08</td>
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<td>4:06.75</td>
<td>Tiffany McWilliams (Mississippi State)</td>
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<td>4:06.87</td>
<td>Emma Coburn (Colorado)</td>
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<td>4:07.50</td>
<td>Sarah Brown (Tennessee)</td>
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<td>4:07.69</td>
<td>Lena Nilsson (UCLA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:08.26</td>
<td>Suzy Hamilton (Wisconsin)</td>
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wins are sewed up with assurance. Arkansas soph Taylor Werner, the SEC champ, had zipped to 2nd in the Indoor 3000 with a 64.47 last 400 so constituted a threat.

As the race played out here, Jones had more to give 4 weekends down the road from Conference and drew on memories of her harrier win. “Cross is really just all about confidence,” she said. “It really boosted me, especially with the injury I had. I was just keeping that race in mind, so it was super helpful.”

Here, with no one overly eager to lead, Air Force’s Jaci Smith inherited the job for 3000m (9:37.05, averaging just under 77.0 per lap). Kelati led next with no real change of pace until Werner—hunting for important team-score points—brought one over the penultimate lap. She covered it in 75.26. With a lap left 5 rolled in contention arrayed single-file: Werner, Jones, Penn State senior Josette Norris, Kelati and Alabama’s Esther Gitahi. On the backstraight Gitahi drove up into 3rd before 200 to go. There would be one more change in the order. Werner ran into the homestretch ahead until Jones, upright in posture and efficient, drew even on the outside in 4K through 6.

On this still night the 22-year-old Eritrean native, who led by as much as 30m during the first 2000 and again from 90m out and rushed to victory 4m in front. To gain her 15:56.22–15:56.55, the Colorado star covered her final 200 in 31.3 (64.60 last lap), as Gitahi, Norris and Kelati held their order.

“I knew I just had to stay calm,” Jones said. “There were so many impressive girls out there. Taylor put up a really good fight. I just really tried to enjoy it like I did in cross. It was a really similar finish, really last minute, but I looked up at the screen and got to celebrate at the end. You’ve got to enjoy those moments because they don’t happen very often.” /Sieg Lindstrom/

10,000: The Manager Is In

MANAGING THE RACE is an important ingredient in Weini Kelati’s running package. That and turning on a sprint at 9900m. The New Mexico soph did exactly that to win a slowish 25-lapper under muggy conditions, edging Oregon’s Carmela Cardama Baez 33:10.84–33:11.56.

“I try to control the race, whether it’s the pace or the speed,” said the favorite. “I always keep something back for the finish, because you never know what someone else might have.” That after she had led during the first 2000 and again from 6 through 6.

On this still night the 22-year-old Eritrean native, who led by as much as 30m during the final two laps, deployed an elbow-pumping, hard-charging sprint to claim her victory. At the top of the homestretch, she moved slightly ahead of the challenging Duck. Baez finished the race with a 68.72 to nearly catch the Lobo, who managed only 72.96. “I was just going, going,” said Baez. “I didn’t really see her, I was just looking straight ahead at the finish.”

The Spaniard, also 22, actually started stalking the lead just past the halfway mark as Kelati was leading at 15:56. Teammate Edna Kurgat was a step behind, running with early leader Anna Rohrer of Notre Dame, Michigan’s Erin Finn and Washington’s Isabel Batt-Doyle. Baez and teammate Weronika Pyzik moved among the top 10. As the race clicked along, Kelati and Rohrer traded the lead until Kelati took it for good with 6 laps to go. Kurgat faded, but Baez moved into 4th.

On the final backstretch, always running near the rail, Baez was clearly reducing Kelati’s advantage. On top of the final curve, the crowd—sensing a super comeback—came alive. But Kelati The Manager kept some reserves and sprinted away down the stretch. Batt-Doyle, always in a scoring position, finished 3rd in 33:17.81 with her fastest lap in the race (74.61), staying just ahead of Arkansas soph Taylor Werner (33:20.68/75.11). /Don Steffens/

110H: Janeek Brown Wins An Epic Matchup

THE STRAIGHTAWAY Hurdles was one of the most anticipated head-to-head matchups of the meet: two talented sophs, both Conference champions, the leading two marks in a powerhouse field. And the team title in play.

USC’s Chanel Brissett, a Pennsylvania native, had won the indoor 60H by a whisker over Kayla White of North Carolina A&T, but White was focusing on the flat sprints here. Brissett won the Pac-12 in a PR 12.70 by 0.22. Her rival, Janeek Brown, a Jamaican at Arkansas, was only 5th at the NCAA Indoor, but won the tough SEC in a world-leading 12.53. By luck of the draw, they met at Regionals, Brissett prevailing by 0.02, thus becoming, by the smallest of margins, the premeet favorite.

Teamwise, no other event brought together so many competitors for the two contending schools, as SC also had Anna Cockrell and the Razorbacks countered with Payton Chadwick, a national champion in her own right from winning the Indoor in ’18. The semis brought immediate fireworks with lifetime bests for heat winners Brown (12.53 to improve her yearly list lead), Toneya Marshall (12.67) of LSU and Cockrell (12.69). Brissett matched her best of 12.70 behind Cockrell.

With Chadwick advancing as well, half the field were Trojans or Sooie Hogs.

Weini Kelati arranged her typical race plan to perfection.
ULTIMATELY, Janeek Brown’s breakthrough was due. She was the best hurdler throughout much of the regular season, her 12.55 at the SEC moving her to No. 5 on the all-time collegiate list. All that was lacking for the Arkansas soph was to do it at Nationals, a stage where Brown had shown lots of promise but, not surprisingly for someone so young and so new to the collegiate level, no medalist finishes. (As a frosh she was 8th indoors, 5th indoors and at this year’s Indoor was 5th again.)

To get that breakthrough, all the 21-year-old Jamaican needed to do was keep doing what she has done from April, where she was unbeaten in finals after an early loss to LSU’s Tonea Marshall at the Texas Relays, a loss she avenged at Conference.

“Honestly, my coach tells me when you’re consistent better times come in,” Brown said. “I knew I could do it. If it didn’t come out it would be OK with me, but it did come out and I’m happy about it.” What came out was a wire-to-wire 12.40 win just 0.01 off the CR. “I had a good start and I just tried to execute through the race,” the Kingston native said. That hurdle final was part of a strong meet that included a then-PR 12.53 in the semis and a PR 22.40 in the 200 that got her 4th and added to Arkansas’ ultimately successful run to the team national championship. This may have slipped under some radars, but she took 0.01 off the 200 school record, held by one Veronica Campbell-Brown.

Her day, which also included a leg on the bronze medal 4×1, was exactly what her team needed. “It felt really good, it felt awesome,” Brown said. “Today I told myself in the hotel room, ‘You’ve got to rise to the occasion.’ I’m going to come out and give it my best for the team.” This, though, was a different day than any she’s experienced before. For the first time on a stage this big, Brown wore the burden of expectations and her team depended on her.

“I just have one word, no, two words: Faith and hard work,” she said. “They did it for me today.” She expounded on that a bit: “I was a little nervous coming in, because you know, much was expected from me, but before I get into it, I just want to say Psalm 43, Verse 5, ‘God is within me. I will not fail.’ Last time I was here for the Texas Relays, it didn’t end well, but God decided it was time. I was going through a little breakdown in the time of the transition between the indoor and outdoor, and I was just like, ‘God, don’t give up on me.’ He showed me today that he didn’t.”

That indoor-outdoor transition didn’t take long, as she hit a new level at the home National Relays where she lowered her PR all the way from 12.80 to 12.57. “It’s so surreal, I can’t believe I actually ran that time,” she said afterward, then she followed that up with the 12.55 at Conference. “That opened the door for me,” Brown said. “I knew if I had faith good things could come.” They came very quickly for the young Jamaican, who on the biggest stage in college sports, finally turned potential into a golden reality.
Marshall's 12.67 was historic, as she set an LSU school record by leapfrogging a remarkable quartet of Tiger hurdlers: Tananjaly Stanely (12.70), Jasmin Stowers (12.71), Kim Carson (12.72) & Lolo Jones (12.77).

The stage was set for one of the greatest college hurdle fields ever assembled, with the team title also at stake. “I was a little nervous coming in,” Brown said, “because, you know, much was expected from me.” The outcome was decisive. By the second hurdle, Brown had put distance on the rest of the field, and she ran away with it, defeating Brissett by 0.12 and Marshall by 0.26. All three PR-ed again. Brown’s Jamaican Record 12.40 missed Brianna Rollin’s 6-year-old CR by just 0.01, while Brissett improved by 0.18 to 12.52 for No. 6 on the all-time collegiate list and Marshall snipped 0.01 from her best.

Teamwise, it was a tossup. SC took places 2 & 5 for 12 points, Arkansas 1/8 for 11. That competition would have to wait until the final two races of the day. //Jack Pfeifer/

### 400H: Cockrell Establishes Her Status Early

**AFTER HER DOMINATING** 56.05 in the semis—a time better than the PR of any other finalist—Anna Cockrell had all eyes focused on her for the final. Still, several others appeared to be primed to run well. LSU soph Jurnee Woodward had run 56.81 in the same heat as Cockrell, just ahead of Rutgers frosh Reanda Richards (56.87). LSU’s Brittley Humphrey won the first heat in 56.94.

However, Cockrell, the former World Junior (U20) champion, was perhaps in the best shape of her life—as evidenced by her 12.69 prelim in the 100H. On Saturday she had run the final of those hurdles just 45 minutes before she lined up for the 400s, clocking 12.80 in 5th. In this final, the USC junior ran without doubt, bursting out to an imposing lead by hurdle 1. On the backstretch she continued to pour it on, leading with her left leg as Humphrey ran a distant 2nd and Richards battling with Colorado’s Gabby Scott for 3rd.

By the second turn, Richards had caught Humphrey, but no one looked like they could catch Cockrell, who started alternating her lead and led at hurdle 8. By the final barrier, the 2-year-old favorite had 6m on the field. Humphrey and Scott came off hurdle 10 at the same time, with Richards a smidgen behind them. As they sorted out their places Cockrell ran through the finish in 55.23, a yearly leader and just 0.09 off her ’17 PR. After 2 straight years as the runner-up (last year behind Sydney McLaughlin, who then turned pro), Cockrell had a win.

Scott won the run-in for 2nd, clocking a PR of 56.04—a notable improvement from her 58.27 best at the start of the season. This was her first NCAA Outdoor. “It’s amazing,” she said. “I fell at Regional prelims last year and that was in my head even this year, but I came back stronger.”

Humphrey in 3rd (56.11) also scored a PR, another big improvement, as she had run 58.42 as a Tiger frosh. Richards claimed 4th in 56.42. Woodward, who had been pegged on the form-chart for 2nd, never found her rhythm and ended up 6th in 57.48.

In Cockrell’s eyes, the win was all about the team battle: “I had to do this for my team. I had to do this for the shield. I just went after it and came around the turn and just thought, ‘Go, go, go, go’ and I went. We knew we needed to execute. We knew we needed to put forth our best effort. That’s what we did, and that’s what we’re doing. We’re going to keep doing it, and we’re going to keep fighting.” //Jeff Hollobaugh/

**4x1: A Perfect Start For The Trojans**

ULTIMATELY, A RELAY would cost USC the team title, but it wasn’t the 4×1. The maximum 10 points got the favored Trojans off to a perfect start, and perfect passing netted a 42.21 for the No. 6 collegiate performance ever, trailing 4 times by LSU and 1 by Oregon.

Chanel Brissett, Anggie Annelus and Laane-Tava Thomas executed the first two handoffs perfectly to stay in step with LSU, and then Thomas’s third leg made the difference—she gave anchor Twanisha Terry a 2m lead with 100 to go, despite actually completing her handoff later than the Tigers.

Previewing the recordsetting day she was about to have, LSU anchor Sha’Carri Richardson erased half of that deficit, but ultimately she, Tonea Marshall, Kortnei Johnson and Rachel Misher had to settle for the fastest non-winner in meet history, 42.29. Behind them, Arkansas (42.79) picked up 6 points that would prove crucial.

Said Terry, “I ran the last leg, so I tried not to focus too much on the [first three], I watched them pop off, and then I just turned my head. Then once the second leg gets running, I get in position and wait for third leg to come around. We said, ‘As long as we get the baton around the track and execute, we can win this race.’ We knew coming in it would be more of a challenge because we were running by ourselves all year.”

Brissett said, “I’m grateful, but I’m never satisfied. There’s always more that you want, so I’m happy that I got the PR and that we won the race. We’re just glad that we had clean handoffs all year. Our chemistry is great, so no matter who leads off, it’s always great. I’m just glad I got to be a part of the relay this year. It was just great to have a chance to run with those girls.”
Added Terry, “We talked about [setting the tone for a team championship] a lot.” They did indeed set the tone, but couldn’t have known it would be doomed 2½ hours later. /Lee Nichols/

4x4: 1st Important, But So Was 2nd

Texas A&M won the race with a 3:25.57, the fastest time in the world, but despite the Aggies’ terrific run to the finish, it was the third leg that became the story when USC found itself in all sorts of trouble and lost a chance to win the team title. Entering the meet’s final event, USC and Arkansas were tied for the team lead and their 4x4 squads were fairly evenly matched. Arkansas stood 5th among college teams for the season at 3:29.22; USC was 6th at 3:29.23. Their order here, in no matter what places, could decide things.

Opening Leg: No Clear Advantage

Fairly even opening legs didn’t tell much until the start of the homestretch where South Carolina’s Stephanie Davis appeared to have a slight lead. Arkansas’s Paris Peoples drew even in the stretch, both runners splitting 52-flat. USC’s Bailey Lear (52.3) passed off ahead of Florida’s Doneisha Anderson (52.1), but it was Florida which got to the midway point of the zone ahead as second runner Taylor Manson took off quickest. A&M’s Tierra Robinson-Jones put her team in solid position with a 52.3.

