



from the editor

E. Garry Hill

AS ELECTION SEASON HEATS UP (IAAF presidency, not the U.S.) I find it thrilling that for the first time in my lifetime—ever?—that we have a real battle going on, rather than one of those preordained successions that are so familiar in all international federations.

It's also refreshing to see the two candidates, legends-as-athletes Sergey Bubka and Seb Coe, are taking the high road, clearly spelling out their visions for the future of the sport rather than engaging in ad hominem attacks on each other.

Both of the IAAF presidential candidates are talking about calendar reform... yesss!

No matter which wins, I think the sport will be well served.

And while both of them have been globetrotting for months, making promises which would benefit the localized recipients of the message, each has touched on a subject near and dear to my heart, which

is “calendar reform.” In other words, improving the sequencing of international meets. As Bubka puts it in his manifesto, “Reviewing the international calendar to ensure harmonization of key IAAF events, regional and national competitions.”

Coe says, “I believe that the creation of a truly harmonized calendar is key to the global promotion of [track & field]. Listening to the Federations and our broadcasters, sponsors and athletes, it's clear that we need new competitive structures for the future. We must look at how the format and presentation of competitions like the Diamond League fit within the overall calendar and how we can help boost the quality of these competitions to make each meeting and the overall season more compelling.”

Regular readers of this column will be well acquainted with my frequent pleas to smooth things out in this area. For a prime example, check out my most recent screed in the November 2014 issue, titled *2015 Diamond League: 5 meets in 14 days in May/June? Zero meets in August?!*

The month before that my subject was *A big-league sport can't survive if its biggest names aren't going head-to-head*. Case in point: have we seen Usain Bolt vs. Justin Gatlin—a heavyweight bout for sprint supremacy that would resonate with the general public, not just track geeks—in 2015? Will we see one before the World Championships? No and no. Not good for the sport.

While I'm busy citing previous columns to you I'd also raise the topic raised in the January issue this year: *It's already time for USATF to be thinking about the timing of its 2019 Nationals*.

I write this on the eve of this year's USATF Championships. Let me see if I have this right: the World Championships will be held in Beijing some 2 months after the conclusion of the U.S.'s selection meet? Meanwhile, savvy European nations will be holding their Nationals as much as a month later, guaranteeing that those who are in shape shortly before the Worlds are indeed still in shape. And haven't had to reach an artificial peak too early. As part of calendar reform, I think *all* countries should have their Nationals late in July.

My 2019 column was based on the late-September staging of the Doha Worlds, which cries out for a change in the calendar, but the point remains the same now. For USATF to be staging this year's selection meet so far in advance of the Worlds is crazy. Holding the meet a couple of weeks after the NCAA is a remnant of a bygone era when Team USA was guaranteed a full boat of qualifiers and could head overseas with many guaranteed medals.

Those medals are tougher to come by now. Get with it, Indy.

Track & Field News
The Bible Of The Sport Since 1948
Founded by Bert & Cordner Nelson

E. GARRY HILL — Editor

ED FOX — Publisher

EDITORIAL STAFF

Sieg Lindstrom Managing Editor
Jon Hendershott..... Associate Editor

BUSINESS STAFF

Janet Vitu Executive Publisher
Jenny McGinnes..... Office Manager
Teresa Tam Art Director

WORLD RANKINGS COMPILERS

Jonathan Berenbom, Richard Hymans, Dave Johnson, Nejat Kök, R.L. Quercetani (Emeritus)

SENIOR EDITORS

Bob Bowman (Walking), Roy Conrad (Special Projects), Bob Hersh (Eastern), Mike Kennedy (High School Girls), Glen McMicken (Lists), Walt Murphy (Relays), Jim Rorick (Stats), Jack Shepard (High School Boys)

U.S. CORRESPONDENTS

John Auka, Bob Bettwy, Bret Bloomquist, Bill Buchalter, Mike Byrnes, Tom Casacky, Pete Cava, Gene Cherry, Keith Conning, Toby Cook, Cheryl Davis, Elliott Denman, Peter Diamond,

John Gillespie, Becca Gillespy-Peter, Rich Gonzalez, Ed Gordon, Ed Grant, George Grenier, Ben Hall, Sean Hartnett, Jeff Hollobaugh, Mike Hubbard,

Dave Hunter, Tom Jennings, Roger Jennings, Andrew Jensen, Tom Jordan, Kim Koffman, Don Kopriva, Ruth Laney, Dan Lilot, Charlie Mahler, Paul Merca, Larry Newman, Lee Nichols, Jack Pfeifer, Shawn Price,

Harv Rentschler, Kirk Reynolds, Brian Russell, Rich Sands, Kevin Saylor, Mike Scott, Charles Shaffer, Jim Spier, Jesse Squire, Don Steffens, Larry Story, Paul Swangard, Carol R. Swenson, Gary Trigueiro, Jules Trigueiro, Steve Vaitones, Howard Willman, David Woods

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS

Steven Downes, Matti Hannus, Ian Hodge, Jonas Hedman, Atsushi Hoshino, Mike Hurst, Mirko Jalava, Paul Jenes, Alfons Juck,

A. Lennart Julin, Duncan Mackay, Peter Matthews, Phil Minshull, K. Ken Nakamura, Bob Ramsak, Sergey Tikhonov, Chris Turner, Mel Watman

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Claus Andersen, Errol Anderson, Greg Armstrong, John Burke, Rich Clarkson, Giancarlo Colombo, Tony Duffy, David B. Dumas, Don Gosney, Jeff Jacobsen, Anthony R. Jones,

Kirby Lee, Bill Leung, Andrew McClanahan, Jiro Mochizuki, Kevin Morris, David Peterson, Victor Sailer, Mark Shearman, Kim Spir, Geoff Thurner, Cheryl Treworgy, Gladys Chai