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FEBRUARY 2018

TRACK & FIELD NEWS

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**USATF Indoor
Chooses
Team USA**

**Mondo Duplantis
Vaulting Even
Higher**

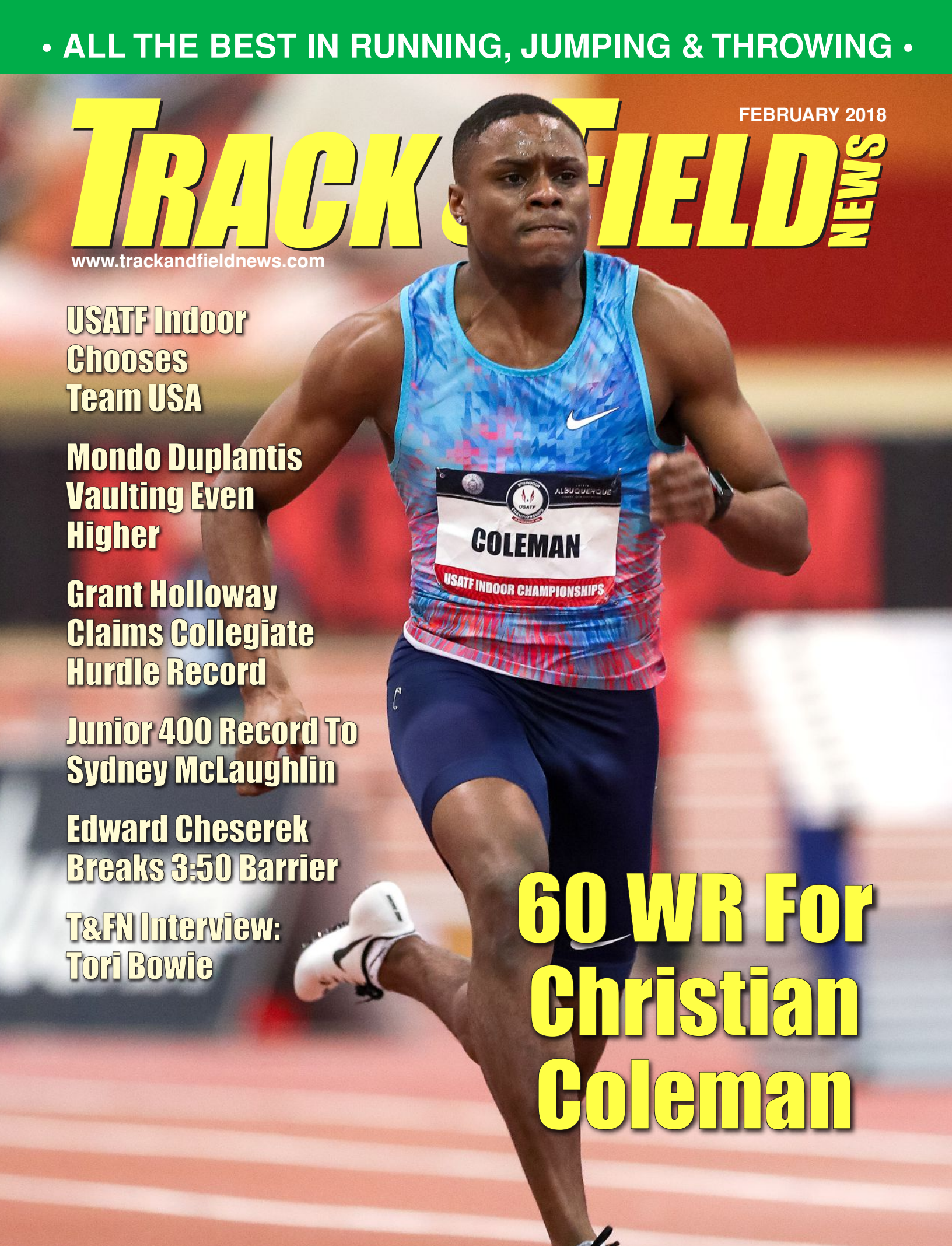
**Grant Holloway
Claims Collegiate
Hurdle Record**

**Junior 400 Record To
Sydney McLaughlin**

**Edward Cheserek
Breaks 3:50 Barrier**

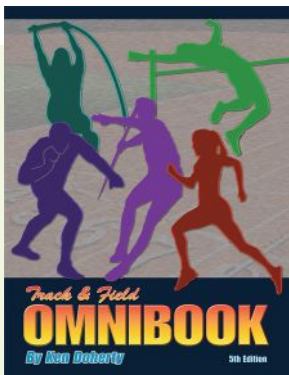
**T&FN Interview:
Tori Bowie**

**60 WR For
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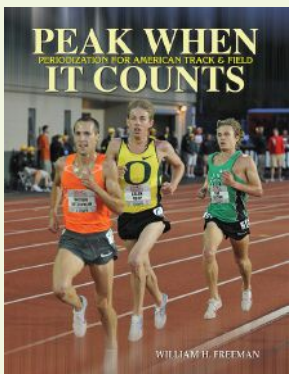


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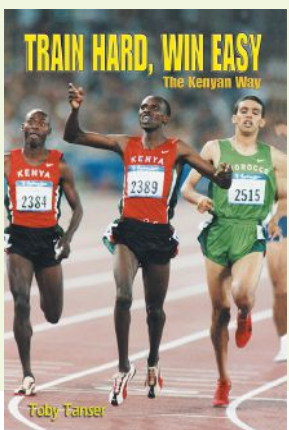
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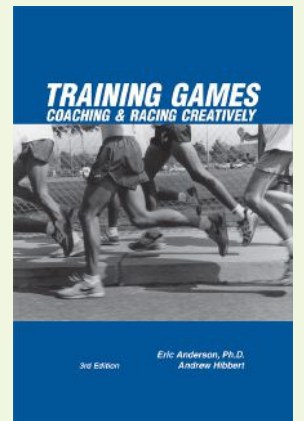
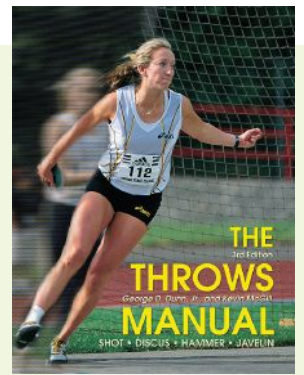


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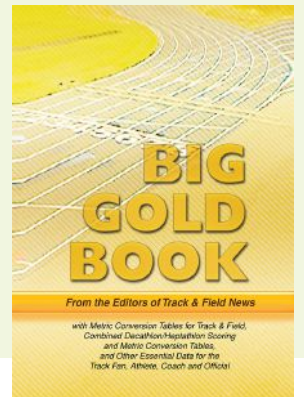
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TRACK & FIELD NEWS

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February 2018



KEVIN MORRIS/PHOTO RUN

Still only 20, Vashti Cunningham won her third straight national high jump title

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• cover photo of Christian Coleman by Kevin Morris/Photo Run •

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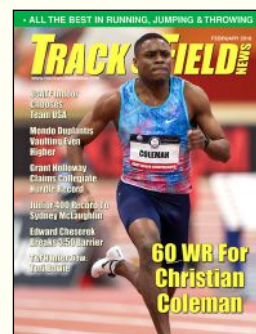
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Doha 2019

www.trackandfieldnews.com

T&FN Publisher Janet Vitu visited Doha recently. Here is an excerpt adapted from her report to Doha 2019 tour members.

I explored the city, looked at numerous hotels, visited the stadium and met with the organizing committee and local agents to set up our tour arrangements. Everything is coming together and we've been able to secure a very nice hotel . . .

Our tour hotel will be the City Center Rotana, a new 5-star hotel opened in 2016. The Rotana is attached to the City Center Shopping Mall in Doha's West Bay area. The rooms are very spacious (over 400 square feet) and nicely appointed. . . The Rotana has four restaurants in addition to a lobby café and pool bar. There are dozens of inexpensive food options in the mall's food court (Chili's, Subway, Applebee's, etc.)

Taxis are inexpensive in Doha. . . but there can be lots of traffic. A new Metro is under construction and if it is finished in time (doubtful), tour members will use it. If it's not finished, T&FN will provide busing to/from the stadium (though the stadium is

only 7½ miles from our hotel, allow 45 minutes due to traffic).

The competition will be held at 40,000-capacity Khalifa Stadium. This is a modern roofed stadium and there are plastic molded seats with backs. The stadium is climate controlled and during the Championships temperatures will be maintained in the stadium and surrounding concourse at 75-82°F.

At this point we're projecting the tour price to be \$3990 per person double occupancy, \$4250 if we have to include busing in the tour price. Add \$875 for single occupancy. Price includes 11 night lodging (In Sept. 26, Out Oct. 7), tickets to all sessions, gala luncheon with invited athletes, welcome function, daily breakfast, arrival and departure transfer, daily newsletter, Doha city tour, goodies, etc. Air to/from Doha is not included.

Qatar is friendly toward the USA and hosts Al Udeid Air Base, the regional headquarters of the U.S. Central Command housing more than 10,000 Americans.



Doha 2019 deposit is now \$1000 per person.

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from the editor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Garry Hill".

DURING THE JUST-COMPLETED Winter Olympics, one figure skating fan on our message boards tried to simplify the scoring system for the non-cognoscenti. His analysis included this:

“Regarding a landed double vs. a fallen triple, here is how it works. A triple toe loop (the easiest triple) is worth 4.3. If you fall, you get -2.1 for Grade of Execution (GOE) and another -1 for the fall. So it gets 1.3. For a triple Axel (worth 8.5), the minimum you could get is 4.5. The maximum you could get for a double Axel is 3.3 (base value) + 1.5 (GOE) for 4.8. So this is still better than the worst triple Axel.”

When a record isn't a record... or is only sort of a record

Are your eyes glazed over yet?

But consider the bigger picture: is that any more difficult to follow than what can happen with recordkeeping in track? Look at what happened with Christian Coleman's 6.37 in the 60, reported in the January issue.

It was the fastest 60 ever run, yet failed on two counts for World Record ratification: it didn't have no-false-start blocks and the requisite dope testing wasn't conducted under the right conditions. So no WR, but it would have been OK as an AR, because USATF conditions were met.

Fortunately, the speedy youngster then ran 6.34 at USATF under IAAF-acceptable conditions. But if you're a hardcore stat-nut, you don't consider that the "real" record either because it came at high altitude. Maybe he can do us all a favor and run 6.33 at the World Indoor.

Sydney McLaughlin has just set a new WJR in the 400, but it too appears doomed to non-ratification by the IAAF for the same two reasons that doomed the first Coleman mark. Maybe she'll do us all a favor and run faster at the NCAA Indoor.

Then there's the convoluted circumstances surrounding Mondo Duplantis, the greatest teen vaulter ever.

Last winter he produced history's highest indoor mark by a Junior, but testing circumstances meant it got ratified as an AJR but not a WJR. This winter he apparently set another WJR, but it turned out that the standards were using the longer pegs permitted in prep competition, so it could be an HSR but not a WJR or AJR.

But that's not where the controversy ends. Duplantis is a dual citizen, U.S. and Sweden and has chosen to represent the latter. He's still eligible for American Records however, because current rules don't say you have to be eligible to represent the country internationally, just that you be a citizen. There's a move afoot to remove that loophole, so no more American stuff.

I won't even get into the "absolute" controversy, whereby the IAAF will accept roof-over-head marks for overall records, but USATF now will not (after briefly doing so). That makes it possible for an American to hold the WR, but not the AR.

Bartender, make mine a double Axel with a triple Salchow chaser.

by Dave Hunter

With no Olympic Games or outdoor Worlds on the '18 calendar, the USATF Indoor Championships took on added meaning as the American pathway to the only global championship of the year: the World Indoor just two weeks hence.

As a result, a varied assemblage of talented Americans—established veterans and rising stars—met in the Land Of Enchantment to battle for each event's two coveted spots on the team to Birmingham.

Notable records were set on the straightaway by Christian Coleman (see p. 10) and Sharika Nelvis, both the vaults featured mass clearings of high heights and 1500/3000 doubles went to Paul Chelimo and Shelby Houlihan (see p. 20).

Women: An AR For Nelvis

In the 60 hurdles, the adidas trio of Sharika Nelvis (7.70), Kendra Harrison (7.72) and Christina Manning (7.73) came across the line in the first three spots—their clockings also ranking 1-2-3 on the yearly world list.

Further, the 27-year-old Nelvis's mark set a new American Record, taking down the 7.72s of Lolo Jones in '10 and Harrison earlier this year, was the No. 3 performance on the all-time world list.

"I am happy," squealed the joyful Arkansas State alum, who later downplayed the importance of her record time.

"I'm never about numbers. I'm all about winning," she soberly offered. "You win—you're on the team. So I got out here, ran my race, stayed in my lane, and I won."

Shelby Houlihan again won twice. She had captured the two longest running events here last year and she again employed a vicious Miruts Yifter-like late-race acceleration to cross the line first in the 3000 (9:00.08) and 1500 (4:13.07).

"This year there is a team to make so I was just trying to come into both races doing the best I could," she explained.

Of her finishing kick she offered, "When I'm shifting, I kind of like to think like a car shifting. I like to make it a strong, decisive move. I'm finally trying to get that and it is so exciting."

The women's vault is always a top event in the jump-friendly 1513m altitude of ABQ and this was no exception as rapidly improving Katie Nageotte (see p. 9) produced a dream-like career day that



Racing To The Worlds

Nelvis beat Harrison & Manning in a thrilling USATF Indoor hurdle battle



USATF Women — cont

saw her join the elite 16-foot club after clearing 16-1¼ (4.91).

A clutch only-attempt clearance by Sandi Morris at 15-11¼ (4.86) was critical to her runner-up finish which will send her—along with Nageotte—to Birmingham.

Indoor WR holder Jenn Suhr cleared 15-9¼ (4.81) to finish 3rd, denying her the opportunity to defend her world title next month.

Young pro Raevyn Rogers looked sharp in the 800 heats, her U.S.-leading 1:59.99 making her the twelfth American ever to break 2:00 indoors.

In the 800, reigning WIC silver medalist Ajee' Wilson—an old pro at 23—rushed to the front at the gun and shrewdly tamped down the pace, splitting the 400 in 62.32 and leaving her with plenty of unmatched speed over the final lap to grab the victory in a negative split 2:01.60 over Rogers (2:01.74).

The 400 was stark evidence of America's strength in the event. In the first race of the 2-section final, outdoor world gold

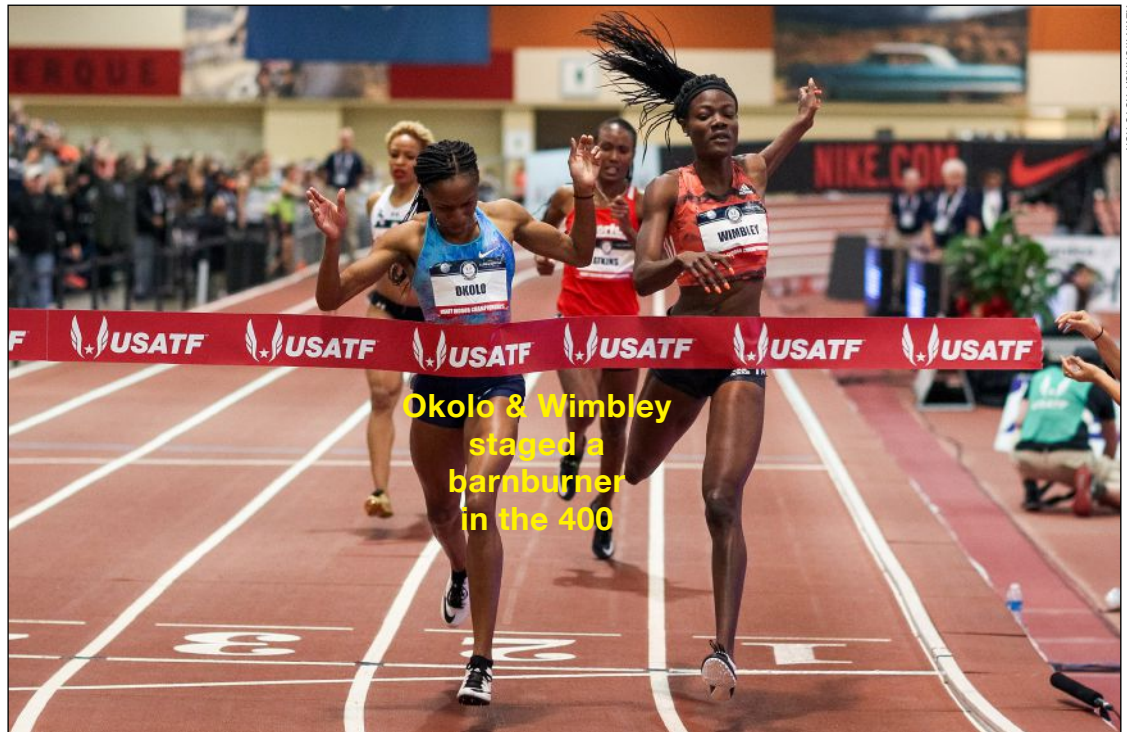
medalist Phyllis Francis pressed hard to post a 51.19 win. That was a world-leading mark that she could savor—for about 5 minutes.

In section 2, 23-year-old Courtney Okolo (51.16) outdueled 22-year-old Shakima Wimbley (51.17) to gain the victory

being knocked off the individual squad, although she will have a place on the 4x4 quartet (see p. 42 for complete Team USA).

Still just 20, Vashti Cunningham captured the high jump crown for the third year in a row.

Behind Inika McPherson on the count-



Okolo & Wimbley staged a barnburner in the 400

and take down Francis' short-lived WL as those two copped the two team spots.

"That's what's so crazy about our sport," shrugged a gracious Francis after

back after 6-3¼ (1.91), she had a come-through last-try clearance at a list-leading 6-4¼ (1.94) to take the win.

She promptly upped that lead with a first-try make at 6-5½ (1.97), before failing three times at a PR 6-7 (2.01)

Youth was also served in the women's 60 as 23-year-old Javianne Oliver—running in her first-ever indoor nationals—dominated a Tori Bowie-less field.

She stamped herself as the one to beat in the heats, where an impressive looking 7.11 took 0.03 off her PR.

Her runaway 7.02 win in the final claimed the yearly world lead and made her the =No. 6 American ever.

"Honestly, I have been working really hard and I was hoping something like this could happen," she said. "But I wasn't thinking about times."

— USATF Women Top Finishers —

Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 16–18 (200m banked; altitude 1513m)—

60: 1. Javianne Oliver (Nik) 7.02 PR (WL, AL) (=6, x A); 2. Destiny Carter (unat) 7.19 PR; 3. *Teahna Daniels (Tx) 7.22; 4. Felicia Brown (adi) 7.34.

400: 1. Courtney Okolo (Nik) 51.16 (WL, AL); 2. Shakima Wimbley (adi) 51.17; 3. Phyllis Francis (Nik) 51.19.

800: 1. Ajee' Wilson (adi) 2:01.60; 2. Raevyn Rogers (Nik) 2:01.74; 3. Kaela Edwards (adi) 2:02.77.

1500: 1. Shelby Houlihan (BowTC) 4:13.07; 2. Colleen Quigley (BowTC) 4:13.21 PR; 3. Shannon Osika (Nik) 4:13.60; 4. Sara Vaughn (NYAC) 4:13.96.

3000: 1. Houlihan 9:00.08; 2. Katie Mackey (Brk) 9:01.68; 3. Emma Coburn (NBal) 9:01.85.

60H: 1. Sharika Nelvis (adi) 7.70 AR (old AR 7.72 Lolo Jones [Asics] '10 & Kendra Harrison [adi] '18) (WL) (3, 3 W); 2. Kendra Harrison (adi) 7.72 =PR (=4, =5 W; =2, =2 A); 3. Christina Manning (adi) 7.73 PR (=6, =8 W; 4, 5 A). Semis: II–1. Harrison 7.77 (x, =9 A).

3000W: 1. Maria Michta-Coffey (Ois) 13:00.53; 2. Miranda Melville (Skech) 13:33.19; 3. Robyn Stevens (Skech) 13:34.58 PR.

Field Events

HJ: 1. Vashti Cunningham (Nik) 6-5½ (1.97) (AL) (also 6-4¼/1.94 AL); 2. Inika McPherson (unat) 6-3¼ (1.91); 3. *Nicole Greene (NC) 6-2 (1.88) =PR.

PV: 1. Katie Nageotte (adi) 16-1¼ (4.91) PR (4, =11 W; 3, =5 A) (in/out: =4, x W; 3, =9 A; non-lsi: =3, =9 W) (14-5½, 14-9½, 15-1½, 15-5½, 15-7¼ =PR [5, x A], 15-9¼ PR [=4, x A; in/out: 5, x A], 15-11¼ PR [4, x A; in/out: 4, x A], 16-1¼, 16-6½ [xxx]); 2. Sandi Morris (Nik) 15-11¼ (4.86); 3. Jenn Suhr (adi) 15-9¼ (4.81).

LJ: 1. Brittney Reese (Nik) 22-7 (6.88) (=WL, AL) (also 22-1½ AL, 22-7 WL, AL); 2. Quanesha Burks (unat) 21-10 (6.65); 3. Jessie Gaines (GardSt) 21-2¾ (6.47).

TJ: 1. Tori Franklin (Ois) 46-5¼ (14.15) PR (6, x A); 2. Andrea Geubelle (unat) 45-2½; 3. Viershanie Latham (unat) 43-9¼ (13.34).

SP: 1. Dani Hill (Nik) 59-4¾ (18.10); 2. Erin Farmer (unat) 59-0 (17.98) PR; 3. Geneva Stevens (NYAC) 58-3¾ (17.77).

Wt: 1. DeAnna Price (NYAC) 80-5 (24.51) PR (5, x W; 5, x A); 2. Stevens 79-6 (24.23); 3. Gwen Berry (NYAC) 78-6¼ (23.93).

Pent: 1. Erica Bougard (Nik) 4760 PR (WL, AL) (2, 2 A); 2. Kendell Williams (unat) 4508; 3. Alex Gochenour (unat) 4405.

Nageotte's Excellent Adventure

Day 3 of the '18 indoor nationals is a day that Katie Nageotte will never forget.

The Ashland alum had the type of pole vault competition—3 PRs plus an equal—that few could ever match and most could only dream about.

In one of the most important competitions of her young career, the 26-year-old Ohio native made 8 consecutive first-attempt clearances as she won her first USATF title.

She topped out at a world-leading 16-1¼ (4.91), becoming only the seventh in world history (fourth American) to clear 16-feet, indoors or out.

She is now ranked No. 4 on the all-time indoor world list, and took three noble, albeit unsuccessful, attempts—her only misses of the day—at what would have been a WR clearance of 16-6½ (5.04)

Runner-up Sandi Morris, who will join Nageotte at the World Indoor, was in awe of the former Div. II star's performance.

"She is another young American pole-vaulter coming up in the ranks and making it onto the world stage," declared the outdoor AR holder. "I think it is long overdue for Katie. She's been fighting really hard for that."

Nageotte credited the businesslike approach she has recently incorporated into her competition as a primary driver behind her spectacular performance.

"I really just focused on coming out and executing," she explained. "We didn't practice. We just stayed calm. I am really proud of myself that I didn't let my emotions get the better of me and I didn't get all excited." The New York AC stand-out stayed occupied on the nuts and bolts of perfect execution:

"It was just 'Stay calm. Hit my cues. And focus on just three

things throughout the whole competition.' And I stayed on the same poles pretty much the whole competition until we got up to the higher bars."

Nageotte also quickly identifies the progress she has made since she began working with American vault legend Brad Walker as a major contributor to her success over the past year. "It was just a matter of time, putting it together in the right meet. I was ready for this."



On a day of near-perfection, Nageotte didn't miss until she got to a WR height

VICTOR SALLER/PHOTO RUN

A late-bloomer who didn't make the U.S. Rankings until '14, the year after she finished her collegiate eligibility, she debuted in the World Rankings last year as No. 6.

The new yearly world leader acknowledged the other-worldly Albuquerque atmosphere that accompanied her clean run of 8 first-attempt clearances in a row.

"It didn't feel real. It still doesn't feel real," she told the press. "And even here it still doesn't feel like I jumped 16-feet like I did. I was just like, 'Get the next bar; get the next bar.' I was staying focused. I was really trying not to let the numbers get into my head."

Many world-class vaulters likely dream about one day being able to undertake a competitive vault at a WR height: very few ever get that opportunity.

But Nageotte actually faced that opportunity as the final day of competition was drawing to a close.

"I was close, but none of them really would have stayed," she reflected on her attempts at the daunting 5.04.

"I am proud of myself that I really gave it three good attempts and I blew through on my last attempt on the biggest

pole that I've ever been on."

She added with a smile, "So that was kind of cool. I am so glad that I didn't just kind of fade out. I gave it three good attempts and was able to really give it a shot." /Dave Hunter/

Seasoned pro Brittney Reese looked ready to go after her fourth World Indoor long jump title after twice jumping a world-leading 22-7 (6.88).

Erica Bougard got a world-leader too, her 4760 total in the pentathlon moving her to No. 2 on the all-time U.S. list, just 45 points off the American Record.

DeAnna Price captured the weight throw crown with a PR 80-5 (24.51) that also claimed the WL, and moved her to No. 5 on the all-time world list.

USATF Men: WR 6.34 By Coleman

by Bob Hersh

Christian Coleman's photo was on the cover of the USATF meet program, and he was understandably the center of much of the pre-meet publicity after he bettered Maurice Greene's 60 WR of 6.39 by 0.02 in January.

That mark couldn't be ratified for technical reasons (*T&FN*, January), but it was assumed that all would be in order at the Nationals and that Albuquerque's 1513m of altitude would help.

The anticipation grew on Saturday, when Coleman (see sidebar) ran his heat in 6.46 after clearly putting on the brakes in the last 20m.

On Sunday he clocked 6.42 in his semi and then, in the final event of the meet, lowered the WR to 6.34.

"It's been a fun weekend," he said. "And it was all building up to this moment. I knew it would be a special race."