Standings: 1. tie, Arkansas & South Carolina 52.0; 3. Florida 52.1; 4. tie, Texas A&M & USC 52.3; 6. Alabama 52.6; 7. Kentucky 53.4; 8. Baylor 54.0

Second Leg: South Carolina To The Fore

South Carolina and Florida were even at the backstretch break point, but the Gamecocks—running a lane to the inside of the Gators—held the position as they cut for the curb. At the end of the straight, South Carolina’s Aliyah Abrams, 5th in the 400, had built a 1m advantage over Manson, with another meter back to A&M’s Jaevin Reed and 2 more to USC’s Kyra Constantine with another 3 to Arkansas’s Kiara Parker. Around the turn Abrams had added another meter over Reed, but Manson had slipped backward, and Constantine had moved into 3rd. Abrams was first to touch off, her 50.0 giving South Carolina a 5m lead on USC as Constantine ran 50.5. Reed ran 51.1 to hold 3rd, while Arkansas was back in 6th place, more than 10 meters behind USC.

Standings: 1. South Carolina 1:42.04; 2. USC 1:42.78; 3. Texas A&M 1:43.36; 4. Alabama 1:43.73; 5. Florida 1:44.00; 6. Arkansas 1:44.48; 7. Baylor 1:45.09; 8. Kentucky 1:45.78

Third Leg: The Trojan Stick Goes Astray

Tatyana Mills took off around the turn for South Carolina, extending the lead to 5m ahead of USC hurdle champion Anna Cockrell. But Mills’s pace wore on her, and nearing the end of the second turn she drifted wide in lane 1 as A&M’s 800 victor Jazmine Fray swung outside to pass. Cockrell, running tight to the rail, led a pack of runners moving up on Mills, and the USC runner boxed herself with insufficient space to pass Mills on the inside. As Mills continued to falter, Cockrell clipped her heel, sending the USC runner lurching forward and bouncing into Alabama’s Mauricia Prieto, now on Cockrell’s outside and about to pass. Prieto was knocked wide, bumping Arkansas’s fast-moving Payton Chadwick, the anchor hero of their indoor 4x4 which clinched the undercover team title.

Fray, out in front and never affected by the mess, suddenly found herself with a quickly expanding lead, with only Chadwick able to give serious chase. At the exchange, A&M had a good 10m margin over Arkansas. Cockrell, having lost perhaps 9 seconds while backtracking to retrieve the baton, was now a deep last, at least 40m behind Arkansas.


Anchor Leg: A&M Moves Away

With the tension of a close race shattered, Syaira Richardson, 7th in the 400, immediately began padding the A&M lead, ripping around the first turn, up by almost 20m at the top of the backstretch. Behind her came Arkansas’s Kethlin Campbell, 4th in the 400. Campbell and 1-lap 3rd-placer Sharrika Barnett of Florida began

While Syaira Richardson was bringing A&M home the 4x4 title, Kethlin Campbell was sealing the team win for Arkansas
to whittle away the lead around the final turn, Campbell within 10m at the top of the final straight with Barnett another 2m back. Richardson’s 50.83 was enough to hold off Campbell, whose storming 49.78, the No. 8 carry in meet history, brought Arkansas home in 3:25.89 and made up all but 2m of the deficit. Barnett was unable to hold Campbell’s tempo, and clocked 50.40, allowing 400 champ Wadeline Jonathas to bring South Carolina home for 3rd in 3:26.90, only a half-meter ahead of Florida’s 3:27.02. /Dave Johnson/

**HJ: This One Went To Extra Innings**

IT HELPS TO BE PERFECT in the high jump, but Zarriea Willis felt that she was anything but this year. The favored Texas Tech senior, winner of the Indoor title, admitted, “I’ve been going through a lot of things this year. I feel like I struggled during the outdoor season a lot.” Yet there she was on the meet’s final day, reeling off perfect clearance after perfect clearance. If there was any complication, it was that North Carolina junior Nicole Greene, No. 2 on the formchart, was doing the exact same thing.

Through the early heights the pair had sailed. When they cleared 5-11¼ (1.81) along with 6 others, they assured them of podium spots, along with Penn’s Anna Peyton Malizia, who had a missed once at a lower height. The bar raised to 6-½ (1.87), assured them of perfect clearance after perfect clearance. If there was any complication, it was that North Carolina junior Nicole Greene, No. 2 on the formchart, was doing the exact same thing.

The two, deadlocked with identical charts after three straight misses, faced a jumpoff, the first in meet history. Greene missed. And Willis missed as well. The fatigue and frustration on the toasty apron was beginning to show for both. Officials took the bar down to 6-2 (1.88). Greene missed, brushing the bar with her backside. Willis, to a huge response from the crowd, cleanly sailed over. She stood up and let out a brief scream of joy after setting a new outdoor PR.

“I’ve never done a jumpoff,” said the winner. “Either I just lose or win. There’s no such thing as a perfect competition, but today was one of those where the better jumper was going to get it or someone with the strongest mentality today was going to get it.” She added, “My coach can tell you that I’m the least emotional athlete he’s ever had. The most emotion I’ve shown was today.” Coach James Thomas agreed, saying, “She’s always battling to get better. When she’s on and competing, she’s a monster out there.”

Said Greene, “The competition was amazing. It just came down to who wanted it more and I fell short, but after coming off a full redshirt season, I couldn’t be more proud of myself and what I did today.” /Jeff Hollobaugh/

**PV: Time For The Other Twin To Soar**

IT WAS HER TURN. Tori Hoggard had watched twin sister Lexi Jacobus win 4 NCAA titles over the years. Hoggard, however, had never finished higher than her 2nd at the ’18 Indoor. “I just came in today wanting to have fun,” she said. That she did, with first-attempt clearances at 13-9¼ (4.20), 14-3¼ (4.35) and 14-7¼ (4.45). After that last height, she found herself in a tie with favored 2-time defender Olivia Gruver of Washington, while Indoor runner-up Bonnie Draxler of San Diego State also cleared, along with Virginia’s Bridget Guy. Former winner Jacobus, however, only made 13-9¼ (4.20) before going out at the next height.

The bar moved to 14-9½ (4.51) and Draxler applied the pressure with a perfect first-attempt make, equaling her outdoor PR. Gruver, Hoggard and Guy all followed with misses. On the second runthrough, Hoggard bumped the bar on the way down but it stayed on, allowing her to stake a claim to 2nd. Both Gruver and Guy would tally three misses.

Then the bar went to 14-11¼ (4.56). Hoggard had jumped higher than that three times in her career, all indoors. Draxler had cleared the setting only once, at the NCAA Indoor 3 months ago. For both it would be an outdoor PR. Both missed their first attempts; then Draxler missed her second. Hoggard cleared, but was not assured of victory until Draxler tried one more time. When she failed to clear, Hoggard knew she had finally done it. Finishing up just before midnight, the first-

Now both of the former Weeks sisters can claim to be an NCAA champion, as Tori Hoggard (l) claimed her first, while sister Lexi Jacobus has 4.
YANIS DAVID didn’t start the first day in the best frame of mind. The favorite in both horizontal jumps, the Florida senior let herself get rattled by the weather-related schedule changes. “I was pretty upset about the time change and all that. I don’t like last-minute changes. They upset me a lot, but my coach tried to keep me in the right mindset.”

David opened up with a modest first round 20-11¼ (6.39). TCU’s Destiny Longmire took the lead on the next jump with a 21-4¼ (6.51), and that helped David find her focus. “I thought, ‘I can do this, I’ve got this. I just need to trust what coach [Nic] Petersen says,’” said the 21-year-old French native. “I was just running through the board and doing whatever I had to do.”

In 4th at that point, the favored David flew into the lead with her second-round 21-11¼ (6.70). A few jumps later, Indoor champion Jasmyn Steels of Northwestern Louisiana came close, her 21-11½ (6.69)—a PR by 8½ inches (21cm)—showing David that relaxing wasn’t an option.

Said David, “I didn’t have a distance in mind, but I was like, ‘I’m going to go out there and execute and the distance will just come.’” She reeled off a 21-7½ (6.59) in round 3, but then watched as Steels grabbed the lead I round 4 with another PR, 21-11 (6.59)—a PR by 8½ inches (21cm)—showing David that relaxing wasn’t an option.

“TJ: Lawrence’s Last-Round Surprise”

Shardia Lawrence recalled her feelings as she stood on the runway before the final triple jump of the day: “I didn’t know for sure, but I knew I had something.”

The Kansas State senior had started out in 4th at that point, with a leap of 43-7½ (13.30). That put her in 4th place. The best opening jump came from Oregon’s Chaquinn Cook, who leaped 45-¼ (13.72).

Virginia’s Kelly Mcnee held 2nd at 43-10½ (13.37) and Texas A&M’s Cynamon Stevenson was 3rd with a PR 43-10 (13.36). Favored Yanis David of Florida lurked in 5th after jumping 43-5¼ (13.24).

Lawrence, competing at the same time as her twin sister Shadae in the discus, improved to 44-4¼ (13.52) in the second go-round, a mark that took her to 2nd, displacing McKee, who herself had improved to 44-4 (13.51).

On her third attempt, Lawrence bounced to the lead with a PR 45-3¼ (13.81). David followed with an improvement to 44-8¼ (13.62). Kentucky senior Marie-Josee Ebwea-Bile finally hit her step and produced a 44-8 (13.61) that took her from 20th to 4th.

No one improved in round 4; Lawrence fouled, but it’s unlikely she felt safe. Sure enough, in the next stanza the big jumps started dropping.

First Ebwea-Bile leaped 45-6¼ (13.87) to take over the lead. Then two jumps later, David produced a 45-6¼ of her own, moving ahead in the standings on the basis of her next best jump. Lawrence, jumping last in the order, put

Shardia Lawrence was rather pleased to have won the TJ in such dramatic fashion.
MIKE SCOTT

4th last year and 7th as a frosh, Laulauga Tausaga became Iowa’s first winner in any event since Nan Doak back in ’85.

together a 45-2¼ (13.77), the second-best jump of her life. And it kept her in 3rd.

In the final four jumps, first Ebwea-Bile closed her day with a 40-11½ (12.48). Cook fouled. David, the winner of the long jump two days before, produced a brilliant 45-8½ (13.93) and only had to wait out one jump to celebrate a double victory.

Lawrence, though, had other ideas: “I know that they are great athletes. I’ve been training a long time for this. I’ve been training so hard and I was telling myself that I wasn’t going to let that go to waste.”

She ran with a 0.2 wind at her back, hitting the board with two inches to spare. On landing, she immediately bounced out of the pit and ran to see the measure: 45-10¾ (13.99). She started crying and collapsed to the ground.

“I knew I had something big,” she said. “It was amazing and my sister, she told me I could win, and I believed. And my family back home in Jamaica told me I could win. I knew that my future depended on this day… I knew that I had that one surprise for everybody.” /Jeff Hollobaugh/

4th last year and 7th as a frosh, Laulauga Tausaga became Iowa’s first winner in any event since Nan Doak back in ’85.

SP: Noennig Tops Indoors & Out

SHE HAD WON the Indoor title with a PR so Samantha Noennig figured to be strongly in the running for this crown after a season that began with three straight outdoor-PR meets. Yet after 4 rounds it didn’t look anything like a good day for the Sun Devil soph.

Ohio State’s Sade Olatoye took the lead in round 1 with her =PR 58-8 (17.88); Noennig languished in 3rd at 55-9¼ (17.00). Then formchart favorite Portious Warren launched a 59-2½ (18.05) to take over in round 2. Noennig only hit 54-3¾ (16.64), slipping to 7th. Alabama’s Warren kept the pressure on with a third-round 59-2 (18.03) and an improvement to 59-5 (18.11) in round 4. By that time, Noennig had gotten out to 56-8 (17.27), good for just 5th. She said, “My first few throws were not so good, and I’ve been kind of struggling in practice to make sure I hit it right, and that showed in my first few. Then I just kind of got mad and was like, ‘I need to hit one.’” She entered the ring determined and launched the ball out to a PR, joining the 59-foot club at 59-6¼ (18.14) to take the lead by a mere 3cm. “I was able to pull through,” she said. “I wasn’t happy with where I was and I knew I needed to throw farther. I wasn’t going to go down easy, so I didn’t let it happen.”

In the final round Noennig ended her day with a 58-1 (17.70). Kansas State’s Taylor Latimer lofted the ball to 57-11¼ (17.67) for a move to 4th behind Olatoye. Warren, on her final throw, hit just 56-8 (17.27).

Said the winner, who was 7th last year, “It’s incredible. I train with some great people, and they prepared me for this day and what I needed to do. Last year, I was just excited to get on the podium, and this year I was not going to be happy unless I won, so I’m glad I was able to pull through in the end.” /Jeff Hollobaugh/

DT: A Battle Of PRs At The Top

EXPECTED SHOWDOWN: Colorado State’s Shadae Lawrence vs. Iowa’s Laulauga Tausaga. Lawrence had won the Mountain West with a 213-5 (65.05) list leader, and 2 weeks later Tausaga beat her in leading the West Regional with a PR (62.69). However, in the first round of the big matchup, Florida State’s Shanice Love threw before them, and showed she would not be counted out with a PR 202-7 (61.74). That was a distance that would have won 9 of the last 10 NCAA titles (heck, 33 of the 37 ever). Tausaga followed with a 187-0 (57.01) and Lawrence 192-5 (58.65). At the end of the round they held the top three positions.

In round 2, Love, a junior from Jamaica, showed she really wasn’t kidding, as she lofted the platter even farther, a PR 205-8 (62.69). Tausaga responded with a PR bomb of her own, 207-6 (63.26), to take the lead. Nobody knew it, but the competition for the top spots had basically finished. In round 3, Alexandra Emilianov of Kansas moved into 3rd with her 193-3 (58.90),

Samantha Noennig joined the 59-foot club with her PR 59-6¼.
but Lawrence passed her back in stanza 5 with a 197-11 (60.32). She would stay in 3rd, missing a chance at an historic same-night double with her twin, triple jump winner Shardae.

