

— Olympic Trials Halfway Report —

EUGENE, OREGON;
JUNE 22-25

This interim report is frills-free, giving only the top 8 in each final held in the first half of the meet, with no splits and no prelims. After the meet is over we will of course produce our traditional extensive wrap of the whole shebang.

Athletes in red bold are those named to the Olympic team (obviously not always the first 3).

Ashton Eaton (3) had a date with destiny when he set off in the deca 1500. Date successful!

— MEN —

100 METERS

FINAL

(June 24; wind +1.8)

1. **Justin Gatlin (unattached) ..9.80 (AL);**
2. **Tyson Gay (adidas).....9.86;**
3. **Ryan Bailey (Nike).....9.93;**
4. Mike Rodgers (unattached)9.94;
5. Doc Patton (Nike).....9.96;
6. Trell Kimmons (adidas)..... 10.02;
7. Jeff Demps (Fl)..... 10.27;
8. Walter Dix (Nike)..... 10.95.

400 METERS

FINAL

(June 23)

1. **LaShawn Merritt (Nike)**
.....**44.12 (WL, AL);**
2. **Tony McQuay (Fl)..... 44.49;**
3. **Bryshon Nellum (USC)..... 44.80;**
4. Josh Mance (unattached)..... 44.88;
5. Manteo Mitchell (unattached) 44.96;
6. Jeremy Wariner (adidas)..... 45.24;
7. David Verburg (GM) 45.36;
8. Brady Gehret (PennSt)..... 45.48.



VICTOR SALES/PHOTO RUN

2012 Men's World Leaders

i = mark made indoors
marks in red new since last week

Track Events

100.....	9.76.....	Usain Bolt (Jamaica)
200.....	19.91.....	Yohan Blake (Jamaica)
400.....	44.12.....	LaShawn Merritt (US)
800.....	1:41.74.....	David Rudisha (Kenya)
1500.....	3:29.63.....	Silas Kiplagat (Kenya)
Mile.....	3:49.22.....	Asbel Kiprop (Kenya)
Steeple....	7:54.31.....	Paul Keoch (Kenya)
3000.....	7:29.94i.....	Augustine Choge (Kenya)
.....	7:29.94i.....	Edwin Soi (Kenya)
5000.....	12:56.98.....	Mo Farah (Great Britain)
10,000.....	27:01.98.....	Wilson Kiprop (Kenya)
110H.....	12.97.....	Xiang Liu (China)
400H.....	47.92.....	Javier Culson (Puerto Rico)

Road Events

½-Mar.....	58:47.....	Atsedu Tsegay (Ethiopia)
Mar.....	2:04:23.....	Ayele Abshero (Ethiopia)
20W.....	1:17:30.....	Alex Schwazer (Italy)
50W.....	3:38:08.....	Sergey Kiryapkin (Russia)

Relay Events

4 x 100.....	37.82.....	Racers TC (Jamaica)
4 x 200.....	1:21.21.....	Texas A&M (US)
4 x 400.....	3:00.02.....	Florida (US)
4 x 800.....	7:15.99.....	Texas A&M (US)
4 x Mile.....	16:16.79.....	Princeton (US)
SpMed.....	3:16.46.....	Georgia
DisMed....	9:19.31.....	USA Blue Penn
4 x 1H.....	54.30.....	Star Athletics (US)

Field Events

HJ.....	7-9¼	|	2.37i	.....	Mutaz Essa Barshim (Qatar)
.....	7-9¼	|	2.37	.....	Ivan Ukhov (Russia)
PV.....	19-6¼	|	5.95i	.....	Renaud Lavillenie (France)
LJ.....	27-4¾	|	8.35	.....	Greg Rutherford (Great Britain)
TJ.....	58-1	|	17.70i	.....	Will Claye (US)
SP.....	72-2¼	|	22.00i	.....	Ryan Whiting (US)
.....	72-2¼	|	22.00	.....	Reese Hoffa (US)
DT.....	231-10	|	70.66	.....	Robert Harting (Germany)
HT.....	271-8	|	82.81	.....	Ivan Tikhon (Belarus)
JT.....	289-1	|	88.11	..	Vítězslav Veselý (Czech Republic)
Dec.....	8519.....				Hans Van Alphen (Belgium)

2012 Women's World Leaders

Track Events

100.....	10.81.....	Carmelita Jeter (US)
200.....	22.09.....	Sanya Richards-Ross (US)
400.....	49.28.....	Sanya Richards-Ross (US)
800.....	1:56.94.....	Pamela Jelimo (Kenya)
1500.....	3:56.54.....	Abeba Arigawi (Ethiopia)
Mile.....	4:28.41i.....	Sally Kipyego (Kenya)
Steeple....	9:07.14.....	Milcah Chemos (Kenya)
3000.....	8:31.56i.....	Meseret Defar (Ethiopia)
5000.....	14:35.62.....	Vivian Cheruiyot (Kenya)
10,000 30:	24.39.....	Tirunesh Dibaba (Ethiopia)
100H.....	12.49.....	Sally Pearson (Australia)
.....	12.49.....	Pearson
400H.....	53.87.....	Irina Davydova (Russia)

