



Galaxy of Stars appear at Jesse Owens Awards & Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

INDIANAPOLIS — USA Track & Field stars of today, yesterday and tomorrow were all on hand Saturday night at the 2009 Jesse Owens Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

The proceedings began with the evening's emcee, NBC and ESPN Sports commenter **Lewis Johnson**, who introduced 2004 Olympic men's marathon bronze medalist and 2009 ING New York City marathon winner **Meb Keflezighi**. Meb welcomed everyone to the event and introduced the annual year in review video.

USATF National Youth Chair **Lionel Leach** and Olympic gold medalist and former world record holder in the decathlon **Dan O'Brien** presented the Youth Athlete of the Year Award to Carolina Elite Track Club sprint sensation **Bryce Love**. He is the first midget boy to set national records in three events in one year.

Next on the stage was **Don Lein**, USATF's Masters Long Distance Running Chair, who introduced the 2009 USATF Masters Athlete of the Year, four-time Olympian **Colleen De Reuck**.

De Reuck (45) is the oldest woman ever to win a major U.S. championship, having won the 2009 U.S. 20 km Championships by a margin of 17 seconds. Another highlight for De Reuck this year came at the Boston Marathon, where she was crowned the masters winner and finished an astounding eighth overall, covering the course in 2:37:57.

On hand to announce the 2009 Visa Humanitarian Athletes of the Year Award winners were **Ivan Cropper**, USATF Senior Director of Marketing and Communications, and two-time Visa Championship Series winner and 2008 Visa Humanitarian Athlete of the Year, **Lolo Jones**.

In September of this year, Visa Humanitarian Athletes of the Year **Ryan Hall** and **Sara Hall** launched the Hall Steps Foundation, which



Tyson Gay



Sanya Richards

VICTAH SAILER/PHOTO RUN; ERROL ANDERSON/THE SPORTING IMAGE

will fund programs to create a better life for youth living in poverty in the United States and abroad. The foundation aims to use running's lessons to encourage people to take "small steps" toward the goal of tackling issues like clean water, sex trafficking and leadership development. Domestically, the foundation plans to create mentoring programs for at-risk youth to train for a race with an adult runner.

Presenting the 2009 Robert Giegengack Award, which is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the development and success of USA Track & Field and the larger community of the sport, was USATF Chairman and President **Stephanie Hightower**. The award was presented to longtime track & field, cross country and long distance running coach **Bob Larsen**, who is one of the founding members of the Team USA Running Group in Mammoth, Calif., which is now known as The Mammoth Track Club. Hightower was joined on the stage by Larsen's star pupil, **Meb Keflezighi**.

On hand to present the USA Track & Field Nike Coach of the Year Award to National Track & Field Hall of Famer **Alberto Salazar** was **Rob Lotwiss**, Federations Manager for Nike. Salazar, who led **Galen Rupp**, **Dathan Ritzenhein** and **Kara Goucher** to career best performances this past season. In recent years, he has led The Oregon Project, sponsored by Nike, which is dedicated to providing the means for U.S. distance runners to be successful.



JOETTA CLARK DIGGS

Joetta Clark Diggs

Dozens Honored at Awards Breakfast

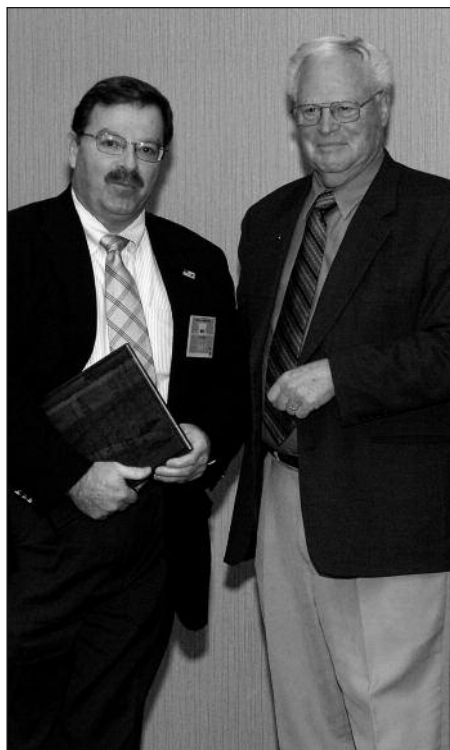
INDIANAPOLIS — At the Annual Awards Breakfast Saturday morning at the 2009 USA Track & Field Annual Meeting, award winners were announced for their achievements on and off the track. Winners are listed below:

Youth Athletics Awards

Frank Savigne Award –
Henry McCullough
Bill Hargrove Award –
Nebraska Association

Masters Long Distance Running Awards

Otto Essig Award – David Katz
and David Oja
Paul Spangler Award – Evelyn Tripp
and Henry Sefnewsky
Outstanding Athletes –
Male: Paul Uftenberg
Female: Colleen De Reuck and
Joan Benoit Samuelson



Ed Gorman receives the Roy Griak Distinguished Service Award from John Chaplin.