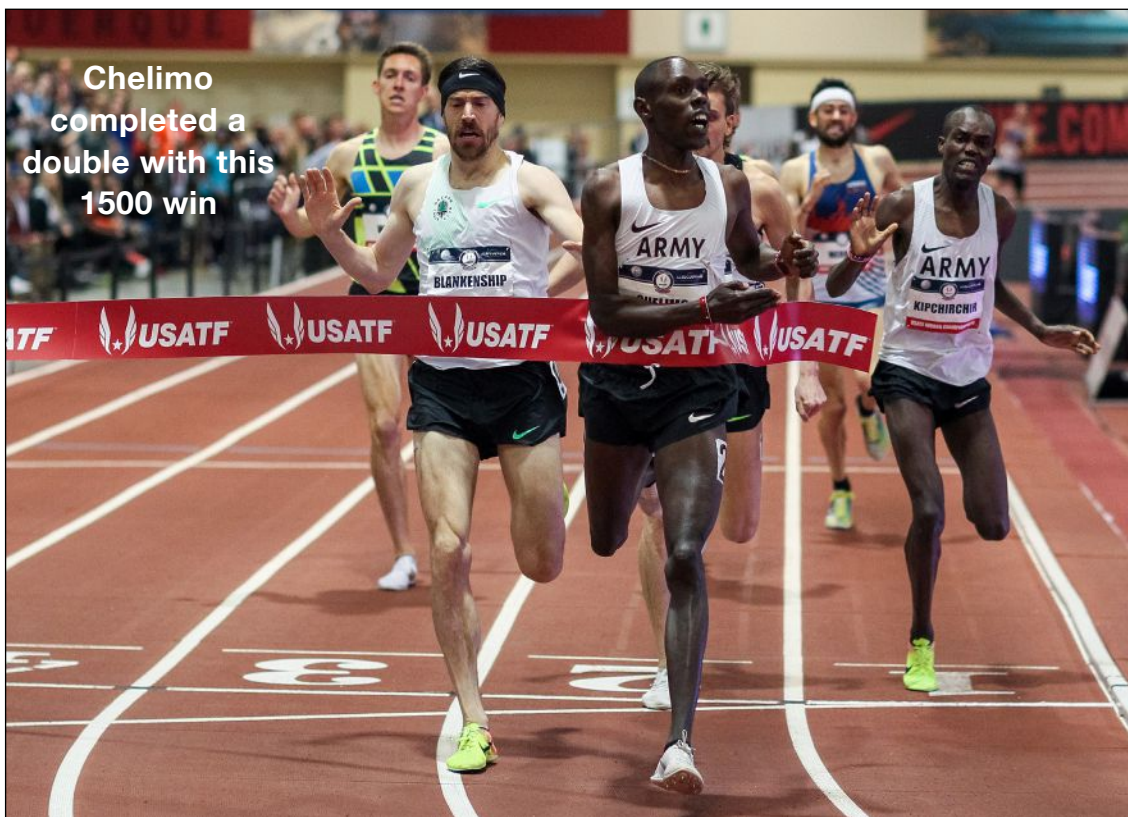
Paul Chelimo, last year's outdoor 5000 champion, won his first indoor titles,

scoring an impressive 1500/3000 double.

In the 3000, he shared the pacesetting with his U.S. Army teammates, Shadrack

(7:58.42) nabbed the second WIC place.

That threesome used similar tactics in the 1500, but on the last lap Kipchirchir



KENNY MORSE/PHOTO RUN

Kipchirchir and Emmanuel Bor. Chelimo (7:57.88) took the lead for good on the antepenultimate lap and Kipchirchir

was overtaken by Ben Blankenship (3:43.09) and Craig Engels (3:43.29). That pair will be the WIC team, as winner Chelimo (3:42.91) will run only the 3000 in England.

Hurdler Jarret Eaton, the '16 winner, defeated defending champ Aries Merritt (7.46) with a PR 7.43.

The top two finishers in the 400 (Michael Cherry 45.53 and Aldrich Bailey 45.59) both set indoor PRs.

Two big streaks were on the line in the vertical jumps. High Jumper Erik Kynard was going for his fifth straight title and he succeeded by being the only man to clear 7-6½ (2.30).

But then he failed in his three tries at the WIC entry standard of 7-7¾ (2.33).

Vaulter Sam Kendricks was seeking his seventh straight

— USATF Men Top Finishers —

Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 16–18 (200m banked; altitude 1513)—

60: 1. Christian Coleman (Nik) 6.34 WR, AR (old WR, AR 6.39 Maurice Greene [Nik] '98 & '01; also betters unrated 6.37 Coleman '18); 2. Ronnie Baker (Nik) 6.40 PR (3, =5 W; 3, =5 A); 3. Mike Rodgers (unat) 6.50.

Semis: I–1. Baker 6.45 =PR (=8, x W; =5, x A). II–1. Coleman 6.42 (x, =7 W; x, =7 A).

400: 1. Michael Cherry (Nik) 45.53 PR; 2. Aldrich Bailey (Nik) 45.59; 3. Vernon Norwood (NBal) 45.60.

800: 1. Donovan Brazier (Nik) 1:45.10 PR (2, 3 A); 2. Drew Windle (Brk) 1:46.29; 3. Erik Sowinski (Nik) 1:47.02.

1500: 1. Paul Chelimo (USAR) 3:42.91; 2. Ben Blankenship (OTC) 3:43.09; 3. Craig Engels (NikOP) 3:43.29.

3000: 1. Chelimo 7:57.88; 2. Shadrack Kipchirchir (USAR) 7:58.42; 3. Ryan Hill (BowTC) 7:58.69.

60H: 1. Jarret Eaton (unat) 7.43 PR; 2. Aries Merritt (Nik) 7.46; 3. Devon Allen (Nik) 7.49 PR.

3000W: 1. Nick Christie (unat) 12:09.96; 2. Emmanuel Corvera (NYAC) 12:24.10; 3. Alexander Bellavance (unat) 12:30.04.

Field Events

1. Erik Kynard (Jord) 7-6½ (2.30); 2. Jeron Robinson (Nik) 7-5¼ (2.27); 3. Ricky Robertson (unat) 7-4¼ (2.24).

PV: 1. Scott Houston (Shore) 19-1½ (5.83) PR (AL) (17-7¾, 18-1¾, 18-5½, 18-7½ [2], 18-9½ PR, 18-11½ PR, 19-1½ PR, 19-3½ [xpx]); 2. Sam Kendricks (Nik) 18-11½ (5.78); 3. Mike Arnold (unat) 18-11½ PR.

LJ: 1. Jarrion Lawson (Asics) 27-6 (8.38) (AL); 2. Marquis Dendy (Nik) 26-11¾ (8.22); 3. Michael Hartfield (adi) 26-10 (8.18) PR; 4. Jarvis Gotch (unat) 26-8½ (8.14) PR.

TJ: 1. Will Claye (Pum) 56-8½ (17.28) (AL); 2. Chris Carter (unat) 56-5¼ (17.20); 3. Omar Craddock (adi) 56-1¼ (17.11); 4. Chris Benard (Nik) 55-6½ (16.93).

SP: 1. Ryan Whiting (Nik) 67-9 (20.65); 2. Darrell Hill (Nik) 65-8¼ (20.02); 3. Jon Jones (Nik) 65-4¾ (19.93).

Wt: 1. Conor McCullough (NYAC) 78-2¾ (23.84) (WL, AL); 2. Alex Young (Velaa) 77-1¼ (23.50); 3. Sean Donnelly (IronWTC) 76-11¾ (23.46) PR.

Hept: 1. Jeremy Taiwo (Velaa/NYAC) 5935 (7.15, 23-3½/7.10, 41-10/12.75, 6-10¾/2.10 [3216–2], 8.19, 16-6¾/5.05, 2:41.36 [2719]); 2. Wolf Mahler (unat) 5923 PR; 3. Devon Williams (unat) 5842.

Coleman Gives Himself A “B”

by Jeff Hollobaugh

“You know,” says a reflective Christian Coleman, “That’s something you dream about as a kid growing up. Running track, breaking the World Record.

“As a competitor that means a lot to me because you have done something that nobody has ever done before. I put a lot of work and a lot of time into my craft. I think I’m really blessed and it’s all paying off.”

With his 6.34, the Tennessee alum engraved his name in history. However, he is anything but satisfied.

“Overall it was probably a B,” he says, grading his effort on a demanding scale. “I would definitely give my start—in comparison to where it has been in the past—maybe a C.

“I would give my competitiveness and my willingness to go get it an A+. I would give the end of my race, where I stood up and started running—you know I have pretty decent form and I’ve been working on my top speed—I would give that an A.

“But overall, it’s a B, but I came up with the win and there is still a lot more to improve on. That was just really the whole goal for the weekend, just to come out with the win.”

Though there is plenty of work left to do with coach Tim Hall, he adds, “We both have come a long way since we started working together in my freshman year at Tennessee. It was a special moment for both of us.

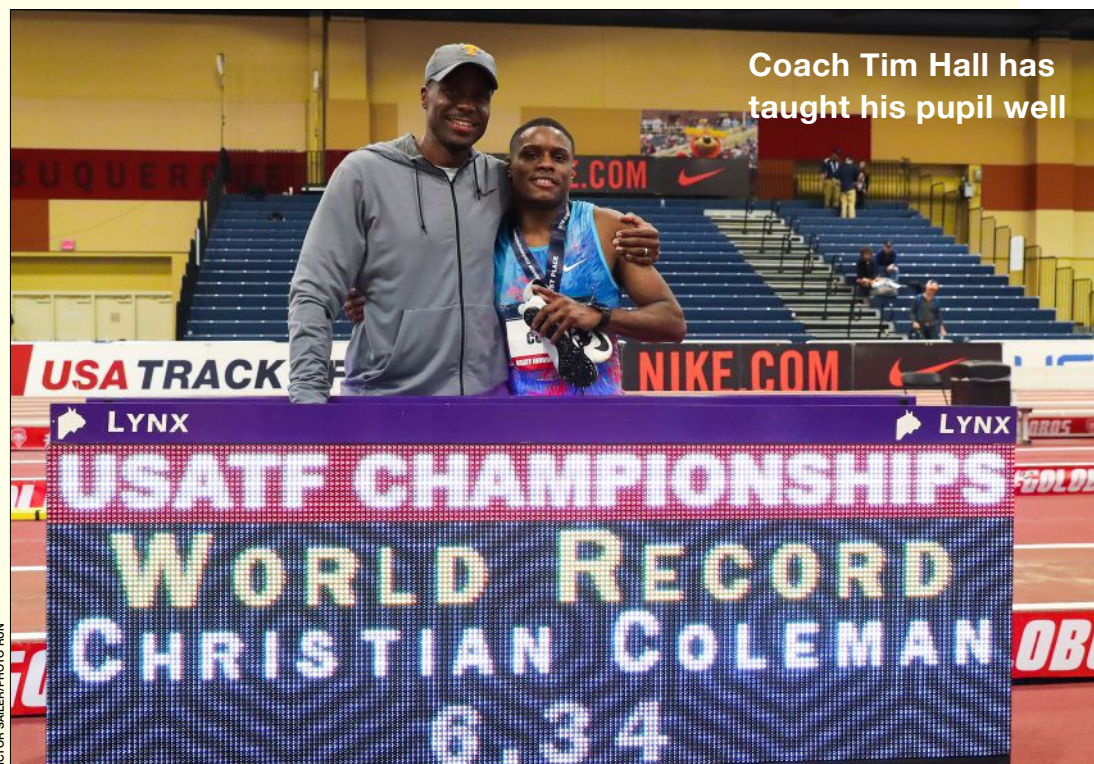
“Moments like that don’t create themselves. You have to create that moment, create that environment and you have to be prepared for it. I came into the championships knowing that the 60m was going to be the last race. Everybody was looking forward to it, and I knew that it would really be a special moment that I wanted to take advantage of, so I was ready and when the moment came, everything wasn’t perfect, but I wanted to put on a good show.”

He calls Ronnie Baker’s runner-up performance “pretty incredible,” adding, “We both made history. The fastest 60m

race, pretty much ever. For him to run 6.40 and to get 2nd, I think that’s really going to motivate him to keep at it and get faster so I have got to make sure that I am on my A game.”

The World Record doesn’t change any of Coleman’s outdoor expectations, but he says that it provides confirmation that he

Coach Tim Hall has taught his pupil well



VICTOR SALLER/PHOTO RUN

and Hall are on the right track.

“My outdoor goals are pretty much the same. I’m not going to shoot for a specific time or anything like that, but I want to continue to get better and I think I’m on pace for that. I want to run outdoors with good form and I want to run faster than I did last year.”

Unlike many sprint greats in recent years, he doesn’t see himself specializing in the 100: “I want to make sure that I’m still on my A-game in the 200 as well as the 100 to be prepared going into the World Championships the next year. I will be running both events this summer. I’m looking forward to it.”

As for his plans for the upcoming World Indoor, “My plan is to win,” he says with a laugh. “I think that’s everybody’s plan. But I’m going to a championship and that’s the goal, to come out with the gold medal.

“I will be prepared for it. Hopefully I can go faster.”

U.S. title, indoors and out. Instead, the outdoor world champion, who was undefeated in 17 meets last year, extended his winless streak in ‘18.

The surprise winner of the event was

27-year-old Scott Houston, who had never placed higher than his 4th in last year’s indoor nationals but here stitched together a remarkable string of lifetime bests.

Houston first raised his indoor PR to

18-9½ (5.73) and then matched his absolute PR of 18-11½ (5.78), which is the WIC qualifying standard.

Kendricks was ahead on misses at that

— continued —

point, but only Houston could clear the next height, a U.S.-leading 19-1½ (5.83).

This was a major upset but, as Houston noted, upsets happen, saying, “That’s why we compete.”

Kendricks took his loss philosophically, saying, “Most men leave unhappy after they lose and I don’t want to be one of those men.”

The 800 provided drama in both the heats and the final, where Donovan Brazier (see sidebar) prevailed in near-record time.

With only heat winners guaranteed a lane in the final, Olympic bronze medalist Clayton Murphy, one of the favorites, fell victim to the slow pace—as well as Drew Windle’s strong finishing kick—and did not advance.

Another Near-Miss

Donovan Brazier is philosophical about yet another near-miss at the American Record in the 800.

“To come close three weekends in a row is kind of disappointing,” he says, reflecting on his win in Albuquerque.

“I would like to be a runner who wins with a fast time. But I can’t complain. I got the meet record so I have to be happy with that.”

He’s more than pleased with his season so far, starting off with an indoor PR 1:45.35 and improving it with 1:45.11 and 1:45.10 wins in the two weekends following to give him all-time U.S. performances Nos. 3, 4 & 5.

“It’s better to show good consistency for the most part and run fast in the outdoor season,” he says. “Indoors is just a fun time.”

It’s even more fun for an athlete who is fit and confident, and the 20-year-old emerged from a winter of training with plenty of both.

“I feel more fit than in years past,” he reveals. “I’m only getting better, I’m only getting stronger each week. I think it’s just the consistency of workouts that is helping me be more mentally fit to race.”

With the World Indoor looming, he has another chance at

In the final Brazier passed Erik Sowinski just before the bell and easily ran away from the field. Windle again unleashed his great kick, moving from 6th to 2nd on the last lap to clinch the other Birmingham slot.

Brazier’s 1:45.10 was his third indoor PR in three weeks and was just 0.10 off Johnny Gray’s 26-year-old AR.

Brazier might have gone faster if he had realized he was that close to the record. “I read the clock and it said 1:43, 1:44,”

he said, “and I was like, ‘Agh! I think I’m gonna miss it.’”

The long jump saw the yearly U.S. lead improved four times. Outdoor champ Jarriion Lawson jumped 26-8½ (8.14) in the first round. Then Mike Hartfield went an indoor PR 26-10½ (8.18) in round 2.

But in round 5, reigning world indoor champ Marquis Dendy reached 26-11¾ (8.22), but then, on the next jump, Lawson put things out of reach with a leap of 27-6 (8.38).

In the triple jump, 2-time former champ Chris Carter led after round 1 and became the yearly U.S. leader in round 3 at 56-5¼ (17.20).

But in the next round ‘12 WIC gold medalist Will Claye—competing in his first indoor meet in 3 years—jumped a list-leading 56-8½ (17.28), which held up as the winner.



“Indoors is just a fun time,” says Brazier

the AR, but that’s not what he’s thinking about.

“It’s hard to plan a championships,” he explains. “Championship-style races are different.

“In Boston we had a rabbit because some people just don’t want to take it. On the world’s stage I don’t know if I’m going to be the guy [to take it out]. It just depends on the day and how I am feeling.”

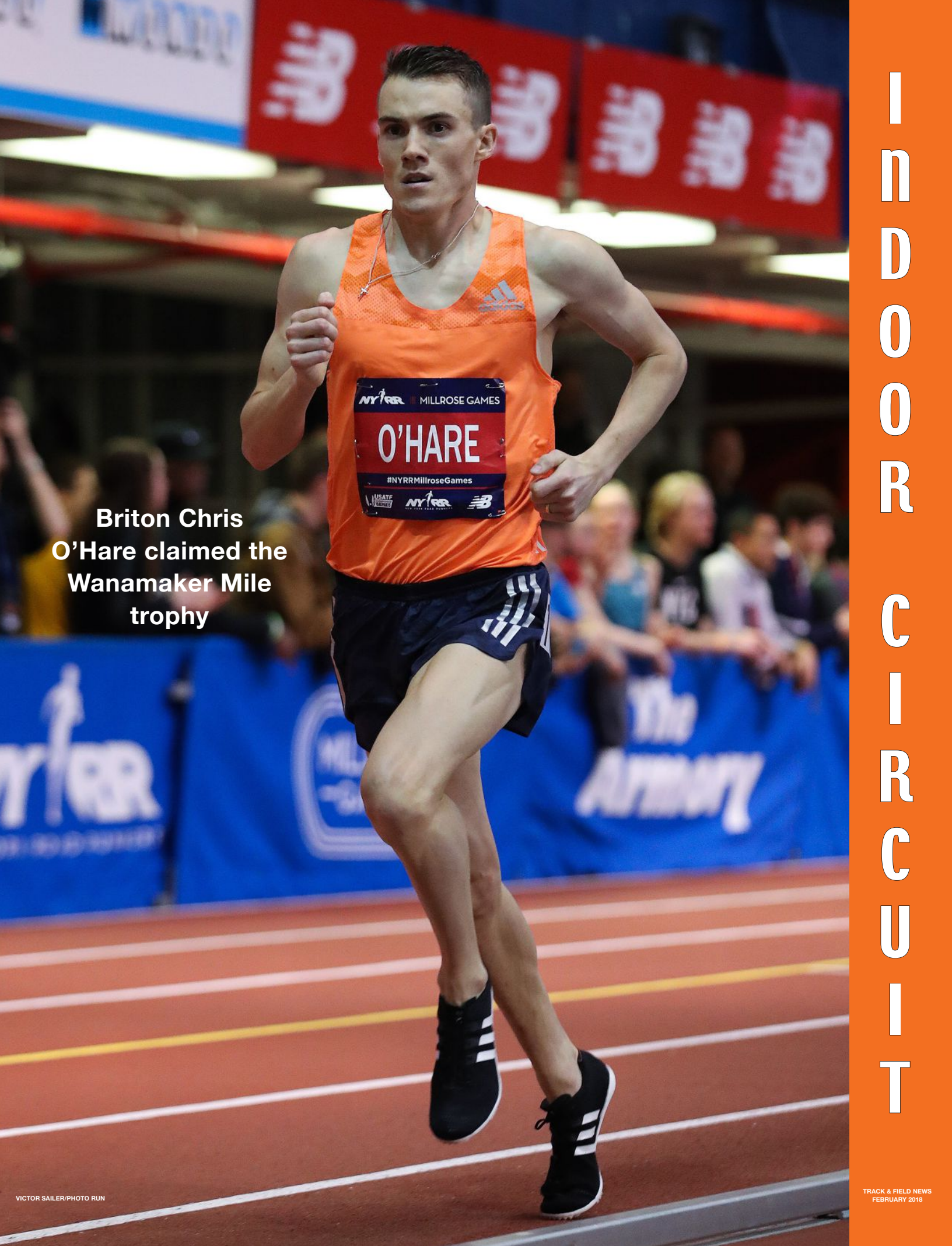
Brazier has gotten Internet flak in the past for how he has run rounds (“I proved last year I can handle them”) and his occasional inconsistency (“This indoor season I showed them I’m consistent”).

He says, “I think it’s me maturing and growing into the program, and the longer

I do it, the better I get. Maybe one day I’ll switch it up and do more mileage, but I think right now I’m good where I’m at.”

One thing he knows for sure about the Worlds: “No matter what, it’s going to hurt. There are no shortcuts to what you want to get. There are no mistakes on that stage. If you get a medal it’s because you did something special.

“No matter how much training you put in, when that gun goes off, it’s going to hurt.” //Jeff Hollobaugh/



Briton Chris O'Hare claimed the Wanamaker Mile trophy

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SANDER INVITATIONAL

Ducks Win Both Team Titles

by Rich Sands

After almost 2 decades of being a signature stop on the indoor circuit, the Armory Collegiate Invitational got a makeover this year, being rechristened the Dr. Sander Invitational in honor of the late

seconds clear of the field. "I came here to run fast, I'm still chasing the indoor standard," he said, referring to the World Indoor Q-mark of 1:46.50.

"I was hoping some of those guys would come with me, but I'm happy to run this time solo."

BYU's Abraham Alvarado (1:48.70) was the surprise runner-up, while Robby Andrews (5th in 1:50.02) and Olympic bronze medalist Clayton Murphy (7th in 1:50.47) never factored in the race.

Ajee' Wilson won the women's 800 wire to wire in 2:00.90, though Jamaican Natoya Goule made it interesting, closing fast for 2nd in 2:01.07.

The meet-within-a-meet Columbia Challenge featured some top NCAA programs, led by Oregon, which easily won both the men's and women's divisions, and Ohio State, BYU, South Carolina and UCLA.

The Ducks swept the DMRs (9:31.87 for the men, 11:00.13 for the women), while the top individual performances came in the mile.

Oregon walk-on Mick Stanovsek won the fastest collegiate section in 3:57.90.

Despite intentions for a quick time, the open mile turned tactical, with the field coming though halfway just under 2:03.

Craig Engels edged into the lead with a little more than a lap and a half left.

He covered the final 400 in 55.23 to cap a 3:57.35 win, a 10th ahead of

New Zealand's Julian Oakley.

"We came out here to run under 3:55, but it didn't happen," Ole Miss alum Engels said. "It's always nice to come out with a win, but it's hard not to focus on the time."

Pro Kate Van Buskirk won the top women's mile in a Canadian Record 4:26.92. Missouri's Karissa Schweizer finished 3rd in a PR 4:27.54 to move to No. 4 all-time on the collegiate list.

A quartet of Kyra Jefferson, Deajah Stevens, Daina Harper and Asha Ruth broke the American Record in the rarely-run 4x2 with a 1:32.67, well under the 1:33.24 set by a national team back in '94.

— Sander Invitational —

New York City, January 26–27 (200m banked)

Teams: 1. Oregon 132; 2. Ohio State 96.

60: 1. *Cravon Gillespie (Or) 6.64. 400: 1. Lalonde Gordon' (Tri) 47.07. 500: 1. ***Brian Faust (Vill) 1:02.33. 800: 1. Erik Sowinski (Nik) 1:46.98.

Mile: IV–1. **Mick Stanovsek (Or) 3:57.90 (U.S. sub-4:00 #495). V–1. Craig Engels (Nik) 3:57.35. 3000: 1. Reid Buchanan (Skech) 7:51.98. 60H: 1. *Chad Zallow (Young) 7.66.

4 x 200: 1. Jamaica' 1:25.63 NR. 4 x 400: 1. Ohio State 3:12.26. DisMed: 1. Oregon 9:31.87 (Prakel 3:58.73).

HJ: 1. Alexander Bowen' (Pan) 7-1 (2.16). LJ: 1. Zack Bazile (OhSt) 25-2¼ (7.69). TJ: 1. Donald Scott (US) 55-6¼ (16.92). TJ: 1. Bazile 51-5½ (15.68).

SP: 1. Ryan Whiting (Nik) 65-7 (19.99). Wt: 1. Aaron Zedella (OhSt) 70-7¼ (21.52). Hept: 1. Trevor Knowles (Lehigh) 5596.

Women:

Teams: 1. Oregon 146; 2. Ohio State 46.

60: 1. *Gabrielle Thomas (Harv) 7.26. 200: 1. *Gabrielle Thomas (Harv) 23.04. 400: 1. Courtney Okolo (Nik) 51.89. 800: 1. Ajee' Wilson (adi) 2:00.90.

Mile: 1. Kate Van Buskirk' (Can) 4:26.92 NR (4:10.06); 2. Rachel Schneider (UArm) 4:27.30 (4:10.38); 3. Karissa Schweizer (Mo) 4:27.54 (4, 4 C; 3, 3 AmC; in/out: 4, 4 C; 3, 3 AmC) (4:10.68—3, 3 C; 2, 2 AmC).

3000: IV–1. Lauren Paquette (Brk) 8:53.09. 60H: 1. *Alysha Johnson (Or) 8.10.

4 x 200: 1. USA 1:32.67 AR (old AR 1:33.24 National Team '94) (Kyra Jefferson, Deajah Stevens, Daina Harper 23.25, Asha Ruth 23.31) (6W). 4 x 400: 1. Oregon 3:32.92 (DesRosiers 54.09, Waller 53.00, Anderson 53.68, Dunmore 52.15). DisMed: 1. Oregon 11:00.13 (Burdon 3:23.13, Waller 52.68, Southerland 2:05.73, Hull 4:38.59).

HJ: 1. Amina Smith (GSTC) 6-1¼ (1.86). PV: 1. Taylor Amann (Wis) 13-11¼ (4.25). LJ: 1. Chantel Malone' (BVI) 21-1½ (6.44). TJ: 1. Thea LaFond' (Dom) 44-11¼ (13.71).

SP: 1. ***Alyssa Wilson (UCLA) 54-11½ (16.75). Wt: 1. *Sade Olatoye (OhSt) 70-4¼ (21.44).

Pent: 1. Kendall Gustafson (UCLA) 4065.



Sowinski just missed a World Indoor qualifier

VICTOR SALERPHOTO RUN

Norb Sander, who led the movement to refurbish New York's 168th Street Armory into a state of the art indoor track facility.

The men's 800 was expected to be a great battle among several top Americans, but nobody joined Erik Sowinski when he surged to the front after 300m.