Love finished out with a consistent series but only one more throw over 200, her 200-5 (61.08) in round 5. Three of Tausauga’s last four throws went foul, though she hit a 200-3 (61.04) in round 4. It didn’t matter. Her second round mark held up. The winning distance was the fourth-longest in meet history and Love’s mark the best runner-up toss ever.

Tausaga, who recently turned 21, was surprised to see her second lifetime best in a row. “When it comes to me throwing a PR and then trying to do something in the next 2 weeks, I usually struggle,” she admitted. “So with that throw, I felt it come off my fingers and I was like, ‘That’s the one.’ It was, and it was amazing.”

Happy BD To Rogers

IT’S A FIELD EVENT truism: It only takes one. Mackenzie Little was grateful for that. The Stanford senior mostly had a subpar day, but the 22-year-old Australian’s first toss made all the rest moot. Ukraine’s edition early with a 195-0 (59.44) and no one came even close to picking it up.

Auburn junior Kylee Carter got closest, but her final-round 185-0 (56.40) was not a real threat. Bronze went to North Carolina frosh Madison Wiltrout at 181-0 (55.21).

“It feels great,” Little said of her successful defense. “It’s awesome. I’m really lucky and I have a great team. I’m glad I could be here again another year healthy and competing and it was the best way to finish my Stanford career. I couldn’t be happier.”

Her season may have been con-
sistent, but not on this day. If not for that first toss, she would have finished just 5th. Her next-best heave was 176-0 (53.64), and at one point went as low as 163-9 (49.91). “I would have preferred to be more consistent today,” she admitted. “It was just something else. No one actually changed positions at all after we started the finals. It was an interesting day. I don’t know what to say about that. It’s hard to be really mentally focused all the time and I didn’t do it today. I have goals that I want to throw further and do better and keep improving, and so I’ll take away what I can from today.” For the rest of the summer, Little said she’s heading back Down Under to compete in the Oceania Championships and hopefully the World University Games – and to chase a World Championships qualifier.

/ Lee Nichols/

Hept: Winning One For The Home Team

IT DIDN’T TAKE LONG for the favorite, Ashtin Zamzow of the Longhorns, to face her moment of truth. In the second of the seven events, fresh from a big PR 13.33 in the hurdles, she missed twice on her opening height (5-5¼/1.66) in the high jump. Tyra Gittens of Texas A&M, her chief rival, was already on her way to a PR 6-1½ (1.87), while Michelle Atherley of Miami, the Indoor pentathlon champ, had opened with the first sub-13 hurdles of her life, 12.97. The pressure was on to stay in the running.

A fifth-year senior who began the year with a PR of 5853, the 22-year-old Zamzow was in her final college meet (“Ending my last season here,” she said, “I just can’t explain it”) so over she went on her third try, and she kept going, equaling her PR by clearing 5-10 (1.78). She also PRed in the 200 by 0.43 at 24.23, yet remained 161 points down to Gittens, who PRed at 23.86 as they ended the day 1–2.

Despite a lifetime-best 19-8¼ (6.01) Zamzow fell 30 more points behind in the long jump, as Gittens got out to 20-8½ (6.31) on her final try. “My long jump… was huge … and that’s what I needed going into the javelin,” Zamzow said, “because Tyra had such a great Day 1 and an amazing long jump again. I kept fighting to be up with her.”

The sixth event, the javelin, is, however, Zamzow’s ace in the hole. She has thrown 173, Gittens 40 feet less. On this day, the differential was some 53ft, Zamzow 162-7 (49.56) to 109-0 (33.22) for Gittens. Zamzow went from a differential of 254 points down to 60 ahead. She closed it out in the 800, a weak event for Gittens, to prevail with a lifetime-best 6222, 173 up on Gittens. “It was a dream come true,” said Zamzow, who moved to No. 8 on the all-time collegiate list in becoming the first Texas scorer in the event. “Incredible… I’m so thankful to finish my last year on this track.”

To further some linkages, note that Zamzow began her college career at Gittens’ school, arch-rival Texas A&M (transferring from A&M to UT after one season). As had both her parents. And her uncle.

There was plenty of action below the top two, as the next seven finishers had PR scores. Atherley got her first total over 6000, taking 3rd with 6014, while two senior Californians, Hope Bender (UCSB) and Erin Beattie (UC Davis), battled for 4th. When Bender prevailed in the 800 with 2:10.10, that was the difference. For Beattie, it was the conclusion of a fine two days in which she PRed in the hurdles (13.80), outdoor shot (36-1¼/11.00), 200 (24.93) and javelin (119-3/36.35) to record a 253-point overall PR. / Jack Pfeifer/

HEPTATHLON LEADERS BY EVENT


100METERS (wind +1.8)
1. **Shara’Carri Richardson (LSU) 10.75 CR, WR, AJR (66.37, 2:15.25, 3:22.34); 7. Jenny Celis (OkSt) 4:14.30; 66.37 [2:13.7], 65.8 [3:19.5], 52.5) (36.1, 68.97, 2:14.71, 2:08.86, 3:15.82); 3. Jessica Harris (NDm) 4:11.96 (67.4, 67.2, 66.6 [2:13.8], 65.7 [3:19.5], 46.8) (31.0, 63.15, 2:14.71, 2:08.86, 3:15.82); 7. Ersula Farrow (LSU) 2:04.80; 2:02.56 PR (61.16/61.40); 6. **Kristie Schoffield (Boise) 2:03.86 (61.05//62.81); 7. **Alissa Niggemann (Wi) 2:05.60; 2:02.56 PR (61.16/62.81)

200 METERS (wind +1.38)
1. **Angeles Ushe (USC) 22.68 (60.89/60.42) (2:20.30, 4:06.20); 2. *Gabby Scott’ (TXAM) 22.35 PR (CL) (60.89/60.42); 3. Jazmine Fray’ (TXAM) 22.35 PR (CL) (60.89/60.42); 4. Jeanine Williams’ (GaT) 22.35 PR (CL) (60.89/60.42); 5. **Janeek Brown’ (Ar) 22.35 PR (CL) (60.89/60.42); 6. *Twanisha Terry (USC) 22.35 PR (CL) (60.89/60.42)

400 METERS

800 METERS
1. Jazmine Fray’ (TXAM) 2:01.31 (CL) (60.89/60.42); 2. *Tori Hoggard (Ar) 2:01.31 (CL) (60.89/60.42); 3. Tori Hoggard (Ar) 2:01.31 (CL) (60.89/60.42); 4. *Ashley Jenkins (MA) 2:01.31 (CL) (60.89/60.42); 5. Alaria Washington (USC) 2:01.31 (CL) (60.89/60.42); 6. **Diana Phelan (Boise) 2:01.31 (CL) (60.89/60.42); 7. *Weini Kelati’ (NM) 2:01.31 (CL) (60.89/60.42)

1500 METERS
1. Texas A&M 3:25.57 (3:25.57, 3:02.22, 2:30.22, 1:57.06); 2. **Katie Seymour (USC) 3:25.57 (3:25.57, 3:02.22, 2:30.22, 1:57.06); 3. South Carolina 3:26.90 (Stephanie Davis 52.3, Kethlin Campbell 52.3, Jazmine Fray’ 52.3, Ka’Tia Seymour 52.3, Tonea Marshall, Kortnei Johnson, Rachel Misher, Sha’Carri Thomas, Twanisha Terry); 4. Texas 3:27.00 (Bailey Lear 52.3, Kaitlyn Benner 52.3, Kethlin Campbell 52.3, Jazmine Fray’ 52.3, Ka’Tia Seymour 52.3, Tonea Marshall, Kortnei Johnson, Rachel Misher, Sha’Carri Thomas, Twanisha Terry)
— Throws Results —

**SHOT**

1. **Sama Re Fawzi (Kuwait)** 56-1 (16.80)
2. **Vladislav Fatish (Belarus)** 56-0 (16.80)
3. **Dima Kadyrov (Russia)** 56-0 (16.80)

**DISCUS**

1. **Tayla Trimble (AUS)** 140-1 (42.74)
2. **Olga Falinykh (Kazakhstan)** 138-1 (41.70)
3. **Apolinaria Suvorova (Russia)** 137-4 (41.86)

**HEPTATHLON**

1. **Eliza Cuthbertson (Australia)** 6,075 points
2. **Lana Arneill (Australia)** 6,060 points
3. **Katarina Grbic (Australia)** 6,055 points

— Heptathlon Results –

**HEPTATHLON**

1. **Ashtin Zamzow (Texas)** 8,922 points
2. **Juiggie Chileshe (Virginia)** 8,918 points
3. **Addison Clay (California)** 8,914 points

— Track & Field News —

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STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, May 30—On a cold, windy night at the Stockholm DL, 4 athletes (Rhonex Kipruto, Dina Asher-Smith, Karsten Warholm & Daniel Ståhl) were able to defy conditions and deliver performances of scintillating quality. For many others, the weather meant that times were mired in relative mediocrity, even if at this level there is really no such thing.

U.S. long-sprint star Michael Norman came to the Swedish capital ready to make a major impact in his DL 400 debut, and the 20-year-old Californian duly dispatched his rivals with the minimum of fuss. Running in lane 5, he tracked training partner Rai Benjamin, running a lane outside him, then unleashed his trademark flying finish, powering clear to hit the line in 44.53. Benjamin held on for 2nd in 45.13. “Today was challenging, both mentally and physically, and there’s a lot of things I need to work on,” admitted Norman. “I’m not particularly satisfied. But it’s a long way to Worlds just yet. I’ll continue working hard with my coach and we’ll see where that gets me.”

Warholm predicted before the 400H that he would go like a “skyrocket” from the gun and that he would “probably die.” While the Norwegian standout was good to his word on the former statement, the latter fear was unfounded. He powered to the line a runaway winner in 47.85, well ahead of TJ Holmes (49.25). “I felt like I went out hard and managed to take 13 steps until hurdle 9 which is really good in these conditions—maybe this is the year I will go 13 all the way,” said Warholm. “I had no problems with the cold or wind. It’s an outdoor sport so whether it’s cold or warm I have to run.”

Asher-Smith confirmed her status as a challenger to the title of world’s best woman sprinter with another dominant display to win the 200, the European champion beating Olympic champion Elaine Thompson and world champion Dafne Schippers to come home well clear in 22.18 (wind 1.3). “My aim was to come, win and run my own race which is very important in a race of that caliber,” said the 23-year-old Briton. “I didn’t expect to run that kind of time as it’s quite cold.”

Perhaps the most striking performance of the night came in the men’s 10,000, where the track world was fully introduced to the astonishing talent of Kipruto, a 19-year-old Kenyan who twice last year broke the World Junior road 10K record, peaking at 26:46. Here he clocked 26:50.16, the world’s fastest since ’17. He was content to sit behind the leaders for the first half, with Hagos Gebrhiwet taking the field through halfway in 13:28.65, but then he surged to the front. By 9K he had just the Ethiopian for company, but soon Gebrhiwet couldn’t live with his speed and Kipruto stormed to the finish with a 2:34 final kilometer. “I’m really happy,” the winner said. “Later in the year I’ll run the 10,000m at the Worlds.”

In the men’s discus, Ståhl wowed the partisan crowd with his fifth-round effort, which came down 3-4m (c10ft) beyond the 70m line. However, the cheers soon turned to groans when the red flag was raised on an obvious foul, a furious Ståhl exiting the circle and left to wonder what might have been. Nonetheless his second-round effort of 228-3 (69.57) proved enough to take victory, with Jamaica’s Fedrick Dacres 2nd with 226-3 (68.96). “I threw a little bit too high today—that’s why I didn’t throw even longer,” said Ståhl. “But it’s there, it’ll come.”

There were a number of upsets. World XC champion Hellen Obiri was an unlucky victim of a collision with a little over a kilometer run in the women’s 5000 and could only finish 12th in a race won by Agnes Tirop in a year-leading 14:50.82. World 1500 champion Elijah Manangoi had an off night and trailed home 10th, with compatriot Timothy Cheruiyot winning in 3:35.79 and Djibouti’s Ayanleh Souleiman holding off the flying finish of Norwegian wunderkind Jakob Ingebrigtsen to take 2nd, both running 3:37.30.

Two-time Olympic champion Sandra Perković was way off her best in the women’s discus, the Croatian finishing only 5th with 209-0
Cuba's Denia Caballero took the victory at 213-7 (65.10). Caballero's young countryman Juan Miguel Echevarria was also unable to take a long jump victory, managing a best of 26-7¼ (8.12) in the long jump, beaten on a night when PRs were rare by Sweden’s Thobias Montler’s lifetime best of 26-11¾ (8.22).

In the wake of the CAS decision to apply the IAAF testosterone rules, the women’s 800 was a very different race to those at recent DLs. Ajeé Wilson was an impressive winner in 2:00.87, the US athlete taking command at the front after the pacer stepped aside. She hit the 600 in 1:30.09 and kept the pedal to the floor, holding off the challenge of Ethiopia’s Habtom Alemu to take the win. "I did what my coach told me to do and it worked out," Wilson said. “The majority of my training right now is really distance oriented so I’m looking forward to coming down and doing more specific workouts and speed training.”

Sam Kendricks continued his fine start to the season with his second Diamond League victory in the pole vault, the American the only athlete able to clear 19-8½ (5.72) in the breeze conditions, which he did at the first attempt. Mariya Lasitskene had a few nervous moments in the women’s high jump, but the reigning world champion opened her season with a win and a best clearance of 6-3½ (1.92). Keni Harrison stamped her authority on the 100H with a commanding victory, the WR holder putting together a clean, crisp display to take victory with ease in 12.52. Canada’s Aaron Brown continued racked up with his second straight victory in the IAAF Diamond League, backing up his win in Doha with victory in the 200 over Ramil Guliyev in 20.06 (wind 1.0).
ROME, ITALY, June 06—It was the most hyped clash of the Rome Diamond League and it didn’t disappoint. Noah Lyles, the yearly world 100 leader, was up against Michael Norman, the 400 leader, and they were meeting in the middle at 200m. Coming into Rome, Lyles led their career head-to-head record 3–0, with 200 wins over Norman at the ’15 USATF Juniors, the ’16 Olympic Trials and the ’18 Lausanne DL.

