

NEWS OF THE WORLDS



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WILLIAMS AND JETER GO 2-3 IN WOMEN'S 100; DAVIS GETS TJ BRONZE

OSAKA, Japan – Thanks to a stunning women's 100 meters and a fine performance in the men's triple jump, Team USA brought its medal tally to 7 Monday night at the 2007 IAAF World Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

In easily the most dramatic race of the Championships thus far, Lauryn Williams (Miami, Fla.) initially looked as though she may have won her second world title in the women's 100. The defending world champion, who has struggled since winning the 2005 world title, got off to an outstanding start and led the field at halfway. In the latter portion of the race, however, Olympic bronze medalist Veronica Campbell of Jamaica led a surge by the rest of the field, and five women – Williams, Campbell and Americans Carmelita Jeter (Long Beach, Calif.) and Torri Edwards (Corona, Calif.) and Belgium's Kim Gevaert – crossed the line virtually simultaneously. But the gold was down to rivals Williams and Campbell, with Williams appearing to have won when seen with the naked eye.

The scoreboard first flashed Edwards as the winner, which was clearly in error. Several more minutes passed before the final results were posted – Campbell first in 11.01 (-0.2 mps), which brought an audible gasp, and some gentle grumbling, from the crowd. Williams was listed as second in an identical time. (Her photo finish time was .003 behind Campbell.) Jeter, who got her best start of the meet and employed her typical strong finish, was a surprising third in a personal-best 11.02, and Edwards was fourth in 11.05. Gevaert finished fifth, also in 11.05, with Christine Arron of France sixth in 11.08, Kerron Stewart of Jamaica seventh in 11.12 and Oludamola Osayomi of Nigeria eighth in 11.26.

The semifinal round had given no indication that the final would reap those results for Team USA. Edwards (11.02) and Williams (11.09) had gone 1-2 in the first semifinal, while Jeter made the final by placing fourth in the second semi (11.08). Mechelle Lewis (Raleigh, N.C.) just missed the final, placing fifth in Heat 2 (11.16).

Davis wins another medal

Defending World Champion Walter Davis (Baton Rouge, La.), took home bronze in a dramatic men's triple jump final, while Aarik Wilson placed fifth. Nursing a sore right shin, Davis opened by jumping a season-best 17.33m/56-10.75, and Wilson leaped 17.21m/56-5.75 in round 2 to sit in second and third, respectively, behind Nelson Evora of Portugal (17.41m/57-1.5) after two rounds.

Osniel Tosca of Cuba overtook Wilson in the third round with a mark of 17.32m/56-10, and in round 5, Jadel Gregorio of Brazil popped off a jump of 17.59m/57-8.5 to bump Davis down to third and Wilson to fifth. Wilson improved to 17.31m/56-9.5 on his last jump but remained in fifth, while Davis did not improve on his last jump, winning the second World Outdoor medal of his career. Evora improved to 17.74m/58-2.5 for the gold, with Gregorio second.

The field in the Tuesday's men's 10,000m final separated within the first mile as two-time Olympian Abdi Abdirahman (Tucson, Ariz.) stuck with the lead pack of 11 runners, clicking off 1,000m splits in the 2:45 range. Dathan Ritzenhein (Boulder, Colo.) and Galen Rupp (Portland, Ore.) worked together much farther back in the chase pack. With nine laps to go, 7,200m passed in 19:45.26, Abdi fell off the pace and faded to eventually place seventh in 27:56.62, with Ritz 9th in 28:28.59 and Rupp 11th in 28:41.71. World record holder Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia outsprinted countryman Sileshi Sihine to win his third world title in 27:05.90, with Sihine second in 27:09.03. Martin Irungu Mathathi of Kenya was third in 27:12.17.

Lagat, Webb, sprint to M1,500m final; Trotter and Wineberg make W400 final

Team USA will have two men in Wednesday's 1,500m final for the first time since 1987, but American 1,500m record holder Bernard Lagat (Tucson, Ariz.) and mile American record holder Alan Webb (Reston, Va.)



LAURYN WILLIAMS

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Team USA Medal Table

Gold (2)

Tyson Gay (Fayetteville, Ark.), M100m, 9.85
Reese Hoffa (Athens, Ga.), MSP, 22.04m/72-3.75

Silver (2)

Adam Nelson (Charlottesville, Va.), MSP, 21.61m/70-10.75
Lauryn Williams (Miami, Fla.), W100m, 11.01

Bronze (3)

Kara Goucher (Portland, Ore.), W10,000m, 32:02.05
Walter Davis (Baton Rouge, La.), MTJ, 17.33m/56-10.75
Carmelita Jeter (Long Beach, Calif.), W100, 11.02

MEDAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICANS ON TUESDAY

OSAKA, Japan – Three key finals for Team USA will be contested during Tuesday competition at the 2007 IAAF World Outdoor Track & Field Championships at Nagai Stadium.

The men's 400m hurdles final features three Americans, including 2005 World Outdoor silver medalist James Carter (Raleigh, N.C.), two-time USA Outdoor Champion Kerron Clement (Gainesville, Fla.) and USA Outdoor third-place finisher Derrick Williams (Fayetteville, Ark.).

Reigning world champion Tianna Madison (Los Angeles, Calif.) returns to the final of the women's long jump, where she is joined by Brittney Reese (Gulfport, Miss.), and American record holder Jenn Stuczynski (Rochester, N.Y.) contests her first World Outdoor final in the women's pole vault.

In qualifying action, the men's 200m competition begins with the first two rounds, while round 1 of the men's 400 is scheduled for Tuesday morning, and the women's 100 hurdles continue with the semi-finals.



TIANNA MADISON

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Below is a complete listing of USATF entrants for Tuesday competition.