He cruised home in 1:46.98, nearly 2

Schweizer Back Setting PRs

by Jeff Hollobaugh

If after her 11th-place finish at the NCAA XC last fall people thought that Karissa Schweizer had lost her touch, her on-fire winter campaign has surely burned that notion out of their heads.

In three indoor races since then the Missouri senior has already sizzled to three PRs that placed her among the best collegians ever and a fourth one that makes her the very best.

Back in November, she had fought back the tears while giving post-race interviews in Louisville.

Says Mizzou coach Bret Halter, "She had her worst day that she's had in her entire career, and only 10 people were able to beat her."

"It was hard to end the season with that," she admits. After taking a few days off, she asked her coaches if she could race an undercover 5000 in Boston on December 2.

"All I had to do was go out there and get a qualifier and stay relaxed and no pressure," she explains. "That was a really exciting race for me, just getting that positive back in track."

Schweizer came through, loping along with New Mexico's Ednah Kurgat before exploding to the win in 15:17.31, a better mark than the PR she used to place 4th at USATF last June. It also made her the No. 9 American ever, and No. 5 among collegians.

"The time surprised me a lot especially since we are going out at a slower pace," she recounts. "I wasn't expecting the time to be too fast but then when the pacer stepped off, Ednah really picked up the pace."

A couple more months of solid training later, Schweizer stood at the start of the mile at the Armory's Sander Invitational (see p. 14).

"I never had a super-competitive mile before," she says. "I've never raced professionals, really, in the indoor mile."

"So I just went into it and wanted to be competitive, knowing that the pace was going to be way faster than my PR. I knew that if I could place in the top 3, a PR would come with it."

"I didn't really look at the time until afterwards and I said, 'Oh my!'"

Her 4:27.54 in 3rd crushed her old best by more than 8 seconds

and moved her to No. 4 ever among collegians. She also went through the 1500 in 4:10.68 to become the No. 3 collegian ever.

A week later, she returned to the Armory, hoping to break 9:00 in a solid Millrose 3000 field.

"Going into the race, having that confidence," she explains. "The mile the week before was really good for me. There were

a lot of big names in that race. I tried not to think of it that way. I just thought of it as another race: just put myself out there."

That she did, bravely taking the lead with 800 left against the veterans before being caught.

"That definitely wasn't the plan but I was feeling pretty good and I felt the pace start to slow down a little bit," she says. "I knew that I wanted to try going faster than 8:45 pace."

"I knew that that move probably would cost me later on in the race but I don't regret it. I knew that if I didn't make that move, I probably would regret it later. I decided to go for it."

She adds, "Once I got out there I was like, 'What am I thinking?' But oh well."

Schweizer held on to finish 3rd in 8:41.60, taking the Collegiate Record away from Jenny Simpson and becoming the No. 8 American ever.

And yet she says she is not surprised by her current fitness level. "Going from cross knowing that every season has been building on itself and trusting that my fitness is where my coach says it is, no it doesn't

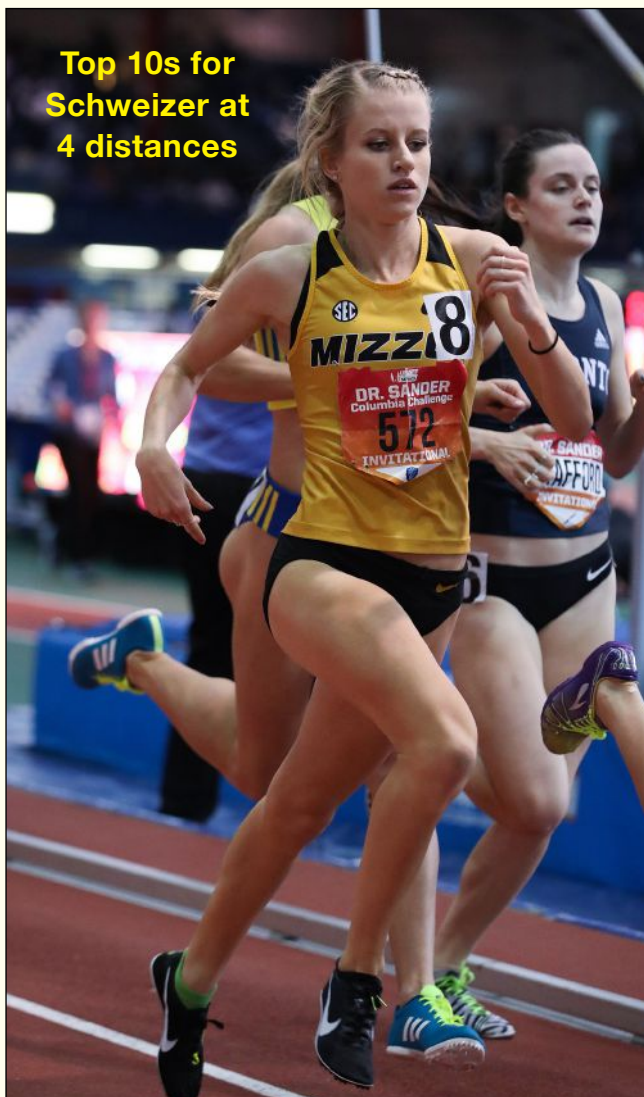
surprise me a lot," she explains.

Says Halter, "I think that she and [distance coach] Marc Burns have become the consummate coach-athlete relationship, the way it ought to be. They communicate well, they have a great plan, coach Burns keeps it fun."

"She sticks with the process and stays engaged with what coach has lined up for her. It's been fun to watch."

Of course, on the question of the week, what will Schweizer run at NCAA Indoors, Halter quips, "I could tell you that but I would have to kill you, right?" "Ultimately, it's going to be a lot of her decision; they're her races. We'll do what's right for her."

Says Schweizer, "I wish I knew the answer. Who knows?"



Top 10s for Schweizer at 4 distances

VICTOR SAILER/PHOTO RUN

MILLROSE GAMES

Record-Time At the Armory

by Rich Sands

The 111th edition of the Millrose Games got a jolt of energy from two World Records, that highlighted an intense afternoon for a crowd of 5550 at New York City's Armory.

Shaunae Miller-Uibo matched the long-

standing best time in the 300, while a quartet of American women moved to the top of the all-time 4 x 800 list.

Miller-Uibo, the Bahamas' Olympic 400 champ, blasted out of lane 5 quickly and maintained her form all the way to the tape in 35.45.

That equaled the 25-year-old standard set by Russian Irina Privalova.

"With a 300 you don't have to hold back too much," said the exhausted Georgia alum, who required several minutes to regain her composure.

"It's a fun race, especially for an indoor meet with the tight curves."

The 4x8 was set up as an assault on the 8:06.24 produced by a Russian team in '11, and the lineup of Chrishuna Williams, Raevyn Rogers, Charlene Lipsey and Ajee' Wilson was expected to have a solo run.

But Williams' opening 2:05.10 put the foursome in a hole against the record and more than a second behind a rival New York All-Stars squad.

Rogers (2:00.45) then moved the favorites to the front, but Lipsey (2:01.98) handed off to Wilson virtually in tandem with the All-Stars, aided by a 2:00.45 from Ce'aira Brown.

Wilson grabbed the baton and immediately opened up a lead. The WC bronze medalist held on for a blazing 1:58.37 split to get the win—and slip under the old record with an 8:05.89. The All-Stars finished in 8:11.45, the No. 3 time ever.

Wilson credited the vocal



Korir moved to No. 3 on the all-time 800 list with his 1:44.21

Miller-Uibo equaled the fastest 300 ever run, 35.45



gling down the homestretch but held on for a 3:54.14 victory, ahead of NCAA champ (and fellow Scot) Josh Kerr (3:54.72) of New Mexico and Ben Blankenship (3:54.77).

"I just wanted to make it hard—for myself and everyone else," O'Hare said. "Every time I looked up [at the screen] they were a bit closer, but I just tried to stay smooth. I tightened up a lot on the last lap, but that's what happens when you put in such a big effort with 600, 700m to go."

The women's 3000 featured no shortage of runners eager to take the lead, including Karissa Schweizer, who moved to the front with 4 laps to go.

Aisha Praught Leer and Emma Coburn responded quickly and the training partners duelled over the closing laps, with Praught Leer scoring a narrow 0.06 victory in 8:41.10.

"Emma and I had talked about working together and making sure that we made it fast," the winner said. "We were thinking we would be the only ones with that idea, but I guess not. It's a World Indoor year and people are going for it."

Dominique Scott (8:41.18) closed fastest to pass Schweizer for 3rd, but the Missouri senior was rewarded with a Collegiate Record 8:41.60, supplanting Jenny Simp-



(l-r): Williams, Lipsey, Wilson & Rogers produced history's fastest 4x8

KEVIN MORRIS/PHOTO RUN

son's 8:42.03 from '09.

The women's vault was slated to be one of the day's marquee showdowns, with Katerína Stefanídi and Sandi Morris—the top two finishers at the last two global championships—featured on the cover of the meet program.

But the American withdrew shortly before competition began due to back pain, which theoretically simplified her Greek rival's path to victory.

The Olympic and world champ was matched, however, by American Katie Nageotte at 15-5½ (4.71), coming out ahead on the countback after both missed 3 times at 15-9¼ (4.81). "Always nice to start

the season with a win," Stefanídi posted on Instagram. "Took some big jumps but the timing was a little off. Excited to be disappointed with a 4.71m."

In the men's 60 hurdles, Devon Allen looked sharp to run down Aries Merritt off the final barrier, setting a PR 7.50 to win by 0.03.

Colleen Quigley (4:30.05) won the women's mile by the same margin, her celebration at the line nearly allowing training mate Kate Grace to slip by. "I almost did the one thing you're not supposed to do," the steeplechase specialist said. "I'm glad I didn't have to learn the hard way."

— Millrose Games —

New York City, February 03 (200m banked)—

60: 1. Ronnie Baker (Nik) 6.48; 2. Noah Lyles (adi) 6.59 PR; 3. Zhenye Xie' (Chn) 6.59; 4. Abdullah Mohammed' (Sau) 6.60 PR.

400: 1. Michael Cherry (Nik) 46.46; 2. Vernon Norwood (NBal) 46.75; 3. Lalonde Gordon' (Tri) 47.24; 4. Kyle Collins (US) 47.61.

800: 1. Emmanuel Korir' (Ken) 1:44.21 PR (3, 4 W); 2. Donovan Brazier (Nik) 1:45.35 PR (2, 3 A); 3. Drew Windle (Brk) 1:45.53 PR (3, 5 A); 4. Kyle Langford' (GB) 1:46.43 PR; 5. Clayton Murphy (Nik) 1:46.61.

Wanamaker Mile: 1. Chris O'Hare' (GB) 3:54.14 (WL); 2. **Josh Kerr' (NM) 3:54.72 PR (CL) (5, 6 C); 3. Ben Blankenship (OTC) 3:54.77 (AL) (3:39.19 AL); 4. Charlie Grice' (GB) 3:56.47 PR; 5. Nick Willis' (NZ) 3:57.72; 6. Kyle Merber (HokaNJNY) 3:57.75.

Mile: 1. Eric Avila (unat) 3:57.45 PR; 2. Pat Casey (UArm) 3:57.73; 3. Corey Bellemore' (Can) 3:58.03.

3000: 1. Shadrack Kipchirchir (USAR) 7:45.49; 2. *Justyn Knight' (Syr) 7:45.86 PR (CL) (9, 10 C); 3. Ryan Hill (BowTC) 7:46.65.

60H: 1. Devon Allen (Nik) 7.50 PR; 2. Aries Merritt (Nik) 7.53; 3. Freddie Crittenden (unat) 7.66; 4. *Chad Zallow (Young) 7.70.

MileW: 1. Nick Christie (unat) 6:00.37 PR; 2. Emmanuel Corvera (NYAC) 6:06.33 PR.

Wt: 1. Conor McCullough (NYAC) 75-8¼ (23.07).

Women:

60: 1. Murielle Houré' (CI) 7.11; 2. Tori Bowie (adi) 7.14 (=AL) (=lo-alt AL); 3. Javianne Oliver (unat) 7.15; 4. Dezerea Bryant (Nik) 7.28.

300: 1. Shaunae Miller-Uibo' (Bah) 35.45 =WR (=WR Irina Privalova [Rus] '93); (in/out: =5, =5 W); 2. Sage Watson' (Can) 37.08 PR; 3. Jaide Stepter (US) 37.23 PR; 4. Courtney Okolo (Nik) 37.28.

Mile: 1. Colleen Quigley (BowTC) 4:30.05; 2. Kate Grace (BowTC) 4:30.08; 3. Ciara Mageean' (Ire) 4:30.99; 4. Lauren Johnson (BAA) 4:31.63 PR.

3000: 1. Aisha Praught Leer' (Jam) 8:41.10 NR; 2. Emma Coburn (NBal) 8:41.16 PR (6, 7 A); 3. Dominique Scott' (SA) 8:41.18 NR; 4. Karissa Schweizer (Mo) 8:41.60 CR, absolute CR (old CRs 8:42.03i Jenny Simpson [Co] '09) (8, 9 A; in/out: 1, 1 C).

60H: 1. Tobi Amusan' (Ngr) 7.90; 2. Kristi Castlin

(Nik) 8.02; 3. Queen Harrison (Asics) 8.03; 4. Monique Morgan' (Jam) 8.09 PR.

MileW: 1. Maria Michta-Coffey (OisWUSA) 6:35.77; 2. Kate Veale' (Ire) 6:44.17 PR; 3. Taylor Ewert (Ohio HS) 6:45.68 HSR (old HSR 6:53.44 Lauren Harris [NYHS] '17).

HS 4 x 200: 1. Bullis, Potomac, Maryland 1:36.34 (8 A; 3 HS).

4 x 800: 1. USA All-Stars 8:05.89 WR, AR (old WR 8:06.24 Moscow [Rus] '11; old AR 8:25.5 Villanova '87) (in/out: 4 A) (Chrishuna Williams 2:05.10, Raevyn Rogers 2:00.45, Charlene Lipsey 2:01.97, Ajee' Wilson 1:58.37);

2. NY All Stars 8:11.45 (3W); 3. Jamaica 8:17.75 (9W; #3 nation).

HJ: 1. Vashti Cunningham (Nik) 6-5 (1.96) (AL); 2. Inika McPherson (US) 6-2¾ (1.90); 3. Erika Kinsey' (Swe) 6-¾ (1.85); 4. Priscilla Frederick' (Ant) 6-¾.

PV: 1. Katerína Stefanídi' (Gre) 15-5½ (4.71); 2. Katie Nageotte (NYAC) 15-5½; 3. Alysha Newman' (Can) 15-1½ (4.61);... nh—Megan Clark (NYAC).

Wt: 1. Jeneva McCall Stevens (NYAC) 79-2¾ (24.15).

Youngsters Taking Their Shots

Jordan Geist & Tripp Piperi are opening eyes in an event where older athletes usually reign

by Jeff Hollobaugh

In the world of NCAA men's shot putting, the kids are more than alright. This year's top frosh are threatening to upend the natural order of the event, in which yearlings aren't usually much of a factor (see sidebar).

Two are already making headlines. Arizona's Jordan Geist opened up indoors at 63-9 $\frac{3}{4}$ (19.45) and then popped a massive 70-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ (21.45) in Seattle, becoming the youngest man ever to

Two weeks later, he got it all under control. "Me and my coach [TJ Crater] both knew that we had more. We walked into Washington with bigger expectations. I realized I had to calm down."

Becoming the youngest ever over 70, he says, is big. "The youngest before me was Randy Barnes, and looking back and seeing that he went on to set the World Record is a really cool thing to think about."

For his part, "The biggest challenge is just trying to be a student and an athlete. In high school there was a clear distinction: school for 6 hours and practice for maybe 3 hours after that.

"Now I'll do a class and then I will practice, and then I'll have another class and then I will lift after that. Pretty much being more independent and realizing that you have to be where you need to be at all times."

The training itself? Not dramatically different. "We had a very elite training program in high school, so it's not too different. Now I'm training for the hammer throw a lot more than I did in high school.

"It is more time consuming but the training—especially lifting—here is different on purpose because we wanted to focus on different muscles just trying to surprise my body more than I would have in high school."

Rooming with Turner Washington, the No. 1 prep in the discus last year, helps: "We're both elite freshman throwers who are going to college for the

first time. Having each other to talk to has been a blessing."

As for his goals, he admits, "A distance doesn't really pop into mind but I think the thing I would really like is to win the national championship either indoors or outdoors or preferably both if I can do that. My biggest goal is throw as far as I can and have as much fun as I can doing it."

The fun, for Geist, translates to the throwing motion itself: "It's the relief that you get where it all lines up at one time. When you have one of the farthest throws of all-time, which is really cool, especially for a shotputter, with all the power behind it.

"But it's also really graceful and technical leading up to it so you really have to be an all-around athlete. The best athletes in the world are throwers. You have to have a combination of speed and quickness and strength and agility."

Geist has become the youngest 70-footer ever



breach the 70-foot barrier.

At Texas, Tripp Piperi has already reached a lifetime best 65- $\frac{3}{4}$ (19.83) to become the No. 7 U.S. Junior ever (Geist turns 20 in July, so he doesn't have Junior status).

Geist and Piperi dominated the prep shot scene the last 2 years, earning the Nos. 1 & 2 All-America spots as both juniors and seniors (as sophs, Piperi was No. 3, Geist No. 4). The versatile Geist actually earned a trio of All-Am accolades as a senior, also rating No. 3 in the discus and No. 2 in the hammer.

"So far, so good," the 6-2/260 (1.88/118) Pennsylvanian says of the first months of his college career. "I started off a little shaky at my opener meet. The biggest thing was that it was my first collegiate meet. I had a lot of nerves. I wasn't able to execute because the nerves took over and the technique broke down."

Piperi started young, his dad taking him to summer track meets at age 8 for a change of pace from football. "I didn't really like running too much but then when he said, 'Let's throw,' I was like, 'OK, that sounds fun.'"

The nickname, "Tripp," came even earlier. Born Adrian Piperi III, his parents decided immediately that they would call him "Tripp"—for triple.

By the time he reached his soph year, he left the gridiron—not something you'd expect from a Texan—to concentrate on throwing. "I went on from there," he says.

As a junior he hit 73-5¼ (22.38) with the 12. His senior year he went 74-11½ (22.84) and only lost once—to Geist.

"This would be the fifth year in a row now we been competing together and we have always gone back and forth," says Piperi.

"He's got a pretty good lead now which I'm always going to try to chase and that's just the sport."

Piperi says his college throws so far have been a surprise. "It's going a lot better than I expected. I'm getting everything done that I need to do. I'm getting used to the 16lb ball and hoping that I can continue to improve like I have."

Longhorn throws coach Ty Sevin says that his pupil is getting close to a breakout throw; Piperi agrees.

"It keeps happening where it's there and right at the end, I keep missing it," he explains. "I know I can hit the big one."

The transition to college has posed its challenges. "A lot of the lifting workouts I had not done, working on the different muscle groups. More training, and a lot more drills than I had



Piperi is climbing the all-time Junior ranks

in high school. It's just much more intense."

That should lead, he hopes, to the big one. His goal is, "Just to throw farther. Obviously, I would like by the end of outdoor to get to the 21s [69ft]. Up there—that would be great if I could do that. I would like to hit 20 [65-7½] pretty soon."

"I just want keep improving. Make sure I keep a level head and stay there. I'm hoping if I keep that same head I will be perfectly fine for every meet."

In Austin, fans have made some comparisons between Piperi and another Longhorn of note, Ryan Crouser. The future Olympic champion threw 66-7 (20.29) in his frosh campaign.

Says Piperi, who is 6-0/270 (1.83/122): "He's obviously an amazing thrower. We're very different, that's for sure. He's much taller than I am. My form's different, I'm faster in the ring than he is. So it's not like I can really go off what he does. But I can't wait to compete against him because it will be fun."

Piperi talks about Geist as well as UCLA frosh Bronson Osborn (who hasn't thrown yet this season) as a new wave in the event.

"The next four years to come are going to be a huge time for the event and I think it could just make a difference in the whole sport," he says. "That's kind of what I hope to do."

Till then, both of these young throwers are working to perfect their craft. Says Geist: "You can always do the little things better in the throwing circle, the chain reaction from your feet all the way up to the end of the throw in the front of the circle. We're always working on it. Just creating more wrap and just pushing the ball a little bit longer—pretty much perfecting what we do now."

Frosh Scoring In The NCAA Outdoor Shot

Jordan Geist and Tripp Piperi could end up in unique company. Since the NCAA made first-year students eligible in '68, only 18 American yearlings have scored at the outdoor championships. The only year with more than 1 was '10, which had 3. The scorers:

1st—Michael Carter (SMU) '80, Mike Stulce (Texas A&M) '88, Brent Noon (Georgia) '92

2nd—Mason Finley (Kansas) '10

4th—Jesse Stuart (Kentucky) '71, Jeff Chakouian (Kentucky) '01, Ryan Whiting (Arizona State) '07

5th—Ron Semkiw (Arizona State) '73, Jordan Clarke (Arizona State) '10

6th—Dave Doupe (Cornell) '74, Hayden Baillio (Texas) '10

7th—Joe Staub (Cal State Northridge) '79, John Godina (UCLA) '92

8th—Joe Hannah (NC State) '77, Mark Parlin (UCLA) '93, Kevin Bookout (Oklahoma) '03, Nick Ponzio (USC) '15, Brett Neelly (Kansas State) '16.

Bowerman TC Pair Climb All-Time List

**Shelby Houlihan & Marielle Hall
are thriving under the tutelage
of Jerry Schumacher**

by Jeff Hollobaugh

For Shelby Houlihan, Jerry Schumacher used the perfect approach when he talked with her about joining the Nike-sponsored group he runs, the Bowerman Track Club.

"Talking to Jerry," she recounts, "the selling point was, 'We

Her bests at graduation—with high marks in the finishing-kick department—were 2:01.12, 4:09.67, 9:03.71 & 15:49.72.

She moved to Portland the October after wrapping up in Tempe and the next year saw solid improvement. A 4:03.39 came at the Pre Classic. She placed 2nd in the Trials 5000 with a PR 15:06.14. In Rio, she ran close to her best, landing 11th at 15:08.89.

"Coming out of college I just wanted to go somewhere where I was going to be pushed and have people that I could train with on a daily basis," she explains. "If I would have stayed training by myself—I guess it's just easier to do all the right things when

other people are doing them as well. I wanted to run in that kind of environment. And it's been everything I hoped for and more."

Last year she won a mile/3000 double at USATF Indoor, then captured the 5K outdoors. Though she got a PR 15:00.37 in the heats at the World Championships, she ended up 13th in the final.

"The Worlds didn't go as well as I wanted it to," she says. "I felt really good. I just kind of made technical errors that cost me."

Just before Halloween, Hall joined the training group. The Philly native was a 7-time Big 12 champ for Texas, for whom she won the '14 NCAA 5000.

Graduating with PRs

of 4:17.10, 8:54.48 & 15:12.79, Hall moved back home and trained with Derek Thompson, mentor of Ajeé Wilson.

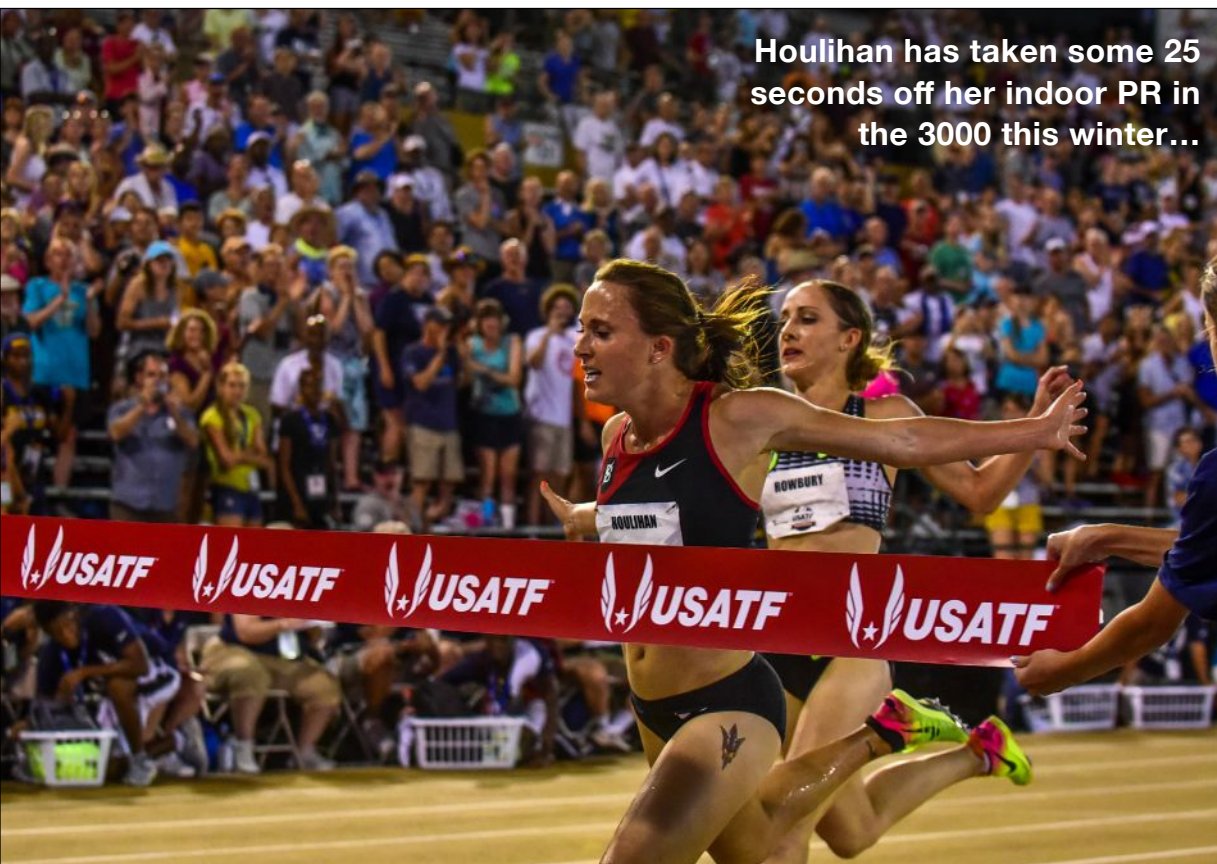
The next season she hit a PR 15:06.45 to make the U.S. team for the Beijing Worlds, but once there, she didn't get out of the heats.