Norman started well and was up on Lyles—who ran 9.86 in Shanghai just a few weeks prior—before they came off the bend. Norman transitioned well into the straight, while Lyles kept his cool and trusted in his own finishing abilities. Sure enough, Lyles gradually made up ground on his fellow 21-year-old and for a brief moment it looked as though his momentum would get him to the finish first, but a well-timed dip from Norman gave him the advantage on the line, winning in a world-leading 19.70 with Lyles just 0.02 behind.

Norman, who took 0.14 off his previous best, moved up to No. 12 on the world all-time list and No. 7 among Americans. “I changed a few things with my race pattern,” he said. “I was a lot stronger today and I tried to hold the composure. I’m really happy with the time, there was a good flow.”

His performance was one of seven world-leading marks set in the Italian capital. Genzebe Dibaba ran her fastest 1500 since breaking the WR in the event four years ago to hold off Laura Muir 3:56.28– 3:56.73. After a swift opening lap (62.43 by rabbit Noelie Yarigo), the pace dipped a bit on the second (66.81) but Dibaba made her way to the front to ensure she had the advantage going into the final lap. Fellow Ethiopian Gudaf Tsegay tracked Dibaba with Muir close behind in 3rd. Muir moved up to 2nd with 200 to go, but Dibaba dug in deep and managed to hold off the Briton’s challenge. Muir’s time was the second-fastest of her career.

Telahun Haile Bekele (T&FN doesn’t use the Bekele part) pulled off a shock win in the men’s 5000—although, with a name like ‘Haile Bekele’ it’s no surprise that he’s good. The opening pace (7:45.50 for 3000) suggested that the finishing time would be well inside 13:00. Diamond League champion Selemon Barega, still just 19, took up the running once the pacemakers had dropped out, but he couldn’t shake off the challenge of his rivals. Compatriots Hagos Gebrhiwet and Haile were ahead of Barega as they embarked on the final lap, but Barega moved into the lead with 200 to go and looked to be on his way to winning. Haile, however, wasn’t done and came back with just 30m remaining. Haile just got the advantage on the line, winning in a world-leading 12:52.98 to Barega’s 12:53.04. A half-dozen finished inside 13:00, including Canada’s Mo Ahmed, who set a national record 12:58.16. Back in 11th, Ben True put up the fastest U.S. time of the year, 13:09.81.

American Donavan Brazier was another runner who timed his finish to perfection. The men’s 800 had started with a speedy 49.96 opening lap, after which Niel Amos and Wycliffe Kinyamal fought for the lead. Kinyamal edged ahead as they entered the home straight but clipped Amos in doing so, throwing them both off balance. Brazier initially ran himself into a box, but managed to stay out of trouble and closed well to take the win in a world-leading 1:43.63. Amos was just 0.02 behind with Canada’s Brandon McBride finishing 3rd in 1:43.90.

After a few early-season defeats, double Olympic champion Elaine Thompson looked to be back to her best when winning the women’s 100 in a world-leading 10.89. European champion Dina Asher-Smith, who led for most of the race, finished 2nd in 10.94.

Rai Benjamin notched up his first victory of the year, winning the 400H in a season’s best of 47.58. He clipped the eighth barrier and was unhappy with his final two hurdles, but looked utterly dominant in putting up the second-fastest time of his career.

Dalilah Muhammad was also a clear winner in the women’s long-hurdle event. The Olympic champion won in 53.67 from Shamier Little (54.40).

The triple jump was missing Christian Taylor and Will Claye, but fellow American Omar Craddock got one of the biggest wins of his career, defeating a field that included 18m performer Pedro Pablo Pichardo and ‘08 Olympic champion Nelson Évora. Craddock’s second-round 17.50 was 5cm farther than Pichardo’s best.
2. David Kendziera (US) 48.99; 3. Takatoshi Abe (Jpn) (Spa) 14.00.

5:08.57, 7:45.50 [outdoor WL]; 2. Selemon Barega (Eth) 12:53.04 (x, 6 WJ) (2:32.90, 5000: 1. Telahun Haile (Eth) 12:52.98 PR (WL); PR;… rabbit—Bernard Nganga (Ken) (2:42.03).
Kipyego (Ken) 8:20.12; 10. Daniel Arce (Spa) 8:20.16
8:16.52; 7. Albert Chemutai (Uga) 8:16.66 PR; 8. 5. Fernando Carro (Spa) 8:15.73 PR; 6. Andy Bayer 8:09.95; 4. Lawrence Kemboi (Ken) 8:15.68 (5:29.08); 2. Getnet Wale (Eth) 8:06.83 PR; 3. Chala Beyo (Eth)
Non-DL St: 1. Benjamin Kigen (Ken) 8:06.13 PR (WL); Harun Abda (US) (49.96).
1:45.33; 10. Haydar Abdalla (Qat) 1:45.53;… rabbit—Lewandowski (Pol) 1:45.32; 9. Andreas Kramer (Swe) Murphy (US) 1:44.59; 6. Wyclife Kinyamal (Ken) 1:44.65 1:43.90; 4. Ferguson Cheruiyot (Ken) 1:44.11; 5. Clayton
2. Nijel Amos (Bot) 1:43.65; 3. Brandon McBride (Can) 1:42.83.
20.83.
4. Ramil Guliyev (Tur) 20.35; 5. Filippo Tortu (Ita) 20.36; 2. Noah Lyles (US) 19.72; 3. Alex Quiñónez (Ecu) 20.17; 200(0.7): 1. Michael Norman (US) 19.70 PR (WL, AL)
Golden Gala; Rome, Italy, June 06 

FAST ANNUAL

The 2019 FAST Annual, our 41st edition, is now available as a single electronic (PDF) file. This is the definitive statistical work for United States track and field. The book's 616 pages include records, expanded all-time lists (including Junior/U20 and Collegiate lists), deep 2018 performance lists, and detailed indexes of men's and women's athletics. The book is the result of a team effort by a group of dedicated compilers and international experts.

The FAST Annual is available for $15, via PayPay to the account tafwa@interis.com, or by check, payable to TAFWA, mailed to PO Box 4288, Napa, CA 94558.
Oslo Diamond League — Year’s Fastest 100 For Coleman

by Bob Ramsak

OSLO, NORWAY, June 13—Christian Coleman sped to a dominant 9.85 win at the Bislett Games in Oslo as the Diamond League resumed with the meet’s 54th edition in the Norwegian capital. Quickest out of the blocks, the reigning DL champion pulled away midrace and was never threatened as he chipped 0.01 from the previous world lead he shared with Noah Lyles and Divine Oduduru. Given the evening chill that descended upon the sold-out stadium, he was pleased.

“I’m pretty excited about it—it was a good run and pretty good time,” said the 23-year-old American, who used a mild “pretty good” as a descriptor for the third-fastest time of his career. “It wasn’t ideal conditions, but the crowd made it exciting and I came out for the victory. I executed better than in my last race.” Xie Zhenye of China was 2nd in 10.01, a season’s best, with Mike Rodgers 3rd in 10.04.

The boisterous crowd showed its appreciation for Coleman’s world lead, one of six on the night, but exploded after the conclusion of the men’s 400 hurdles, one of the meet’s key attractions. A bout of bursitis sidelined world leader Abderrahmane Samba from a faceoff against world champion and co-meet poster boy Karsten Warholm, so the Norwegian star simply star put on a show by himself, one that fulfilled all expectations.

From the gun, the local hero was on fire, off to his typically strong start. This time he had reigning DL champion Kyron McMaster, who was running to his inside in lane 6, for company. The pair were nearly even after the first six barriers, when the British Virgin Islander began to drift. But Warholm didn’t, forging on as he entered the homestretch, a solitary figure lifted by the massive roar of the crowd. His 47.33 ended Stéphane Diagana’s 19-year reign as European Record holder by 0.04.

“It’s crazy to run a European record and it’s amazing to do it here at Bislett,” said Warholm, who chopped a solid 0.31 from his previous best in moving to No. 12 on the all-time world list. He had opened his season with a 47.85 win in Stockholm. “My coach thought I would run 47.30 so he was nearly right,” he said. “I’ve worked so hard during the winter with the pressure coming at me, so this is a very special feeling.” Underscoring Warholm’s dominance tonight, the runner-up, Thomas Barr, who passed a badly fading McMaster in the waning stages, was nearly 2 seconds back in 49.11, 0.01 ahead of McMaster.

In the women’s event, the first super-showdown of the night, Sydney McLaughlin pulled off a dramatic come-from-behind victory to make her DL debut in her specialty a memorable one. But it wasn’t pretty. As Olympic champion Dalilah Muhammad blasted from the blocks to her outside, the World Junior Record holder crashed knee-first through the first hurdle, throwing her off balance, seemingly out of contention and into chase mode for the next three-quarters of the race. In front of her, Muhammad and world champion Kori Carter were battling for the lead, pulling away steadily as they reached the final bend. With Carter beginning to drift back, Muhammad brought a sizable lead into the final stretch, but it was there that McLaughlin began her rebound.

Passing Carter as she approached hurdle 9, she began chipping into Muhammad’s lead as the latter began to wilt from her flying start. McLaughlin caught and then passed her about 3m before the line, clocking 54.16. “It wasn’t the cleanest race for me, but I came back strong and shows me where I am fitness-wise,” said the winner, still only 19. “It was sloppy but I pulled through.” Muhammad clocked 54.35 with Shamier Little 3rd in 54.92.

Mariya Lasitskene topped 6-7 (2.01) on her third attempt to take her second DL win of the season and claim the yearly outdoor list lead. She ended the night with a near-miss at 6-8 (2.03). Meanwhile, jumping almost at the same time at the same end of the track, Sam Kendricks topped...
OSLO DIAMOND LEAGUE MEN’S RESULTS

Bislett Games; Oslo, Norway, June 13—
100(0.9): 1. Christian Coleman (US) 9.85 (WL, AL); 2. Zhenei Xie (Chn) 10.01; 3. Mike Rodgers (US) 10.04; 4. Filippo Tortu (Ita) 10.10; 5. Yuki Koike (Jpn) 10.15; 6. CJ Ujah (Gbr) 10.18; 7. Tommy Randall (GB) 10.28; 8. Reece Precord (GB) 10.76.
Non-DL 800: 1. Ryan Sánchez (Can) 1:46.34; 2. Cornelius Tuwei (Ken) 1:46.52 (50.72, 1:18.45); 3. Michal Ryznowski (Pol) 1:46.71; 4. Andreas Kramer (Swe) 1:46.77.
Mile: 1. Marcin Lewandowski (Pol) 3:52.34 NR (WL); 2. Vincent Kibet (Ken) 3:52.38; 3. Ayanleh Souleiman (Dj) 3:52.66 (2:54.49).
400H: 1. Sydney McLaughlin (Us) 54.16; 2. Dalilah Muhammad (Us) 54.35; 3. Sharnier Little (Us) 54.92; 4. Korti Carter (Us) 55.87; 5. Amalie Iuel (Nor) 55.90; 6. Anna Ryzyshkova (Ukr) 56.26; 7. Léa Sprnger (Swi) 56.46; 8. Meghan Beesley (Gbr) 57.13.

Field Events
PV: 1. Sam Kendricks (Us) 19-4¾ (5.91) (17-5, 18-1, 18-4, 18-8¾, 19-4½, 19-5½ [xxx], 19-6½ [xxx]) (5.91, 5.96, 5.99, 6.00, 6.03, 6.05 [xxx]); 2. Piotr Lisek (Pol) 19-4½ (5.91); 3. Cole Walsh (Us) 19-¼ PR; 4. Mondo Duplantis (Swe) 19-¼; 5. Pawel Wojciechowski (Pol) 18-8¾ (5.71); 6. Seito Yamamoto (Jpn) 18-5½ (5.61); 7. Sondre Guttormsen (Nor) 18-½; 8. Alionne Sene (Fra) 18-1 (5.51).
JT: 1. Johannes Vetter (Ger) 279-9 (85.27); 2. Magnus Kirt (Est) 278-0 (84.74); 3. Chas-Tsun Cheng (Tpe) 276-7 (84.30); 4. Andreas Hoffmann (Ger) 272-0 (82.92); 5. Jakub Vadlejch (CzR) 271-5 (82.73); 6. Bernhard Seifert (Ger) 270-1 (82.63); 7. Berhane Gebre (Sei) 269-8 (80.77); 8. Shivalip Singh (Ind) 265-4 (80.67); 9. Marcin Krukowski (Pol) 258-6 (79.19).

OSLO DIAMOND LEAGUE WOMEN’S RESULTS

Bislett Games; Oslo, Norway, June 13—
100(0.9): 1. Karsten Warholm thrilled a sellout crowd—and, obviously, himself—with a Norwegian Record in the 400H.
2. Thomas Barr (Ire) 49.11; 3. Kyron McMaster (Bvi) 49.12; 4. Andreas Kramer (Swe) 1:46.77.

Kasten Warholm thrilled a sellout crowd and, obviously, himself—with a Norwegian Record in the 400H.
Rabat Diamond League — Dibaba Leads A Fast 1500

by Mike Rowbottom

RABAT, MOROCCO, June 16—On a night of drama at the Mohammed VI Diamond League meet, with Jamaica’s discus thrower Fedrick Dacres appealing a foul into a Diamond League record 232-3 (70.78), Sergey Shubenkov winning the 110H on his right shoulder and South Africa’s world long jump champion Luvo Manyonga being carried off on a stretcher, the centerpiece was a women’s 1500 of unparalleled quality. No fewer than 7 finished under 4:00 and 9 under 4.01—the latter a record in international racing. And at the head of them was Genzebe Dibaba. The Ethiopian WR holder produced a 2019-leading time of 3:55.47, but she was pushed all the way round the final lap of a phenomenally competitive race by Sifan Hassan of The Netherlands, who was rewarded with a national record of 3:55.93, the fastest non-winning time ever.