Road Events

Half-Mar...	66:38.....	Florence Kiplagat (Kenya)
Mar.....	2:18:37.....	Mary Keitany (Kenya)
20W.....	1:25:27.....	Elmira Alembekova (Russia)

Relay Events

4 x 100.....	42.19.....	USA Red Penn
4 x 200.....	1:30.01.....	LSU
4 x 400.....	3:21.18.....	USA Red Penn
4 x 800.....	8:15.57i.....	Moscow (Russia)
4 x 1500...	17:29.00.....	Oregon
SpMed.....	3:42.85.....	USA Blue
DisMed....	10:55.01i.....	Washington
4 x 1H.....	52.38.....	Star Athletics (US)

Field Events

HJ.....	6-9	|	2.06i	.....	Anna Chicherova (Russia)
PV.....	16-5¼	|	5.01i	.....	Yelena Isinbaeva (Russia)
LJ.....	23-8¾	|	7.23i	.....	Brittney Reese (US)
TJ.....	49-¾	|	14.95(A)...	Caterina Ibargüen (Colombia)	
(lo-alt)....	48-8¼	|	14.84i	.....	Olga Rypakova (Kazakhstan)
SP.....	69-4	|	21.13	.....	Nadzeya Ostapchuk (Belarus)
DT.....	226-0	|	68.89	.....	Nadine Müller (Germany)
HT.....	256-6	|	78.19	.....	Oksana Menkova (Belarus)
.....	256-6	|	78.19	.....	Menkova
JT.....	227-6	|	69.35	.....	Sunette Viljoen (South Africa)
Hept.....	6906.....				Jessica Ennis (Great Britain)

800 METERS

FINAL

(June 25)

1. Nick Symmonds (OTC) ... 1:43.92 (AL);
2. Khadevis Robinson (Nike) 1:44.64;
3. Duane Solomon (Saucony) 1:44.65;
4. Ryan Martin (UCSB)..... 1:44.90;
5. Tyler Mulder (OTC)..... 1:45.02;
6. Elijah Greer (Or)..... 1:45.40;
7. Mark Wieczorek (unattached)... 1:45.62;
8. Charles Jock (Nike)..... 1:49.02.

2012 U.S. Men's Leaders

Track Events

100.....	9.80.....	Justin Gatlin (unattached)
200.....	19.95.....	Wallace Spearmon (Saucony)
400.....	44.12.....	LaShawn Merritt (Nike)
800.....	1:43.92.....	Nick Symmonds (Oregon TC)
1500.....	3:34.11.....	Russell Brown (Oregon TC)
Mile.....	3:52.01.....	David Torrence (Nike)
Steeple....	8:19.14.....	Donn Cabral (Princeton)
3000.....	7:33.45+i.....	Galen Rupp (Oregon TC)
5000.....	12:58.90.....	Galen Rupp (Oregon TC)
10,000.....	27:25.33.....	Galen Rupp (Oregon TC)
110H.....	13.03.....	Aries Merritt (Reebok)
400H.....	48.20.....	Bershawn Jackson (Nike)

Road Events

½-Mar.....	61:30.....	Scott Bauhs (adidas)
Mar.....	2:09:08.....	Meb Keflezighi (New York AC)
20W.....	1:22:13.....	Trevor Barron (New York AC)
50W.....	4:04:38.....	John Nunn (US Army)

Relay Events

4 x 100.....	38.30.....	Auburn
4 x 200.....	1:21.21.....	Texas A&M
4 x 400.....	3:00.02.....	Florida
4 x 800.....	7:15.99.....	Texas A&M
4 x Mile.....	16:16.79.....	Princeton
SpMed.....	3:17.25.....	Iowa
DisMed....	9:19.31.....	USA Blue Penn
4 x 1H.....	54.30.....	Star Athletics

Field Events

HJ.....	7-8¾	| 2.36.....	Jesse Williams (Nike)
PV.....	19-2¾	| 5.86(A)i.....	Brad Walker (Nike)
(lo-alt)....	19-¼	| 5.80i.....	Walker
LJ.....	27-4	| 8.33.....	Marquise Goodwin (Texas)
TJ.....	58-1	| 17.70i.....	Will Claye (Nike)
SP.....	72-2¼	| 22.00i.....	Ryan Whiting (Nike)
.....	72-2¼	| 22.00.....	Reese Hoffa (Nike)
DT.....	214-9	| 65.46.....	Russ Winger (Asics)
HT.....	259-10	| 79.20.....	A.G. Kruger (Nike)
JT.....	271-5	| 82.73.....	Sean Furey (Mizuno)
Dec.....	8067.....		Isaac Murphy (Texas)

