

## 2016 Development Annual Report – Maryanne Daniel/ Tim Seaman

Race Walk Development started out on a positive note with two of our athlete's, Maria Michta-Coffey and Miranda Melville utilizing funds provided via an Int'l Competitive Op's grant, combined with their U.S. Indoor Championships travel allocation, to support a competition in Japan in March. Further, a small amount of the Development money for RW was used to cover their housing and incidental expenses for this same trip. This proved to be a good investment, as it gave us a tie-American Record performance by Michta-Coffey and a PB by 1m29s for Melville in a high level international meet – as well as setting them up for a good World RW Team Trials, World RW Team Cup, U.S. Olympic Trials and the Olympic Games.

We asked if the pre World Team Championship training camp in Wattenscheid, Germany could be covered for our athletes. Other nations were utilizing this training area and it eased them into the time zone for Rome. It was granted for Melville, Erin Gray and Natos Corvera. Receipts for the three were sent in for their room and board.

In April a partnership with NormaTec was announced and available to the Tier athletes. (These “boots” are an inflatable system that aid in recovery by increasing circulation) When I had asked Duffy Mahoney at the National office about the NormaTec boots for the Tier 4 RWers his response was yes, they were available to them. He later said he misspoke and they were really only available to Tiers 1-3 but because he had made a mistake, he found a way to use Development money so that Michta- Coffey and Melville were able to get a pair using their medical stipend but without spending any money out of pocket. Nunn had already purchased a pair on his own before the program came into existence.

In the summer an e-mail was sent to the Development athletes about using the remaining Domestic Competitive Opportunities funding for the remaining National Championships- 1hr, 10K, 40K and 30K. Nick Christie and Katie Burnett utilized 30K as Domestic Competitive Opportunity.

On Oct 1-2, I (Maryanne) attended Development Meeting in Chicago. All Development Chairs were invited as well as Athlete Reps -Solomiya Login and Dave McGovern were also in attendance. A breakdown of Olympic Games medals, top 8 and top 12 places were charted and discussed. The attainment of medals is the purpose of Development and of course, many of the programs are to reward those who medal. What is good for our event, is that USATF intends to increase prize money for Indoor and Outdoor Championships:

This past Indoor 2016 - 1st - \$5,000, 2nd - \$3,000, 3rd - \$1,250, 4th - \$750

Indoor 2017 will be- 1<sup>st</sup> -\$6000, 2<sup>nd</sup> -\$4000, 3<sup>rd</sup> -\$2500, 4<sup>th</sup>-\$1250, 5<sup>th</sup>-\$1000

Outdoor is also proposed to go up-1<sup>st</sup>- \$8000, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$6000, 3<sup>rd</sup>\$4000, 4<sup>th</sup>-\$3000, 5<sup>th</sup>-\$2000, 6<sup>th</sup>-\$1000 and 7<sup>th</sup> also \$1000.

The Tier program has been thought of as very successful and will remain defined as it has been in the past: (more details on USATF website under “athlete support, Tier program”)

Tier 1: Medaled in Olympic or World Track & Field Championships. Have achieved a top-10 world rank

Tier 2: Placed among the top 8 place finishers in Olympic or World Track and Field Championships or Have achieved a top 20 world rank.

Tier 3: Athletes who are defined as Immediate Post Collegians (IPC's), (IPC) in the first or second year out of college and have achieved the Olympic /World Championship standard in their respective event.

Tier 4: Be ranked among the Top 2 U.S. by Track & Field News in its year-end rankings, Achieved a Top 2 place finish at the OT or U.S. (outdoor) Championships, U.S. Men's 50km OT or Race Walk Championships, or U.S. Marathon Championships.

For both of the above, the athlete must have also achieved the Olympic Games/ World Championship standard in the event that applies to the criteria above.