It was a classic battle in cooling and blustery conditions, and both finished with teeth conspicuously gritted. Around the final bend Hassan came up to Dibaba’s shoulder but could never get past it as the Ethiopian moved clear for a narrow lead she held to the line. “I am very happy with my performance tonight,” said Dibaba after producing history’s No. 11 performance. “It feels great running in Africa. Based on my level and performance I feel ready for the World Championships.” Dibaba’s compatriot Gudaf Tsegay finished 3rd in a PR 3:57.40, with home runner Rababe Arrafi, winner of the Shanghai DL, setting a national record of 3:58.84 that prompted a joyous lap of honor. Jenny Simpson was the last woman under 4:00, with a U.S-leading 3:59.83.

Simpson’s compatriot Sandi Morris produced a dominant victory in the vault as she finished the night with a meet record and season’s best of 15-9¾ (4.82) despite difficult conditions which meant she needed two attempts at her opening height of 14-8 (4.47) and three at 15-7¾ (4.77). Second went to Russian Anzhelika Sidorova, who had taken the lead with a second-try make at 15-7¾. “I am very satisfied with the result and the victory, but I had a terrible warm-up and I did not feel at 100%,” said Morris. “I also had a problem with the wind. We had a lot of headwind during the competition. It was tough. “But I was able to make some adjustments and to make some very good jumps. My priority this year is to be at my peak at the World Championships in Doha. But first I need to be selected in the U.S. team. So now I am focused on the Trials at the end of July.”

Dacres ended the night as a belated record-breaker after successfully appealing against the disqualification of his third throw. Before that late call, Sweden’s Daniel Ståhl, who had headed this year’s rankings with 231-6 (70.56), appeared to have earned victory in a meet record 229-5 (69.94), just 44cm clear of what was a season’s best 228-0 (69.50) by the Jamaican.

Shubenkov, narrowly beaten by world and Olympic champion Omar McLeod in Shanghai, reversed that result here as he clocked 13.12. But the Siberian was left with a skinned right shoulder and scrapes to both knees and hands after being clipped by his falling Jamaican rival having overtaken him in the final couple of meters, with McLeod finishing a disappointed 5th. Said Shubenkov, last year’s No. 1, “It was a dramatic race, but a really great race. And I was able to win. That’s very important. I am feeling stronger than before. Having Omar in the field gave me an extra motivation.”

Manyonga was carried from the arena on a stretcher after appearing to injure his left ankle while landing his fourth effort. In his absence, Cuba’s 20-year-old rising talent Juan Miguel Echevarría stretched out to eclipse Manyonga’s first-round lead of 26-11¼ (8.21) to secure victory with a season’s best of 27-4½ (8.34).

A women’s 800 notably lacking Caster Semenya—for whom an invitation to compete here came too late to be practicable after she was granted the right to continue her appeal against effective suspension from the sport by a Swiss court on Friday—was won by Kenya’s

Sifan Hassan’s futile chase of Genzebe Dibaba produced the fastest non-winning 1500 time ever.
Nelly Jepkosgei in 1:59.50. Bahrain's 21-year-old Salwa Eid Naser won the women's 400 in 50.13, holding off a late challenge from Aminatou Seyni, who clocked a Nigerian Record 50.24. Meanwhile, Olympic medalist Andre de Grasse took another step back up after two years of hamstring injuries as he beat Turkey's 200m world champ Ramil Guliyev in 20.19. “It's a sea-
son best and I very much enjoyed the victory with the leaders, and finished 4th in 50.76.

High School Track 2019


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by Roy Conrad

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, June 16—The setting for the adidas Boost Boston Games was unusual: the streets of the Back Bay neighborhood, with the action centering around a 200m straight track laid over top of Boylston Street. Throw in some of the world’s best athletes, and you’ve got a fun track meet. Throw in some rain and the crowd of fans was smaller than last year, with most of them wearing rain gear and carrying umbrellas.

Noah Lyles grabbed the headlines, producing a meet record 14.69 in the 150—the day’s finale—to top the 15.10 by Trinidad’s Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake and a 15.17 by Trinidad’s Jereem Richards. That came after an apparent false start which officials let have him a redo on, setting for the adidas Boost Boston Games was

Puerto Rico’s Wesley Vazquez won the road/track 600 in 1:15.6.

just 3 days after winning the Oslo DL mile in 3:52.34, mustered the best kick to win a close one in 3:57.4 as four others broke 3:58, led by Drew Hunter (3:57.6).

Ajeé Wilson looked sharp in taking the 600 in 1:26.3 (400 on the road, 200 on the track). Shamiyer Little gave the rarely-run 200 hurdles a go in a U.S. best 25.88, alternating lead legs to top Jamaica’s Ronda Whyte (26.05). At half the distance, Sharika Nelvis hurdled 12.65 to get to the line just ahead of Christina Clemons (12.69), Murielle Ahouëre of Côte-d’Ivoire beat reigning U.S. 100 champ Aleia Hobbs 11.09–11.11, with comebacking Tori Bowie in 3rd at 11.22. The men’s dash saw a 9.92 by South African Akani Simbine top a 10.03 by Kendal Williams.

A third-straight win in the 150 went to Shauane Miller-Uibo (now with bright red hair) as she sprinted down the wet surface in 16.37, just 0.16 off the world best she set last year. The lone field event saw Kate Hall jump 22-3 (6.78) to finish atop a solid field that included Shara Proctor of Britain (21-8¼/6.61) and Tara Davis (21-7½/6.58).

Nikki Hiltz added another victory to her collection. "It was fun though." In the men’s race, Pole Marcin Lewandowski, running
After his best first-day ever, Damian Warner started the second day at “only” 13.64.


götzis Multis: World Leaders For Warner & KJT

by Roy Conrad

GÖTZIS, AUSTRIA, May 25-26—Damian Warner made history by becoming only the third athlete to win 5 times at Götzis, while Katarina Johnson-Thompson put together the best heptathlon of her life to win at the 45th Hypomeeting.

Warner’s trek at one of the prime fixtures on the IAAF Multis Challenge started auspiciously with a world decathlon record in the 100, 10.12, chopping 0.03 off the best he had set here in ’16. He followed up with 25-2 (7.67) in the long jump, a PR of 50-4 (15.34), 6-5¾ (1.95), 43-7½ (13.19) and 23.21 (5.10) in the 100, 400, 110 hurdles and 200. On Day 2, the 29-year-old Canadian fell off a tad, producing a 13.64 in the hurdles, then chopping 0.03 off the best he had set here in ’16. He followed up with 25-2 (7.67) in the long jump, a PR of 50-4 (15.34) in the disc, 15-1 (4.60) PV, 13.84/4.50, 75-11/23.65, 20-2¼/6.15, 133-0/40.55, 2:08.24; 2:16.65). The runner-up spot went to Latvia’s Laura Ikauniece (6476), while Williams ended up 5th with a U.S.-leading 6412, just ahead of fellow American Erica Bougard (6374).

The runner-up spot went to Latvia’s Laura Ikauniece (6476), while Williams ended up 5th with a U.S.-leading 6412, just ahead of fellow American Erica Bougard (6374).

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The all-time winners, since we began this award in '95 (women are listed with the last name they were using at the time):

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Men's AOY</th>
<th>Women's AOY</th>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Grant Holloway (Florida)</td>
<td>Sha'Carri Richardson (LSU)</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Michael Norman (USC)</td>
<td>Maggie Ewen (Arizona State)</td>
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<td>Fred Kerley (Texas A&amp;M)</td>
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<td>John Godina (UCLA)</td>
<td>Diane Guthrie-Gresham (George Mason)</td>
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THE CRACKING OF ANCIENT Collegiate Records proved to be the key to this year’s choices as Collegiate Outdoor Athletes Of The Year. Grant Holloway of Florida and Sha’Carri Richardson of LSU did the honors. Holloway’s 12.98 in the 110H finally took down Renaldo Nehemiah’s legendary 13.00 from ’79, while Richardson’s 10.75 century erased both Dawn Sowell’s 10.78(A) from ’89. It took more than just that one performance for them to come out on top, however.

Holloway buttressed his case for the top spot by also producing the Nos. 5, 7, 8 & 10 performances on the all-time collegiate list. And while our protocol doesn’t give any credit for running on high-performing relay teams—these are individual honors, after all—the Gator junior did get some credit for the value of the fastest 4×4 leg in Austin, his 43.74. Holloway narrowly edged Texas Tech junior, Divine Oduduru, the winner of a 100/200 double at Nationals, who moved to No. 2 on the all-time collegiate list in each dash. Oduduru was also undefeated all season, whereas Holloway did lose once, but that to Daniel Roberts, who also tied the old CR. Honorable mention status also to vaulter Chris Nilsen (South Dakota) and HJ/LJ doubler JuVaughn Richardson (LSU).

As for Richardson, she was undefeated in the 100 by collegians and lost only the NCAA final in the 200, moving to No. 5 collegiate ever in that event. Honorable mention to Janeek Brown, whose 12.40 hurdle win missed the CR by just 0.01. The Arkansas soph then came back to take 4th in the 200.

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Next Year’s NCAA: No Duplantis, Richardson, Oduduru, Holloway Or Roberts

IN RECENT YEARS the sport has seen plenty of top NCAA talents leave school early for the allure of the professional scene, but never a migration as notable as this year’s post-Austin Big 5. Early-year announcements by Texas A&M halfmiler Sammy Watson (February) and Georgia sprinter Lynna Irby (April) stood out because they didn’t come on the typical timeline: an athlete at their peak at the end of a season. The latest batch did, reinforcing the principle that negotiations go best from a position of strength. The 5 big post-NCAA moves:

**Mondo Duplantis**

It was no surprise that vault prodigy Mondo Duplantis made the move, as talk on the street always had him pegged for a one-and-done career at LSU. Certainly, a European title and a 19-10¼ (6.05)—all before he wore a Tiger uniform—made it perfectly clear that Duplantis, now 19, has been ready for prime time all along.

In a letter to the school’s fans, Duplantis said, “I always dreamed of winning at LSU—and we did, winning an SEC Championship—we worked so hard for. I always dreamed of setting records—and I did, getting to compete in front of my family, friends, and the best fans in the country. Now, it’s time to pursue another dream. In the next 16 months, the best athletes in the world will compete for World Championships and Olympic medals. I plan to be among them. The best step for me next is to pursue a professional sponsorship, which is why I will be foregoing my remaining eligibility to turn pro.” He signed with Puma and says he plans to continue taking classes at LSU.

**Sha’Carri Richardson**

In a double hit for the folks in Baton Rouge, Sha’Carri Richardson is also leaving LSU. Her world-leading 10.75 in the NCAA 100 put her in perfect “strike-while-the-iron-is-hot” mode. On Instagram she announced, “After talking to family and praying for guidance with this decision, I would like to announce that I have decided to pursue my lifelong dream and become a professional athlete.”

**Divine Oduduru**

After his dazzling 9.86/19.73 NCAA double, Divine Oduduru’s decision to leave Texas Tech with a year of eligibility left wasn’t easy. “It’s a tough one. This is my family. This has been my home,” he said. “We had a discussion with the coaches and they were like, ‘It’s time for you to go.’ Leaving the program is really tough, and school.” The Nigerian speedster plans to remain in Lubbock training with Red Raider sprint coach Calvin Robinson, saying, “I feel more comfortable here than when I’m back home in my country because they’ve given me a home here. They’ve accepted me, they’ve given me love. Everything I need, they’ve given it to me here.”

**Grant Holloway**

Florida all-rounder Grant Holloway surprised many by not turning pro last year, but now he’s with adidas. He said he had unfinished business for the Gators, and he came through with a magic day in Austin: a key leg on the first collegiate sub-38 relay, a 12.98 to break Renaldo Nehemiah’s hallowed CR in the hurdles, and a 43.74 leg on Florida’s 4×4. The world-leading hurdler let his coach, Florida head Mike Holloway, break the news. “It’s time for him to move on,” said Holloway. “He’s done enough for Florida track & field. Grant’s gotta take care of Grant now. He will be one of the all-time Gator greats.”

**Daniel Roberts**

Having pushed Holloway to the line with his own amazing 13.00 hurdle run, Daniel Roberts signed with Nike and decided to bypass his final year at Kentucky. He made his initial announcement of his pro decision immediately after the hurdle final. He later tweeted, “Blessed is an understatement. This year has brought me everything that I could ask for and more.”
THE BIGGEST SURPRISE at the NCAA Div. II Championships came when shot putter Eldred Henry let loose a mighty 70-5¼ (21.47). Any one of the Findlay junior’s four fair throws would have held up for the win, but on his third attempt he launched the big one, adding more than 2ft to his best.

“I knew it was big,” says Henry, “but I didn’t know it was that big.” Still, he says he’s not completely surprised, given his recent practice sessions. “We did a lot of preparation work going into this meet, trying to get ready to get the big one off,” he explains, adding, the Division II Championships, to me, was just a test to see where I’m at currently in training. And of course, I’ve gotta represent for the school, make them look good, you know? Get a few records.”

Now 24, Henry represents the British Virgin Islands’ best hope for a high international placing. He has been breaking the national record in the event since he started out as a high school senior. The journey began when he was hitchhiking his way home from school, and the man who picked him up started asking him if he was involved in any sports like basketball, given his 6-5 (1.96) frame (a frame that now packs a whopping 397lb/180kg).

“I told him, ‘No, I don’t do any type of sport.’ He told me that I should look into track & field. With my build and size, if I worked hard to train, I could travel the world. “So I thought about it a little bit and gave it a shot and ended up loving it along the way.”

Henry’s path first took him to Central Arizona JC, where he won the ’15 national title with his 61-1½ (18.63). He hit a best of 65-7½ (20.00) in his third year of throwing. He made it to the Rio Olympics, where didn’t advance out of the qualifying round. “Before I got to Findlay,” he says, “that kind of set me back. Since I came here, I’ve been able to stay healthy and get stronger in the weightroom. I’m a lot stronger now than I was when I first arrived. To be honest, we really haven’t made a lot of technical changes. It was just trying to be more consistent because I had a good comeback year last year.” The progress has come fast, with national titles indoors and out: “My strength, combined with good technique, has resulted in some good throws.”