2012 U.S. Women's Leaders

Track Events

100.....	10.81.....	Carmelita Jeter (Nike)
200.....	22.09.....	Sanya Richards-Ross (Nike)
400.....	49.28.....	Sanya Richards-Ross (Nike)
800.....	1:57.37.....	Alysia Montaño (Nike)
1500.....	4:01.59.....	Morgan Uceny (adidas)
Mile.....	4:28.48i.....	Katie Flood (Washington)
Steeple....	9:25.28.....	Emma Copburn (unattached)
3000.....	8:50.95.....	Liz Maloy (New Balance)
5000.....	15:08.52.....	Julia Lucas (Oregon TC)
10,000.....	31:19.87.....	Amy Hastings (Brooks)
100H.....	12.55.....	Kellie Wells (Nike)
400H.....	54.80.....	Lashinda Demus (Nike)

Road Events

½-Mar.....	68:52.....	Shalane Flanagan (Nike)
Mar.....	2:25:38.....	Shalane Flanagan (Nike)
20W.....	1:35:56.....	Maria Michta (Walk USA)

Relay Events

4 x 100.....	42.19.....	USA Red Penn
4 x 200.....	1:31.28.....	Texas A&M
4 x 400.....	3:21.18.....	USA Red Penn
4 x 800.....	8:27.04.....	Tennessee
4 x 1500... ..	17:40.99.....	Georgetown
SpMed.....	3:42.85.....	USA Blue
DisMed....	10:55.01i.....	Washington
4 x 1H.....	52.38 ¶.....	Star Athletics

Field Events

HJ.....	6-7½	| 2.02i.....	Chaunté Lowe (Nike)
PV.....	16-0	| 4.88i.....	Jenn Suhr (adidas)
LJ.....	23-8¾	| 7.23i.....	Brittney Reese (Nike)
TJ.....	45-9¾	| 13.96.....	Erica McLain (Nike)
SP.....	65-3¼	| 19.89i.....	Jill Camarena-Williams (NYAC)
DT.....	222-3	| 67.74 ¶.....	Stephanie Brown Trafton (Nike)
HT.....	243-5	| 74.19 ¶.....	Jessica Cosby (Nike)
JT.....	200-4	| 61.06.....	Rachel Yurkovich (Nike)
Hept.....	6337.....		Sharon Day (Asics)

10,000 METERS

FINAL

(June 22)

1. Galen Rupp (Nike)	27:25.33 (AL);
2. Matt Tegenkamp (Nike).....	27:33.94;
3. Dathan Ritzenhein (Nike)	27:36.09;
4. Chris Derrick (Stan).....	27:40.23;
5. Aaron Braun (adiMcM)	27:41.54;
6. Ryan Vail (Brk).....	27:52.53;
7. Brent Vaughn (Nike).....	27:55.44;
8. Luke Puskedra (Or).....	27:56.62.

HIGH JUMP

FINAL

(June 25)

1. Jamie Nieto (NYAC)	7-5¾ (2.28);
2. Erik Kynard (KsSt).....	7-5¾;
3. Nick Ross (unattached).....	7-5¾;
4. Jesse Williams (OTC)	7-5¾;
=5. Justin Frick (Shore).....	7-4½ (2.25);
=5. Ed Wright (unattached)	7-4½;
=7. Dwight Barbiasz (Fl).....	7-½ (2.15);
=7. Montez Blair (Corn)	7-½.

LONG JUMP

FINAL

(June 24)

- 1. Marquise Goodwin (Tx) 27-4 (8.33)**
(26-5¾, f, 27-0, 26-11¼w, 25-4, 27-4)
(8.07, f, 8.23, 8.21w, 7.72, 8.33);
- 2. Will Claye (Nike).....27-0w (8.23)**
(f, 25-6, 27-0w, f, f, 26-11¾)
(f, 7.77, 8.23w, f, f, 8.22);
- 3. George Kitchens (unattached)26-11¼ (8.21)**
(f, 26-3¾, 26-11¼, f, 26-2¾, 25-11½w)
(f, 8.02, 8.21, f, 7.99, 7.91w);
- Christian Taylor (Li Ning) ...26-7¾ (8.12)
(f, 26-2¼, 26-7¼, 26-7¾, f, 26-7¾)
(f, 7.98, 8.11, 8.12, f, 8.12);
- Norris Frederick (unattached)26-1 (7.95)
(24-10½, f, f, 26-1, 18-10¾, 25-9½)
(7.58, f, f, 7.95, 5.76, 7.86);
- Michael Hartfield (OhSt)25-6¾ (7.79)
(f, f, 25-6¾, f, 25-4¾w, f)
(f, f, 7.79, f, 7.74w, f);
- JaRod Tobler (unattached) . 25-6 (7.77);
- George Fields (Shore)....24-11¼ (7.61).