In the Olympic year, Hall moved up in distance, running her first 10,000 in 31:37.45. She finished 3rd at the Trials, but in Rio she was again disappointed, crossing the line 33rd.

Last season, though, she PRed in the 1500 (4:12.14) she only managed 5th at the USATF 5000.

Hall admits the transition to the Portland group (which has styled itself as "The Bowerman Babes") has been challenging. "It's definitely been tough. It's hard to kind of grade yourself when you're in the moment because there's a lot of good athletes on this team. I'm still definitely having my up-and-down moments and just getting used to training and the structure

**Houlihan has taken some 25
seconds off her indoor PR in
the 3000 this winter...**



are going to find out what potential you have and we are going to squeeze every drop out of you that we can.'

"Once he said that I was like, 'Alright, this is where I want to go.' We are definitely doing that."

That was back in '15, and the Arizona State alum's results since then have lived up to that billing. Most recently, she and clubmate Marielle Hall crushed their 3000 PRs in an attempt to get World Indoor qualifying marks prior to the USATF meet. As a result, they moved to Nos. 2 & 4 on the all-time U.S. indoor list (see sidebar).

Comparatively speaking, Houlihan is the veteran in Schumacher's program, having been with it for 2½ years. Hall, at 26 a year older than Houlihan, just joined last fall.

Houlihan showed promise in her college career as a Sun Devil, winning the NCAA 1500 in '14, as well as 5 Pac-12 crowns.

of things.”

One change for her is that the Bowerman group trains at altitude in Colorado Springs in January for a month. After the race in Boston, they went to Albuquerque for the two weeks preceding the USATF Indoor (see p. 6), where Houlihan repeated her national indoor double-title win.

“The training camp environment really allows you to focus in on your training,” she says. “It’s been a great experience overall.”

As for what she’s looking for this year, she says, “Since I moved out to Portland most of my goals are kind of training-based. Mostly just taking it day-by-day and being able to be evaluative and understand the different phases of the year so that I’m able to go into the next few World Championship and Olympic years with a really strong purpose.”

With both Houlihan and Hall focusing on the 3000 this indoor season, they’ve found themselves together a lot.

Says Houlihan, “I love Marielle. She’s very quiet but at the same time really, really funny. I think the more comfortable she’s getting with us, the more her personality is coming out.”

Hall says of Houlihan, “She’s a really fun, easygoing person.

She’s pretty candid about the things that she wants and what she’s going after on the day. When it’s time to practice and train she’s tuned in to what she wants to accomplish.

“I definitely respect that. I’ve just been trying to keep my nose down and follow along as best I can.”

At the Albuquerque camp Hall often finds herself reading in her free time. Houlihan confesses that she’s on a videogaming kick: “Right now, I’m playing a little bit of *Call Of Duty*.”

Explains Hall, “In the downtime you have to learn how to

turn off the training and just relax. You need to shut down and not have your brain always operating about running, because it would exhaust the competitive fire.”

Both of them sound remarkably similar in their ‘18 goals. With no global outdoor championship on tap, they plan to hone the skills that they will need the next time they line up



... Hall has taken almost 15 seconds off hers

MIKE SCOTT

against the planet’s best. That means racing experience is what the coach ordered.

Houlihan isn’t planning any move into the 10K, but she laughs and says, “Knowing Jerry, I’m probably going to end up in one at some point.”

What she’s excited about are the shorter distances: “I really want to break 2:00 in the 800 and 4:00 in the 15. I felt like I could’ve done that last year and I just didn’t get the opportunity.

“After Worlds I was just really, really tired mentally and physically. I wasn’t able to race as well as I’d hoped to. I’m hoping this year that I’ll have some more opportunities to go for those.”

Says Hall, “Outdoors, I’m just looking for more race scenario opportunities, doing things that I’m more uncomfortable with. Getting used to more sit-and-kick type races.

“I’m definitely looking to challenge myself across distances but also I want to really have open eyes and open ears and learn from all the people around me so I can take the training and take this team environment and make it my own for the next few years.”

For both, the long-term goal is to challenge the world’s best. What will it take to get near future podiums?

Houlihan says patience is the key. “I really think slowly chipping away, workouts getting harder, getting older, maturing as well, all those things I’m hoping will come together at the right moment and I just have to be patient for it.”

The All-Time U.S. Indoor 3000 List

Shelby Houlihan & Marielle Hall moved to Nos. 2 & 4 ever among Americans with their swift run in Boston. The Top 10:

- 8:33.25 Shalane Flanagan (Nike)..... 1/27/07
- 8:36.01 **Shelby Houlihan (Bowerman TC) 2/03/18**
- 8:39.14 Regina Jacobs (Mizuno)..... 3/07/99
- 8:40.20 **Marielle Hall (Bowerman TC) 2/03/18**
- 8:40.31 Jenny Simpson (New Balance)..... 2/10/18
- 8:40.45 Lynn Jennings (Nike Int'l)..... 2/23/90
- 8:41.16 Emma Coburn (New Balance) 2/03/18
- 8:41.45 PattiSue Plumer (Nike Int'l) 2/23/90
- 8:41.60 Karissa Schweizer (Missouri) 2/03/18
- 8:41.94 Shannon Rowbury (Nike)..... 1/28/17

“Why Don’t We Go For Sub-3:50?”

After opening his season with a pair of quick miles, Edward Cheserek launched an assault on a big barrier

by Sieg Lindstrom

Edward Cheserek would change only one thing about his called-shot sub-3:50 mile at the Hemery Invitational, an attack on the barrier that carried the first-year pro across the line on Boston University’s oval in 3:49.44, the No. 2 performance ever indoors.

Only Hicham El Guerrouj has run faster, 3:48.45 in '97. Indoor king in the '80s Eamonn Coghlan and Bernard Lagat are also in the sub-3:50 club.

“I wish there had been some other guys there to race with,” says the Kenyan-seeking-U.S.-citizenship who finished his career at Oregon last year with an astounding record haul of NCAA titles in the sport, 17 in all.

Rest assured after this run in which he was accompanied only by a pair of pacers, there will be invitations aplenty for Cheserek to line up and race elite opponents. In fact, Ches accepted one less than 24 hours later at the New Balance GP (see p. 23).

Uninterested in a spot on Kenyan’s team for the World Indoor since that would delay his hopes to represent the U.S. internationally after he completes the naturalization process, Cheserek and his coaches instead set out a tight 15-day indoor schedule to test his fitness at the short end of his range.

Ches passed the exam with the aplomb he once used to roll past collegiate opposition. He unreeled a 3:54.73 mile at the New Mexico Team Invite and then a 3:53.85 runaway from Rio 5000 silver medalist Paul Chelimo to win by 4.74 on the Camel City Invitational’s unbanked 200 track.

“Iran 3:53 at Camel City,” he says, “and [his new Run Flagstaff coach Stephen Haas] said, ‘Why don’t we go for sub-3:50?’ ”

Six days later at 7:00 pm Ches was on the BU start line alongside pacers Brannon Kidder and Drew Piazza before a loud gathering of cheering fans. Running in close single file with Ches at the rear, Kidder worked at the front through 220s for Cheserek of 28.9, 57.8 and 1:55.0 and stepped off.

Piazza now leading for two laps helped Cheserek to a 2:52.6 split, and then, alone, the Kenyan-turned-New-Jersey-prep who wowed as a collegian wowed clamorous spectators again—28.2 for the next 220y (3:20.8). He needed 29.2 for his last furlong; he punched out a 28.7 and went through the 1500 in a world-leading 3:33.76.

“I felt really good the whole race,” he says, “very comfortable.”

Full of run down the last backstretch, he rounded the last turn with arms swinging fast and wide, familiar form, as he drove the last homestretch to nail his target.

“It makes me excited to see what I can do outdoors at longer distances, 5K and 10K,” Ches told *T&FN* later after joking immediately afterwards this might be his last mile.

“I might try some 1500s and next year indoors if I’m feeling good maybe we’ll see if I can run faster.”

Cheserek, whose 24th birthday fell 8 days earlier, is now sponsored by Skechers and preparing at altitude in Flagstaff guided by Haas, himself a 13:33.59 man in the 5000 in '08.

“The training has been good, I feel strong” Cheserek says. “It’s about the same [as what he did at Oregon].”

Haas and Duck distance coach Andy Powell are collaborating on Cheserek’s transition to pro racing. “I talk with [Powell] all the time,” Ches says. “My volume is a little higher now. I used to do some 15M [long runs]. Now I do 16–18M.”

During his planned rest week after Hemery, Ches told *T&FN*, “I’ve been running every day, but just easy runs... My first outdoor race will probably be in April.”



BOSTON NEW BALANCE GP

A Pair Of Hot 3000s

by Roy Conrad

The New Balance GP wound up with a pair of fine 3000s, one won by Jenny Simpson and the other by new pro Edward Cheserek, who doubled-back as he often did for Oregon the past 4 years from his sub-3:50 mile less than 24 hours before (see p. 20).

Simpson—who races once per indoor season—made the most of past appearances at this meet (2M AR in '15, anchor on a WR distance medley last year) and was determined to do so again in a matchup with fellow Colorado alum

Emma Coburn.

In the clash of outdoor Worlds gold medalists, Simpson bided her time as pacemaker Sarah Brown took a 5-woman group past 1600 in 4:37.59. Two laps later Coburn took over in front but allowed the tempo to drop to mid-36ish circuits.

With just under 2 laps left miler Simpson dropped a 32.81 penultimate circuit and all followers save 19-year-old Ethiopian Fotyen Tesfay, running her first indoor race. The two ran even at the bell before Simpson unleashed a 29.86 last lap with crisp strides that belied her lack of specific preparation.

That was it, 8:40.31–8:41.08 for a 6m margin, as Briton Steph Twell (8:41.94) raced past Coburn (8:43.57) for 3rd.

"I'm pleasantly surprised with how well I felt at the end and kind of a little bit wish I knew what I was in shape to really do if I really pushed and tried to see every second that was there," said Simpson, who moved to No. 5 on the all-time U.S. list, "but today was just really about trying to win."

Basking in the glow of his epic 3:49.44 the night before, Cheserek came in "to just enjoy the ride with these guys." He told himself, "I'm just going to go with the leaders. Whatever happens, happens."

What happened was Ches dropping a hammer from 3 laps out to demolish world leader and Rio 5000 bronze medalist Hagos Gebrhiwet, 7:38.74–7:41.79. The field needed 2700m to roll up Spaniard Adel Mechaal's at-

Simpson moved to No. 5 on the all-time U.S. list



KEVIN MORRIS/PHOTO RUN

— New Balance GP —

Roxbury Crossing, Massachusetts; February 10 (200m banked)—

60: 1. Christian Coleman (US) 6.46; 2. Zhenye Xie (Chn) 6.54; 3. Noah Lyles (US) 6.57 PR; 4. Abdullah Abkar Mohammed (Sau) 6.63.

300: 1. Jereem Richards (Tri) 32.10 PR (WL) (7, 7 W); 2. Bralon Taplin (Grn) 32.50; 3. Vernon Norwood (US) 33.05;... dnf—Rennie Quow (Tri).

400: 1. Deon Lendore (Tri) 46.25; 2. Steven Gayle (Jam) 47.43; 3. Machel Cedenio (Tri) 47.86;... fs—Josephus Lyles (US).

800: 1. Donovan Brazier (US) 1:45.11 PR (AL) (2, 3 A); 2. Marc Reuther (Ger) 1:46.78; 3. Edward Kemboi (Ken) 1:47.96.

1500: 1. Chris O'Hare (GB) 3:37.03 PR; 2. Jake Wightman (GB) 3:37.43 PR; 3. Garrett Heath (US) 3:41.03; 4. Andy Bayer (US) 3:43.08 PR.

3000: 1. Edward Cheserek (Ken) 7:38.74 PR; 2. Hagos Gebrhiwet (Eth) 7:41.79; 3. Dejen Gebremeskel (Eth) 7:42.78; 4. Adel Mechaal (Spa) 7:44.31.

TJ: 1. Chris Carter (US) 54-8¼ (16.67); 2. Troy Doris (Guy) 54-1¼ (16.49) NR; 3. Leevan Sands (Bah) 51-9¼ (15.78).

Women:

400: 1. Shakima Wimbley (US) 51.82; 2. Phyllis Francis (US) 52.38; 3. Natasha Hastings (US) 52.45; 4. Shamier Little (US) 53.30.

800: 1. Jenna Westaway (Can) 2:01.22 PR (1:29.99); 2. Raevyn Rogers (US) 2:01.73; 3. Charlene Lipsey (US) 2:02.05; 4. Lynsey Sharp (GB) 2:02.20.

1500: 1. Dawit Seyaum (Eth) 4:04.38; 2. Aisha Praught Leer (Jam) 4:04.95 NR; 3. Gudaf Tsegay (Eth) 4:05.91; 4. Dominique Scott Efurud (SA) 4:07.25 NR; 5. Sarah McDonald (GB) 4:07.62 PR; 6. Cory McGee (US) 4:08.84 PR (AL).

3000: 1. Jenny Simpson (US) 8:40.31 PR (5, 6 A); 2. Fotyen Tesfay (Eth) 8:41.08 PR; 3. Steph Twell (GB) 8:41.94 PR; 4. Emma Coburn (US) 8:43.57.

60H: 1. Sharika Nelvis (US) 7.89 (7.881); 2. Christina Manning (US) 7.89 (7.888); 3. Jasmin Stowers (US) 7.98; 4. Queen Harrison (US) 8.00.

HJ: 1. Erika Kinsey (Swe) 6-3¼ (1.91); 2. Doreen Amata (Ngr) 6-2 (1.88); 3. Alyx Treasure (Can) 6-2; 4. Priscilla Frederick (Ant) 6-¾ (1.85).

tempt at a steal, but Cheserek sped closing laps of 29.45, 29.95 and 27.52 for his win; last 400 in 57.47, last 800 in 1:57.11.

Donovan Brazier came into the 800 looking to win against Boris Berian in the '16 world champion's first race in 16 months. Instead Brazier earned a sparkling 1:45.11 PR that moved him to No. 2 on the all-time U.S. list.

Brazier followed the rabbit, reached halfway in 50.86 and sped a 26.95 last lap showing fabulous form, just 0.11 behind Johnny Gray's AR from '92.

Said Brazier, "The thing was just really about racing at this meeting. So the time was a first but when you're in a race with Boris, he's a really competitive guy so a win's going to come with a fast time."

Berian (1:50.17 for 7th) struggled late but admitted he has a way to go in steering back from a long Achilles layoff.

TIGER PAW INVITATIONAL

Records to USC, Holloway, Harrison

by Peter McKenzie

The men's 4x4 brought down the house at Clemson's Tiger Paw Invitational, with a screaming finish that put both USC and Florida under the old Collegiate Record.

The Gators led at the first exchange, with Kunle Fasasi's 46.08 clear of Zach Shinnick's 46.28.

Second leg Grant Holloway (45.12) hoped to put the race away, but was run down by USC's Rai Benjamin (44.63).

The third leg didn't change much, as Ricky Morgan (45.72) stayed ahead of Chantz Sawyers (45.67).

On anchor, the Trojans ran Michael Norman (see sidebar), whose 45.35 clinched the win over Florida newcomer Benjamin Lobo Vedel (45.36).

Texas A&M closed hard with Mylik Kerley's 44.87 to produce the No. 6 collegiate time ever, 3:02.95.

That wasn't nearly enough to match USC's 3:01.98, or Florida's 3:02.23.

"The relay is always fun," said Norman. "The energy that was created in the arena made it so competitive."

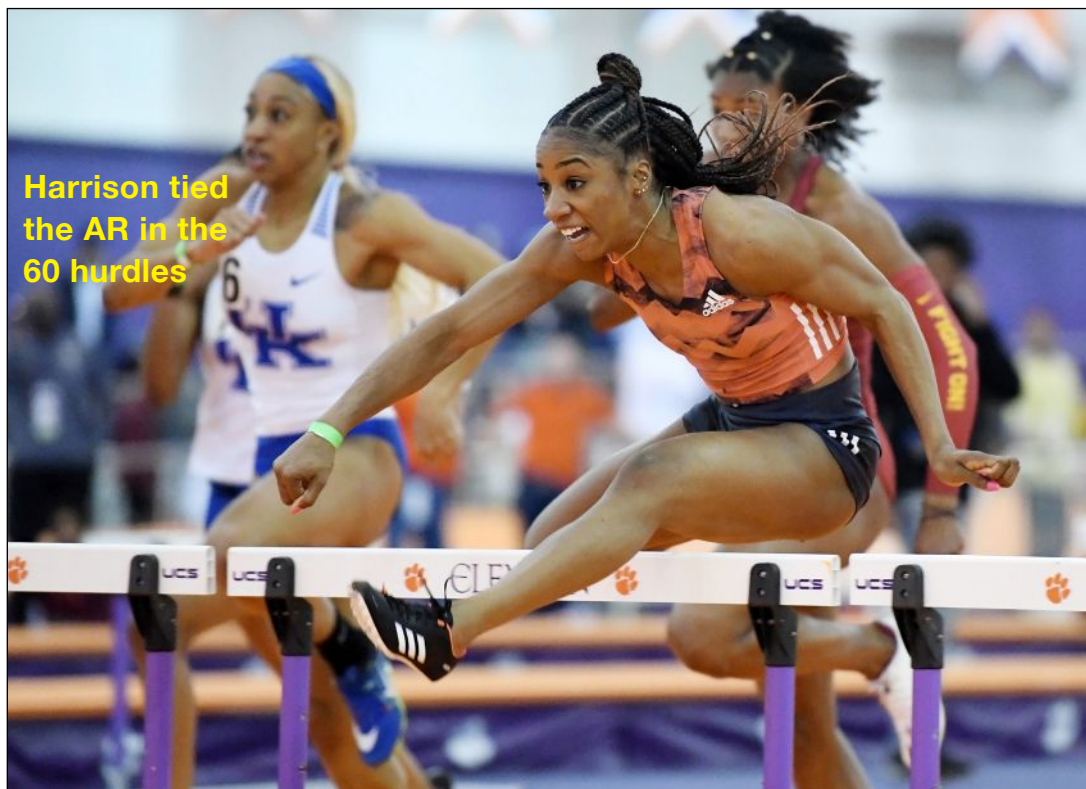
"We recruited these guys to take our program to the top," said Trojan coach Cary Smith Gilbert. "Of course, you don't

know, but you hope. They were training in that direction, let's say that."

Gator head Mike Holloway said, "We knew it was going to be a great race. Hats

sent Antigua, has been in the process since last year of switching his competitive nationality to the U.S.

The 4x4 wasn't the only record to fall in



Harrison tied the AR in the 60 hurdles

ERROL ANDERSON/THE SPORTING IMAGE

off to them. They did a phenomenal job. Now we know what we've got to get ready for in a month."

The USC time, better than the accepted World Record, might be submitted for IAAF consideration. The hitch is that Benjamin, a U.S. citizen who has repre-

what has become an exciting venue this winter as Grant Holloway clobbered the collegiate best in the hurdles with his 7.42, bettering Omar McLeod's 7.45 from '15.

"I didn't like my start," recounted Holloway, who in the process beat Olympic champ McLeod by a full 10th, "but it was

— Tiger Paw Invitational —

Clemson, South Carolina, February 9-10 (200m banked)—

60: 1. *Kendal Williams (Ga) 6.61. 200: 1. Omar McLeod' (Jam) 20.76. 400: I-1. **Michael Norman (USC) 45.00 (AL, CL) (7, 9 W; 5, 7 A; 5, 5 C; 4, 4 AmC). II-1. **Akeem Bloomfield' (Aub) 45.02 (=8, =10 W; 6, =6 C).

800: 1. **Devin Dixon (TxAM) 1:47.37 (AmCL). Mile: 1. Alex Riba (TxAM) 3:59.12 (U.S. sub-4:00 #506); 2. **Benjamin Young (Ky) 3:59.59 (U.S. sub-4:00 #507).

60H: 1. **Grant Holloway (Fl) 7.42 CR, (old CR 7.45 Omar McLeod' [Ar] '15) (WL, AL) (11, x A); 2. McLeod' 7.52.

4 x 400: I-1. USC 3:01.98 CR (old CR 3:02.52 Texas A&M '17) (perhaps acceptable as a WR?) (WL) (2 W) (Shinnick 46.28, Benjamin' 44.63, Morgan 45.72, Norman 45.35);

2. Florida 3:02.23 (4 W; 2 C; #2 school) (Fasasi' 46.08, Holloway 45.12, Sawyers 45.67, Vedel' 45.36); 3. Texas A&M 3:02.95 (AL) (7 A; 6 C) (Grant 46.40, Izu 45.54, Dixon 46.14, Kerley 44.87).

HJ: 1. Randall Cunningham (USC) 7-5 (2.26). PV: 1. *Jacob Wooten (TxAM) 18-4½ (5.60). LJ: 1. KeAndre Bates (Fl) 24-10½ (7.58). TJ: 1. Eric Sloan (USC) 53-3 (16.23). SP: 1. *Denzel Comenentia' (Ga) 67-¾ (20.44). Wt: 1. Josh Davis (NCSt) 74-8½ (22.77).

Women:

60: 1. ***Twanisha Terry (USC) 7.23. 200: I-1.

Deanna Hill 22.82 (WL, AL, CL). II-1. ***Sydney McLaughlin (Ky) 22.95 PR. 400: 1. Kendall Ellis (USC) 51.57.

800: 1. ***Sammy Watson (TxAM) 2:03.42. 60H: 1. Kendra Harrison (adi) 7.72 =AR (=AR Lolo Jones [Asics] '10) (WL) (=3, =4 W).

4 x 400: I-1. USC 3:27.56 (WL, CL) (5 C) (Constantine' 52.96, Cockrell 52.26, Hill 52.23, Ellis 50.11).

HJ: 1. Jeannelle Scheper' (StL) 6-2 (1.88). PV: 1. Lakan Taylor (unat) 14-3¼ (4.35). LJ: 1. *Kate Hall (Ga) 21-8¾ (6.62). TJ: 1. Thea LaFond' (Dom) 45-6¼ (13.87).

SP: 1. Lloydricia Cameron (Fl) 57-3½ (17.46). Wt: 1. *Stamatia Scarvelis' (Tn) 69-11¼ (21.33).

Norman Has Learned A Lot

by Jeff Hollobaugh

Michael Norman was not happy about 2017. Having joined USC as one of the most highly recruited prospects in the nation off PRs of 10.27, 20.14 (20.06w) and 45.19, the Trojan yearling finished “only” 4th in the NCAA 1-lapper. He broke 45-seconds four times, topped by the 44.60 he used to make the USATF final, where he finished 7th.

“Coming in there was a lot of pressure,” he admits. “I didn’t have the freshman season that I wanted.

Others might have killed for a season like Norman’s, but many of his expectations were based on his sparkling California prep career where he was a 5-time *T&FN* All-America pick.

As a junior in ‘15, he ranked No. 1 in the 400 and No. 2 in the 200.

His senior year, he focused more on the half-lapper, notably winning his Olympic Trials semi over Justin Gatlin before placing 5th in the final. He followed up with World Junior gold.

He ended up with No. 2 All-Am status in all three dashes.

Hence the pressure, and what was for him a disappointing collegiate debut.

“I learned a lot about myself last year as an athlete,” he says. “I figured out that the things I was doing in high school

enough to do what I had to do. By hurdle five I didn’t feel nothing on me. I ran through the line, hit the cushion.

“All I heard was ‘Collegiate Record.’ All the emotion came on.”

In the women’s hurdles, Kendra Harrison clipped off a 7.72 run to tie the 8-year-old American Record of Lolo Jones and move to =No. 3 on the all-time world list, just 0.04 off the WR.

The outdoor WR holder knew it was

good early, explaining, “My touchdowns between hurdles one and two were my fastest touchdowns ever. Usually, it takes me until hurdle 3 to get my speed up.”

She is hoping the momentum carries her through the USATF meet and to Birmingham for the Worlds. “My goal is to win,” she said.

The 200m banked oval produced other amazing times. Norman ran his first in-

wouldn’t necessarily work at the collegiate level because of the change in the intensity of the workouts.”

The ‘18 season promises to be different, he says, after running 45.00 in his indoor debut. “The biggest factor in making a huge impact on this season is that I was able to complete fall training the way it is supposed to be.”

Norman, says coach Caryl Smith Gilbert, “is easy to work with, always happy. He’s one of the hardest workers on the team. And he always gives you 100% effort.”

It helps that he is committed to the program: “Coming to USC I learned a lot about myself. As an athlete I think I found a

supportive environment that balances what I want to achieve in life and what I want to achieve in my track career.”

The 20-year-old communications major sees his races this season as just steps in a long process. “I have a lot of stuff to work on,” he explains. “This is part of me continuing to build toward the future and improve.”

Working with sprint coach Quincy Watts has helped, he says. “He always knows when something’s up,” he says of the ‘92 Olympic gold medalist. “We have a great relationship.”

Watts, he says, doesn’t dwell on past glories. “He might say stuff just to motivate us, to get us fired up to compete at our full potential. But he doesn’t tell us old stories.”

Not when Norman and his teammates are writing new ones.



ERIK ANDERSON/THE SPORTING IMAGE

door 400 ever and made it count, hitting 45.00 to move

to No. 7 on the all-time list (plus No. 5 ever on the U.S. and collegiate compilations).

In the next section, Auburn’s Akeem Bloomfield blitzed a 45.02 to move to =8.

Said Norman, “There’s a little bit of a wish that I had raced Bloomfield, but there will be a time and place for that.”

USC came out on top of the women’s relay battle as well, clocking a 3:27.56 for the No. 5 collegiate clocking ever.

Saruni On Familiar Path

by Bret Bloomquist

Michael Saruni lacks the element of surprise—that out-of-nowhere factor that fellow Kenyan Emmanuel Korir brought to the boards 12 months ago—but so much else seems so familiar.

Once again a UTEP underclass halfmiler, one fairly new to a big spotlight, one being trained by Paul Ereng, is throwing out a set of markers that are becoming stunning.

Last year, Korir announced his arrival with an oversized-track 1:46.50 at Vanderbilt that presaged a pair of NCAA 800 titles and a contract with Nike.

This year, the sophomore Saruni topped him with a 1:45.92 opener at Vandy.

Korir's second foray in '17 was a WR 600 off a 1:14.97 in Albuquerque. Saruni's second race this year was a WR 1:14.79 in Albuquerque (*T&FN*, January).