Next, he’s focused on carrying his momentum to Doha for the World Championships, now that he’s made the standard. “I’m the only one throwing the senior implement now in my country, so I’m guaranteed to make the team.”

Post-nationals Henry headed to New Mexico to train. With a big summer ahead of him, he’s waiting to decide whether he will return to Findlay for his senior year. He says, “I’ll try to focus on one task at a time and go from there.” For now, though, he is just having fun. “I know nothing comes overnight, it’s all a process that you have to go through. Basically I’m just getting started. I get to travel the world and meet a lot of different people. And then plus, who doesn’t like seeing heavy balls go flying?”

by Jeff Hollobaugh

Findlay junior Eldred Henry won his Nationals with the first Div. II 70-footer ever.
Kenny Bednarek Planning On 200/400 Double At USATF

by Jeff Hollobaugh

“I’M STILL IN THE WHIRLWIND,” says Kenny Bednarek.

Ever since the Indian Hills frosh led off his mind-boggling 19.82/44.73 double at the JUCO Championships with a stunning windy 19.49 heat, his phone has been ringing off the hook. “People saying congrats,” he explains. He’s appreciative but exhausted by it all. Calls from agents have been coming in too. This all started happening during Bednarek’s final week of school. He says he’s been putting everybody off for now. He wants to get back home to Wisconsin to sort things out.

To hear people who watched him as a prep at Rice Lake High talk about him, you’d think Bednarek was stamped for greatness the moment he stepped on a track. Perhaps he was. Born in Oklahoma, he and his fraternal twin Ian were adopted young, and grew up in Rice Lake, a town of 8000+ about 100M northeast of Minneapolis. The winters are cold there—average January highs range around 21 (-6 C). So not really sprinter country; hockey though, yes.

But Kenny and Ian’s parents had them give track a try. Says Kenny, “When I was a kid, I just liked running, and my mom put us in track.” From second grade on he participated in a local youth club. “We started a lot earlier than most people have,” he says. Ian took to the distances—he ran a 4:54 for 1600. Kenny found his home in the sprints. As a 9th-grader he did all three events at Wisconsin’s Div. 2 State Meet: 11.47, 22.08 and 47.95. He finished 2nd in the 200/400. That summer he improved to 21.75/47.69. As a Soph he won the State 200 and 400 and improved to 21.24/46.78. Junior year he hit a 46.19. The State titles kept coming. In his senior year he worked on the shorter sprints and pulled off a State triple, hitting 10.42/20.43 in the heats, with a 10.66/20.98/46.73 final day. Seven state titles in all, plus one on the 4×4, will make a sprinter legend in Wisconsin.

Bednarek felt he had the talent to make his mark in the sprints beyond high school. “Just that fact that I was from Wisconsin and I was running those fast times.” His 20.43 led the nation’s preps last year. “I knew I had the potential to get here, but I had never expected that to be right out of senior year.” He ended up at Indian Hills JC in Ottumwa, Iowa, and many were surprised when he blasted a 20.30 world indoor leader. At the JC Indoor he ran an oversized-track 45.97 to win the 400 by almost 2 seconds. The outdoor season brought a 20.29 PR to win the Drake Relays and a PR 45.62 to win his Regional.

Then came his big weekend at Nationals. Even Bednarek says he was surprised. He didn’t expect that big things were coming: “To be honest, no. At Indian Hills it’s been an up-and-down year. We’ve had several coaching changes. I was definitely in doubt because my hamstrings are weak and there are a lot of other things I need to work on and I just haven’t been able to really work on it. I mean, I still ended up doing what I needed to do, but coming in, yeah, I had a little doubt. I’m not going to lie about that.”

So becoming the first American to break 20 and 45 on the same day—that caught Bednarek off-guard. “It’s kind of hard to figure, for how long track & field has been around, I figured other people would have been doing that. Because, I don’t know, I’m not that special. When my coach told me, I was like, ‘Are you serious?’ So it kinda has hit me, and it kinda hasn’t.”

Before Nationals, Bednarek had his doubts about the longer sprint. “Literally, right before I ran that 44, I was telling my friend, ‘I feel like I should just do the 200 and the 100 because that 400 ain’t cutting it right now.’ I was running in the 45s, due to training and stuff like that. I’ve been hot in the 2, been pretty decent in the 1, so why not just go for that? Then I ran that 44.73 and kind of changed my mind. I guess I’m still good at the 400, so I guess I’ll start doing the 4 and the 2 again.”

Now the phone keeps ringing. Bednarek knows that these calls are going to lead to some difficult choices. Does he go back to school in the fall? “I would probably have to go back to another JUCO because I came out as a [academic] non-qualifier.”

Does he go pro? “Depending on the contract, I might be. But whatever happens in the summer...”

For now, he’s got to clear his head and focus on the task at hand. “I’ve been telling them all to kind of wait. I’m still at school and I’m trying to get all my stuff packed up and bla-bla-bla. I’m trying to give myself some actual break time, at least a week, before I open my ears to anything right now.”

When he gets home to Rice Lake, he’s going to do some light training for a few weeks. And then he’ll start working again with LeRon Williams, who coached him during the indoor season.

Bednarek, at 20, is the new name at the top of the lists as he prepares to run both the 200 and 400 at USATF. “Talent-wise, I think I’m up there,” he says. “Hopefully being able to compete in the finals and be able to compete with Noah Lyles, just seeing what I can do, to prove that I’m one of the elite sprinters. I want to make a big statement.”

“I’m just a dude from Wisconsin that’s doing crazy things right now and I’ve really got nothing to lose. I think that’s to my advantage.”
The blue & gold of the University Of British Columbia was much in evidence at the NAIA.

NAIA MEN'S RESULTS


400: 1. Quintaveo Poole (WayB) 45.90; 2. "Demetrius Turner (WayB) 46.32; 3. "Twayne Crooks (SnNO) 46.73.

800: 1. **Matthew Van Eps (Dordt) 1:50.86; 2. "Keenan Lawrence (Union) 1:51.25; 3. Charles Shimukowa (Cumb) 1:51.54.


200: 1. ***Makkyia Tinkham (UBC) 204-10 (62.43); 3. Grant Wickham (Hast) 203-10 (62.13).

200H: 1. Tiona Owens (WayB) 25-6¼ (7.78); 2. Britany Jones (WmC) 20-3 (6.17); 3. *Julia Forbes (LWils) 19-4¾ (5.91).

100H: 1. *Aniekeme Etim’ (WmC) 11.36; 2. **Kimone Nebrat (UBC) 11.54; 3. *Safia Bright (LWils) 11.74.

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**Great Southwest HS —Another Fast Time For Boling**

by Roy Conrad

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO—Matthew Boling (Strake, Houston) found himself behind after the start of the 100 at the Great Southwest Invitational. After a frantic mid-race drive, he crossed the line in 10.15, tying the No. 10 prep performance ever, albeit with 1561m (5121ft) of friendly altitude. Kennedy Lightner (North Little Rock, Ar) was a distant 2nd at 10.34, but did come back to win a Boling-less 200 in a list-leading 20.48.

“My start needs work. I really have closing speed,” Boling told the Albuquerque Journal. “Every race you see, I’m even until the 50 and then my last 40 is the best part of my race. “I haven’t run the 100 in like a month so I’m happy with it.” The Texas phenom also competed in the long jump, where his 25-½ gave him another win. He closed the day by anchoring an all-star relay that went 39.05. “We didn’t have a lot of time to train together,” he said.

Despite the cameras following viral sensation Boling around, the highlight of the meet came in another event entirely. Justin Robinson (West, Hazelwood, Missouri) stunned observers by destroying the national age-17 and junior-class 400 best of 44.99 with a 44.84 winner that moved him to No. 2 all-time. The mark is also huge on a global scale, ranking as a new World Youth (U18) record, breaking the legendary 45.14 set by California Obea Moore in ’95. Robinson told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, “I felt like I was going too slow. It’s a little scary, honestly.”

On the girls side, the sprint performances were just as scintillating. Jamaican Briana Williams (Northeast, Oakland Park, Florida) moved to No. 2 all-time in the 100 with her 11.02. Then she blistered 200 in 22.88. Teammate Jan’Taijah Ford ran a list-leading 51.57 in the 400. Another yearly leader fell to Alexis Brown (Kenedale, Texas) in the long jump at 20-9¼.

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**GREAT SOUTHWEST BOYS RESULTS**

Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 8 (altitude 1561m)

100(0.7): 1. Matthew Boling (Strake, Houston, Tx) 10.15 (sx,10 HS); 2. Kennedy Lightner (North Little Rock, Ar) 10.34; 3. Ryan Martin (Stafford, Tx) 10.38.

200(-0.4): 1. Lightner 20.48 (HSL); 2. Cameron Miller (Dunne, Dallas) 20.55; 3. Lance Broome (Seven Lakes, Katy, Tx) 20.69; 4. Caleb Boger (Mesquite, Tx) 20.82; 5. Devon Achane (Marshall, Missouri City, Tx) 21.02.

400: 1. Justin Robinson (West, Hazelwood, Mo) 44.84 (HSL) (2, 2 HS) (junior-class and age-17 records) WYR, AYR (old records 45.14 Obea Moore [Muir, Pasadena, Ca] ’95); 2. Jonah Vigil (Taos, NM) 46.43; 3. Chris Dupree (Park Hill South, Riverside, Mo) 46.57.


HJ: 1. Tyus Wilson (Sterling, Ks) 6-11¾.

LJ: 1. Boling 25-½; 2. Donald Hattfield Jackson (Fox, Arnold, Mo) 24-5¾.

JT: 1. Sam Hankins (Manhattan, Ks) 201-8.

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**GREAT SOUTHWEST GIRLS RESULTS**

Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 8 (altitude 1561m)

100(0.7): 1. Briana Williams’ (Northeast, Oakland Park, Fl) 11.02 (HSL) (2, 2 Hs); 2. Alexis Brown (Kennedale, Tx) 11.54; 3. Jadyn Mays (North Canyon, Phoenix) 11.56; 4. Adriana Tatum (Sandia, Albuquerque) 11.58; 5. Sydney Holiday (Broomfield, Co) 11.69; 6. JaEra Griffin (DeSoto) 11.76.

200(-0.4): 1. Williams 22.88; 2. Dynasty McClennon (Summer Creek, Houston) 23.28; 3. Jayla Hollis (DeSoto, Tx) 23.85.


100H(0.1): 1. Tyra Wilson (Rock Bridge, Columbia, Mo) 13.52.

300H: 1. Tyra Wilson 40.79; 2. Kyla Robinson-Hubbard (Calabasas, CA) 42.55; 3. Paige Magee (Battle, Columbia, Mo) 42.67.

PV: 1. Allyson Neiders (Holy Names, Seattle) 12-5½.


Hept(6/06-07): 1. Jordan Lanning (Bayfield, Co) 4870 (5-10½); 2. Madelyn McCabe (Cashon, Ok) 4617.
The IAAF To Change Name And Logo

by Roy Conrad

AND THEN THERE WERE 3. That would be 3 different logos and 3 different names used by the IAAF since it was founded in Stockholm at the 1912 Olympics as the International Amateur Athletic Federation. The original logo, which lasted almost 90 years, was a monochromatic representation of the winged goddess of victory. In the fall of 2000, a modernized logo “the celebrating athlete” was adopted. At the time, IAAF President Lamine Diack commented, “The athlete symbolizes the core values we all look for in today’s world of athletics: excitement, honesty, authenticity, credibility and global aspiration. This new branding will guide us through the years ahead when we aspire to extend the reach of athletics further, both in number of participants as well as fans.” When we noted the update in the magazine we suggested that perhaps a name change was in order, to something more realistic, like “International Association Of Athletics Federations.” In the summer of ’01, just such a change was effected.

Fast-forward almost two decades and current President Seb Coe said after early-June’s Council Meeting, “The hope is that our new brand will help attract and engage a new generation of young people to athletics. We have now created a brand that can come to life in the digital world while reflecting the changing nature of the sport. And at the same time bring into focus the athletes, the heroes of our sport.”

So, pending the approval of the IAAF Congress in September, the sport is poised to change both elements again. Are you ready for “World Athletics,” aka WA? The IAAF release announcing the changes said, “The new name, ‘World Athletics,’ builds upon the organization’s restructuring and governance reform agenda of the past 4 years to represent a modern, more creative and positive face for the sport. The new brand, Council agreed, makes the sport more accessible to a wider audience while giving the global governing body the opportunity to more clearly communicate its mission as the leader of the world’s most participatory sport.” Says new CEO Jon Ridgeon, “The IAAF name has been in existence for over 100 years, but it has little understanding or relevance to those outside of athletics. The new identity creates a symbol that can stand alone and work with partners and events.”

In explaining the look of the new logo, the IAAF release said, “The logo design is comprised of three main elements: the ‘W’ of World, which is also a symbol of an athlete’s arms raised in victory; the ‘A’ of Athletics, which also represents an athlete’s focus as they prepare for the road ahead; and an arc over both to represent the entire athletics community coming together. The logo also includes the sweep of a running track which appears in an upward trajectory, symbolizing the desire to continually push beyond limits. The patterns capture the energy present in all four of athletics’ group disciplines: running, jumping, throwing and walking.”

Editor E. Garry Hill has a few thoughts about the changes which will appear in our compiled June issue, coming this week.
AN NCAA notebook from an incredible 4 days of track & field in Austin:

Both winning teams were led by coaches who cut their teeth at the Div. II level: Texas Tech’s Wes Kittley at Abilene Christian, Arkansas’s Lance Harter at Cal Poly/SLO. In guiding the Tech men to the team title, Kittley fulfilled a lifelong ambition, explaining, “I’ve always wanted to be a coach. I can’t remember a time when I didn’t. I got lucky there, because a lot of people don’t know what they want to do at 50, and I always knew what I wanted to do since I was young.”