SHOT

FINAL

(June 24)

- 1. Reese Hoffa (Nike).....72-2¼ (22.00)**
(70-5, 69-9¾, 72-2¼, f, 70-5, 71-11½)
(21.46, 21.28, 22.00, f, 21.46, 21.93);
- 2. Ryan Whiting (Nike).....71-¾ (21.66)**
(71-3/4, f, 69-1½, 69-9¾, 69-3½, 70-5)
(21.66, f, 21.07, 21.28, 21.12, 21.46);
- 3. Christian Cantwell (Nike)69-9¾ (21.28)**
(68-1/2, f, 69-9¾, f, 68-11¾, 68-3¼)
(20.74, f, 21.28, f, 21.02, 20.81);
- Joe Kovacs (PennSt).....69-2 (21.08)
(64-2¼, 66-3¼, 69-2, f, 67-4¼, 65-4)
(19.56, 20.20, 21.08, f, 20.53, 19.91);
- Kurt Roberts (unattached) ..68-1 (20.75)
(67-1¼, f, 64-8¾, 65-7, 68-1, 67-4¼)
(20.45, f, 19.73, 19.99, 20.75, 20.53);
- Cory Martin (Nike) 67-11 (20.70)
(66-2¼, 65-7¾, f, f, 67-11, f)
(20.17, 20.01, f, f, 20.70, f);
- Jacob Thormaehlen (Tx) .64-10 (19.76);
- Jordan Clarke (AzSt).....64-1¼ (19.55).

HAMMER

RESULTS

(June 21, Beaverton; no q-round)

- 1. Kibwé Johnson (Nike) ..245-11 (74.97)**
(244-1, 241-9, f, 238-2, 245-11, f)
(74.40, 73.70, f, 72.60, 74.97, f);
- Chris Cralle (unattached)243-11 (74.36)
(236-4, 243-11, 239-4, 236-10, 243-11, 242-8)
(72.05, 74.35, 72.95, 72.20, 74.36, 73.96);
- 3. A.G. Kruger (Nike)242-6 (73.93)**
(242-6, f, 234-8, 240-8, 242-3, 237-2)
(73.93, f, 71.53, 73.37, 73.85, 72.29);
- Conor McCullough (unattached)...241-3 (73.55)
(241-3, f, 230-11, f, 240-10, 238-2)
(73.55, f, 70.38, f, 73.42, 72.61);
- Drew Loftin (unattached) ..241-2 (73.51)
(232-4, 234-10, 241-2, 230-1, 236-11, 227-6)
(70.82, 71.59, 73.51, 70.14, 72.21, 69.35);
- Andy Fryman (Mjo)238-3 (72.63)
(f, 223-11, 234-6, f, 238-3, 232-3)
(f, 68.27, 71.49, f, 72.63, 70.80);
- Garland Porter (unattached)..... 232-11 (71.01);
- Jake Freeman (Nike).....231-0 (70.41).

JAVELIN

FINAL

(June 25)

- Sam Humphreys (TxAM) ..268-7 (81.86)
(264-11, 268-7, f, 249-10, 265-3, 263-11)
(80.74, 81.86, f, 76.16, 80.84, 80.44);
- Sam Crouser (Or).....265-1 (80.80)
(f, 245-1, 248-0, 247-4, f, 265-1)
(f, 74.70, 75.60, 75.38, f, 80.80);
- 3. Craig Kinsley (unattached)262-2 (79.92)**
(243-9, 256-0, 254-1, 249-3, 261-5, 262-2)
(74.30, 78.04, 77.45, 75.98, 79.69, 79.92);
- 4. Sean Furey (Mizuno)255-5 (77.86)**
(255-5, 249-10, f, 254-3, f, 252-0)
(77.86, 76.15, f, 77.50, f, 76.83);
- 5. Cyrus Hostetler (OTC)254-8 (77.63)**
(248-8, 254-8, f, p, f, 251-1)
(75.80, 77.63, f, p, f, 76.54);
- Tim Glover (IIS)250-0 (76.21)
(236-10, 242-8, 250-0, 239-1, 230-0, 241-2)
(72.19, 73.98, 76.21, 72.89, 70.10, 73.50);
- Corey White (unattached)248-5 (75.73);
- Sean Keller (WaHS)246-5 (75.12).

DECATHLON

RESULTS

(June 22–23)