"Same thing; it looks like he's following the same script Emmanuel was following last year," UTEP head Mike Laaksonen says.

"He's opened up on a mission, he wants to break every one of Emmanuel's records and take it one step higher."

Actually, his still-training partner, still-UTEP classmate Korir is not the only person he's chasing.

For his third race of the season, Saruni ran a 1:45.19 in Lubbock that stands as the No. 2 collegiate time ever, behind only coach Ereng's 1:44.84 from '89 with Virginia.

Ereng's record will last "as long as it lasts; as soon as he gets a good race the record will come back home, so that's good," the coach says. "But I always tell him, 'Don't chase times, let the times come. Stay relaxed, don't worry about it, just run your race.' "

"I don't look at records," the 22-year-old Saruni says. "Right now I don't know what to expect. I'll see where my training takes me and hope for the best. I'm training every day just to win the NCs. I'm doing what my body tells me to do, using my talents the way they are supposed to be used."

A big difference between Saruni and Korir is that Saruni brings a history into the season, and a rather strange one at that.

Saruni—with PRs of 45.69 & 1:45.82—also had an impressive

fresh year; it just got overshadowed, first by Korir, then by some unfortunate incidents.

After getting DQed at the NCAA Indoor, he put himself in position to challenge Korir outdoors before getting tangled with his teammate with 200 to go just as both had charged from last to first.

He later took 3rd at the Kenyan WC Trials, got caught up in some Byzantine federation politics and by the time that was cleared up it was too late for him to get a visa to compete in London.

The whole mess at the NCAA outdoors still baffles him.

"I was right there, then I was on the floor, everyone was passing me," Saruni says. "It made me more hungry, made we want to go for it one more time. I never watched it. I tried to google it one time but I couldn't find it. [It hurt] for a short while, but I got over it. I still can't believe it, but I had to let it go."

Says Ereng: "He's matured; now he's more in control, control of what he wants to do."

The comparisons with Korir only go so far. A 3:46.15 performer at altitude, Saruni is a conference champion in the 1500—Ereng thinks he has sub-3:35 potential in that race—and while he doesn't yet have the sub-45 sprint speed of Korir, he isn't far behind that.

Saruni "has the same tools," Ereng says. "He might be able to run 44 in the 400, 1:43 in the 800. Emmanuel has the speed, but with Michael, you don't often see a guy who can run that fast in the 15 run 45. Usually they run 47, 48. I think he can run a super 15, he's just

never focused on the 15."

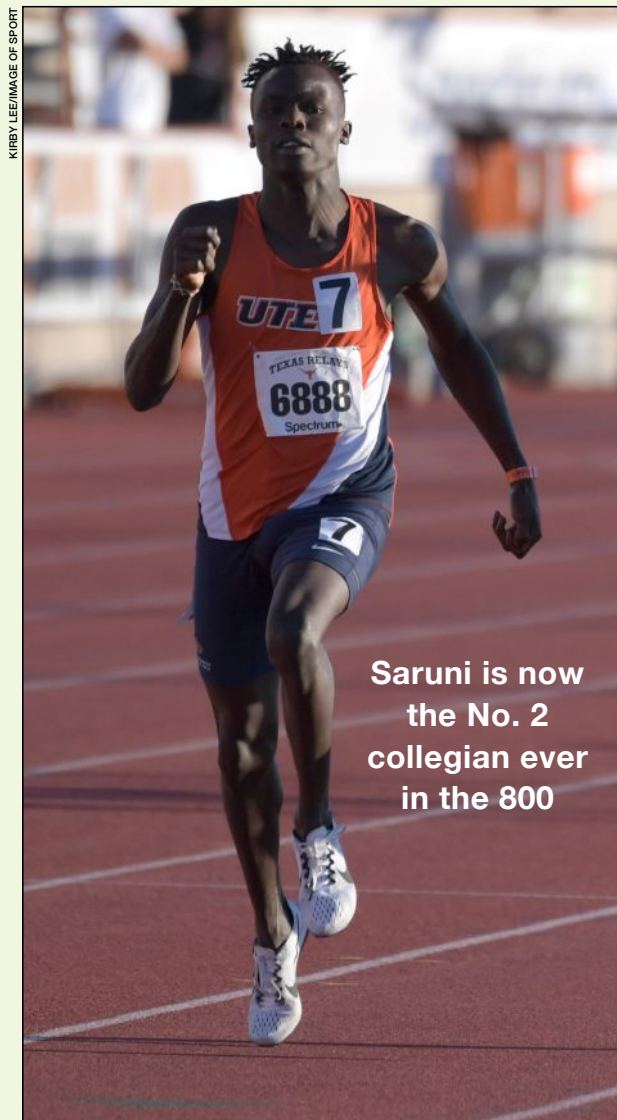
He also has a great training partner in Korir.

"That helps a lot; I don't know who else could spar with him," Laaksonen says. "Emmanuel keeps him honest, they compete at every practice."

And on the weekends, Saruni competes against times from both Korir and Ereng, even if he isn't focused on them during the race.

The 600 record "was a great feeling, I didn't expect that," Saruni says. "Honestly I was not prepared for that race, but something got into me and man, it was something else."

It's all happening again.



Saruni is now the No. 2 collegian ever in the 800

2020

Mount San Antonio College
Walnut, CA

June 19-28, 2020

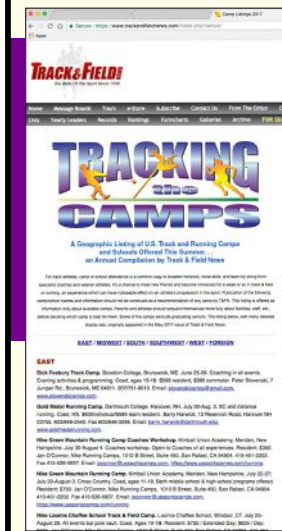
OLYMPIC TRIALS



Is there a more exciting meet than the U.S. Olympic Trials? The 2020 Trials will be held at Mt. SAC's new stadium in sunny Southern California. The tour will include tickets to all t&f sessions, 11 nights lodging (In June 18, out June 29), gala luncheon with invited athletes, daily newsletter, transportation to the meet, etc. No details yet. Current deposit is \$100 per person.



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ATTENTION CAMP DIRECTORS

Since Track & Field News switched at the beginning of 2018 to a digital-only format, things will be different with the Annual Camp Survey. The Survey will now appear only on the T&FN website, and you can purchase a listing for just \$25 each, i.e., if you advertise just one camp, then your cost is \$25; if you are advertising four camps, say, then your cost is \$100. Further, there is no deadline. We'll start listing your camp(s) as soon as we get your information and payment, and we'll keep everything up through August. We'll start directing our T&FN readers to the Camp Survey starting with the March digital issue of T&FN.

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More Collegiate News

WITH THE NCAA Championships right around the corner, let's check out what else has been happening in the collegiate world.

Lotsa Q's On DMR Weekend

If you want to qualify a team for the distance medley at the NCAA Championships these days, chances are you'll end up running at the Wilson Invitational in the semi-dead week before most conference championships crank up. Teams love running on Notre Dame's spacious oversized 352y unbanked oval.

This year, the 3 fastest men's times

of the year (and 5 of 6) were recorded at Wilson, topped by Stanford's 9:26.91, which moved the Cardinal to No. 6 on the all-time, all-conditions collegiate list.

Four other schools cracked 9:30 in the deep race: Oregon 9:27.17, Wisconsin 9:27.72, Indiana 9:28.62, Notre Dame 9:28.79.

The same weekend also produced the No. 4 time at the Roanoke Tuneup and Nos. 7-10 at the UCS Invitational.

On the women's side, the year's 2 fastest marks came on earlier weekends (Stanford heading that list too, at 10:58.93, but DMR Weekend generated Nos. 3-4

& 7-11 (Wilson) and 6 (Roanoke).

Turner Super-Frosh High Jumper

Last year's top prep high jumper, Vernon Turner, got off to a spectacular start in his career as an Oklahoma yearling.

Turner jumped a list-leading HS mark of 7-6 (2.285) last year, moving to =No. 2 on the all-time prep list.

That PR disappeared

in his second meet this year when he cleared 7-6½ (2.30) for 3rd at the Texas Tech Classic.

He upped that again at the Tyson Invitational and did it in bold style. After needing three tries to clear a winning 7-3¼ (2.22), he moved directly to 7-7¾ (2.33).

And promptly cleared on first try to move to =No. 4 on the all-time Collegiate indoor list. He also claimed a share of the yearly collegiate lead, with Texas Tech senior Trey Culver.

Said Sooner coach Jim Van Hootegem, "That puts him into the elite company of collegians who have jumped 2.33. An examination of that list would tell you just how special that is."

The list:

- 2.37 | 7-9¼..... Hollis Conway (La-Lafayette) '89
- 2.35 | 7-8½..... Derek Drouin (Indiana) '13
- 2.34 | 7-8..... Brian Brown (NWn Louisiana) '90
- 2.33 | 7-7¾..... Mark Boswell (Texas) '00
- Andra Manson (Texas) '07
- Donald Thomas (Auburn) '07
- Eric Kynard (Kansas State) '11
- Trey Culver (Texas Tech) '18
- Vernon Turner (Oklahoma) '18

A 19-year-old who turns 20 in August, Turner then missed three times at 7-8½ (2.35).

WJR 400 For Syd The Kid: 50.52

It was a safe bet Sydney McLaughlin would make waves in her frosh season at Kentucky. That she did, in the SEC 400 and with yearling company from Georgia's

Nilsen Gets A Barrier Out Of The Way

Chris Nilsen joined the 19-foot club at the Nebraska Tune-up, clearing 19-¼ (5.80) to become =No. 10 all-time among collegians and =No. 3 among American collegians.

"It was a really good bar to hit," said the 20-year-old South Dakota soph, who in his prep career was 1 of only 10 ever to crack 18. "I was excited to get that under my belt; I've been wanting it for a very long time now."

He was anything but clean on the way up, with every height past 17-6½ (5.35) taking more than one attempt. After clearing 18-8¾ (5.71) and then the PR on second tries, he called it a night.

"It was a really good winter of training," he told us on the eve of his conference meet. "I had been training well, and I was super-healthy... up until about yesterday when I contracted the flu.

"I'm glad I got the 19-footer out of the way before that."

He expects to be healthy again in time to defend his title at the NCAA Indoor. Of that he says, "I have to go in and jump a few certain bars and keep my head down until I jump those bars. Then I can look up and say, 'What do I have to do to win?' " //Jeff Hollobaugh/



Nilsen was happy to join the 19-foot club

KIRBY LEE/IMAGE OF SPORT



Irby almost caught McLaughlin

Lynna Irby.

McLaughlin withstood a late charge from former Indiana prep Irby as the pair crossed the line in 50.52 and 50.62. McLaughlin's time crushed Sanya Richards' World Junior Record of 50.82 set in '04. (Irby, although still a teenager, misses being a Junior by about 3 weeks.)

McLaughlin also snipped 0.02 off Francena McCorory's low-altitude Collegiate Record and missed Phyllis Francis's overall mark of 50.46(A) by just 0.06.

Lined up next to each other—lane 5 for McLaughlin, 6 for Irby—when they broke for the pole the Wildcat got it, by a step at 200 (23.75). Applying pressure on the second backstretch, McLaughlin led by close to 5m entering the last turn, but Irby tore back into her lead in the final 50 as McLaughlin looked to stumble as she leaned for the win.

"I think I got out well," said McLaughlin of the 1.09 decimation of her PR. "I think my last few meters just need some work but other than that I'm happy."

Irby, whose 200 win in 22.66 grabbed the world lead, jumped to No. 4 on the U.S. 400 ATL.

Ewen A Rising Shot Force

Maggie Ewen has been on fire this season with a string of shot performances that have put her among the best in the world.

The fireworks started with the Arizona

State senior's opener in Flagstaff, where her world-leading 60-6 (18.44) topped her PR and moved her to No. 9 on the collegiate all-time list.

A week later at a Texas A&M quad she improved that best to 61-3 (18.67), another world leader, becoming the No. 5 collegian ever.

Then at the Kirby Elite in Albuquerque she tossed the ball 63-0 (19.20) to retake the world lead and move to No. 3 all-time among collegians, and No. 7 among Americans.

Her weight throwing—remember, she did set the Collegiate Record in the hammer outdoors last year—hasn't suffered at all, with a PR of 73-½ (22.26) at the same meet.

"I try not to chase records too much," she told Athletic Experience. "I try to keep throwing farther and eventually you'll hit the record or you won't."

With an indoor best now nearly 5ft (1.48) farther than her outdoor mark, she explains, "I love the indoor shot because it's a little bit bigger than the outdoor shot and the rubber that an indoor shot is

made of is just a little bit stickier than the stainless steel of an outdoor shot.

"I've had a lot of issues with the outdoor shot just slipping out of my hand or hyperextending my fingers... so I really just kind of like the safety and reassurance of that little bit grippier surface and little bit bigger surface to push against."

WR In The Men's 4 x 800

The BU Last-Chance meet was supposed to aid in collegiate qualifying, and it did, but it also concluded with the greatest 4x8 ever seen indoors, the first three teams surpassing the World Record of 7:13.11:

1. Hoka New Jersey/New York TC 7:11.30 (Joe McAsey 1:49.03, Kyle Merber 1:47.11, Chris Giesting 1:47.43, Jesse Garn 1:47.73);
2. Atlanta TC 7:11.84 (Brandon Hazouri 1:49.84, Patrick Peterson 1:48.73, Edward Kemboi' 1:45.55, Brandon Lasater 1:47.72);
3. District TC 7:12.25 (Blair Henderson 1:49.16, Strymar Livingston 1:47.19, Edose Ibadin' 1:46.92, Matthew Centrowitz 1:48.98).

Jesse Garn had to come from behind on the anchor to win it.

Conference Team Champions

This is a Division I-only compilation.

MEN

ACC: Florida State
 America East: Mass-Lowell
 American: Houston
 Atlantic Sun: Kennesaw State
 Atlantic 10: Rhode Island
 Big 10: Ohio State
 Big 12: Texas Tech
 Big East: Villanova
 Big Sky: Northern Arizona
 Big South: Liberty
 Conf USA: Charlotte
 Heps: Princeton
 Horizon: Youngstown State
 Mid-American: En Michigan
 MEAC: North Carolina A&T
 Metro Atlantic: Monmouth
 Missouri Valley: Illinois State
 Mountain Pacific: USC
 Mountain West: Air Force
 New Englands: Northeastern
 Northeast: Cent. Connecticut
 Ohio Valley: Eastern Kentucky
 Patriot: Navy
 SEC: Alabama
 Southern: Western Carolina
 Southland: Sam Houston
 Summit: North Dakota State
 Sun Belt: Arkansas State
 SWAC: Alabama State
 WAC: Grand Canyon

WOMEN

ACC: Florida State
 America East: Albany
 American: Cincinnati
 Atlantic Sun: Jacksonville
 Atlantic 10: VCU
 Big 10: Minnesota
 Big 12: Texas
 Big East: Villanova
 Big Sky: Northern Arizona
 Big South: Liberty
 Conf USA: Middle Tennessee
 Heps: Penn
 Horizon: Youngstown State
 MEAC: North Carolina A&T
 Metro Atlantic: Monmouth
 Mid-American: En Michigan
 Missouri Valley: Illinois State
 Mountain Pacific: USC
 Mountain West: UNLV
 New England: Northeastern
 Northeast: LIU Brooklyn
 Ohio Valley: Tennessee Tech
 Patriot: Bucknell
 SEC: Arkansas
 Southern: Samford
 Southland: Sam Houston
 Summit: North Dakota State
 Sun Belt: Texas State
 SWAC: Alabama State
 WAC: Grand Canyon

International News

"I knew I was in good shape and I was waiting for a big throw," said the 26-year-old Czech. "My goal now is to

THE BIGGEST MEETS in Europe this winter were those that belonged to the IAAF's third iteration of its World Indoor Tour.

Give of those meets were staged on the Continent, with the fifth being in Boston. Highlights of the 5 European meets follow (Boston got its own coverage in our domestic section, on p. 23):

Karlsruhe: Dibaba Opens Hot

The WIT started auspiciously with 4 world-leading marks in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Genzebe Dibaba, the 1500 WR holder, raced home solo in 3:57.45—a time only she has bettered, twice—well ahead of young local fave Konstanze Klosterhalfen's PR 4:04.00.

In the men's vault Raphael Holzdeppe cleared his highest-ever indoor bar, 19-3½ (5.88) to best WR holder Renaud Lavillenie. They left the rest behind, clearing 19-1½ (5.83) both on second attempts before Holzdeppe negotiated the winning height on third try.

Sharika Nelvis won a tight hurdle-PR battle, 7.80–7.81 from Christina Manning as they moved to Nos =6 and =8 on the

all-time U.S. list.

Finally Olympic 4th-placer Malaika Mihambo reached 22-¾ (6.72)—notable in that the German's indoor best before this year was 21-2 (6.45).

Düsseldorf: Su Getting Speedy

Christian Coleman just may have a race on his hands in the World Indoor 60.

In Düsseldorf China's Bingtian Su roared ahead by 20m and stopped the clock at 6.43 to jump to =5 on the all-time list.

"Thank you," he told journalists. "I enjoyed this party."

Tomáš Staněk boomed his first three shot throws to seat himself No. 7 on the all-time world list: 70-9¼ (21.57), 72-1½ (21.98), and then 72-9 (22.17).



Dibaba cranked out the No. 3 time ever in the 1500

stay healthy until Birmingham."

Christina Manning reversed her Karlsruhe result against Sharika Nelvis in a back-and-forth 60H, 7.77–7.80. Her world leader took Manning to No. 5 U.S. all-time.

— Indoor Tour Winners —

(¶ = overall tour winner, receives \$20,000 and Wild Card to World Indoor)

Karlsruhe (February 03)—

60: 1. Bingtian Su (Chn) 6.47 NR. 800: 1. Marcin Lewandowski (Pol) 1:46.90; 2. Erik Sowinski (US) 1:46.91 (AL). 3000: 1. Hagos Gebrhiwet (Eth) 7:37.91 (WL).

PV: 1. Raphael Holzdeppe (Ger) 19-3½ (5.88) (WL). LJ: 1. Juan Miguel Echevarría (Cub) 26-1¾ (7.97) PR.

Women:

60: 1. Tatjana Pinto (Ger) 7.10. 400: 1. Léa Sprunger (Swi) 52.03. 1500: 1. Genzebe Dibaba (Eth) 3:57.45 (WL) (x, 3 W). 60H: 1. Sharika Nelvis (US) 7.80 PR (WL) (AL) (=6, x A); 2. Christina Manning (US) 7.81 PR (=8, x A).
HJ: 1. Mirela Demireva (Bul) 6-4¾ (1.95) PR. LJ: 1. Malaika Mihambo (Ger) 22-¾ (6.72) PR (WL).

Düsseldorf (February 06)—

60: 1. Su 6.43 NR (=5, =9 W). 800: 1. Adam Kszczot (Pol) 1:46.47. 1500: 1. Vincent Kibet (Ken) 3:36.86. 3000: 1. Yomif Kejelcha (Eth) 7:40.55. 60H: 1. Balázs Baji (Hun) 7.64.
PV: 1. Piotr Lisek (Pol) 19-2¾ (5.86); 2. Sam Kendricks (US) 18-11½ (5.78) (=AL). SP: 1. Tomáš

Staněk (Czr) 72-9 (22.17) NR (WL) (7, 10 W).

Women:

60: 1. Asha Philip (GB) 7.17. 1500: 1. Beatrice Chepkoech (Ken) 4:04.21 NR. 60H: 1. Manning 7.77 PR (WL) (5, =8 A); 2. Nelvis 7.80 =PR (=7, x A).

LJ: 1. Ivana Španović (Ser) 22-2½ (6.77) (WL);...
3. Quanesha Burks (US) 21-10¾ (6.67) (AL).

Madrid (February 8)—

60: 1. Mike Rodgers (US) 6.63. 400: 1-1. Óscar Husillos (Spa) 45.86 NR. 800: 1. Kszczot 1:46.53. 1500: 1. Ayanleh Souleiman (Dji) 3:38.47.

PV: 1. Konstadínos Filippídis (Gre) 19-2¼ (5.85) =NR. TJ: 1. Almir dos Santos (Bra) 56-11¼ (17.35) PR (WL). SP: 1. ¶Staněk 71-2 (21.69).

Women:

400: 1. Léa Sprunger (Swi) 51.61. 800: 1. Esther Guerrero (Spa) 2:02.64. 1500: 1. Dibaba 4:02.43. 3000: 1. Meraf Bahta (Swe) 8:42.46 NR.

HJ: 1. Mariya Lasitskene (Rus) 6-6¾ (2.00). TJ: 1. Viktoriya Prokopenko (Rus) 46-11½ (14.31).

Boston (February 10; see p. 23)—

Toruń (February 15)—

60: 1. Ján Volko (Svk) 6.57 NR. 400: 1. Luka Janežič (Slo) 46.03. 800: 1. Kszczot 1:46.75. 1500: 1. Taresa Tolosa (Eth) 3:37.41 PR. 60H: 1. Milan Trajkovic (Cyp) 7.59.

PV: 1. ¶Lisek 19-4¾ (5.91) (WL). TJ: 1. Cristian Atanay Nápoles (Cub) 55-5½ (16.90). SP: 1. Konrad Bukowiecki (Pol) 72-2¼ (22.00) NR.

Women:

60: 1. Marie Josée Ta Lou (Ci) 7.11. 400: 1. ¶Sprunger 51.28 NR (WL). 800: 1. Angelika Cichočka (Pol) 2:00.76. 1500: 1. Rabab Arrafi (Mor) 4:04.76 PR. 60H: 1. Pamela Dutkiewicz (Ger) 7.85. HJ: 1. Lasitskene 6-6¾ (2.00).

Glasgow (February 25)—

60: 1. ¶Su 6.50. 400: 1. Fred Kerley (US) 45.86. 800: 1. ¶Kszczot 1:47.15. 1500: 1. Bethwell Birgen (Ken) 3:37.76. 3000: 1. Justus Soget (Ken) 7:39.09; 2. Paul Chelimo (US) 7:39.10 (AL); 3. ¶Kejelcha 7:39.36. 60H: 1. Ronald Levy (Jam) 7.49 PR. 3000W: 1. Tom Bosworth (GB) 10:30.28 "WR." LJ: 1. Yuhao Shi (Chn) 26-8¼ (8.13).

Women:

60: 1. Ta Lou 7.07. 400: 1. Phyllis Francis (US) 52.00. 800: 1. Līga Velvere (Lat) 2:02.01 NR. 1500: 1. ¶Chepkoech 4:02.21. 60H: 1. ¶Manning 7.79; 2. Nelvis 7.84.

HJ: 1. ¶Lasitskene 6-4¾ (1.95). PV: 1. Katerina Stefanídi (Gre) 15-7 (4.75). LJ: 1. Khaddi Sagnia (Swe) 22-8½ (6.92) NR; 2. ¶Sosthena Moguenara-Taroum (Ger) 22-5 (6.83).

Madrid: HJ Streak Now At 34

"It was a very short competition for my taste," said Mariya Lasitskene of a Madrid high jump she won with her second clearance. She went on to make 6-6¾ (2.00) on second try for her 34th straight win, a streak which dates back to July of '16.

Local favorite Oscar Husillos couldn't match Pavel Maslák's pedigree as a 2-time world indoor 400 champion.

But in his first 2-lapper of the season the 24-year-old had the Czech's number on the night. After Maslák led a torrid 21.49 first circuit, Husillos rushed past on the final straight for a Spanish Record 45.86.

Tripler Almir dos Santos topped 17m for the first time in January, in Kent, Ohio, of all places.

Here the Brazilian bounded 56-11¼ (17.35) to raise the world lead and defeat former Olympic and world titlist Nelson Évora's 56-9¼ (17.30).

Toruń: Local Heroes

Polish fans at the Toruń WIT meet were rewarded with big efforts by their countrymen.

Vaulter Piotr Lisek, bronze medalist at the World Indoor 2 years ago, found momentum he can roll with into Birmingham.

The 25-year-old outdoor Worlds silver medalist fell behind Shawn Barber on the countback at 18-8¼ (5.70) but then cleared 19-2¼ (5.85), which the Canadian could not, and next 19-4¾ (5.91, a world leader) both on second tries before missing thrice at a would-be PR 19-8½ (6.01).

Konrad Bukowiecki won the World Junior crown in '14 and placed 4th at the '16 World Indoor the day after his 19th birthday. Perhaps he's got more in store before he turns 21.

Here he nailed a PR 22 meters on the nose, 72-2¼ and repelled world leader Tomáš Staněk (71-7½/21.83).

Glasgow: Goodies For Manning

The WIT finale saw several sharpen their spurs for Birmingham.

Christina Manning, 3rd in the USATF Champs 60H, earned a World Indoor wild card (plus \$20,000) by winning the overall

1500 WJR To Tefera

It looks as if Ethiopia might have another prodigy. That tag first applied to 17-year-old Samuel Tefera last year when he ran the metric mile in 3:33.78 and made his nation's World Championships team.

A few more months of seasoning have done nothing to take the shine off his potential.

In late January, now 18, he made his indoor debut in Val de Reuil, France, and promptly claimed the World Junior Record with his 3:36.05 clocking, comfortably beating former world champ Abdelaati Iguider (3:36.87).

A Super PV Meet

"The @allstarperche becomes the greatest pole vault ever in history with 7 men at 5m88. Proud to have organised this event and to finish 2^d with 5m93. Thank you all."

That was a tweet from French vault star Renaud Lavillenie after his meet in Clermont-Ferrand indeed featured unparalleled depth, with 7 over 19-3½ for the first time ever.

Two men—Lavillenie and top rival Sam Kendricks—actually went one height better, the American claiming the yearly world lead by clearing 19-5½ on his first attempt, while his host needed three.

The next 5 placers, all at 19-3½: Paweł Wojciechowski (Poland), Axel Chapelle (France), Mondo Duplantis (Sweden), Piotr Lisek (Poland) & Kévin Menaldo (France).

Louisiana high schooler Duplantis, vaulting in his prep uniform, reclaimed his World Junior (U20) Record at 19-¾ (5.81) before upping it to 19-3½.

