



from the editor

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Track & Field News
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Founded by Bert & Cordner Nelson

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COLONEL MUSTARD IN THE CONSERVATORY with a wrench? Or was it Professor Plum...? Who doesn't love a multifaceted mystery story?

As the 2015 season rushes towards its exciting conclusion, I anticipate the doings of August and September with a heightened sense of wonder. In fact, I can't remember the last time I was so excited for the mysteries of the summer season to play themselves out.

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The clues abound, but who can best figure them out with 6 weeks to go?

The leading character in our little drama is surely the World's Fastest Human, aka Usain Bolt.

Which Bolt is going to show in Beijing? Or, on an even more elementary note, will he show at all? There will surely be a huge cry of disappointment if he's unable to run,

or if he is clearly hobbled so badly as to be a mere shadow of himself. At the moment, there just aren't enough clues to make an intelligent guess.

I, like many fans—that doesn't include the rabid British press of course—want nothing more but to see a top-of-his-game Bolt going against the best version of Justin Gatlin we have seen yet. I'm not sure that any version of Gatlin will ever match the Jamaican of the 9.58 days, but I'm eager to see something close to it.

But Bolt/Gatlin is only one of many big questions I eagerly await seeing played out:

•Genzebe Dibaba is currently the hottest runner on the planet and may go for an historic 1500/5000 double, but her appearances at the last 3 WC meets have yielded an equal number of 8th-place finishes. She's great in one-off racing, but how about rounds? And with two sets of rounds? Danger waits in the next room.

•Can new shot hope Joe Kovacs break through all the way to WR level? More importantly, can he win the World Champs gold, or will über-competitor David Storl win his third straight gold, coming through when the chips are down against rivals with bigger marks?

•Which event will Allyson Felix end up in, the 200 or the 400? Or could she really attempt the audacious 200/400 double coach Bobby Kersee (see p. 47) says is doable?

•In a men's 400 field that suddenly contains an unprecedented 4 career sub-44 performers (from 4 different countries), it's not just Kirani James vs. LaShawn Merritt; there are suddenly 2 new kids on the block to worry about.

•Last year was "the year of the high jump" but Mutaz Essa Barshim and Bogdan Bondarenko have been relatively quiet so far. Will the pursuit of the 8-foot barrier be renewed?

•If this year is "the year of the pole vault" can Renaud Lavillenie climb even higher over the 20-foot barrier? Jenn Suhr has Olympic gold, but can she add one of the WC variety?

•Could it be that an American might win the men's steeple? Against Kenyans? Jairus Birech remains the favorite, but Evan Jager had him dead to rights in Paris before he fell (see p. 36).

•Can Team USA really pick up the 33 medals our current chart (see p. 49) predicts? I'm guessing no, and that the farther we get from the magic of Hayward Field in both time and distance the projections will fall. But the benchmark Project 30 remains very much alive.

•And the biggest question of all: can Team USA's 4x1s get the stick around the track without playing hot potato?

These questions, and more, answered in the weeks to come. I can't wait!