- 1. Ashton Eaton (OTC)9039 WR, AR**
(old WR 9026 Šebrle [CzR] '01;
old AR 8891 O'Brien [Reebok] '92)
(10.21, 27-0/8.23, 46-7¼/14.20, 6-8¾/2.05,
46.70 [4728—1],
13.70, 140-5/42.81, 17-4½/5.30, 193-1/
58.87, 4:14.48);
- 2. Trey Hardee (Nike) 8383**
(10.50, 24-9¼/7.55, 51-7/15.72, 6-6¼/1.99,
49.11 [4406—2],
13.71, 160-11/49.05, 16-4¾/5.00, 187-0/
57.00, 5:08.67);
- Gray Horn (unattached)..... 7954 PR
(10.93, 24-11¼/7.60, 44-3¼/13.49, 6-5/1.96,
50.66 [4084—4],
14.41, 125-9/38.34, 16-4¾/5.00, 184-9/
56.31, 4:33.02);
- Joe Detmer (unattached)..... 7931
(10.97, 24-2½/7.38, 43-3/13.18, 6-2¾/1.90,
49.14 [4019—6],
14.92, 132-3/40.30, 16-¾/4.90, 178-5/54.39,
4:14.77);
- Chris Helwick (unattached) 7744
(11.49, 22-3/6.78, 46-9/14.25, 6-4/1.93,
51.97 [3727—13],
15.30, 143-1/43.61, 16-¾/4.90, 224-3/68.37,
4:33.85);
- Ryan Harlan (unattached) 7715
(11.26, 22-1½/6.74, 50-9½/15.48, 6-7½/2.02,
50.78 [3977—8],
14.43, 146-8/44.70, 15-9/4.80, 199-3/60.73,
5:18.20);
- Miller Moss (unattached) 7712
(10.85, 22-8/6.91, 46-½/14.03, 6-1½/1.87,
49.62 [3935—10],
14.91, 146-10/44.76, 15-5/4.70, 174-7/
53.22, 4:36.84);
- Kevin Lazas (Ar)..... 7660
(11.10, 24-5/7.44, 45-9¼/13.95, 6-4/1.93,
51.44 [3972—9],
15.25, 127-3/38.79, 16-4¾/5.00, 179-6/
54.73, 4:43.39).

— OT WOMEN —

100 METERS

FINAL

(June 23; wind +0.9)

1. Carmelita Jeter (Nike)..... 10.92;
2. Tianna Madison (Saucony)..... 10.96;
- =3. Allyson Felix (Nike) 11.07;
- =3. Jeneba Tarmoh (Nike)..... 11.07;
(*tie-breaking method to be confirmed*)
5. Bianca Knight (adidas) 11.14;
6. Lauryn Williams (Saucony)..... 11.18;
7. English Gardner (Or)..... 11.28;
8. Alex Anderson (Nike)..... 11.37.

400 METERS

FINAL

(June 24)

1. Sanya Richards-Ross (Nike) 49.28
(WL, AL);
2. Dee Dee Trotter (Saucony) 50.02;
3. Francena McCorory (adidas) 50.43;
4. Debbie Dunn (Nike)..... 50.78;
5. Diamond Dixon (Ks) 50.88;
6. Keshia Baker (Saucony)..... 51.23;
7. Natasha Hastings (UArm)..... 51.28;
8. Jessica Beard (adidas)..... 51.52.

800 METERS

FINAL

(June 25)

1. Alysia Montaño (Nike) 1:59.08;
2. Geena Gall (OTC)..... 1:59.24;
3. Alice Schmidt (Nike)..... 1:59.46;
4. Molly Beckwith (Saucony) 1:59.68;
5. Phoebe Wright (Nike) 1:59.72;
6. Brenda Martinez (N Balance) ... 2:01.67;
7. Heather Kampf (Asics) 2:02.86;
8. Maggie Vessey (N Balance) 2:03.44.

10,000 METERS

RESULTS

(June 22)

1. Amy Hastings (Brk) 31:58.36;
2. Natosha Rogers (TxAM)..... 31:59.21;
3. Shalane Flanagan (Nike)..... 31:59.69;
4. Lisa Uhl (Nike) 32:03.46;
5. Alisha Williams (BouRC) 32:08.51;
6. Tara Erdmann (unattached).... 32:09.15;
7. Janet Cherobon-Bawcom (Nike)
..... 32:17.06;
8. Stephanie Rothstein (adidasMcM)
..... 32:24.25.

100 HURDLES

FINAL

(June 23; wind -1.6)

1. Dawn Harper (Nike) 12.73;
2. Kellie Wells (Nike)..... 12.77;
3. Lolo Jones (Asics) 12.86;
4. Ginnie Crawford (Nike)..... 12.90;
5. Christina Manning (OhSt)..... 12.92;
6. Brianna Rollins (Clem) 12.94;
7. Michelle Perry (Nike)..... 12.97;
8. Nia Ali (Nike) 13.02.

POLE VAULT

RESULTS

(June 24; q-round canceled by rain)

1. Jenn Suhr (adidas) 15-1 (4.60);
2. Becky Holliday (unattached
) 14-11 (4.55);
3. Lacy Janson (Nike)..... 14-9 (4.50);
4. Mary Saxer (NYAC)..... 14-9;
- =5. Kat Majester (unattached)14-5¼ (4.40);
- =5. April Steiner-Bennett (Asics) 14-5¼;
7. Kylie Hutson (Nike) 14-5¼ (4.40);
7. Melissa Gergel (unattached) 14-5¼;

TRIPLE JUMP

FINAL

(June 25)