On the women's side, new U.S. champ Katie Nageotte continued her hot streak, scaling 15-11¼ (4.86) on her second attempt to beat Russia's Anzhelika Sidorova on the countback.



JEAN-PIERRE DUPOND

WIT title, edging new AR holder Sharika Nelvis 7.79–7.84.

"I came out here for the win," said Manning. "I needed the win to claim the tour title and I got it. It's always good to run close to your personal record."

Bingtian Su kept his seasonal unbeaten streak in the 60 alive with a 6.50 win from Mike Rodgers (6.54). But will the streak stay alive when he faces Christian Coleman in Birmingham?

Jamaican hurdler Ronald Levy made a splash in his all-time indoor debut, with a solid 7.49 win over 110H WR holder Aries Merritt (7.58).

ON THE ROAD

THE PLACE TO BE early in the road-racing year was the Persian Gulf, where two significant races made their marks on some all-time statistics.

Dubai Marathon

A 6:00 a.m. start at the Dubai Marathon and resulting cool temperatures in the 50s on a course built for speed led to a rash of fast times.

On the men's side, Mosinet Geremew (2:04:00 PR to move to No. 10 on the all-time world list) led a total of 7 of his fellow Ethiopians under 2:05 and the first 8 in the race notching lifetime bests.

A thrilling sprint at the end saw 5 behind Geremew within 15 seconds: Leul Gebrselassie 2:04:02, Tamirat Tola 2:04:06, Assefa Mengistu 2:04:06, Sisay Lemma 2:04:08 and Berhanu Legesse 2:04:15.

Overall, the race produced the fastest-ever marks-for-place in positions 3–7.

Coincidentally, the same stat applied to the women's race, where Ethiopian-born athletes took the first 12 positions.

Roza Dereje, just 20, claimed the win after negative-splitting (1:10:17/1:09:10) a 2:19:17 that moved her to No. 7 on the all-time list.

Four women ran sub-2:20, a first in any race; the others were Feyse Tadesse 2:19:30 (for No. 10 ever), Yebrqual Melese 2:19:36 and Worknesh Degefa 2:19:53.

Even though both Geremew and Dereje set course records, meet coordinator Ahmad Al Kamali said he wants to see a WR next year

"We need to bring more Kenyans now because they are crazy about the World Record," he told gulfnews.com.

"They don't care about stopping after 30km. This is the trick needed to break the World Record."

RAK Half-Marathon

In an early-February tradition, an elite cadre of the world's best half-marathoners gather in the historic United Arab Emirates port city of Ra's al Khaymah for what has become an annual crack at the all-time lists.

This year's races didn't disappoint,

Chepkoech keeping pace with Chemutai and Mary Keitany.

The pace eased to 3:07/kilometers and at 14K Jepkosgei, weakened by a bout of flu, was the first to falter. After 16 kilometers Chepkoech, who hyper-paced Keitany last April in London, led the way past the three timers stationed at 10M, recording a world best of 49:29.

Making a u-turn at 19K Chemutai and Keitany had pulled clear and were right on WR pace, but ran into a little headwind. Passing 20K in 61:33 the pace had slipped to 64:56 and Keitany moved to the front noting, "I was feeling the wind but I wanted to maintain the pace and achieve a PR."

As the two, running amidst the two rabbits, lifted the pace to a sprint the much taller Chemutai powered away to stop the clock... a second too late with her 64:52 moving her to No. 2 on the all-time list. Keitany (64:55) became No. 3.

Overall, best-ever marks-for-place were set in positions 2–11

"I was really impressed with my performance today having bettered 65:00," said Keitany. "I hope to train well and maintain a high pace like today in London."

The men's race also started fast with a dozen runners establishing the ante with a 27:48 opening 10K.

Muchiri took over from there, noting "I pushed the pace at 14K and the pack was down to 4, and around 19K that is when I decided to go."

In successfully defending his title Muchiri (58:42) took more than a half-minute off his PR and moved to No. 4 on the all-time list. The 27-year-old Japan-based star has now bettered an hour for 5 straight years.

Six more runners beat the hour barrier, with Ethiopian Jemal Yimer 2nd in a debut-record 59:00.



Muchiri (aka Karoki) moved to No. 4 on the all-time Half list

with Kenyans Bedan Muchiri (58:42) and Fancy Chemutai (64:52) establishing new course records.

The women set off first at dawn, accompanied by male pacers who set a steady 3:03 clip through the opening 7K, reached in 21:19, a 64:15 pace. This torrid tempo pared the lead group to 4 with WR holder Joyciline Jepkosgei and Caroline

Korir & Infeld Win Exciting Duels

by Mike Scott

Leonard Korir successfully defended his USATF XC crown on a sunny, dry day in Tallahassee's Apalachee Regional Park.

The previous week's announcement of 3-time Olympian Galen Rupp's entry had generated quite a bit of buzz ahead of the non-World Championships year edition of this fixture.

Rupp—winner of last fall's Chicago Marathon—rarely ventures into cross country races, preferring to test himself over the firmer track and road surfaces.

The 10K race started slowly, with two dozen contenders still in the hunt after the completion of the first 3K loop. Mountain-running specialist Joe Gray led a large pack at 6K with 20 remaining in contention.

The 31-year-old Rupp surged into the lead at 8K, with defending champ Leonard Korir, also 31, staying just behind as the

field began to string out.

Rupp attempted to break away over the final hill, but was unable to gap the Iona alum as the duo crested the rise with 550m to go.

Korir kicked past Rupp in the final 300 to win 29:16.6–29:17.8.

"I know Galen Rupp is training for Boston, doing a lot of miles," said Korir. "I have a little speed because I am doing less mileage. I think I might win because I have quicker legs."

Rupp was pleased with his effort despite his runner-up performance: "Since I'm running the marathon now I don't have too many opportunities to really race and the goal for today was to really work on my finish."

Like the men's race, the women's contest came down to two athletes battling for the gold medal.

Beijing World Champs 10K bronze medalist Emily Infeld and '15 NCAA cross country champion Molly Seidel separated themselves from the field after 8K and duelled over the final loop.

Seidel—whodemonstrated that she's recovered from two cracked ribs suffered in an incident the day before she placed 3rd

at the Great Edinburgh Cross Country—stayed close to Infeld until Infeld broke away over the final hill and ran alone to the finish.

"I'm just really happy. I feel kind of like I have been on the cusp for a

bit, so it feels really nice to finally win one.

Infeld won in 33:19, followed by Seidel in 33:23.

The Junior titles convincingly went to



Korir successfully defended against Rupp

Stanford's Connor Lane and Ashley Tutt of Northern Illinois.

The meet will return to Tallahassee next February, when the competition will serve as the selection event for the World XC Championships in Denmark.

— USATF XC Champs —

Tallahassee, February 3—

Senior Men (10K): 1. Leonard Korir (USAr) 29:16.6; 2. Galen Rupp (Nik) 29:17.8; 3. Stanley Kebenei (Nik) 29:31.4; 4. Evan Jager (BowTC) 29:31.5;

5. Martin Hehir (unat) 29:33.6; 6. Biya Simbassa (unat) 29:34.4; 7. Aaron Braun (HokaNnAzE) 29:34.7; 8. Scott Fauble (HokaNnAzE) 29:39.3;

9. MJ Erb (unat) 29:42.3; 10. Haron Lagat (USAr) 29:46.5; 11. Joseph Gray (CNW) 29:53.1; 12. Augustus Maiyo (USAr) 29:53.7; 13. Aaron Nelson (Zap) 29:57.7;

14. Robert Cheseret (USAr) 30:01.9; 15. Elkanah Kibet (USAr) 30:03.7; 16. Reed Fischer (unat) 30:04.6; 17. Evans Kirwa (USAr) 30:05.5;

18. Brendan Gregg (HansBrk) 30:08.5; 19. Matthew Llano (HokaNnAzE) 30:11.0; 20. George Parsons (unat) 30:23.0.

Junior Men (8K): 1. Connor Lane (Stan) 25:04.7; 2. Tibebe Proctor (Wa) 25:12.1; 3. Michael Vernau (unat) 25:18.3; 4. Hunter Lucas (Mn) 25:22.0.

Senior Women (10K): 1. Emily Infeld (BowTC) 33:18.7; 2. Molly Seidel (Sauc) 33:22.1; 3. Stephanie Bruce (HokaNnAzE) 33:34.1;

4. Courtney Frerichs (BowTC) 33:55.1; 5. Emily Durgin (NBal) 33:56.9; 6. Susan Tanui (USAr) 34:39.0; 7. Katrina Spratford (NEDist) 34:45.3;

8. Obsie Birru (NEDist) 35:32.1; 9. Rachel Schilkowsky (rabbitNEDist) 35:49.0; 10. Sandie Raines (MamTC) 35:51.9; 11. Veronica Eder (RootsRP) 35:56.6; 12. Chelsea Blaase (HansBrk) 36:19.5.

Junior Women (6K): 1. Ashley Tutt (Nnll) 21:08.5; 2. Amanda Beach (Duke) 21:13.6; 3. Michaela Reinhart (Duke) 21:17.5; 4. Jasmine Turtle-Morales (Wings) 22:32.5; 5. Amanda Davis (NWN) 22:52.7.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

AS IS SO OFTEN the case indoors, a lot of headlines have been going to milers, as big invitationals bring together big names from a wide geographic distribution. But meanwhile, in the field...

What's Mondo Up To? Plenty

He's no miler, but reigning Athlete Of The Year Mondo Duplantis (Lafayette, Louisiana) continues to put up huge vault marks.

As reported last month, he opened his year by raising the national record to 19-1½ going up against pros and collegians at the Pole Vault Summit in Reno.

Since then he has gone 3-for-4, each outing with all-time list ramifications.

At the LSU qualifier he hit 18-4½ for the No. 10 performance ever.

Then it was on to the Tyson Invitational,

again against the big boys. That resulted in an 18-9½ win, the No. 4 performance ever. He then missed at 19-2.

Next, his State Meet produced a triumph with the =No. 7 performance ever, 18-8¾. He failed at his next height, 19-¼.

But at his next meet, the PV Stars meet in France, he racked up a pair of 19-footers. Once again mixing it up with the world's best pros, he finished 5th off a series of 17-9¾, 18-4½, 18-9½ (second try), 19-¾ and a national record 19-3½ (third try) before missing at 19-5½.

Next up: representing Sweden at the World Indoor Championships.

Millrose Girls: Mile To Wilkinson

Gabrielle Wilkinson (Friends Central (Wynnewood, Pennsylvania) didn't come to New York City's Millrose Games expecting to win the mile, but with a searing kick she upset the favorites and emerged with a list-leading 4:42.94.

"I was right in the midst and I saw [Katelyn] Tuohy's stride pattern and she was kind of wavering. So I told myself, 'This is it. This is your moment.' I just

went for it."

Wilkinson (see sidebar) finished well clear of the 4:44.55 of Kelsey Chmiel (Saratoga Springs, New York) as well as the 4:44.97 of Marlee Starliper (Northern, Dillsburg, Pennsylvania).

Super-soph Tuohy (North Rockland, Thiells, New York), January's big star, faded to 4th in 4:47.10.

Millrose Boys: Mile To Hoey

Josh Hoey (Shanahan, Downingtown, Pennsylvania) used a big kick to win the Millrose mile in 4:07.42 over the 4:10.63 of Scott Thompson (Brentwood, Tennessee). Sam Affolder (Loudoun Valley, Purcellville, Virginia) finished 3rd in 4:10.97. Hoey's teammate Dalton Hengst was next at 4:12.98

Hoey, who is also the yearly leader in the 800 (1:51.49) and 1000 (2:24.64), said, "I took the opportunity with 400 to go to really push it from there.

"Just to come here a lot stronger than last year, I'm real excited."

Boston Miles: Hengst & Wilkinson

Fast kicks were the order of the day in Boston's New Balance GP miles. In the boys race, early leader Ryan Oosting



Oh-so-close!
A 4:00.05 at
Millrose

Hasty Chasing 4:00

A week after his 4:03.26 at the Sander Invitational, Brodey Hasty came back to the same Armory track to race the open mile at the Millrose Games with one goal: sub-4:00.

In a race won by Eric Avila's 3:57.45, the Brentwood, Tennessee, senior came oh-so-close, coming back from 10th in the early going to finish 5th with a final 400 of 59.61.

He crossed the line at 4:00.05 to become the No. 3 prep ever indoors. En route he hit 3:43.74 to become No. 3 at 1500 as well.

"With the 4:03 earlier that week I knew I had the capability to do so and that I had some pretty OK workouts," he said. "It was still

early indoor season and I knew that my speed had maybe not fully developed.

"I knew that I was somewhere within that range and it was a possibility if I put my mind to it correctly and had a good race."

Hasty, who did not run for his school in the cross country season, said it might happen in track. "I would be open to being on the school team but I will continue to train with [coach] Guy Avery. So it just depends on the school."

He's planning to run a distance medley at New Balance Nationals, "plus something else."

For outdoors, where he was our No. 1 All-America in the 2M last year, "I would like to go sub-4. It's just kind of a line that people put there, but it would be a fun thing for me to try to do." //Jeff Hollobaugh/

Wilkinson The Miler

"This has just been an amazing season," says Gabrielle Wilkinson (Friends Central, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania). "And Millrose was just the icing on the cake for me."

The Florida-bound senior admits, "Going into that I didn't really have the mindset of winning. I went in hoping for a PR."

Mission accomplished, as her 4:42.94 dropped more than 10 seconds from her previous best of 4:53.03 set at Millrose 2 years ago and moved her into the No. 13 position all-time.

"I worked hard all year and it paid off," she explains. "Over this past summer and heading into this indoor season I worked on building more mileage. I'm doing more intervals."

"I feel like that really helped me push toward my goals. I didn't really have an indoor season last year [injury] so I really wanted to just go for it."

The new mile star has great 800 credentials as well, earning our No. 5 All-America position last year, when she ran 2:06.03.

"I don't feel like an 800 specialist. I guess I'm an 800/miler," she says.

She also leads the yearly 1000 list at 2:47.22, good for No. 11 all-time.

Born into a family of track athletes (sister Elyse ran 2:06.39 for Cornell), Wilkinson has been running since age 8. "Before that I did soccer," she says, "but I wasn't really good at that so I moved on. My older sister ran track, and I really look up to her."

Wilkinson doesn't lack for role models. Living in the Philly area, she's even been to a few training sessions with the Juventis club and Ajee' Wilson. "They're just fantastic runners," she says. "It's inspiration for me."

With the outdoor season looming, Wilkinson won't mention any specific goals. Rather, her whole game plan is based on "going out with a bang."

She explains, "I'm just looking for PRs and to drop my times down. I have focused more on the 800 in past years, but with winning Millrose, I feel like I have more to offer in the mile."

One of those things is a stinging kick. "You have to have a strong finish. No matter what. Most races come down to it, so definitely I work on it in practice." //Jeff Hollobaugh/

(Arlington, Massachusetts) fell to the last-lap kicks of Dalton Hengst (McDonogh, Owings Mills, Maryland) and NBN outdoor champion Cole Johnson (Rockford, Michigan).

Hengst prevailed, 4:10.57 to Johnson's 4:11.25, with Oosting 3rd in 4:11.78. Millrose winner Josh Hoey was scheduled to run but didn't start.

The girls race was a Millrose reversal as Kelsey Chmiel turned the tables on Gabrielle Wilkinson, kicking past her on the final lap to win, 4:44.84-4:46.95.

USATF Championships

A handful of preps mixed it up with the pros at the Nationals in Albuquerque, with two standing out.

KC Lightfoot (Lees Summit, Missouri) was faced with a daunting task. The opening height in the vault was 17-7/8, a height he had bettered only once, outdoors. He nonetheless sailed over on first attempt,

moving to No. 8 on the all-time indoor list.

The next height, 18-1 3/4, would have made him only the third over 18 indoors, but proved to be too much.

On the girls side, Emily Sloan (Rock Canyon, Highlands Ranch, Colorado) ran a list-leading 8.07 in finishing 5th in her 60H heat to move to No. 2 on the all-time list.

She took 6th in her semi, equaling the No. 8 performance ever, 8.15.

Ewert A Walk Phenom

Taylor Ewert (Beavercreek, Ohio) was good enough as a runner to finish 18th in the Nike XC Nationals last fall, but her real talent may just be in walking, where she won the USATF Junior 10K title last June.

Now a 16-year-old soph, she has 3 national records to her credit indoors this winter: 1500 (6:17.30), mile (6:45.68) and 5000 (13:45.0). The 1500 mark came en route in the mile race at Millrose.



Wilkinson's list-leading 4:42.94 came at Millrose

Hoey Crushes National 800 Record

As the fastest returning 800 runner in the nation at 1:49.37 outdoors last year, Josh Hoey (Shanahan, Downingtown, Pennsylvania) figured to be a major player in the event this year.

And that he was in the early going, claiming the national leads in both the 800 (1:51.49) and 1000 (2:24.64, good for No. 10 on the all-time list). And a 4:07.42 made him No. 2 in the mile.

Still, his performance at the BU Last-Chance meet was a shocker of the first degree. Racing against pros, he crushed Robby Andrews' national record of 1:49.21 with his 1:47.67 clocking, finishing 2nd behind Christian Harrison's 1:46.83.

The mark is so good that only 5 high schoolers have ever run faster outdoors.

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World Indoor Medal Predictions

There's often not a lot of '18 form to go on, but here's the staff's collective picks for the Birmingham podium positions:

– Men –

60 METERS

- G – Christian Coleman (USA)
- S – Bingtian Su (China)
- B – Ronnie Baker (USA)

400 METERS

- G – Bralon Taplin (Grenada)
- S – Deon Lendore (Trinidad)
- B – Michael Cherry (USA)

800 METERS

- G – Emmanuel Korir (Kenya)
- S – Donovan Brazier (USA)
- B – Adam Kszczot (Poland)

1500 METERS

- G – Ayanleh Souleiman (Djibouti)
- S – Abdelaati Iguider (Morocco)
- B – Vincent Kibet (Kenya)

3000 METERS

- G – Hagos Gebrhiwet (Ethiopia)
- S – Paul Chelimo (USA)
- B – Selemon Barega (Ethiopia)

60 HURDLES

- G – Ronald Levy (Jamaica)
- S – Jarret Eaton (USA)
- B – Aries Merritt (USA)

4 x 400

- G – United States
- S – Trinidad
- B – Poland

HIGH JUMP

- G – Mutaz Barshim (Qatar)
- S – Danil Lysenko (Russia)
- B – Yu Wang (China)

POLE VAULT

- G – Renaud Lavillenie (France)
- S – Sam Kendrick (USA)
- B – Piotr Lisek (Poland)

LONG JUMP

- G – Luvo Manyonga (South Africa)
- S – Juan Miguel Echevarría (Cuba)
- B – Jarrion Lawson (USA)

TRIPLE JUMP

- G – Almir dos Santos (Brazil)
- S – Will Claye (USA)
- B – Nelson Évora (Portugal)

SHOT

- G – Tom Walsh (New Zealand)
- S – Tomáš Staněk (Czech Republic)
- B – Konrad Bukowiecki (Poland)

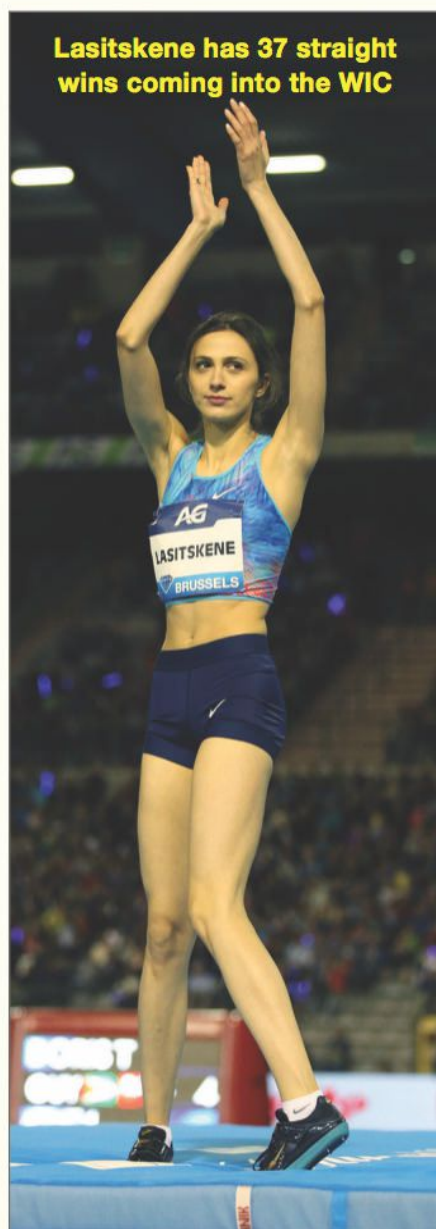
HEPTATHLON

- G – Kevin Mayer (France)
- S – Damian Warner (Canada)
- B – Maicel Uibo (Estonia)

– Women –

60 METERS

- G – Marie Josée Ta Lou (C d'Ivoire)
- S – Tatjana Pinto (Germany)
- B – Murielle Ahouré (Côte d'Ivoire)



Lasitskene has 37 straight wins coming into the WIC

JIRO MOCHIZUKI/IMAGE OF SPORT

400 METERS

- G – Courtney Okolo (USA)
- S – Léa Sprunger (Switzerland)
- B – Shakima Wimbley (USA)

800 METERS

- G – Habitam Alemu (Ethiopia)
- S – Ajee' Wilson (USA)
- B – Shelayna Oskan-Clarke (GB)

1500 METERS

- G – Genzebe Dibaba (Ethiopia)
- S – Beatrice Chepkoech (Kenya)
- B – Dawit Seyaum (Ethiopia)

3000 METERS

- G – Sifan Hassan (Holland)
- S – Genzebe Dibaba (Ethiopia)
- B – Shelby Houlihan (USA)

60 HURDLES

- G – Kendra Harrison (USA)
- S – Sharika Nelvis (USA)
- B – Christina Manning (USA)

4 x 400 RELAY

- G – United States
- S – Great Britain
- B – Poland

HIGH JUMP

- G – Mariya Lasitskene (Russia)
- S – Yuliya Levchenko (Ukraine)
- B – Vashti Cunningham (USA)

POLE VAULT

- G – Katerína Stefanídi (Greece)
- S – Sandi Morris (USA)
- B – Katie Nageotte (USA)

LONG JUMP

- G – Brittney Reese (USA)
- S – Ivana Španović (Serbia)
- B – Khaddi Sagnia (Sweden)

TRIPLE JUMP

- G – Yulimar Rojas (Venezuela)
- S – Viktoriya Prokopenko (Russia)
- B – Keturah Orji (USA)

SHOT

- G – Anita Márton (Hungary)
- S – Daniel Thomas-Dodd (Jamaica)
- B – Lijiao Gong (China)

PENTATHLON

- G – Katarina Johnson-Thompson (GB)
- S – Erica Bougard (USA)
- B – Eliška Klučinová (Czech Republic)

Tori Bowie

by Sieg Lindstrom

Tori Bowie may have been underselling herself in London last summer as she soaked in the reality of her World Championships gold-medal run—bumped and bruised but all smiles after her victorious dive at the line.

“I bet I’m the only person in the world who believed that I would come out here and win the 100 meters,” said the Mississippian who turned 27 two weeks after the Worlds wrapped up.

Almost, anyway. Surely there were others who believed in the Rio triple sprint medalist who had anchored the U.S. 4x1 to Olympic gold—even with rival Elaine Thompson riding a 14-meet win streak into the Worlds

Sprint surprises had been nothing new since ‘14. That year, Bowie sprang to a new LJ PR, 22-9¾ (6.95) indoors, but then after placing last in the World Indoor qualifying round made a propitious coaching switch to the tutelage of Lance Brauman, best known for his mentorship of sprinters.

At the Eugene DL that year, Bowie long jumped, placing 5th, and though she was an unproven sprint quantity, her agent, Kimberly Holland, begged on her behalf for a 200 lane—and got lucky.

Corridor 1 opened up and Bowie filled it, dispatching a field that included Olympic champion Allyson Felix with a world-leading 22.18. A world-class sprint career was born.

Long before that, Bowie has said, track saved her life, from the chaos of unfocused adolescent life.

She got an especially harrowing prod toward a wider world and the order and achievement offered by the sport when, as a teen being raised by her loving grandmother in the tiny town of Sandhill, a street hoodlum waved a gun in her face and robbed her.

Post-Rio there’s a street named after the local star in Sandhill, Tori Bowie Lane, the street on which her alma mater, Pisgah High, stands.

Nationally, last fall Bowie stepped out into fashion, modeling collections by Valentino and the Pharrell Williams/adidas Originals Hu line for ad campaigns.

T&FN caught up with Bowie for this chat after her first indoor

Bowie In A Nutshell

- Personal:** Frentorish “Tori” Bowie (rhymes with Louie) was born August 27, 1990, in Jackson, Mississippi; 5-8¾/134 (175/61)
- PRs:** 60—7.11i; 100—10.78; 200—21.77; LJ—22-9¾/6.95i; TJ—42-11½/13.09i
- Schools:** Pisgah HS (Sandhill, Mississippi) ‘09; Southern Mississippi ‘12; now represents adidas
- Coaches:** Angela Reynolds HS; Adrian Ghioroae Southern Mississippi; Craig Poole (2013–14), Lance Brauman pro (‘14–present).
- Agent:** Kimberly Holland
- Major Meets:** 100—sf)NC ‘12; sf)US ‘13; sf)US ‘14; 1)US, 3)WC ‘15; 3)OT, 2)OG ‘16; 1)US, 1)WC ‘17
200—1)OT, 3) OG ‘16; 3)US ‘17
LJ—nq)NC ‘09; 6)NC, 8)US ‘10; 1)NCi, 1)NC, 15)US ‘11; 13)NCi, 2)NC ‘12; 4)US ‘13; 2)USi, nq)WIC ‘14
60—2)USi, 6)WIC ‘16
- World/U.S. Rankings:** 100—‘14—2/1; ‘15—3/1; ‘16—2/1; ‘17—2/1; 200—‘14—5/2; ‘15—8/4; ‘16—3/1; ‘17—5/1
LJ—‘11—x/9; ‘12—x/9; ‘13—x/5; ‘14—x/5

century final.

What Bowie rode in on was three seasons of spectacularly rapid strides in the dashes after shifting her focus from the long jump, the event in which she won NCAA titles indoors and out in ‘11 as a Southern Mississippi junior.