Masters Track and Field Awards

David Pain Distinguished Service Award – John Seto
Race Walk Athletes of the Year –
Female: Darlene Backling
Male: Chris Schmidt

Associations Awards

Horace Crow Jr. Award – Paul Morency
Most Improved Award – Southern Association

Cross Country

Male Athlete of the Year –
German Fernandez
Female Athlete – Nealy Spence
Cross Country Council Award –
Peter Glavin
Masters Harriers of the Year –
Simon Gutierrez and
Carmen Ayela-Troncoso

Mountain/Ultra/Trail Running Awards

Mountain Runners of the Year –
Male: Joseph Gray
Female: Brandy Erholtz
Masters Male – Dave Dunham
Masters Female – Laura Haefeli
Contributor of the Year – Paul Kirsch
Ultrarunners of the Year –
Male: Michael Wardian
Female: Kami Semick
Masters Male – Roy Pirrung
Masters Female – Anita Ortiz

Men's Long Distance Running Awards

H. Browning Ross Merit Award –
Jack Daniels
Allan Steinfeld Award –
Carey Pinkowski
Scott Hamilton Memorial Award –
Jack Leydig
Robert E. DeCelle Jr. Award –
Meb Keflezighi

Women's Long Distance Running Awards

Runner of the Year –
Magdalena Lewy Boulet

Marja Bakker Contributor of the Year –
Elizabeth Phillips

Athletics for the Disabled Awards

Distinguished Service Awards –
Lionel Leach and Dorothy Dawson

Officials Awards

Andy Bakjian Award –
Ginger Mullineaux
Horace Crow Jr. Award – Win Eggers
Charles M. Ruter Award – Karen Krsak
John R. Davis Memorial Award –
Finn Hanson
Jim Grey Humanitarian Award –
Val Foss

U.S. Track Meet Directors Association Awards

Howard Schmertz Lifetime Achievement Award – Ray Lump
Meet Director of the Year Award –
Brian Brown

Sports Medicine and Science Awards

Dr. C. Harmon Brown Award –
Jack Ranson, Rick McGuire and
Ralph Vernacchia

Women's Track and Field Awards

Joseph Robichaux Award –
Gary Winkler
C.C. Jackson Awards –
Brittney Reese and Sanya Richards

Men's Track and Field Awards

Harrison Dillard Award – Tyson Gay
Glenn Cunningham Award –
Bernard Lagat
Jim Thorpe Award – Dwight Phillips
Al Oerter Award – Christian Cantwell
John Bennett Award – Trey Hardee
Roy Griak Distinguished Service Award – Ed Gorman

For more information on USA Track & Field and the 2008 USATF Annual Meeting, visit: www.usatf.org.

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OWENS AWARD WINNERS RECEIVE THEIR ACCOLADES

Next on stage was Olympic gold medalist and former world record holder **Maurice Greene**, who introduced the 2009 women's Jesse Owens Award winner, **Sanya Richards**. Established in 1981, the Jesse Owens Award is USA Track & Field's highest accolade, presented annually to the outstanding U.S. male and female track and field performers. Richards, the #1 world ranked women's 400m runner by *Track & Field News* over the last four years, won the first individual world outdoor championships gold medal of her career this past summer.

Next to appear was three-time women's World Outdoor 200m champion **Allyson Felix**, who introduced the men's Jesse Owens Award winner, **Tyson Gay**, who last summer equaled or improved upon his American 100-meter record a remarkable three times within a three-month time frame.

In capturing the silver medal at the World Athletics Championships in Berlin, Gay lowered his AR to 9.71 seconds before lowering it again to 9.69 seconds with his commanding win in Shanghai. In 2009, Gay posted the second, third and fourth-fastest 100m times in the world that season, and he is currently tied with Jamaica's Usain Bolt for the second-fastest time ever recorded in the men's 100. His 200m time of 19.58 from the 2009 Reebok Grand Prix ranks as the fifth-fastest in history.

HALL OF FAMERS TAKE CENTER STAGE

The first of the Class of 2009 National Track & Field Hall of Fame inductees to be welcomed into the Hall was **Dr. Ken Foreman**, who founded and coached the Falcon Track Club, served three stints as the head coach at Seattle Pacific University and was the head coach for a U.S. Olympic Team, World

Outdoor Championships team and a U.S. World Cross Country Team.

During his career as one of the world's elite athletes, new Hall of Famer **Willie Steele** won an Olympic gold medal and was ranked as the world's finest men's long jumper on four occasions. A two-time USA Outdoor champion, Steele was the 1948 Olympic Trials champion, a two-time NCAA long jump champion, was considered the world's best long jumper in 1942 and 1946, and was world ranked #1 by *Track & Field News* in 1947 and 1948. He died on September 19, 1989.

Randy Williams was elected to the Hall of Fame in his first year for consideration in the Veteran Athlete category. Williams was a two-time Olympic medalist in the long jump, and he won numerous national titles during his career including the USA Outdoor crown in 1973. He was USA Indoor champion in 1973, the NCAA Outdoor champion in 1972 and the NCAA Indoor champion in 1973. Williams was world ranked four times by *Track & Field News*, and was ranked #1 in the world following the 1972 season.

Class of 2009 inductee **Andre Phillips** did his part in adding to the amazing legacy of U.S. men's 400m hurdles greats by winning gold at the 1988 Olympic Games and ending his career with nine top ten world rankings by *Track & Field News*. Phillips, who won the 1985 World Cup, the 1985 USA Outdoor title and was the 1981 NCAA 400m hurdles champion, was ranked #1 globally in 1985, 1986 and 1988. He was world ranked #3 in the 110m hurdles in 1985.

During an amazing career that lasted nearly 25 years, Hall of Famer **Joetta Clark Diggs** was recognized for being one of the greatest and most consistent women's 800m runners in U.S. history. A seven-time winner of the women's 800 meters at the Millrose Games, Clark Diggs won numerous individual national championships and is a four-time Olympian.



Bruce Jenner with Chief of Sport Performance Benita Fitzgerald Mosely

SITE SELECTIONS

2011 Junior Olympic Cross Country
Myrtle Beach, S.C.

2011 Junior Olympic Track & Field
Wichita, Ks.

2011 Youth Outdoor
Myrtle Beach, S.C.

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