1. Amanda Smock (NYAC).... 45-9 (13.94)
(45-9, 45-½, 44-9, 44-9, 44-4, 43-10)
(13.94, 13.73, 13.64, 13.64, 13.51, 13.36);
2. Sheena Gordon (unattached)
..... 45-4½ (13.83)
(44-9¾, 43-9¾, 45-4½, 44-11, 44-9¾, 45-1½)
(13.66, 13.35, 13.83, 13.69, 13.66, 13.75);
3. Andrea Geubelle (Ks)..... 45-3 (13.79)
(45-3, 43-10½, 42-2¼, f, 44-4¼, 45-1¾)
(13.79, 13.37, 12.86, f, 13.52, 13.76);
4. Toni Smith (unattached) 44-7 (13.59)
(43-11¾, 43-10¾, 44-1½, 44-1¼, f, 44-7)
(13.40, 13.38, 13.45, 13.44, f, 13.59);
5. Crystal Manning (CVE).... 43-5¾ (13.25)
(43-5¾, 42-8, 42-2¼, 43-5¾, 42-7, 42-11)
(13.25, 13.00, 12.86, 13.25, 12.98, 13.08);
6. Tracey Stewart (unattached) 43-2½
(13.17)
(43-2½, 42-1½, 41-10, 42-10¾, 42-0, 42-2¾)
(13.17, 12.84, 12.75, 13.07, 12.80, 12.87);

7. Lauryn Newson (Or) 43-2¼ (13.16);
8. Erica McLain (Nike)..... 42-9¾ (13.05).

DISCUS

FINAL

(June 24)

1. Stephanie Brown Trafton (Nike)
..... 213-10 (65.18)
(207-8, 205-5, 197-5, f, f, 213-10)
(63.30, 62.62, 60.19, f, f, 65.18);
2. Aretha Thurmond (Nike)..... 204-2 (62.23)
(203-6, f, f, 196-6, 204-2, f)
(62.04, f, f, 59.90, 62.23, f);
3. Suzy Powell (Asics)..... 197-6 (60.20)
(192-6, 188-8, 187-5, 197-6, 188-10, f)
(58.68, 57.50, 57.13, 60.20, 57.57, f);
4. Shelbi Vaughan (TxHS) 195-9 (59.68)
(189-10, 195-9, 193-6, f, 188-9, f)
(57.87, 59.68, 58.98, f, 57.53, f);
5. Liz Podominick (unattached)
..... 194-11 (59.42)
(193-7, f, 182-6, f, 194-11, 188-7)
(59.00, f, 55.63, f, 59.42, 57.49);
6. Gia Lewis-Smallwood (unattached)
..... 192-10 (58.78)
(188-7, 184-3, f, 192-10, 185-2, f)
(57.48, 56.17, f, 58.78, 56.45, f);
7. Beth Rohl (MiSt)..... 189-8 (57.82);
8. Summer Pierson (unattached)
..... 188-5 (57.44).

HAMMER

FINAL

(June 21, Beaverton; no q-round)

1. Amber Campbell (Nike) .. 235-7 (71.80)
(227-11, 226-9, f, 217-10, 235-7, 234-9)
(69.48, 69.11, f, 66.40, 71.80, 71.56);
2. Amanda Bingson (UNLV) 235-6 (71.78)
(220-0, 228-4, 233-8, 235-6, f, 233-7)
(67.07, 69.61, 71.22, 71.78, f, 71.21);
3. Jessica Cosby (Nike)..... 232-2 (70.77)
(225-6, 227-5, 232-2, 225-1, 214-11, f)
(68.75, 69.33, 70.77, 68.62, 65.50, f);
4. Amy Haapanen (unattached)
..... 231-8 (70.63)
(221-7, 217-2, f, f, 231-8, 224-0)
(67.55, 66.21, f, f, 70.63, 68.28);
5. Keelin Godsey (unattached)
..... 231-3 (70.48)
(218-3, 223-8, 215-4, 231-3, 220-7, 220-4)
(66.52, 68.19, 65.64, 70.48, 67.24, 67.17);
6. Brittany Riley (unattached)
..... 227-4 (69.29)
(227-4, f, f, 213-5, 222-8, 226-11)
(69.29, f, f, 65.06, 67.87, 69.17);
7. Gwen Berry (Nike)..... 225-10 (68.84);
8. Aubrey Baxter (Brk) 225-7 (68.77).

Isi “Loves The Pole Vault Again”

by Joe Battaglia
nbcolympics.com
(special to T&FN)

Like most girls growing up, Yelena Isinbaeva longed to establish an identity and look of her own. But as the child of Russian parents with modest means, that was impossible.

“My dream was to get some new clothes because everything I wore was from my older sister or from my mother or my grandmother,” Isinbaeva recalls. “It was a little bit difficult but inside me, I always believed that I could achieve something in this life.”

The power of desperate wanting is often underestimated. Unless you’ve experienced it firsthand, you have no comprehension of how much drive that can instill and how that relentless pursuit to rise above ones meager upbringing can shape the course of an individual’s life.

