

High Performance Division



Men's Track & Field
Women's Track & Field

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The year 2006 marked the midpoint of the Olympiad to Beijing and, with no Outdoor World Championship or Olympic Games to speak of, expectations for the year were generally scaled down. However, the year was not without several significant developments, including the nomination of Bubba Thornton and James Li to serve as 2008 Olympic Head Coach and Head Manager, respectively, the emergence of several new sprint stars, the announcement of Bernard Lagat's American citizenship, and the unfortunate and untimely drug-related demise of one of the most outstanding athletes in our sport in recent years.

Boston once again hosted a highly successful Indoor National Championship that concluded the Visa Indoor Championship series, which saw Terence Trammell taking home the winner's check for \$25,000, narrowly besting outstanding shot putter Reese Hoffa. The indoor meet also selected the team for the World Indoor Championships held two weeks later in Moscow, Russia, where the US men consolidated their position as the World's Number One Team by winning 9 medals, six of them gold. World indoor champions included Leonard Scott (60m), Terence Trammell (60m HH), Brad Walker (PV), Walt Davis (TJ), Reese Hoffa (Shot Put) and the men's 1600 relay team. Bryan Clay earned a silver medal in the pentathlon to add to his growing list of recent honors, while Trammell also earned a bronze medal in the 60m, and Dominique Arnold matched that feat in the high hurdles. Unfortunately, Bernard Lagat's reported acquisition of citizenship in 2004 did not automatically enable him to represent the USA in the 2006 World Indoors, owing to newly approved IAAF rules regarding prior release of an athlete by their former country before that athlete could represent another.

The outdoor season again saw the resumption of the Visa Championship series which included the adidas Track Classic, USA v. The World at the Penn Relays, the Nike Prefontaine meet, and the Reebok Grand Prix, and which culminated in the AT&T Outdoor Nationals. Many of the undercover stars went on to excel outdoors, such as Dominique Arnold who won the outdoor title in a swift 13.10, and later shaved the American (and former world) record down to 12.90 in

taking a close second to China's Liu Xiang at Lausanne. Though Arnold indicated that he had no plans to slow down anytime soon, he did stand in marked contrast to the slew of emerging young track stars, including Tyson Gay, Wallace Spearmon, Xavier Carter, Kerron Clement, and Bershawn Jackson who crashed onto the international scene and eagerly announced that "Youth will be served" in the coming years.

Internationally, the men's team fared well. At the season-ending World Cup in Athens, the men placed an unexpected and highly respectful second, while the team's depth shone through in the US-Great Britain-China-Russia quadrangular meet in Birmingham with the men taking seven out of ten track events. Only in the late-season World Juniors in Beijing did we falter, although Chris Carter's intermediate hurdles triumph there served as the lone victory for both teams. The outstanding Chinese team's performance in Beijing served notice to the rest of the world that they will indeed be a force to reckon with in 2008.

One of the biggest stories this year centered around Justin Gatlin's announcement that he had tested positive for testosterone shortly before the test results were officially announced. Gatlin had just equaled the world record in the 100 meters and was surely one of the brightest stars in the current constellation of outstanding American tracksters. While the case is still subject to review by CAS, Gatlin's apparent fall from grace hit hard because he was so accomplished yet self-effacing as an athlete and because he had expressed his strong support for the organization's efforts to discourage doping. Regardless of how the situation finally plays out, I want to point out that your MTF leadership remains committed to ensuring a level-playing field in our sport and holding accountable those who would seek to compromise the integrity of the support by using prohibited substances.

I would like to thank National Office staffers Sandy Snow and Aron McGuire for all of the tremendous support they provide to our international teams, and I want to recognize your committee's Vice Chair, Harry Groves, who recently entered the ranks of the officially retired after stepping down at the end of the school year from his head coaching position at Penn. Finally, on behalf of Harry and the other members of the MTF Executive Committee, I would like to extend my congratulations and appreciation to

the athletes, their personal coaches, agents and managers, the officials, and the many volunteer coaching and managerial staff who served on international teams, for an outstanding job throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Chaplin
Chair

Women's Track & Field

The 2006 track and field season proved to be an interesting one, the proverbial "calm before the storm", as we head into the buildup toward next years IAAF World Championships in Osaka and the 2008 Olympic Games. Women's track and field produced some thunder of its own as a preview to what is to come in the next two years.

The USA VISA Indoor Championships in Boston self selected a team comprised of both veterans and newcomers allowing us to both maintain dominance in certain events and have a look at what the future might hold by giving some newcomers the opportunity to compete on the world stage. Two weeks later the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Moscow gave us a one-two finish in the women's 60 meter dash, both timed in 7.01, by Me'Lisa Barber and Lauren Williams, respectively, and produced a silver medal winning performance by a quartet comprised mainly of "newbies" (Debbie Dunn, Tiffany Ross-Williams, Monica Hargrove, Mary Danner). This latter prize was especially remarkable since it was accomplished without the participation of Sanya Richards, who came down with the flu while in Moscow. Tianna Madison was the long jump silver medalist in 6.80 (an indoor PB), Danielle Carruthers finished 4th in the 60m hurdles just .01 from third, Jillian Camarena and Treniere Clement finished 7th in the shot put and 1500m, Kellie Suttle and Chaunte Howard finished 8th in the pole vault and high jump, respectively. The combined men's and women's point score was the highest in the history of the event for the United States.