Team USA entrants – Tuesday, August 28

10 a.m., women's hammer throw qualifying – Brittany Riley (Carbondale, IL), Kristal Yush (Baton Rouge, LA), Jessica Cosby (Mission Hills, CA)

10:10 p.m., men's 400m first round – Jeremy Wariner (Waco TX), Angelo Taylor (Decatur, GA), LaShawn Merritt (Suffolk, VA), Lionel Larry (Los Angeles, CA)

11:10, men's 200m first round – Tyson Gay (Fayetteville, AR), Wallace Spearmon (Fayetteville, AR), Rodney Martin (Los Angeles, CA)

7:30 p.m., women's pole vault FINAL – Jenn Stuczynski (Rochester, N.Y.)

7:35 p.m., women's 100m hurdles semifinal – Michelle Perry (Santa Clarita, CA), Virginia Powell (Los Angeles, CA), Lolo Jones (Baton Rouge, LA), Nichole Denby (Champaign, IL)

8:10 p.m., men's 200m second round

8:50 p.m., women's long jump FINAL – Tianna Madison (Los Angeles, CA), Brittney Reese (Gulfport, MS)

9:40 p.m., women's 400m hurdles semifinal – Tiffany Williams (Columbia, SC), Sheena Johnson (Los Angeles, CA), Nicole Leach (Los Angeles, CA)

10:20 p.m., men's 400m hurdles FINAL – James Carter (Raleigh, N.C.), Kerron Clement (Gainesville, Fla.), Derrick Williams (Fayetteville, Ark.)

qualified in very different ways. In Heat 1, Lagat, a two-time Olympic medalist, sprinted well clear of the field in the final stretch to win comfortably in 3:42.39. Running in the faster of the two heats, Webb came from last place off the curve to make a frantic sprint to fifth place in Heat 2, earning the final automatic qualifying spot and finishing in 3:41.08.

The women's 400m final, also on Wednesday, will have two American women as well. After a slow start, USA Outdoor champion Dee Dee Trotter (Knoxville) made an aggressive stretch run to place third in Heat 2, qualifying on time in 50.31. Mary Wineberg (Cincinnati, Ohio) was second in Heat 3 in 50.27 to advance automatically. Natasha Hastings (Columbia, S.C.) was seventh in Heat 1 in 51.45 and did not advance.

Morning Roundup

Team USA's hurdle corps moved en masse into the next round of competition during Monday morning qualifying.

Reigning world champion Michelle Perry (Santa Clarita, Calif.) took the first step in defending her title by winning her round in 12.72. Lolo Jones (Baton Rouge, La.) was third in Heat 2 in 12.86, and 2007 USA Outdoor champion Ginnie Powell (Los Angeles, Calif.) was runner-up placing in Heat 3 in 12.76. Rounding 2004 NCAA champion Nichole Denby was third in Heat 4 in 12.91.

2007 Visa Outdoor champion Tiffany Williams (Columbia, S.C.) easily won her opening round heat in the women's 400m hurdles in 54.24 seconds. She'll be joined in the second round by 2007 NCAA champion Nicole Leach (Los Angeles, Calif.), who finished fourth in Heat 1 in 55.95, and 2004 Olympic Trials champion Sheena Johnson (Los Angeles, Calif.), who finished third in Heat 5 in 56.30 seconds.

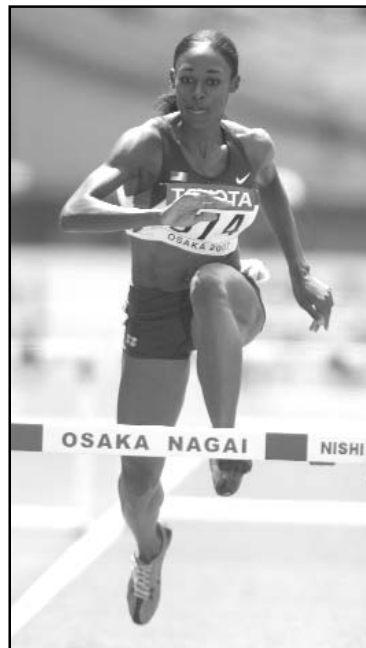
In women's long jump qualifying, reigning world champion Tianna Madison (Los Angeles, Calif.) qualified for the final with a best leap of 6.59 meters/21 feet 7.50 inches. 2007 USA Outdoor Championships runner-up Brittney Reese (Gulfport, Miss.) placed third in Qualifying Group A to automatically advance to the final with her leap of 6.83 meters/22 feet 5 inches. Those not advancing were three-time USA Outdoor champion Grace Upshaw (6.47m/21-2.75) and 2006 USA Outdoor champion Rose Richmond (6.45m/21-2).

In the men's high jump, Olympic fourth-place finisher Jamie Nieto narrowly missed making it to the final by clearing 2.26m/7-5, just shy of the 2.29m/7-6 automatic mark. Two-time NCAA champion Jesse Williams (Raleigh, N.C.) cleared 2.23m/7-3.75 and did not advance, while 2007 USA champion Jim Dilling (Fond du Lac, Wis.) cleared 2.19/7-2.25 and won't make the final.

In the women's discus, American record holder Suzy Powell (Modesto, Calif.) had a best throw of 59.57 meters/195-5, and 2005 USA Outdoor champion Becky Breisch (Chula Vista, Calif.), threw 58.42 meters/191-8. Cecilia Barnes (Fresno, Calif.) had a best toss of 53.02m/173-11, but none made the final.

Chief Blogging Officer

USATF CEO Craig Masback continues to update his blog from Osaka. Be sure to check the USATF Web site regularly for updates. Masback's latest blog can be found at <http://www.usatf.org/about/leadership/MasbackBlog/>



SHEENA JOHNSON

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SUZY POWELL

ERROL ANDERSON