In the case of Isinbaeva, she became an athlete so hell-bent on achievement that on her way to becoming the greatest pole vaulter in history she competed with the stereotype of being the cold-hearted Russian before eventually losing her passion for track altogether.

After a string of unthinkable failures, she stepped away in ’10 to check herself before she wrecked herself. During that time, she came to personal that have returned her back to the top of the pole vaulting world, only this time with a different outlook.

“My body, my mind was tired from everything because I was almost 10 years competing without a break,” she says. “After those couple of years, when I was somewhere down, I stepped away and realized that I still want to be on the top.”

Formative Years

Isinbaeva grew up in Volgograd, 562 miles southwest of Moscow. The city is famous for its resistance and subsequent massive casualties—it is estimated that loss of life totaled between 1.25 and 1.75 million — during the Battle of Stalingrad in WWII.

“In Russia, when I was growing up, our

family had a lower than medium level of life,” Isinbaeva says. “My mother and father had two jobs in one day because they needed money to [raise] me and my sister.”

It was from her parents that Isinbaeva learned the value of hard work at a formative

World Youth Games. Over the next three years she would win titles and set records at the World Youth, World Junior and European Junior Championships.

At every stop, she raised the bar a little more. In ’03, Isinbaeva broke her first world record, clearing 15-9¾ (4.82) in Gateshead. A year later, she set three more indoors and five of them outdoors, including a 16-1¼ (4.91) clearance that won her gold at the Athens Olympics.

With each progressive height and record, Isinbaeva drew more adulation, more fame, and more money. Subconsciously, she was inching closer to living the type of lifestyle that seemed like a pipe dream growing up.

In ’05, she set an astounding 9 WRs in/out, and earned the moniker “Bubka in a skirt,” after her idol, Ukrainian legend and 36-time men’s recordsetter Sergey Bubka. She was coveted by meet directors for her combination of skill, beauty and showmanship.

Isinbaeva became perhaps track & field’s biggest star.

“I chose to do it step by step,” Isinbaeva says. “This way you have some suspense and it’s more exciting for the audience, I think.”

Out Of This World

While Isinbaeva racked up WRs and victories with the same frequency that most people change their socks, no true rival to challenge her brilliance emerged. To this day, she remains the only vaulter in history to clear 5 meters.

The closest thing to a rivalry was formed in ’08 when Jenn Suhr set an American Record of 16-1¾ (4.92) to win the Olympic Trials, and in a post-meet moment of exuberance proclaimed that she was looking forward to going to Beijing and “kicking some Russian butt.”

The comment lit a fire under Isinbaeva, who promptly opened her season in Rome with a WR clearance of 16-6 (5.03), then beat Suhr head-to-head at the London GP, then upped her WR to 16-6½ (5.04) in Monaco before beating Suhr again at the Games with another record clearance of 16-6¾ (5.05).

“When [Suhr] jumped 4.92 it made me



The WR holder looked lean & mean at the World Indoor

PHOTO: CHRIS MOON/PHOTOGRAPH BY

age. As she got older, certainly once she became an athlete, she modeled her work ethic in their fashion.

“For me to get what I want, I knew I had to brutally plow,” she says. “I didn’t dream about things, but I set goals for myself. When I reached one, I went on to the next.”

Centimeters At A Time

Isinbaeva competed as a gymnast from ages 5 to 15 but was forced to give up the sport after growing too tall to compete. It was then that she was steered into the vault, and within 6 months she won gold at the ’98

so angry because everyone started to say, 'Isinbaeva is finished, we have a new star,' Isinbaeva says.

But mostly, Isinbaeva's competitions entailed her spending hours with a towel draped over her head, lying off to the side of the runway while her "competitors" eliminated themselves at lower bars. When she would finally enter the competition, Isinbaeva often needed three jumps or fewer to secure her victory before moving on to heights only she could scale.

"When I won everything through Beijing and set World Records, blah, blah, blah, I was too confident," she admits. "I believed that I could jump higher than my rivals on one foot, no problem."

Fellow athletes found her to be standoffish. Her comments were received as imperious by the press. Couple that perception with the ease in which she won her meets and Isinbaeva became viewed as track's version of Ivan Drago.

"I believe 99.9% of people were thinking that Isinbaeva is a machine," she says.

Winning Gets Old

Even machines get worn down, and by '09 Isinbaeva had grown weary of her athletic existence. Subconsciously, she was looking for a way out.

"At the World Championships, I realized that I didn't want to compete," she recalls. "Inside of me, it was like, 'I want this competition to be finished soon.' I had already lost because I didn't have the wish inside me to compete."

"While I am lying there waiting for my first attempt, I am thinking, 'If you don't win it, nobody will care about you anymore. You lost. You're nobody. No more interviews. No more pictures. No more press conferences. No medals. No anthem.' There was a part of me that says, 'Yes, please take it all.'"

Isinbaeva whiffed on all of her attempts in Berlin, exiting the competition with a stunning no-height. Afterward, it was as if she had been sucked into a world she knew nothing about.