Outdoors, the USA AT&T Outdoor Championships in Indianapolis proved to be a most difficult place to have an uninterrupted competition due to the classic mid-western

weather patterns. Yet, as they always do despite obstacles placed in their way, the athletes prevailed, and with flying colors. Heading into the outdoor season, Sanya Richards showed that she would be a power at both 200 and 400 meters. Ginnie Powell came into her own by winning the 100H in a remarkable 12.41. Kim Kreiner took her spear chucking talents to new heights in a most remarkable season breaking the American Javelin Record multiple times and winning here in an American Record 204'10". Perhaps the most anticipated race of the day came from a come-backing Marion Jones who won the 100m in 11.10.

During the outdoor campaign, Women's Track and Field competed in their national colors five times: NACAC in Santo Domingo, USA vs. GB, China, Russia in Birmingham, the IAAF World Juniors in Beijing, DecaNation in Paris and the World Cup in Athens.

NACAC: Adaptability was the name of the game at NACAC with conditions less than ideal. Highlights included a top 2 sweep of the three sprints- 100m, 200m and 400m as well as the shot put, victories in the 800m, 1500m and 10,000m, 100m hurdles, 3000m steeplechase, all the throws and both relays. That's fourteen gold medals.

USA vs. Great Britain, Russia, and China: Birmingham produced a 200m seasonal best of 22.19 for Alyson Felix as the USA Team finished second to Russia. Brianna Glen (100m) and Jenny Adams (100m hurdles) were also victorious for the US team.

IAAF World Junior Championships: This was the Beijing organizing committees practice meet for the Olympic Games. The team had moderate success but included silver medal performances by Gabrielle Mayo in the 100m and Nicole Leach in the 400m hurdles, a bronze by Rebekah Noble in the 800m, as well as the highlight, victories for both the 4x100m and 4x400m relays.

IAAF World Cup: The obvious height of this competition was the obliteration of the 22 year old 400m American Record by Sanya Richards in 48.70!!! Sanya went two for two when she won the 200m as well. Aretha Thurmond finished second in the discus with a solid 202'10" as did Lashinda Demus in the 400m hurdles and Torri Edwards in the 100m. Kara Goucher surprised in the 3000m with a bronze medal performance in an 8:44.32 PB. Ginnie Powell and Amy Acuff

finished in third, respectively, in their events, the 100m hurdles and the high jump. The 4x400m quartet of Deedee Trotter, Moushami Robinson, Monique Henderson and Lashinda Demus took home the silver medal.

DecaNation: This meet produced a team victory in that unique 20 event format created by the French Federation with individuals pulling together in what was a return to the bygone days of team competition. It was most gratifying to see them pull for each other regardless of field or track. Several athletes came in from Brussels the morning of the meet in order to do their share among them Deedee Trotter, Amy Acuff, Jenny Adams and Brianna Glenn. Deedees 50.85 win was her season PB and one of the meets high points as was Brianna's victory over perennial French champion Christine Aron. Tianna Madison rose to the occasion with her best long jump of the outdoor season to win her event. Becky Holiday, Jillian Camarena, Erin Gilreath, Sara Schwald and Lisa Galaviz also scored valuable points in their respective events. With only a four point winning margin over Germany, all ten made major contributions to the victory...and the shared prize money.

The organization was not immune from accusations of wrongdoing by our athletes. Marion Jones reemerged with a vengeance at our National Championships and onto the international arena only to be brought back into the ugly issue of illegal performance enhancing substances. Coming after the Justin Gatlin headlines, it seemed to produce a shadow over us. Our athletes handled the situation well when approached by a media hungry for juicy commentary. Fortunately the "B" sample tested negative in September momentarily shutting that media feeding frenzy.

Always a very active, introspective and critical observer of our sport and USA Track and Field, it was important for this Chair to maintain an open communication with the organization, demanding that it do the same for its membership and the Board of Directors. In this way we can continue to grow in a way that will produce the programs and performances necessary to maintain our position on the world stage.

Enough cannot be said of the cooperation exhibited by the athletes, coaches and agents with the 2006 international staffs. The

magnificent open communication and assistance of the agents greatly facilitated the composition of teams making them akin to an additional manager. Many thanks.

The immense contributions of Sandy Snow and Aron McGuire, the International Teams directors, cannot be understated. Sandy took Aron under her wing and then let him fly. A good teacher produces good students. Sandy's brainchild, the **Pool Manager** system, proved its worth once again.

Lastly, inter-committee cooperation was facilitated by the easy working relationship between the Track and Field Chairs with assistance from each committee secretary, Professor Torrellas and Attorney Kolling, who good naturedly battered each other for the cause. Working toward a common goal while maintaining independence is always a good thing.

We look forward to 2007 with great anticipation!

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Hightower, Chair
Women's Track & Field Committee