Texas A&M swept the men’s and women’s 4 x 400 relays, only the sixth time this has occurred in the 38 years since the women joined the meet. A&M is the first team to accomplish the feat twice, having earlier succeeded in ’11.

Steeple champion Allie Ostrander spoke out against what she said were statements by the ESPN commentateurs: “I was disappointed with the commentary that has occurred during my races for the past two years. Both times, the comments have brought attention to my appearance more than my ability. In 2018, I was called “the baby-faced assassin” and told that I looked like I still played with Barbies. This year, the commentators found it necessary to state (incorrectly I might add) my height and weight multiple times. Not only were these comments objectifying and unnecessary, they drew attention away from the real focus of the event. People attend this event and listen to the commentary because they want to see what we are capable of, not what we look like we’re capable of. So why do the commentators insist on providing information that has nothing to do with performance in the sport? In a sport where eating disorders and body dysmorphia are so common, the media has an opportunity to help women (and men!) feel capable, powerful, and worthy, but by focusing on appearance and body proportions, this opportunity is missed.” ESPN clarified that the statements in question, at least this year, were made by a stadium announcer.

The men’s 1500, with Yared Nuguse and Justine Kiprotich given the same times in 1st and 2nd, was the first same-time finish since ’44, when Michigan’s Hume twins, Ross and Robert, intentionally tied in a 4:16.6 mile. A modern photofinish camera would probably have given the Humes different 100ths, of course.

Memphis State’s Davon Demoss PRed at 10.05 in his semi but that only earned him the honor of being the fastest non-qualifier in meet history.

Prior to the jump double by LSU’s JuVaughn Harrison, the last notable HJ/LJ attempt came from Richard Duncan of Texas in ’96. He won the long jump and placed 6th in the high jump.

Bryce Hoppel was not finished after winning his second NCAA 800 title for the year. Said the Kansas junior, “Getting ready for USA’s and hopefully making the World team. That’s definitely the next goal.”

Florida throws coach Steve Lemke deserves props. Only two hammer throwers PRed in the men’s hammer, and both were his: Thomas
It took a while for her 100 hurdle win to hit Arkansas’s Janeeck Brown. “It took me probably 48 hours to say, ‘Wow. I’m the national record-holder. I’m the fastest person in Jamaica to do hurdles probably ever.’”

Virginia’s Jordan Scott had been favored to win the triple jump, but ended up with a loss on the final attempt. He said, “I think it was a good showing,” adding, “Overall it was a really bad technical day. I had a lot of jumps behind the board. I had to do a lot of adjusting so it’s just back to the drawing board.”

Derek Miles, coach of men’s vault champion Chris Nilsen, said the focus now is on making the team for Doha. “To peak almost two times the next thing is 6m [19-8¼] or the American can get his body to continue to fire here. Maybe think we’ll play with the schedule a little bit, at a very high level is very difficult to do. I really feel the pain of falling and then hitting that the adrenaline really took over and I didn’t watch the video a bunch of times. I think in your mind you perceive it as you hit it and run. And it wasn’t until I watched the video later that I saw just how long it took me to really get up and reorient myself and get back up to speed.”

It had been a long climb back for North Carolina’s Madison Wiltrout, who finished 3rd in the women’s javelin. Her career—which featured her setting the national HS record as a soph in ’15, went off the tracks 4 years ago with a bad injury followed by surgery. “I think this was my breakthrough season, I had a few years of trouble with the injuries and I wasn’t able to be what I wanted to be. I let go of the past and showed that I’m on a new journey.”

Curtis Frye said he wasn’t in a hurry to recruit his NCAA 400 champ, Wadeline Jonathas, from Div. III UMass Boston. “Wadeline kind of fell into our hands. She called twice and I didn’t take the call the first few times because I’m not interested in raiding kids getting opportunities to get an education. So I didn’t accept the call, I didn’t try to recruit her away from her DIII school, but when it kept happening, to me, it was meant to be.”

UCLA’s Alyssa Wilson scored in all three of her throws. The Bruin soph said, “That’s been one of my goals ever since coming to UCLA. I’ve always wanted to prove to myself and others that I can excel in all events that I compete in.”

After his double runner-up finish in the sprints, Oregon’s Cravon Gillespie signed with Nike. “All the hard work is paying off,” he said. “A lot of times you want to quit and give up, but when you get in shape and have a meet like this, having fun in front of the crowd, you know it’s all worth it.”

Houston head Leroy Burrell said that balance will be the key to the Cougars becoming a perennial contender: “We’ve got some more things that we need to do in this program. I think right now we’re too reliant in the sprints. We’ve got to spread it out and get a few more events covered in the distances and the field. We have younger athletes who can help us get there in the field. We need that to happen.”

BYU distance runners did well in Austin. Said coach Ed Eyestone about preparing for nationals, “We’ve not been blessed with many warm days this spring. Our guys have been wearing multiple layers and long-sleeve shirts during workouts. Guys have spent some quality time in the sauna as well. The bottom line is to get as fit as you can. The fitter guys are generally going to do better in the tough conditions.”

Texas Tech’s Duke Kicinski captured the NCAA discus, but realized he will have to step it up to contend for a spot on the Olympic team, saying, “I’ve got to get a lot better. I’ll spend the next year getting better, improving my technique and getting stronger. Every year, I get better.”

Alabama head Dan Waters was thrilled with Portious Warren getting 2nd in the shot. “Portious has had just a tremendous senior year,” he said. “She just kept working at it and getting better and better each meet. To have her go out with a huge series of throws like that was great to see. To get edged by such a small margin on one of the last throws of the meet. It’s tough, but I couldn’t be prouder of her and the way she handled it and the way she attacked her final event as a collegian.”

The 2020 Olympic Trials will be in Eugene, Oregon, at the new Hayward Field stadium. T&FN will be there with another great Trials tour. Trials dates are June 19-28. Sign up now for one of the major meets of the quadrennium. The tour price for the 2016 Trials (in Eugene) was $2450 per person, double occupancy, 11 nights. We expect the 2020 price to be a bit more. Current deposit requirement is still $750 per person. Don’t delay, not too much space left.

Tour Dates: June 18-29, 2020

www.trackandfieldnews.com/tours

Track & Field News Tours
2570 W El Camino Real, Suite 220 • Mountain View, CA 94040
Phone: 650-948-8188 • Email: tours@trackandfieldnews.com
Here’s this month’s collection of generally off-track activities that have gone a long way towards shaping the way the sport is headed.

**Triple Jumpers An Endangered Species?**

Conspicuously absent from the Rome DL were American TJ aces Christian Taylor and Will Claye. Both took to social media to express their displeasure at the circumstances. Said reigning world/Olympic champ Taylor, “It’s a real shame to have to miss out on competing at @goldengala_roma due to budgetary reasons. I hope the @Diamond_League and triple jump can find a way to work together to produce a world-class show. I seriously fear my event being removed from the circuit altogether.” Said Claye, “This meeting promoter said he wouldn’t negotiate me coming to his meet until I ‘showed fitness’ so by the time I opened up on May 18th the ticket prices rose. That’s not my fault.” Claye also said, “It is unfortunate that we can’t make it but I respect [meet director Gigi D’Onofrio] for putting on a great meeting in Rome. I just don’t agree with how us athletes are being unfairly treated.” With the ‘20 Diamond League scheduled for a “new look,” many athletes—particularly field eventers—may have good reason to fear for the future of their discipline as part of the program.

**Meanwhile, In TrackTown…**

With the ‘21 World Championships approaching fast for Eugene—and the new Hayward Field reportedly on track to be ready for the ‘20 Pac-12 meet—some in Oregon are questioning where things are going. Eugene Register-Guard columnist Austin Meek, in the wake of a closed-door briefing to Seb Coe by representatives of Oregon21, wrote, “Finding someone to talk about the World Championships is a surprisingly difficult task. TrackTown USA, the local organization that led the charge to secure the world championships, now defers all questions about the event to Oregon21, an LLC formed to represent the various world championship stakeholders. Planning for the event is being handled by Niels de Vos, the executive director of Oregon21. De Vos, the former head of UK Athletics, was hired 7 months ago to lead Oregon21. Since then Oregon21 has cut ties with a public affairs agency working on its behalf, and attempts to interview de Vos have been unsuccessful.” Ken Goe of the Portland Oregonian wrote that many local fans are fearful that with years of no regular-season meets at Hayward, the legendary TrackTown magic may wane: “Fans might become reinvigorated when the new Hayward Field opens, when the 2020 Olympic Trials are contested, when the World Championships come to town. But the real test will come later, when the big events have come and gone, when the gates open for a UO home meet on a soggy, 45-degree spring day.”

**The IAAF & Nigeria: A Rapprochement?**

The money kerfuffle between the IAAF and Nigeria appears to be on its way to being settled, though neither side is sharing much in the way of details. It all started when the international federation accidentally added a zero to its annual auto-deposit grant of $15,000 to the Nigerian federation, depositing $150,000. For more than a year the two sides quibbled over repayment. There are indications the Nigerians have already repaid a small portion. The board of the Nigerian federation also impeached its president when he denied knowing anything about the money’s whereabouts. The Nigerians reacted badly to Seb Coe’s threat of sanctions if the amount was not immediately repaid, with the nation’s sports minister calling it a “calculated attempt to demean and destroy Nigerian athletics.” The IAAF clarified that by “sanctions” it did not mean it would ban Nigeria from international competition.

**USATF Names World Champs Marathon Squad**

The first 6 members of Team USA for Doha have been announced. There was no specific qualifying race for the marathon squad. Rather, athletes (who wished to go, which means skipping fall big-city 26-milers) were selected from a list of performances made between March 7, 2018 and May 5, 2019. The men had to have run at least 2:16:00, the women 2:37:00. The athletes, with their PRs: Men—Elkanah Kibet 2:11:31, Shadrack Biwott 2:12:01, Andrew Epperson 2:13:11; Women—Roberta Groner 2:29:09, Carrie Dimoff 2:30:53, Kelsey Bruce 2:31:53.
What Do YOU Think When You See 3 Stripes?

In a business where trademarks are defended ferociously, adidas lost a major round when the European Union General Court ruled that the German company’s iconic 3-stripe logo is not worthy of protection. The case stemmed from an adidas trademark application in 2014 that was rejected in 2016 by the Union’s Intellectual Property Office, which determined that the logo was “devoid of any distinctive character.” The General Union Court ruling indicated that adidas had failed to prove that the stripes were distinctive. No word yet on whether adidas will take on a major redesign or perhaps keep fighting a legal battle. Apparently, the ruling does not affect the company’s rights outside of Europe.

4-Year Ban For Jarrion Lawson;
Off To CAS

A positive test has earned World Champs sprinter/long jumper Jarrion Lawson a 4-year ban. The World Champs silver medalist gave a sample in the summer of last year which showed traces of Epitrenbolone, which is a metabolite of Trenbolone, an approved steroid used in beef production. An AIU panel has ruled that Lawson failed to prove that the substance entered his body through tainted beef consumption. Lawson’s agent, Paul Doyle, told Reuters, “It is absurd that the WADA code places such an impossible burden on athletes to prove the source. How can you go back and test meat that was eaten months ago?” Said Lawson, who will appeal the verdict to CAS, “I am innocent and I maintain confidence that eventually things will be righted.”

RIP: Gabe Grunewald

One of America’s top milers, 32-year-old Gabriele Grunewald (née Anderson), passed away in June after a 10-year battle with a rare cancer. First diagnosed with adenoid cystic carcinoma as a Minnesota senior in ’09, Grunewald went on to finish 2nd in the NCAA 1500 the following spring. In the years since, she put together an impressive record as an athlete while undergoing major surgeries and fighting back several recurrences of the disease. In ’12, Grunewald finished an agonizing 4th in the Olympic Trials. The following season, she ran her PR 4:01.38 in Monaco, along with an 8:42.64 for 3000. In 2014 she won the USATF Indoor 3000 and finished 9th at the World Indoor.

In 2016, she ran in the Olympic Trials 1500 and 5000, making the finals in the shorter race. Shortly afterward she shared the news that the cancer had returned and that a tumor and part of her liver had to be removed. Her final race came in Sacramento at the ‘17 USATF. In 100-degree temperatures, in between chemotherapy sessions and with a fever several days before, she still managed to run 4:31.18 in her heat. Along the way she worked hard to publicize the need for more funding and research into rare cancers. The slogan “Brave like Gabe” became a rallying cry for thousands of runners, as well as the name of her foundation. All told her efforts raised several million dollars for the fight.

A Transgender National Champ

CeCe Telfer captured the NCAA Div. II 400H title for Franklin Pierce University in 57.53, winning overwhelmingly by 1.68 seconds. What makes the performance notable, if not problematic, is that for 3 years Telfer competed on the men’s team as Craig Telfer, with a PR of 57.34 over higher hurdles. Telfer identifies as female now and was competing under the guidelines of the NCAA’s transgender policy, which stipulates that athletes in this category have to undergo “one calendar year of testosterone suppression treatment.” Reportedly, the NCAA has not set a limit for maximum testosterone levels for male-to-female athletes and has no mechanism for testing.

Semenya Cleared To Run... For Now

In the wake of the CAS decision to uphold the IAAF’s testosterone protocols, embattled South African star Caster Semenya filed an appeal with the Swiss Federal Tribunal, which issued a “superprovisional order” instructing the IAAF to suspend the application of its DSD Regulations as they apply to Semenya. The IAAF said in a release, “No other athlete is covered by the order. As of this date, the order is scheduled to remain in force only until 25 June 2019, the time the SFT has given the IAAF to respond to the appellant’s case.”

Under the IAAF protocol, Semenya was prohibited from competing in events from the 400 through the mile, but free to run shorter or longer than that window. Since the ban her only competition was a 2000 in France. Subsequently, there was a messy back-and-forth between Se-

A Fairer Shake For Pregnant Athletes?