"Afterward, I thought, 'Oh my God! This is impossible! It is probably a bad dream,'" she says. "I tried slapping myself, like, 'Wake up. Wake up.' I thought maybe I still had one more attempt. I checked, and no, three crosses. Then, it was like, 'What am I going to do now? After the victories, I know how to speak to journalists. But right now, how do I explain what happened? It was like a huge vacuum inside. The only thing I told myself was, 'Don't cry in the stadium.'"

Had Isinbaeva broken down in the mixed zone, perhaps it would have softened perceptions. With a white cap pulled low over her eyes and her face red from the struggle to put up a composed front, she admitted to being overconfident and vowed that it wouldn't happen again.

Moving On

When Isinbaeva broke her WR five days later, all assumed that the Berlin failure was a mere blip. But internally, she was wrestling with deeper, emotional issues.

Her sister had gotten married and was ready to start a family. A husband and child of her own were things that Isinbaeva coveted but sacrificed to pursue her athletic career. She began to wonder if she had paid too great a price for her success.

"I was afraid that while I was giving my entire life to the sport that my women's life was passing by and I would lose everything," she says. "I was thinking, 'Maybe I have to quit. Maybe I have to start a family.' At the same time, I was training. That was impossible for me. I was focused more on my private life and to the sport I was giving nothing."

With all of this weighing on her mind, plus an undisclosed Achilles injury hampering her training, Isinbaeva finished outside of the medals again at the '10 World Indoor. Afterward she told the media that she needed to "find the spark again mentally."

"I may have appeared to be a machine," she explained, "but for human beings, once you get tired, mentally and physically, you get to the point where you hate the stadium, you hate everything that is going on there, you don't want to see anybody, you don't want to answer questions. This is what happened to me."

Taking A Break

In April of '10, Isinbaeva announced that she was taking a 1-year sabbatical from the sport. She used the time to decompress and enjoy some of the excesses of life she had worked hard to attain.

She went out to dinner at the best restaurants and ate whatever she wanted. She hit all of the nightclubs near her home in Monte Carlo. She hung out with friends she hadn't had time to while competing.

One day, she woke up and found herself living a life as vapid as the *Real Housewives*.

"The first three months, I enjoyed feeling like a normal woman," Isinbaeva says. "But then I said, 'How boring it is to be normal.' Every day was the same. It was kind of strange having no muscle pain. Then, my stomach got a little big. When I saw myself in the mirror I thought, 'My God, I'm too fat!'"

Perhaps the turning point of her break was when she served as an ambassador to the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore.

"I was sitting in the VIP tribune like some sort of important person watching the pole vault," Isinbaeva says. "It was the first time I had gotten to watch the competition from the side and got to hear and see how the high-level people supported the athletes. I began to imagine those same people talking about me and supporting me in London."

Happy Returns

Convinced of her true calling, Isinbaeva

rededicated herself to athletics. But she knew if she were to return, her coaching situation needed to change.

"Even before Doha, Vitaly Petrov and I didn't have a good relationship," she says. "There was some sort of misunderstanding. I understood that if I continued with him I would never come back at the top."

Isinbaeva chose to meet chose to meet Yevgeny Trofimov, the man who encouraged her to take up pole vaulting as a 15-year-old, on a day when Orthodox Christians ask forgiveness for their sins, in her case, leaving his tutelage in '05.

"I just explained to him the situation and what happened with me in the past and that I couldn't work with Vitaly anymore," she says. "He just looked at me and says, 'Yelena, of course yes. You are like my daughter. I was really waiting for this time.' It was like the return of the prodigal daughter. I left, wandered and returned."

Steady Climb

Together, Isinbaeva and Trofimov began repairing the bonds of their connection in 2011. Each competition was treated as a minor victory and even when the results were not good, like in her 6th-place finish at the World Champs, the coach preached patience.

"He explained, 'Yelena, this is a normal thing that you lost,'" Isinbaeva says. "I had just gone back to him in March and Daegu was in July so it was just three months preparation but there was six years away from him so of course we lost a little bit of our connection from before 2005. It was a question of timing. I was disappointed, but he says, 'Yelena, don't cry. Everything will be fine in the future. We are on the right track.'"

That proved to be the case this winter, when Isinbaeva set the 28th WR of her career, clearing 16-5¼ (5.01) in Stockholm, and later won gold at the World Indoor.

The focus for Isinbaeva now is the same as what it was during the rough times – winning a third consecutive Olympic gold medal in London.

"I am just looking forward to London because for me, every single moment of the Olympics is magic," she says. "It is like stepping into Wonder World. At any moment during the Olympic Games, everyone from your hometown to some very poor corner of our world is watching."

What they will see is a more-human Isinbaeva.

"Yelena Isinbaeva now is a very tough person," she says. "But mostly, she is just someone who enjoys the pole vault again."

in next week's eTNs:
complete OT wrapups, plus the
European Champs