“My goal is to focus more on the 200 this year. It would be lovely to have a bye for the 2019 World Championships year.”



KIRBY LEE/IMAGE OF SPORT

race in two years (7.14 for 2nd in the Millrose 60) and a stop in at New York Fashion Week 2018.

Three days after that turn in the haute couture world, we asked after introduction pleasantries if she was still in the Big Apple, or back at her Clermont, Florida, training base.

Bowie: No, I came back already. The show that I did over the weekend with [designer] Taoray Wang was Saturday, but now I'm currently back in Florida.

T&FN: So you're making the rounds among the fashion crowd? Not just with Valentino?

Bowie: Taoray Wang is kinda new but her designs are so amazing. She invited me out to be a guest and I attended the show. It was an amazing experience for me.

T&FN: Don't worry, we'll get to track & field questions. But sounds like you've got an intriguing sideline going, and I know nothing about fashion, you can ask my wife.

So for this you appeared in Wang's clothes among the audience at the show. Do you get to keep the clothes?

Bowie: Unfortunately, no. That outfit, she asked for it back so maybe the next opportunity.

T&FN: How did you get involved with fashion?

Bowie: It's just something that has happened quite naturally. I realized that I loved getting my nails done and changing up my hairstyles.

Recently, I kind of want to walk the runway. So I feel like I just wanted to give it a shot and see what happens [see sidebar].

T&FN: It looks from your Instagram account [@1toribowie] like a lot's happening. But I also see

you've posted our January cover. How is the young season going for the current "Queen of U.S. Sprinters"?

Bowie: Millrose was one of the fastest

Life On The Catwalk

In last fall's off-season after her double-gold World Championships, Bowie—who has said her penchant for adorning herself with headbands and scarves at meets stems from a belief shared with her sister Tamarra that "scarves symbolize a crown"—got a determined start on her dream of one day walking a modeling runway.

Her move into the fashion world began with an ad campaign shoot for haute couture designer Valentino.

Bowie: The entire experience was new for me because I kind of thought modeling was just showing up, maybe take a picture here and there, but I realized through that experience that it takes a ton of time and hard work.

At the same time, it's still fun. On the shoot I got to meet [NBA star] Carmelo Anthony and a lot of models. Overall, the experience was good.

It was in New York City and we started around 2:00pm and finished a little after midnight. We did the shoot at a park and we took pictures with a basketball [bearing a Valentino logo, of course], we played one-on-one. It was fun.

The photos are all over the Valentino Instagram page and I have a few on my page, as well.

opens that I've ever had in my career. I remember a couple years I opened up with a 7.28 and then a 7.24. As of right now, 7.14 has been the fastest opener that I've ever had in my career so I'm in a great place and I just need to continue to be consistent in what I'm doing.

T&FN: Outdoor is the season in which you really seem to bring your best. What do you have in mind for this year's?

Bowie: As far as the outdoor season, my goal is to focus more on the 200 this year. It would be lovely to have a [200] bye for the 2019 World Championships year.

But I know that right now I just have to continue to stay consistent in what I'm doing and see what happens.

T&FN: Last year at the Pre Classic you made a real statement in the 200: world-leading 21.77 win over Shaunae Miller-Uibo, Elaine Thompson, Dafne Schippers and Al-

lyson Felix.

Those are some heavy names, reigning Olympic gold medalists at 100, 200 & 400, plus Schippers is now a 2-time world 200 titlist and Felix, of course, won 200 gold in '12 and at three World Championships.

Did you opt out of the 200 in London because you were scratched up and sore from your tumble at the end of the 100?

Bowie: Yeah, I had a sore heel that was kind of swollen and everything and I felt that my best decision would be to sit out for two or three days to allow my body to fully recover before I got ready for the relay.

I don't feel like that was my last opportunity to do the double so there's really no feelings there toward the situation. 2019 is around the corner and I feel like I should be looking forward.

T&FN: Do you feel that the 100 or 200 is your best event? Or do you not look at it that way?

Bowie: I feel like the 100 is maybe my best event but you know the long jump is still one of the events that I completely enjoy. [Oh, really? See sidebar]

T&FN: About that 200, though... Among Americans, in the last 20 seasons only Allyson Felix, at the '12 Olympic Trials, has run faster than what you ran at Pre last year. Surely that was a highlight of last season for you.

Championships. So I still feel like there's still lots of potential there and this year I plan to race a little bit more to see what I can actually get out of it.

T&FN: How would you compare the feeling



JEFF COHEN

“We’ve been working on my block starts but I feel like I’m overthinking everything”

Bowie: I consider that one of my most special moments. We had the top 5 or 6 fastest women in the world on the line at that time.

And I consider that one of my best moments just simply because of what I could have actually run because I didn't do any more 200s after the National

of winning the 100 world title in London—and then the relay—with bringing home a full set of Olympic medals [100 silver, 200 bronze, relay gold] from Rio in '16?

Bowie: I don't feel like you can actually compare the two. I feel like the Olympics were so special, especially because I had to wait so long to make the team.

Back To The Long Jump?

Did you catch Tori Bowie's comments earlier in this interview? About the long jump?

If you thought the 2-time NCAA long jump champ might have left the field event for good after winning 100 bronze at the '15 World Championships, think again. Bowie is.

Bowie: Yes, the long jump is an event that I just completely enjoy overall, but the 100 and 200 I've come to consider as my best events.

T&FN: You have not contested a long jump since that breakout 200 day at the '14 Pre Classic. Might you long jump this year?

Bowie: Omigod, I am so hoping for the opportunity to do long jump 1A [laughs]. My plan was to try to get through indoor and then try to get some more long jump training underneath my belt. I have not had many long jump sessions [this winter], I have to be honest. I haven't had many but I did have a few. Not as many as I need to have in order to be able to compete at a high level and be confident about it.

As of right now I'd need to continue to put some more work in for that event.

T&FN: Is Coach Brauman on the same page?

Bowie: I think so. We've talked about it several times but I think the main focus as of right now is to continue to keep an eye on what's ahead.

And I consider the world championship just a special moment because of just the willingness to fight and not give up in that race, no matter what happened. I'm just filled with so much gratitude with both achievements.

T&FN: In retrospect, do you still feel nobody but you believed you could win that 100?

Bowie: Umm, you know, I think that I was wrong in making a state-

ment like that, and selfish. But I can say that I know most weren't expecting that [laughs] but I do need to be extremely considerate to the ones who actually thought it could happen.

T&FN: *Before the race was Lance Brauman telling you that you were going to win it?*

Bowie: It wasn't just me that was racing in the final. I had a training partner there, as well, and her name is Kelly-Ann Baptiste.

So he sat there and told us both that no matter what happens he would always be proud of us. And we just took that comment and ran with it.

T&FN: *Shaunae Miller-Uibo is also in your group. Like you, she won a major title, the Olympic 400, with a lean that planted her on the track at the end. Have you compared scars from those experiences?*

Bowie: No, we actually haven't, and you know, most of the time I don't even feel quite comfortable talking about other athletes. So I think we should just move forward with the next question.

T&FN: *You've previously said that your whole attitude and your determination changed in 2014 when you hit the high of that big long jump PR indoors but then the low of not making it out of the World Indoor qualifying round.*

Bowie: I felt like a lot of things changed overall. I came to a completely different situation, training with a completely different group, so everything changed at that point.

T&FN: *What did you tell yourself as you made that transition [from the Olympic training center in Chula Vista]?*

Bowie: I think when I moved here it was just all about effort, just giving that

100% effort no matter what happens.

That's something that I continue to just install inside my brain today: just do the best you can. The best you can is all we can do. I continue to live by that.

T&FN: *You've said many times that your*

thankful for what she's done.

T&FN: *Did she introduce you to sports?*

Bowie: I kind of think that it was just something that we grew up doing and it was quite natural. But I grew up with like 13 cousins around me and we were all around the same age. Most of them were guys and they loved to hoop and we always raced and, see who could jump the farthest.

There was just always some type of competition. With my cousins or just whoever my dad would try to contend with that day.

T&FN: *You played basketball, too?*

Bowie: Yes, basketball was actually my first love, the first sport that I fell in love with overall. But I had to kind of get a grip on life when I was preparing to go to college.

I realized that—I was a forward so I realized my size wasn't going to get me anywhere playing basketball.

T&FN: *Besides fashion, what are your interests outside the track?*

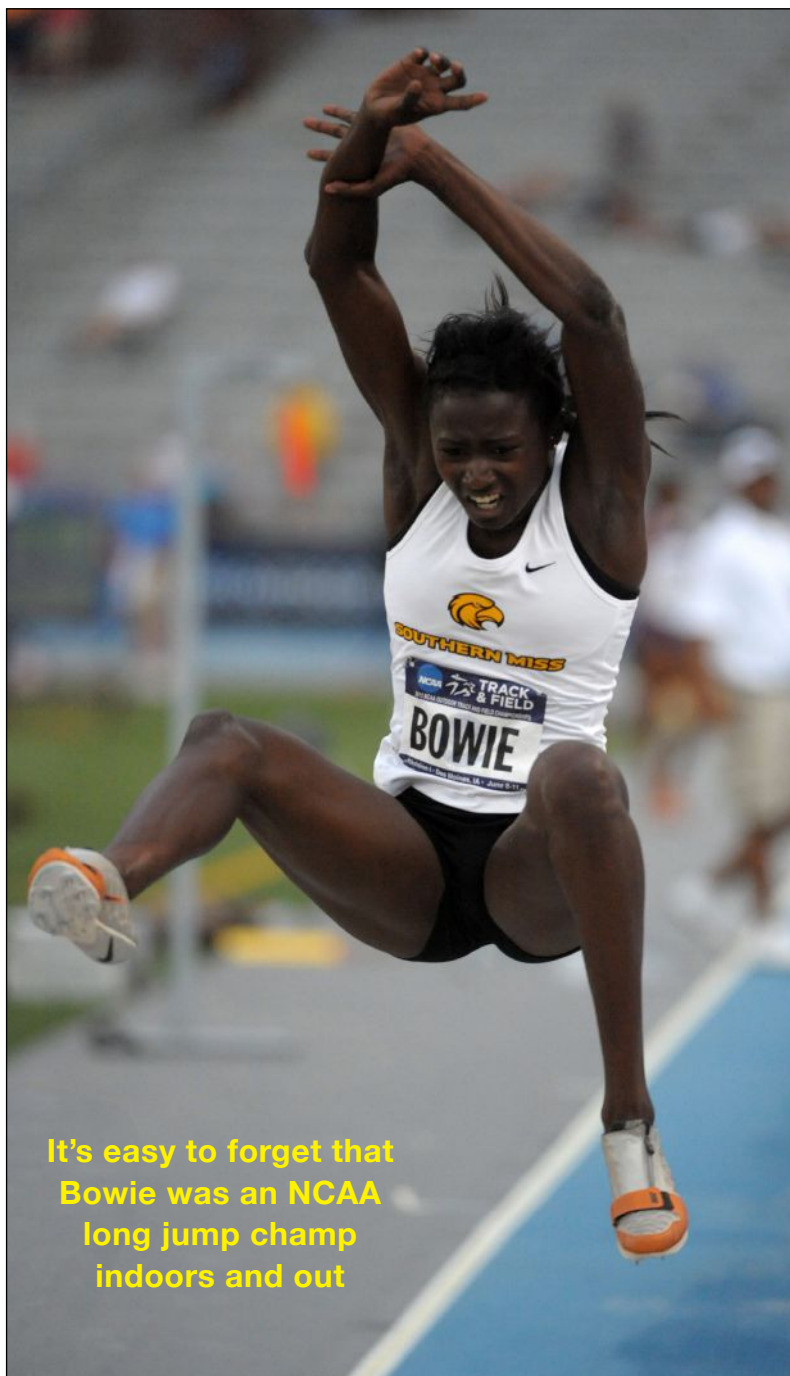
Bowie: Just trying to relax and simply enjoy life. Like they say, all work and no play, I do not live by that [laughs].

T&FN: *On the track is there any technical aspect of your races you want to work on this year?*

Bowie: No, I don't think there's anything to work on. We've been working on my block starts but I feel like I'm overthinking everything

and I just need to get out there and just make it happen.

That's the point I'm at right now. I feel like Millrose showed me where I'm at right now and I feel like my reaction and everything is not the problem. I'm just going to stop overthinking everything. □



It's easy to forget that Bowie was an NCAA long jump champ indoors and out

grandmother is your role model. When you were very young she fought to get you and your younger sister out of foster care and you went to live with her.

Bowie: We sure did. We went to live with her at the age of 2. She rescued us from foster care and we're extremely

TRACK SHORTS

FRUSTRATED THAT HE missed the World Indoor standard in winning his fifth straight USATF Indoor, high jumper **Erik Kynard** tore off his number and then spiked the crossbar.

He explained, “Not so much animation. More exemplifying passion. It’s not rehearsed. I’m blessed, and everybody else is blessed that the crossbar didn’t turn into the javelin after I missed.”

The frustration was exacerbated by his bout with the flu a week earlier. “I was out of training for 6 days. And it showed. I just wasn’t sharp.”

The good news came a few days later when the IAAF extended Kynard a field-filling invite to Birmingham.

Team USA For The WIC

The American squad that’s heading to Birmingham was pretty much chosen in straight-forward fashion from the first 2 finishers in Albuquerque. The team:

MEN

60—Christian Coleman, Ronnie Baker
400—Michael Cherry, Aldrich Bailey
800—Donavan Brazier, Drew Windle
1500—Ben Blankenship, Craig Engels
3000—Paul Chelimo, Shadrack Kipchirchir
60H—Jarrett Eaton, Aries Merritt
4x4 Pool—Vernon Norwood, Paul Dedewo, Fred Kerley, Marqueze Washington
HJ—Erik Kynard
PV—Scott Houston, Sam Kendricks
LJ—Jarrion Lawson, Marquis Dendy
TJ—Will Claye, Chris Carter
SP—Ryan Whiting, Darrell Hill
Hept—Zach Ziemek

WOMEN

60—Javianne Oliver, Destiny Carter
400—Courtney Okolo, Shakima Wimbley
800—Ajee’ Wilson, Raevyn Rogers
1500—Shelby Houlihan, Colleen Quigley
3000—Houlihan, Katie Mackey
60H—Sharika Nelvis, Kendra Harrison, Christina Manning
4x4 Pool—Phyllis Francis, Georganne Moline, Quanera Hayes, Joanna Atkins
HJ—Vashti Cunningham, Inika McPherson
PV—Katie Nageotte, Sandi Morris
LJ—Brittney Reese, Quanesha Burks
TJ—Tori Franklin, Keturah Orji
SP—Dani Hill, Jeneva Stevens
Pent—Erica Bougard, Kendell Williams.

See separate sidebar for staff members.

Jasmine Todd won social media love after displaying the Wakanda Forever

Team USA Staff For The WIC

USATF has named its team leaders for the World Indoor Championships:

Men: head coach Ralph Lindeman, assisted by Darryl Woodson (sprints/hurdles), Norm Tate (jumps) & Teddy Mitchell (distance); head manager Clif McKenzie.

Women: head coach Megan Watson, assisted by Chandra Cheeseborough (sprints), Gwen Mikinski (jumps/multis) & Dena Evans (distances); head manager Marsha Seagrave.

salute when she was introduced at the USATF meet—a tribute to recent hit movie, *Black Panther*.

At this writing, the video of her salute has garnered over 600,000 views. She explained on Twitter: “was going to wear all black today but forgot my black warmups!”

For her part, USATF long jump winner **Brittney Reese** was so impressed by the movie that she rented out the Cinemark 16 in her hometown of Gulfport, Mississippi, to put on a free showing for area kids up to the age of 11.

She told the local paper, “My son is 10, so we go to see all of the superhero movies. Younger people get to see someone their color being a hero and a king, which is very important, especially right now.”

Asked his most memorable racing moment after announcing his retirement, 800/1500 veteran **Andrew Wheat**ing didn’t pick his 2nd in the pulsating ‘08 OT 2-lap final that put him on his first of two Olympic teams.

“Naturally, that fin-

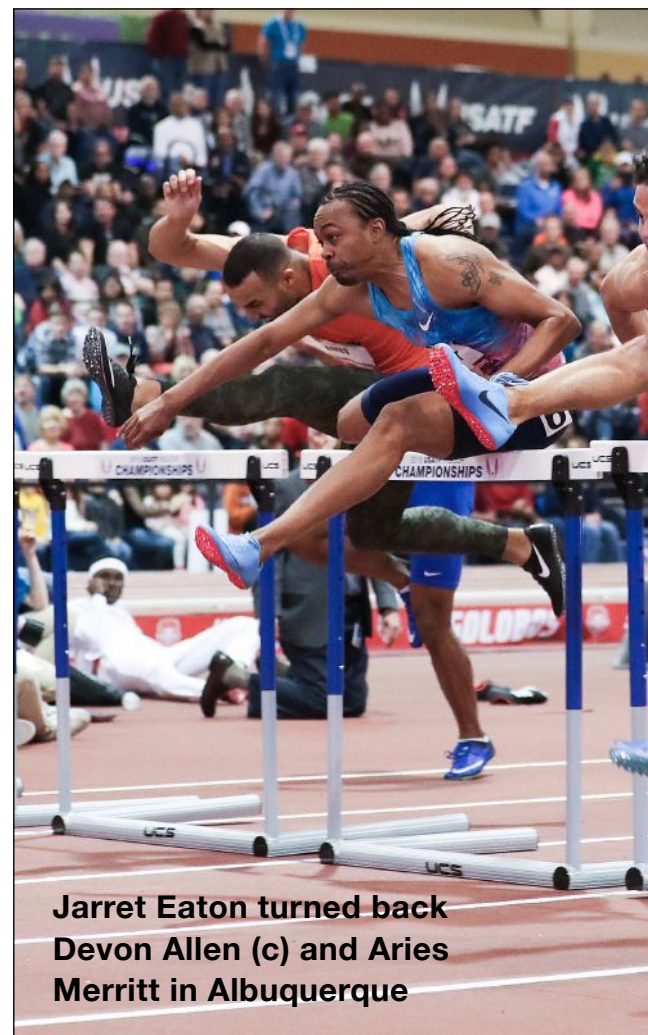
ish was beyond thrilling,” confirms the 30-year-old Vermont native. “Everything I have done comes from my passion of wanting to do things for other people; my teammates and coaches.”

But No. 1 on Wheatington’s best-memories list is in keeping with that passion: the 1-2-3 Duck finish in the ‘10 NCAA 1500 with A.J. Acosta and Matthew Centowitz.

Says Wheatington, “It was so much more rewarding to share that with my friends and teammates.”

In winning the SEC men’s team title, **Alabama** claimed its first indoor loop crown in 46 years. Said coach Dan Waters, “This was a total team championship. Everyone contributed.

“One of the most impressive things



Jarret Eaton turned back **Devon Allen (c)** and **Aries Merritt** in Albuquerque

about this championship was where the points came from.

Our freshman triple jumper, Christian Edwards, finishing 2nd. Kord Ferguson finishing 2nd in the shot put with an amazing

TrackTown Stands By Its Bid

In late January the *New York Times* reported that U.S. prosecutors have issued grand jury subpoenas in connection with a wide corruption investigation into bid processes for major championships in various sports. Included in that is Eugene's being awarded the '21 Worlds.

TrackTown USA's CEO, Mike Reilly issued a brief response: "Our role was to put the best bid forward. We are proud of our bid and stand by it."

Meanwhile, backlash from the affair has ensnared TrackTown's president, Vin Lananna (see sidebar).

mark. Shelby McEwen winning the high jump for our only individual title. Our distance runners scoring 31 points in the 3000 and 5000.

"It was a total team effort and that's how we built this program. Everyone chipped in one way or another."

Another drought ended with the **Ohio State** men claiming their first Big 10 indoor title in 25 years, clinching it with a dramatic 4x4 win over Nebraska. The Buckeye anchor was frosh Andre Jeff as the top 5 teams all finished within a second.

"I'm proud of the young ones," said coach Karen Dennis. They really fought to the end."

So who owns the **American Junior Indoor Record** in the 5000? Officially, it's Louis Luchini of Stanford at 14:08.37 in '00.

In December, Indiana's redshirt frosh Ben Veatch ran 13:57.27, apparently laying claim to the record.

Note, however, that there is a pending mark of 13:48.26 set by Stanford's Chris Derrick in '09 that has a good chance of being ratified by USATF.

Road stat guru **Ken Young** passed away on February 3 at age 76.

The founder of the Association of Road Running Statisticians, he spent more than 40 years in single-minded pursuit of accuracy.

Paul Chelimo, after his USATF wins, said one of his goals this season is to work on tactics. "To be on top of the world now, it's not just about strength. It's about mental strength too, and being smart."

As to whether he and teammate (and 3000 runner-up) Shadrack Kipchirchir had an advantage with the races at altitude, he said, "It's just the preparation. We were well-prepared today. We did a lot more speedwork. It might be the advantage of altitude, but then you never know. I was struggling today too. I grew

Lananna On USATF Leave

Citing conflict of interest concerns over Vin Lananna's dual role as the president of both USATF and TrackTown USA, USATF's Board Of Directors has placed the accomplished event impresario, Oregon athletic department administrator and former coach on temporary administrative leave from his federation post.

Naming '92 Olympic TJ champion Mike Conley—the chair of USATF's High Performance Division—as interim president, the Board stipulated Lananna's leave will last until a Justice Department investigation of Eugene's successful World Championships bid (first reported last summer) is resolved.

"USATF has no reason to believe TrackTown and/or Mr. Lananna have done anything wrong and understand that they have been told that they are not a target of the investigation," Board chair Steve Miller said in a press release.

Miller added that the Board, which recently pledged \$6 million to Oregon '21, the Worlds organizing entity, took action "to avoid any conflict or appearance of conflict of interest in relation to the investigation."

Lananna told oregonlive.com, "To be perfectly honest, I'm surprised and I guess I'm taken aback by the Board's decision. I've been committed to track & field, this federation and the sport itself for 40 years. I'm going to put my energy into continuing to serve the sport.

"I don't think this was a necessary action."

up at altitude, but I was struggling."

The **Erica Bougard** win over **Kendell Williams** in the USATF pentathlon took on extra meaning for both now that they train together in Chula Vista. Says Bougard, "We compete against each other every day in practice to get better.

"When she came here I was super stoked about it because in college she would always beat me. In college she was always No. 1 and I wanted to know what that feels like so in practice I'm always going full force all the time just so I can keep up with her."

Says Williams, who rooms with Bougard at the training center, "We both have similar strengths. It definitely is fun to be in practice and push each other in the blocks or high jump one after the other."



ON YOUR MARKS

VAULT DYNASTIES:

The Duplantis family isn't the only one building a fiberglass legacy.

In Colorado, Mia Manson broke the national record for 9th graders last year with her 13-4¼ (4.07). Bother Max leaped 16-9½ (5.12) last year as a prep junior.

Their father is 5-time World Ranker Pat Manson...

Caster Semenya has broken with her coach of the last three years, Jean Verster, and moved to Pretoria...

Japan's Yusuke Suzuki, WR holder for the 20K walk, was suspended for 6 months starting in October for submitting fraudulent expense claims to his federation...

Correction to our U.S. women's marathon ranks for '17: No. 10 should have been Maegan Krifchin, who was 7th at Chicago and won the Kobe Marathon...

The German winners of the Olympic bobsleigh all have track backgrounds...

Former Iona coach Ricardo Santos is the new coach of the Boston AA's high-performance team.

• • •

BY THE BOOK. What some had called a Jamaican Record in the discus, 229-1 (69.83) by Fedrick Dacres, was rejected after the implement was found to be 0.002kg light.

Said Dacres, "We don't want anything like that under our name." ...

The IAAF has rejected the applications of 18 Russians for neutral status, on the grounds



KEVIN MORRIS/PHOTO RUN

that they had not spent enough time in the testing pool...

Karsten Warholm put his mark on the record book indoors, albeit in the small-print section.

Running on the oversized 300m oval in Tampere, Finland, he covered the 300H in 34.26 bettering his own indoor best of 34.92.

It's also superior to the outdoor best of 34.48 set by Chris Rawlinson of Britain in '02...

The big event may be more than 10 years away, but the

money is already rolling in to Los Angeles '28 Olympic organizers. The IOC has made its first quarterly payment installment of \$9 million...

Athletics Kenya is reportedly investigating three unnamed athletes who have transferred allegiance to Kazakhstan...

The USATF Foundation has awarded a total of \$273,000 in elite athlete development grants to 65 athletes...

The \$15 million fine that Russia owes the IOC remains

unpaid. It was imposed as punishment for Russia's manipulation of the testing system at the '14 Winter Olympics...

WADA has suspended the Bucharest anti-doping lab for a 6-month period...

Expansion plans at Indiana have painted a bullseye on the Hoosier XC course.

The south half is slated to be paved for a parking lot for the new hospital, while the north will be turned over to the adjacent golf course. The requisite petition drive has started...

Benjamin Cohen, head of WADA's European office, has been appointed director of the new Independent Testing Agency...

A group of Russians protested the drug sanctions against their country by projecting a giant image of the Russian flag on the exterior of WADA headquarters in Montréal...

Snowboarder Shaun White says he was inspired to win his third gold after watching a documentary on Usain Bolt...

In July, Alamosa, Colorado, will host a reunion of the '68 OT Marathon, the only Trials 26-miler ever held at high altitude...

This year's Texas Relays has a new presenting sponsor, The Home Depot...

The English Cross Country Association is looking into having men and women run the same distance. □

STATUS QUO

THE LATEST In the latest in the aches, pains & eligibility departments:

On maternity leave: Canadian 800 star **Melissa Bishop**, U.S. distance standout **Shannon Rowbury**, Kenya's No. 1-rated miler **Faith Kipyegon** & Commonwealth 5K defender **Mercy Cheron** and Polish high jumper **Kamila Li wisko**.

British vaulter **Holly Bradshaw** had her indoor season ended by a hamstring injury.

Konrad Bukowiecki has found his putting limited by a finger injury.

Scotland's **Andy Butchart** will miss the Commonwealth Games after fracturing the navicular bone in his right foot near the end of the Millrose 3000.

Sprinter **Hannah Cunliffe** has left Oregon and signed a pro contract with adidas.

Meseret Defar withdrew from the Tokyo Marathon with a calf injury.

Two-time Olympian **Janay DeLoach Soukup** has retired.