Our Tier athletes for 2016 based on their performance in 2015 were:

Tier 4- Maria Michta –Coffey, Miranda Melville and John Nunn

Our Development tagged athletes- Katie Burnett, Erin Gray, Nick Christie, Cody Risch, Emmanuel Corvera and although we told them that Alex Chavez had retired, his name was left in.

Much of the discussion in Development focuses on Tiers 1,2 and 3. Statistics show that Tier 4 does not produce any Olympic or World Championship medallists and hardly any then advance to Tier 1 or 2. They are fond of saying- it's not a good investment return when they are in the business of medals.

The good news is that Tier 4 will remain, it will no longer be funded by USOC but USATF will take it on and be considered emerging elite. They will still have a "development funded" group but that could be possibly smaller. In January we will have a chance to put forth a few who we feel might fit that group. They look for young (usually under 25) athletes who have an Olympic standard and show promising progression that would lead to attaining a medal in Olympics or World Championship. In our event, as well as a few others, they are a little more lenient with having to have the Olympic standard but they will be looking for substantial progression in their performance profile.

We have in the past been able to use the Domestic Competitive Opportunity for any of our Domestic races that I could make a case for. The purpose of this benefit is to have several athletes be able to come together to push one another to an Olympic standard. We should have it be mainly the Olympic distances but a)- we don't have that many 20K's and certainly not 50K's b) even if we did, our athletes probably would not want to race that many 20K's. What we really need to do, is come up with 4 standard races that our Tier 4 and Development funded athletes can be reimbursed for. Under consideration:

1-Penn Relays (5K for women, 10k for Men), 2-15K - This is probably the most important distance, often they will extend to a 20K ,3-10K, 4-30K- Traditionally many S. American countries come to this pulling our athletes along and they sometimes extend to a 50K  
5-20K's held within the 50K national/OT

We also need to look into utilizing the Sports Performance Workshops. In past years, we have had our own RW workshops and more recently our athletes joining other events in a collective workshop. This past year, established workshop dates were in conflict with the RW schedule.

They are trying to be as efficient as possible with medical services to athletes and ironically it turns out that by having the services come to the athletes in Tiers 1 and 2, they can often get the best return by the athlete staying healthy and in the game.

We have had our Tier 4 athlete take part in rehab services and sports psychology last year. None were requested this year.

Here is a look at the 2017 benefits:

What is new, is the formation of a Talent Protection Program in Tier 3. Unfortunately, we do not have anyone who falls in this category. This program is hoped to remedy good athletes that fall off their performance or disappear after college. They have that support system in college but their first year out, they flounder. This is supposed to retain these athletes by giving support.

They will be identified and invited 1<sup>st</sup> year out of college.

Here is what it entails just so you are knowledgeable about it:

- Must have 2 marks better than Olympic standard
- Be ranked in top 25 World/10US
- Compete Ind and Outdoor Championships
- Attend announced meetings
- Have a Health Profile done, submit to two blood tests

-Designate a primary coach that USATF approves.

In return they get: \$16,000 paid quarterly, \$3000 medical stipend, reimbursement for up to 4 Domestic Competitive Opportunities, EAHI, access to ST Vincent's and NormaTec boots.

Perhaps we can make a proposal to have a scaled down version of this for Race Walking. These are just my thoughts, not sure if they would go for this but we could put this out there.

We could call it Talent Retention Program. This would focus on helping 4 college athletes (two male, two female), obviously NAIA (but it could be at any college or club athlete graduating from college) transition to the longer distances and compete successfully at USATF Outdoor Championships.

- Must have 2 marks better than Outdoor National Standard

- Have competed in the Outdoor Nationals

-Be ranked in the top 10 Collegiately

-Have a plan for training and a coach that the RW Committee approves.

-Show positive progression

In return they get: Reimbursement for 2 Domestic Competitive Opportunities, \$500 medical stipend, travel to, up to \$500 to go to either USA RW Development Center- SC or USA Elite Training Center San Diego and \$25 @day up to 1 month=\$700 to go and train with other walkers , get technical help etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Daniel