In the wake of female athletes calling out Nike for its lack of support to contract athletes when they are pregnant—and Nike’s vow to reverse that situation—the USOC says it is working on reforms to make sure athletes don’t lose insurance during maternity. Three Democratic U.S. senators wrote to the USOC to provide details on this aspect of the athlete insurance policy, saying the discontinuation of insurance for pregnant athletes is “unconscionable and may put at risk her health and that of her child.” The USOC responded with a statement saying, “Pregnancy or needing a break from competition for other important reasons can’t unfairly impact eligibility, and we are working to ensure that policy is uniform across each NGB’s eligibility standards.”

Russia Continues To Struggle

Russia isn’t doing itself any favors in its attempts to get the IAAF ban lifted prior to the 19 Worlds. The latest bombshell is a report that Russian officials forged paperwork to help Danil Lysenko, the ‘17 World silver medalist in the high jump, avoid a doping ban over a missed test. Lysenko, busted for a whereabouts violation, came up with papers from doctors at a bogus Moscow clinic alleging that he was too ill to share his location with drug testers. Russian officials have promised to cooperate with the investigation.

High jump star Mariya Lasitskene says that she’s fed up with the entire situation: “I hope that the people involved in this never-ending disgrace still have the courage to leave. By themselves. And don’t think I’m only talking about the management. It’s also about the current coaches who are still sure that you can’t win without doping. They’re long overdue for retirement. A new generation of our athletes must grow up with a different philosophy, and for any athlete, it’s the coach who provides that.” Lasitskene’s statement falls in line with recent comments by the head of Russia’s anti-doping agency.

Meanwhile, the country’s top track official said on Russian TV that he had been given guarantees by the IAAF that the federation would be reinstated prior to Doha. Not true, countered the IAAF, “no promises have been made.” In a related development, Russian officials will be barred from any senior positions in the IAAF at this year’s Congress.

Other shoes may be dropping soon as WADA has handed over more than 100,000 computer files from the discredited Moscow laboratory to the Athletics Integrity Unit. The 500-gig packet covers 2012–15 and perhaps will lead to another round of DQs.
WITH HER 3:59.83 for 7th in Rabat, Jenny Simpson raised her U.S.-leading total of sub-4:00s to 10 with her 3:59.83 in Rabat.

British selection for the Olympic marathon team is a two-part process, with an initial selection in December and a final selection after next spring’s London Marathon.


The IAAF has hired New York-based Burson Cohn & Wolfe to run its global public relations campaigns.

The IAAF takes RSVPs seriously. Botswana was a no-show at the World Relays and has been fined $9000 by the IAAF.

Another Qatari has been charged by French prosecutors in the probe of bribery related to the nation’s ’17 World Champs bid: Nasser Al-Khelaifi, head of a Qatari sports television channel. Al-Khelaifi is a part-owner of a firm that funneled payments to Papa Massata Diack.

Olympian Duane Solomon returned to 800 racing with a 1:55.04 in Nashville. He says, “Raced my first race today after more than 2 years layoff. Not going to lie, I felt like crap, but I am proud that I put myself out there for all to see whether it was a horrible performance or not.”

A Steve Ovett record has fallen in Britain. Max Burgin, 17, took down Ovett’s Youth (U18) Record of 1:46.80 in the 800 with a 1:46.70.

Briton Dale Greig, 82, died in May. One of the pioneers of women’s distance running, she ran the first marathon on a certified course with her 3:27:45 in ’64.

Beware of scalping tickets at the Tokyo Olympics. A new law is in place that calls for a year in prison for offenders.

An update from Eugene indicates that the new $195 million Hayward Field will be finished in time for the ’20 Pac-12 meet.

Science marches on: the medal podiums to be unveiled in the ’20 Olympics will be made from 45 tons of recycled plastic. A new feasibility study in France suggests that flying taxis may happen in Paris just in time for the ’20 Olympics.

Former UCLA mentor Bob Larsen is the subject of a new book, Running to the Edge: A Band of Misfits and the Guru Who Unlocked the Secrets of Speed by Matthew Futterman.

Colorado congresswoman Diana DeGette has introduced a bill that—if it moves forward—would fundamentally restructure the USOC. “Our own U.S. Olympic Committee has failed,” says DeGette. “No number of gold medals are worth putting the health and safety of our athletes at risk.”

Aje’ Wilson says she will move up to 1500, perhaps before the ’20 Olympics.

IOC vice president John Coates has said that the site of the ’32 Games might be named as early as next summer. The Australian also hinted that Brisbane might be in the running.

Worried about taking a bad hit during an upcoming celebrity soccer match, Mo Farah has insured his legs for $8.8 million.
Here’s the latest in the aches, pains & eligibility departments

THE BIG NEWS in the eligibility department came when 5 superstar non-seniors decided to go pro and forego remaining NCAA opportunities: Mondo Duplantis, Grant Holloway, Divine Oduduru, Sha’Carri Richardson & Daniel Roberts.

German decathlete Arthur Abele, the European champion, will not compete this summer because of a recurring foot injury.

Miler Robby Andrews has revealed that last year he was diagnosed with Lyme disease, and in February he had surgery to remove bone spurs.

High jump world champ Mutaz Barshim has returned to light training after foot surgery last summer. He says, “Now it’s really a matter of me getting back in shape and then build myself back up to the point where I can compete.”

Barshim rival Bogdan Bondarenko is skipping heights whenever possible in order to protect a still-recovering foot.

Niamh Emerson of Britain, the World Junior heptathlon champ, tore her right patellar tendon at Götzis and underwent surgery.

German decathlete Rico Freimuth withdrew from Götzis with injury.

Norway’s Karoline Bjerkeli Grøvdal lost 6 weeks of training this spring after being diagnosed with a stress reaction in her pelvis.

Arkansas vaulter Lexi Jacobus was hampered by a back injury this season.

Marathoner/Olympic triathlon champ Gwen Jorgensen had surgery in May for Haglund’s Deformity, a bone enlargement at the back of the heel. She’s expected to miss 3-4 months of training.

Melat Kejeta, a 68:41 half-marathoner from Ethiopia, has been granted German citizenship.

Martin Lamou, a promising French triple jumper who was recruited by Florida State, has tested well at the NFL’s European combine and may be pursuing a career in football.

Long jumper Luvo Manyonga hurt his foot at the Rabat DL when he planted badly and was stretchered from the field. “I should be OK soon,” he said afterwards.

Decathlon WR holder Kevin Mayer has admitted that ever since a training accident over the winter he has faced a mental block while vaulting: “Every time I see myself falling back just before jumping and suddenly my left arm refuses to send me up.”

Mahiedine Mekhissi, the European Record-holder in the steeple, will skip the ’19 season after having Achilles surgery.

Euro vault silver medalist Timur Morgunov will miss at least half the season after breaking his little finger in training.

Discus great Sandra Perković has been injured for 8 months: “It was really hard to come back as It was a tough injury. I am completely focused now and I am aiming to get back in shape.”

Hurdle star Abderrahmane Samba withdrew from the Bislett Games with an inflamed hip.

Carolin Schäfer, the World Champs silver medalist in the heptathlon, has been forced to take a break because of health issues. She hopes to be back in time for Doha.

Ukrainian high jumper Keteryna Tabashnyk, who cleared 6-6 (1.98) in December, recently had surgery on her right Achilles.

Prep distance star Katelyn Tuohy, bothered by a sinus infection at her state meet, opted to end her season before the New Balance Nationals.

Australia’s Trae Williams, a 10.10 sprinter at age 22, has retired from track to play rugby.

Doping suspensions:

4 years—Kipyegon Bett (Kenya, 800), Eunice Jepkirui (Kenya, marathon), Eunice Kirwa (Bahrein, marathon), Jarrion Lawson (US, long jump);
1 year—Yelena Mashistova (Russia, long jump);
9 months—Felix Kirwa (Kenya, marathon).
FOR THE RECORD

Absolute records broken since the May issue. W = World; A = American; J = Junior (U20); Y = Youth (U18); HS = High School; (A) = altitude over 1000m lo-alt = mark made at low altitude; + = event not recognized by official governing body, but is recognized by T&FN.

MEN TRACK

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Athlete</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>44.84(A)</td>
<td>WY, AY</td>
<td>Justin Robinson (West, Hazlewood, Missouri)</td>
<td>Albuquerque, New Mexico</td>
<td>June 08</td>
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<tr>
<td>110H</td>
<td>12.98</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Grant Holloway (Florida)</td>
<td>Austin, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 x 100</td>
<td>37.97</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Austin, Texas</td>
<td>June 07</td>
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(Raymond Ekevwo’, Hakim Sani Brown’, Grant Holloway, Ryan Clark)

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Athlete</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 x 400</td>
<td>2:59.05</td>
<td>AmC</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>Austin, Texas</td>
<td>June 07</td>
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</table>

(Bryce Deadmon 45.3, Robert Grant 44.4, Kyree Johnson 45.24, Devin Dixon 44.11)

WOMEN TRACK

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>10.75</td>
<td>C, WJ, AJ</td>
<td>Sha’Carri Richardson (LSU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>22.17</td>
<td>WJ, lo-alt AJ+</td>
<td>Sha’Carri Richardson (LSU)</td>
<td>Austin, Texas</td>
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WOMEN FIELD

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<tr>
<td>Youth JT</td>
<td>65.90</td>
<td>216-2</td>
<td>Elina Tzénggo (Greece)</td>
<td>Ioánnina, Greece</td>
<td>May 08</td>
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WOMEN WALKS

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20K Walk</td>
<td>1:25:29</td>
<td>WJ</td>
<td>Glenda Estefania Morejón (Ecuador)</td>
<td>La Coruña, Spain</td>
<td>June 08</td>
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</table>

LANDMARKS

Rebranded: The IAAF

Come this fall, the international governing body will be sporting a new logo and begin life anew as World Athletics (WA).

Temporarily Upheld: Caster Semenya’s Appeal

On June 4, the Swiss Federal Tribunal set aside the South African’s falling under the IAAF’s new testosterone protocol. The federation was given until June 25 to respond.

Died: Knut Fredriksson, 89

Swedish javelin thrower World Ranked 3 times, topped by a No. 3 in ’59. The following year he placed 6th in the Rome Olympics.

Died: Gabriele Grunewald, 32

On June 11, in Minneapolis; of adenoid cystic carcinoma. The ’14 USATF Indoor 3000 champ, 3 times she ranked among the top 10 Americans in the 1500, with a high of No. 4 in ’12, the year she placed 4th in the Olympic Trials.

Died: Ken Matthews, 84

On June 2; in Wrexham, England. The 2-time Olympian was the gold medalist in the 20K walk in ’64. He also won the ’62 European title.

‘Run with me.’

TheMiler.com
Here's the link to our total collection of Calendars & Timetables for 2019.

### Major U.S. Invitationals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Pre Classic; Stanford, California</td>
<td>Princeton Qualifier; Princeton, New Jersey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DCRR Championships; Washington, DC</td>
<td>Stumptown Twilight; Portland, Oregon</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Falmouth Mile; Falmouth, Massachusetts</td>
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### Major 2019 Championships

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>USATF Junior Championships; Miramar, Florida</td>
<td>USATF Youth Championships; Durham, North Carolina</td>
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<td>USATF Masters Championships; Ames, Iowa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>USATF Junior Olympics, Sacramento, California</td>
<td>USATF Championships/World Championships Trials; Des Moines, Iowa</td>
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<td>AAU Junior Olympics, Greensboro, North Carolina</td>
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### Diamond League

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Diamond League; Doha, Qatar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Golden GP; Shanghai, China</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bauhaus Games; Stockholm, Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Golden Gala Mennea; Rome, Italy</td>
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<td>Bislett Games; Oslo, Norway</td>
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<td>Mohammed VI; Rabat, Morocco</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pre Classic; Stanford, California</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Mohammed VI; Rabat, Morocco</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Herculis; Fontvielle, Monaco</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anniversary Games; London, England</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Müller GP; Birmingham, England</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting Area; Paris, France</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Weltklasse; Zürich, Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Van Damme Memorial; Brussels, Belgium</td>
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### Other International Invitationals

(through the end of June)

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<th>Month</th>
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<td>Décastar Multis; Talence, France</td>
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<td>European Games; Minsk, Belarus</td>
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<td>Elite; Montgeron, France</td>
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<td>BVI Twilight; Tortola, British Virgin Islands</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Jerome Classic; Burnaby, British Columbia</td>
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<td>International; Marseilles, France</td>
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<td>Boysen Memorial, Oslo, Norway</td>
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<td>Grand Prix; Karlstad, Sweden</td>
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<td>NACAC U23 Championships, Querétaro, Mexico</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grand Prix; Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<td></td>
<td>European Cup Multis; Luts'k, Ukraine</td>
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<td>European Cup 2nd League Multis; Ribeira Brava, Portugal</td>
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<td>Gyulai Memorial; Székesfehérvár, Hungary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spitzen; Luzern, Switzerland</td>
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<td>European U23 Championships; Gävle, Sweden</td>
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<td>Stadtwerke Mehrkampf Multis; Ratingen, Germany</td>
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<td>International; Ratingen, Germany</td>
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<td>Szewińska Memorial; Lubin, Poland</td>
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<td>International; Sotteville, France</td>
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<td>Invitational; Padua, Italy</td>
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<td>National Championships; Den Haag, Holland</td>
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<td>International; Liège, Belgium</td>
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<td>Savo Games; Lapinlahti, Finland</td>
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<td>European Junior (U20) Championships; Borås, Sweden</td>
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<td>Pan-Am Junior Championships; San José, Puerto Rico</td>
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<td>KBC; Heusden–Zolder, Belgium</td>
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<td>Joensuu Games; Joensuu, Finland</td>
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<td>National Championships; Montréal, Canada</td>
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<td>National Championships; Brno, Czech Republic</td>
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<td>National Championships; St-Étienne, France</td>
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<td>National Championships; Port Of Spain, Trinidad</td>
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<td>National Championships; Pamplona, Spain</td>
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