400H great **Lashinda Demus** has officially announced her retirement, more than 2 years after her final race.

Chris Derrick withdrew from the USATF cross champs with hamstring issues.

Michigan's **Erin Finn** will miss the rest of the indoor season with an apparent stress fracture to her heel.

Injury and illness combined to convince Euro 200 champ **Bruno Hortelano** to end his indoor campaign.

Bershawn Jackson has decided not to quit hurdling just yet; he will compete in '18.

Vaulter **Lexi Jacobus** has had limited training this winter because of an Achilles issue.

Richard Kilty will miss the World Indoor with an Achilles injury.

Olympic javelin winner **Sara Kolak** underwent January elbow surgery in the U.S.

Sandi Morris had to pull out of Millrose, revealing that she's been dealing with back spasm and a possible disk bulge.

A post-Millrose foot injury has hampered mile winner **Chris O'Hare**; coaches expect him to be fine for the World Indoor.

Asafa Powell pulled a hamstring in a February race in Jamaica.

German heptathlete **Claudia Salman-Rath** had knee surgery in February and will miss the entire '18 season.

Georgia's **Karl Saluri** couldn't finish the SEC heptathlon because of injury.

Raven Saunders (see p. 46) has announced that she will bypass the rest of her career at Ole Miss and take a break from track as she deals with "personal and medical issues."

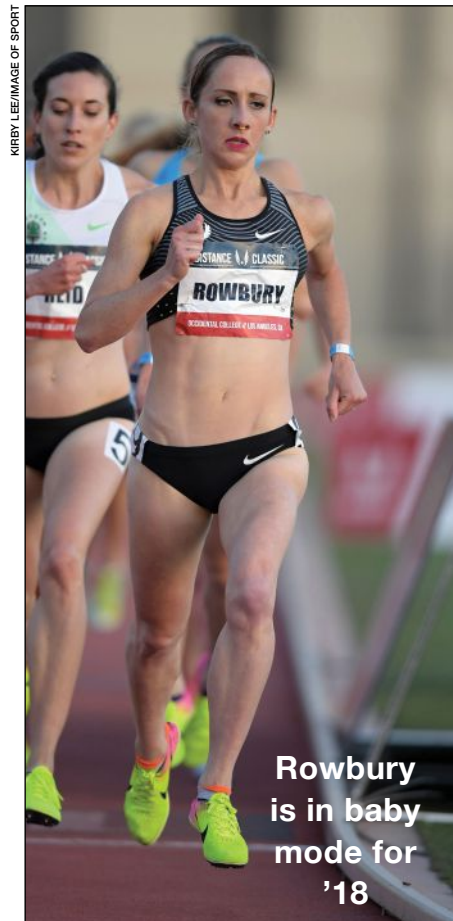
Germany's **David Storl** missed three winter shot competitions because of back issues.

Getting banged up in a car crash the Wednesday before the USATF meet didn't keep **Jasmine Todd** from making finals in the 60 and the long jump.

Lorraine Ugen of Britain will miss the rest of the indoor season with a hamstring tear but is hoping to contest the long jump at the Commonwealth Games.

French sprinter **Jimmy Vicaut** ended his indoor season with a right adductor injury.

With a stress reaction in



Rowbury is in baby mode for '18

his fibula, **Nick Willis** cut his indoor season short. It remains to be seen if he will compete in the Commonwealth Games.

An auto accident that killed 5 left Kenyan **Vincent Yator** (13:04.50/27:25.94) with extensive injuries. □

LANDMARKS

Died: Jarrod Bannister, 33; on February 8, in the Netherlands. Australian javelin thrower World Ranked 3 times, topped by No. 7 in '08.

Died: Cliff Bourland, 97; on February 1, in Santa Monica; of pneumonia. USC star won the NCAA/

AAU 1-lappers in '42 & '43 (with 3rds in the NCAA 220 both years). Placed 5th in the '48 Olympic 200 and ran second leg on the gold medal 4x4.

Died: Dave Clark, 81; in Duncanville, Texas, of cancer. North Texas vaulter tied for 2nd in the '60 NCAA and competed in the Olympics that year.

Died: Sergey Litvinov, 60; in Sochi, Russia. 3-time WR setter won '88 Olympic gold and '80 silver in the hammer plus World Champs golds in '83 & '87. World-Ranked 12 times 1978-93, with 4 No. 1s.

Died: Clyde "Smackover" Scott, 93; on January 30, in Little Rock; of complications from dementia. Ar-

kansas hurdler won the '48 NCAA and captured silver in Olympics, ranking No. 3 in the world that year.

Died: Gerald Weiss, 58; in Kloster Lehnin, Germany. Was a 4-time World Ranker in the javelin, with a high of No. 7 in '88, the year he placed 6th in the Olympics.

LAST LAP

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:

Suhr Now "Semi-Retired"

Although she subsequently produced a fine 15-9¼ (4.81) for 3rd at the USATF Indoor, in early February vault great Jenn Suhr told local TV station WROC that she was "semi-retired."

She explained that she and husband/coach Rick "got into RVing, we got into hiking and going around and visiting different places in New York State and close by."

"Enjoy that a lot and it's just so much more peaceful than putting everything you have into one meet and living and dying by your marks and your results, so right now, we're just enjoying life."

The 3-time Olympian, now 36, said of a possible run at Tokyo '20, "That's a long ways away."

NCAA Bids Reopen

With construction delayed on the renovation of Oregon's track in preparation for its hosting of the '21 World Championships, the NCAA Track & Field Committee has announced that the hosting of the '19 & '20 NAAs—originally slated for historic Hayward Field—is again open for bidding.

The window for application will only open for 6 weeks, with new bids being due on March 30.

In '13, Oregon was awarded the right to host meets

through '21. While the '21 meet is not open for rebidding at this point, the USTFCCCA website now lists it as tba.

That year's meet will be an historic one, marking the 100th anniversary of the meet's debut (the first official championship in any NCAA sport).

Vin Lananna, in his role as associate AD for Oregon, said the track renovations will be completed by '20. "We will re-bid to host the 2020 NCAA Championships on what we believe will be the most innovative, first-class track facility," he said.

London's New "World Cup"

The British federation will host a new team-competition meet

offering \$2 million in prize money in London in July.

The Athletics World Cup—not to be confused with the discontinued IAAF's World Cup team affair staged 10 times 1977–06—will include 8 nations deemed

the sport's strongest: host Great Britain, the U.S., China, France, Germany, Jamaica & South Africa.

With one competitor per team in each event, a slate of standard men's and women's track disciplines 100–1500 plus a full complement of field events will entertain fans in the two-evening meet (July 14–15) in a followup to last summer's highly successful London edition of the World Championships.

The fixture has the IAAF's imprimatur, with President Seb Coe having described the concept as "one of the exciting innovative events we are seeing in our sport" and predicting "a fast-paced and exhilarating experience for athletes and fans."

The meet will have some brutal competition, going head-to-head with the Wimbledon final and the final in that other World Cup, the one of the soccer variety.

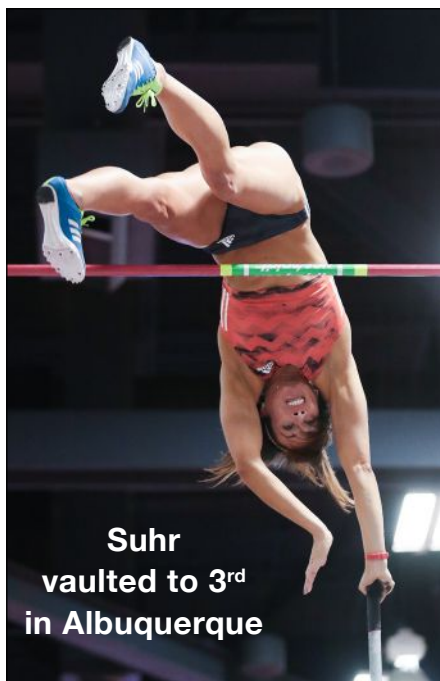
Advice For King Ches From El G

Edward Cheserek's No. 2 all-time indoor mile performance (see p. 22) got a lot of attention, especially given the Oregon alum's history of emphasizing the 5000 and 10,000 in past outdoor seasons.

Ches says the longer distances are his primary targets this spring and summer, as well.

One esteemed observer, no less than 1500/mile World Record holder Hicham El Guerrouj, has urged him to reconsider.

"Congratulations to Edward @King-Cheserek extraordinary performance," El



Suhr vaulted to 3rd in Albuquerque

VIN OLOKH/PHOTO BY VIN

FOR THE RECORD — MEN

Record alterations reported since the January issue. W = World; A = American; C = Collegiate; J = Junior; HS = High School; + = event not recognized by official ratifying body.

MEN INDOOR TRACK

60	6.34(A)	W, A	Christian Coleman (Nike)	Albuquerque, New Mexico	February 18
800	1:47.67	HS	Josh Hoey (Shanahan, Downington, Pennsylvania) ..	Boston, Massachusetts	February 25
1500	3:36.05	WJ	Samuel Tefera (Ethiopia)	Val de Reuil, France	January 27
60H	7.42	C	Grant Holloway (Florida)	Clemson, South Carolina	February 09
4 x 400	3:01.98	W?, C	USC	Clemson, South Carolina	February 10
			<i>(Zach Shinnick 46.28, Rai Benjamin' 44.63, Ricky Morgan 45.72, Michael Norman 45.35)</i>		
4 x 800	7:11.30	W, A	Hoka New Jersey/New York TC	Boston, Massachusetts	February 25
			<i>(Joe McAsey 1:49.03, Kyle Merber 1:47.11, Chris Giesting 1:47.43, Jesse Garn 1:47.33)</i>		

MEN INDOOR FIELD

PV	5.78 18-11½	WJ	Emmanouil Karalis (Greece)	Piraeus, Greece	February 11
	5.81 19-¾	WJ	Mondo Duplantis (Sweden)	Clermont-Ferrand, France ...	February 25
	5.88 19-3½	WJ, HS	Mondo Duplantis (Sweden/Lafayette, Louisiana)	Clermont-Ferrand, France ...	February 25

STAT CORNER

U.S. Women 16-Footers

With Katie Nageotte (see p. 9) joining the club at the USATF Championships, 4 American women have now topped the 16-foot barrier 25 times. The count is Jenn Suhr 15, Sandi Morris 7, Demi Payne 2 & Nageotte 1 (the international total is 66 by 8 performers).

The U.S. 16-footers:

5.03i.....	16-6.....	Jenn Suhr (adidas)	1/30/16
5.02i(A).....	16-5½.....	—Suhr.....	3/02/13
5.01i.....	16-5¼.....	—Suhr.....	10/01/16
5.00.....	16-4¾.....	Sandi Morris (Nike).....	9/09/16
4.95i.....	16-2¾.....	—Morris.....	3/12/16
4.94.....	16-2½.....	—Morris !.....	9/09/16
4.93.....	16-2.....	—Morris.....	7/23/16
4.92.....	16-1¾.....	—Suhr.....	7/06/08
4.91.....	16-1¼.....	—Suhr.....	7/26/11
		—Suhr.....	6/14/13
		i.....	1/16/16
		i(A).....	Katie Nageotte (NYAC) ..2/18/18
4.90.....	16-¾.....	—Suhr.....	5/18/08
		i(A).....	—Suhr !.....3/02/13
		i.....	Demi Payne (unat)
		i.....	—Suhr.....3/12/16
		i.....	—Morris !.....3/12/16
		—Suhr.....	3/17/16
		i(A).....	—Morris.....1/12/18
4.89.....	16-½.....	—Suhr.....	6/27/10
4.88.....	16-0.....	—Suhr.....	6/02/07
		i.....	—Suhr.....2/04/12
		i(A).....	—Payne.....2/06/16
		—Morris !.....	9/09/16
		—Suhr.....	9/23/16

G tweeted. “I advise you to focus only on the 1500m&mile.”

Subsequent to his telling reporters that his 3:49.44 in Boston might be his last mile race, Ches told *T&FN* he will consider running more 1500s and miles in the months and years ahead.

Cuts To Olympic Track?

The Olympic Charter limits participation at the Summer Games to approximately 10,500 athletes and so with an oversubscribed total of 10,616 set for Tokyo '20, talk of cuts for Paris '24 and beyond once again raises the prospect track could see its quota reduced.

For Tokyo existing sports retained full complements as baseball/softball, karate, skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing were added.

But Olympic Games Delivery Executive Steering Committee chair John Coates

is calling for a haircut in the future.

At the PyeongChang Winter Games, Coates noted, “we are asking for all of these savings but then we are giving a host the opportunity to add new sports for their Games with athletes in addition to that number.”

Boxing, with 286 spots, could be axed altogether over a range of controversies. Failing that, quotas for track and other sports may be pared.

“Informally those discussions are taking place,” Coates said.

There are at least 3 ways cuts to track could come: elimination of an event (or events); reduction of numbers of qualifiers per event; restricting nations to 2 contestants per event. Or even some combination thereof.

Saunders Steps Away

“Mama raised a fighter and know I will be back.” That’s Raven Saunders’ recent declaration on Twitter.

Ole Miss has announced the shot’s Collegiate Record holder is “stepping away from the track for a time as she returns to full health.”

The Rio Olympian provided clarification with her subsequent tweet: “Thank you for all of the kind words and support



ERROL ANDERSON/THE SPORTING IMAGE

There will be no more Collegiate Records for Raven Saunders

through this tough period. I am using this time to focus on myself and getting back to full health.

“To my fellow athletes you don’t always have to act like you have it all together. As a college student athlete times can get very hard. Take the time to focus on your mental health as you would the physical.”

Quoting Psalm 23:4—“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”—Saunders closed with a hashtag: #Tokyo2020.

IAAF Looks At The Kenyan Fed

IAAF Ethics Board delegates have visited Kenya this winter to finalize the investigation of four former Athletics Kenya officials, according to the *Nairobi*

FOR THE RECORD — WOMEN

Record alterations reported since the January issue. W = World; A = American; C = Collegiate; J = Junior; HS = High School; + = event not recognized by official ratifying body; l-a = low-altitude

WOMEN INDOOR TRACK

300	35.45	=W+	Shaunae Miller-Uibo (Bahamas)	New York, New York.....	February 03
400	50.52	l-a A+, C; WJ, AJ	Sydney McLaughlin (Kentucky)	College Station, Texas.....	February 25
3000	8:41.60	C	Karissa Schweizer (Missouri).....	New York, New York.....	February 03
60H	7.72	=A	Kendra Harrison (adidas)	Clemson, South Carolina	February 09
	7.70(A)	A	Sharika Nelvis (adidas)	Albuquerque, New Mexico....	February 18
1500W	6:17.30	HS	Taylor Ewert (Beavercreek, Ohio)	New York, New York.....	February 03
MileW	6:45.68	HS	Taylor Ewert (Beavercreek, Ohio)	New York, New York.....	February 03
3000W	13:45.0	HS	Taylor Ewert (Beavercreek, Ohio)	Goshen, Indiana	January 19
4 x 200	1:32.67	A	USA All-Stars	New York, New York.....	January 27
			(Kyra Jefferson, Deajah Stevens, Daina Harper 23.25, Asha Ruth 23.31)		
4 x 800	8:05.89	W, A	USA All-Stars	New York, New York.....	February 03
			(Chrishuna Williams 2:05.10, Raevyn Rogers 2:00.45, Charlene Lipsey 2:01.97, Ajee' Wilson 1:58.37)		

WOMEN ABSOLUTE TRACK

3000	8:41.60i	C	Karissa Schweizer (Missouri).....	New York, New York.....	February 03
MileW	6:45.68i	HS	Taylor Ewert (Beavercreek, Ohio)	New York, New York.....	February 03

note: the 1:35.39 in the women’s 4x2 last month was credited as HS, but was also WJ+ and AJ+

Daily Nation.

The erstwhile federation officers—President Isaiah Kiplagat (who since passed away), Vice President David Okeyo, Treasurer Joseph Kinyua—and CEO Isaac Mwangi have been subjects of Ethics Board scrutiny since late '15.

An unnamed source told the newspaper that Ethics Board investigators “are focusing mainly on the alleged doping and financial scandals involving the officials.”

Pending conclusion of the disciplinary process, the Ethics Board has called its activities in Kenya as “part of a process of bringing these matters to a fair and expeditious conclusion whilst ensuring that all relevant evidence and matters are brought to light and considered...”

New EPO Tests Coming?

Developing technologies may lead to EPO tests that can reach farther back into athletes' pasts. At least that's what the IOC hopes.

While current controls for banned blood-boosting drugs are effective for a week or less after a cheat takes a dose, IOC medical and scientific director Richard Budgett, speaking at the Winter Olympics, expressed optimism for more effective screens in the future.

“At least there is a test, but a test that can detect the use weeks or months before would be ideal,” Budgett said. “There is the promise of that, with the ‘omics’ test, which uses ‘proteomics’ and ‘metabolomics.’”

“The theory is there, but putting it into practice is hard.”

The IOC and WADA are supporting research to develop the theory into reality.

Mayer Covets Eaton's WR

Ashton Eaton's successor as top active decathlete, Kevin Mayer, took the world title and No. 1 World Ranking last year. Now the 26-year-old Frenchman, who is No. 6 on the all-time list with his 8834 Rio Olympics score, seeks that other Eaton possession, the World Record.

While Mayer says the European title this summer is a higher priority than the World Indoor heptathlon,

he has produced a couple of nice PRs this winter: 7.79 in the 60H and 18-4½ (5.60) in the vault, the latter 8 inches above Eaton's career best.

“I have gained more power thanks to my work in the gym this year and the seven strides to the first hurdle is getting more and more easy,” he said in January.

Where would Mayer like to improve? He cites the long jump. “I still have technical work to do—the approach to the board in order to jump to my best ability,” he told *L'Équipe*.

And the 1500, where his PR of 4:18.04 dates back to '12.

Gatlin Prepares For '18

Reunited with coach Brooks Johnson, his guide in 2010 & '11, veteran sprinter Justin Gatlin is set to open '18 with a race over 150m in Pretoria, South Africa,

on March 8.

The 36-year-old world 100 gold medalist, who fired former coach Dennis Mitchell after a tabloid sting embroiled Mitchell in charges of intent to aid the doping of a purported movie actor (*T&FN*, December), remains committed to a race with Father Time toward his fourth Olympics in '20.

“I want to be able to end my career winning a gold medal,” Gatlin told the *Pensacola News Journal*. “But it is so hard to make Team USA in any Olympics in any venue, in any sport.”

Having to can Mitchell, his coach the past 6 seasons, Gatlin admitted, “was a big loss.”

But, he added, “I also learned that one single coach does not define who I am as an athlete. I have to have responsibility for me as a person.” □

TO THE EDITOR

THE MULTI-TALENTED BOLT

I READ FELLOW Memphian Chris Wentzel's criticism of Usain Bolt's lack of ambition [*To The Editor*, November] and had a good laugh. That kind of event spread is possible only in high school.

There is no doubt that Bolt is the greatest sprinter ever and had he focused on the 400, he might well have gotten the record.

A good sprinter with jumping ability can usually long jump well but as great as Carl Lewis was, he never got the LJ record.

The other events Chris mentioned (110H, 400H, TJ & HJ) would be a huge stretch. I coach the jumps and hurdles and to set World Records, it takes very talented athletes who specialize in one event for years [if ever] to get a record.

Mike Walker—Memphis, Tennessee

HOORAY FOR FEET & INCHES

DAVID N. PETERSON'S suggestion that the USA should convert to metrics is ludicrous.

What would a 137m homerun mean to most fans? (450 feet), or 17.3meter forward pass in football?

It has already been stated that TV coverage of track & field using only metrics is destroying fan interest. No more need be said.

My last complaint is regarding the [schedule] page of the issue:

And don't tell me complaining doesn't do any good, I know. During the entire months of January and February, there is not a single track and field event listed anywhere in the entire state of California. Sooo sad.

Dave Yaruss—San Diego California

HASAY SHORTCHANGED?

SORRY, BUT I JUST have to get this off my chest: I strongly disagree with your rankings of USA marathon women.

Jordan Hasay should clearly rank ahead of Shalane Flanagan. Sure, Flanagan got a big-city win. But Hasay out-classed her twice with *far* superior times.

Hasay tickled the 2:20 barrier and Flanagan was nowhere close.

Even Hasay's 2:23 debut outclassed Shalane's NYC 2:26. I know you prioritize “wins” over times, but that doesn't seem to be a hard and fast rule.

Hasay's pair of 3rds in big city marathons is also pretty impressive. What were you thinking?

Rick Weinstein—Stowe, Vermont

U.S. SCHEDULE

Indoor Nationals

March

01-03..... NAA; Pittsburg, Kansas
02-03..... JUCO; Lubbock, Texas
09-10..... NCAA; College Station, Texas
..... NCAA II; Pittsburg, Kansas
..... NCAA III; Birmingham, Alabama
09-11. New Balance Nationals HS; NYC, New York

Outdoor Invitationals

March

02-03..... CSLA Inv, Los Angeles, California
03..... Florida A&M Relays; Tallahassee, Florida
..... Tulane Twilight, New Orleans, Louisiana
09-10..... Brown Inv; Fullerton, California
10..... Cowboy Rel; Lake Charles, Louisiana
..... Oxy Distance Carnival; Eagle Rock, California
15-17..... 49er Classic; Charlotte, North Carolina
16-17..... Castillo Inv; Tempe, Arizona
..... Hornet Inv; Sacramento, California
..... Hurricane Inv; Coral Gables, Florida
..... Louisiana Classics; Lafayette, Louisiana
..... Quiller Classic; Boulder, Colorado
..... Romo Inv; San Antonio, Texas
..... TCU Invitational; Ft. Worth, Texas
..... Texas Southern Relays; Houston, Texas
..... Trojan Inv; Los Angeles, California
..... UCF Challenge; Orlando, Florida
..... UCI Spring Classic; Irvine, California
..... Williams Classic; Tucson, Arizona
17..... Maryland Inv; Landover, Maryland
16-18..... UNLV Spring Inv; Las Vegas, Nevada
22-24..... Aztec Inv; San Diego, California
23-24.. Arkansas Spring Inv; Fayetteville, Arkansas
..... Florida State R; Tallahassee, Florida
..... Kittley Inv; Abilene, Texas
..... López Bayou Classic; Houston, Texas
..... Pac-12/Big 10 Inv; Tempe, Arizona
..... Power 5 Challenge, Los Angeles
24..... UTEP Springtime; El Paso, Texas
28-31..... Texas Relays; Austin, Texas
29-31..... Bobcat Inv; San Marcos, Texas
..... Florida Relays; Gainesville, Florida
30-31..... Raleigh Relays; Raleigh, North Carolina
..... Legends Inv; Westwood, California
..... Stanford Inv; Stanford, California
31... California Collegiate Inv; San Diego, California
..... Mondo Inv; Sacramento, California

Outdoor Nationals

May

17-19..... JUCO; El Dorado, Kansas
24-26..... NAA; Gulf Shores, Alabama
..... NCAA II; Charlotte, North Carolina
..... NCAA III; La Crosse, Wisconsin
..... NCAA East Regional; Tampa, Florida
..... NCAA West Regional; Sacramento, Cal

June

06-08..... NCAA Men; Eugene, Oregon
07-09..... NCAA Women; Eugene, Oregon
14-16?..... USATF Juniors; tbd
21-24..... USATF; Des Moines, Iowa
26-7/01..... USATF Youth; Rochester, NY

Next Month In T&FN

World Indoor Champs



THERE WILL BE MANY barn-burning events at the World Indoor Championships and one of the best should be the men's pole vault, featuring not only wunderkind Mondo Duplantis, but also (l-r in photo) Piotr Lisek, Sam Kendricks & Renaud Lavillenie.

In a year without an Olympic Games or outdoor World Championships, the WIC takes on a special luster and we expect Birmingham's second hosting of the meet to be a spectacular one.

T&FN will as always be on site with writers and photographers to bring you all the details, now faster than ever before, since we're no longer held hostage by the restrictions of ink & paper. The March edition, of course, will also feature the NCAA Indoor and all its excitement.

The who-won-the-indoor-titles March edition will be mailed by March 27. If you aren't currently a subscriber, or wish to renew your subscription, just call us at our toll-free 800 number or contact us by e-mail and we'll take care of your order promptly.

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~ 2018 ~

■ **EUROPEAN TRACK TOUR.** Three excellent meets, five countries, two fascinating weeks in Europe. Start in Brussels for the DL final, then to Zagreb, Croatia's capital, for the IWC Zagreb meet, then to Ostrava, Czech Republic, for the two-day Continental Cup. With visits to Budapest, Krakow and Warsaw. August 30-Sept. 14. A great trip with some new, intriguing cities to visit. Current deposit is \$1500 per person. Hurry—not much space left.

~ 2019 ~

■ **WORLD RELAYS,** Nassau, Bahamas. This increasingly popular event will again be held at Tom Robinson Stadium, Nassau, Bahamas. May 4-5. Tour dates: Arrive May 2, Depart May 6. \$100 deposit/person.

■ **U.S. NATIONALS/WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIALS,** \$100 deposit per person now accepted. Venue TBD.

■ **WORLD TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS,** Doha, Qatar. Meet dates: Sept. 26 - Oct. 6. We are accepting deposits for World Championships XVII. \$1000 deposit/person. See ad on page 4.

~ 2020 ~

■ **OLYMPIC TRIALS,** Mt. SAC. Track & Field will return to the Los Angeles area in 2020, with Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) in Walnut, California, hosting the 10-day event. Twenty world records have been set at Hilmer Lodge Stadium, the longtime site of the Mt. SAC relays. The stadium is undergoing extensive renovation and is scheduled to reopen in 2019 with an expanded seating capacity of 21,000. The trials, scheduled for June 19-28, 2020, will select the U.S. track and field team for the Tokyo Games. \$100 deposit per person.

■ **SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES,** Tokyo, Japan. Game dates: July 24 - August

9. Tour dates: 18 nights (July 23 - Aug. 10) or 12 nights (July 29 - Aug. 10). This will be our 18th Summer Olympic tour. \$1100 deposit per person.

~ 2021 ~

■ **U.S. NATIONALS/WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIALS,** \$100 deposit per person now accepted. Probably Eugene.

■ **WORLD TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS,** Eugene, OR. We are accepting deposits for this, the first outdoor IAAF world championships to be held in the U.S. We expect to have lodging, walking distance to the stadium. \$100 deposit. Aug. 6-15.



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