

## **2015 WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**At Cali, Columbia, July 15-19**

## **2015 U.S. WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP TRIALS**

**June 2015—Site and exact date to be determined**

**To be eligible to compete you must 1) be a U.S. citizen with a valid passport; 2) be born in 1998 or 1999; and 3) have met two qualifying standards; one standard for the U.S. World Youth Championship trials and a second standard for the World Youth Championships.**

**First in a Series—By Mike Kennedy (e-mail [mkenrtrk@aol.com](mailto:mkenrtrk@aol.com) )  
Marks through January 26**

## **U.S. Shines in 2013 With World Youth Championships Scoring Title**

For the seventh straight World Youth Championships the United States won the scoring championships (places 1 through 8)—with 152 points. Germany was second with 104 followed by China at 100, Kenya at 87 and Ethiopia at 83. Before looking ahead to the 2015 World Youth championships it is very instructive to back at the 2013 meet. The U.S. totaled 17 medals to outdistance Kenya and China—both with eleven. The U.S. team had 20 girls entered in individual events, while the boys 21 entered. In what is surely one of the very best come-through performance at the world championship level 19 girls qualified for finals. The boys were not far behind with 13. Given the number of entrants these are number that not been reached in the World Championships and/or the World Junior championships. This tremendous success was made possible due to the efforts of a great staff of coaches, managers, athletic trainers and the USATF National office as well as the athletes who brought into to those efforts.

Even with all of this success there are a couple of areas that should be looked at. The total number of athletes on the team was 43, including two relay runners. With just one relay for boys and girls that require just two rounds there are more than enough athletes entered in individual events to fill the relays. Those two billets could have gone to athletes in individual events. There were two girl javelin throwers and a 400-meter runner, who clearly demonstrated, by performance, the ability to reach the finals that were not chosen. That was unfortunate. The experience gained by traveling to a foreign country, dealing with a foreign language in the pressure cooker of an unfamiliar athletic competition that requires a high level of performance, such as the World Youth championship trials and finals, can't be simulated. You have to experience it. It is invaluable in an athletes development. Based on the past two World Youth championship results the U.S. should provide slots for a minimum of 45 athletes. There have been at least that number of athletes who have demonstrated, by performance, the ability to reach the finals.

**Whitney, Irby, Miller and Cunningham Lead the Girls Into 2014**

Looking forward to 2015 and the World Youth Championship in Cali, Colombia, is always a little problematical, given the fact the athletes are maturing at such a rapid rate. This is especially true for the boys. For that reason it is always a little easier to highlight the girls.

As usual, the sprints and the hurdles is a good place to start. The U.S. dominated in 2013 with athletes like Ariana Washington, Ky Westbrook, Hannah Cunliffe and Dior Hall but behind those medal winners but there was a very high quality “second wave” waiting to step up in 2015. Sophomore Kaylin Whitney of East Ridge (Clermont, Fl.) has been quietly tearing up the track. Two years ago she ran 11.54 and 23.41 as an eighth-grader. Last year she improved to 11.47w, 11.54 and 23.28w, 23.40 and was the State 3A champion in the 100 and 200. She is the world Youth leader for athletes born in 1998 and 1999. Outside the U.S, Jessica Thornton of Australia is the leader in the 100 at 11.76 and Tazece Duggan of Jamaica tops the 200 at 23.77. Freshman Lynn Irby of New Augusta (Indianapolis, In.) won the USATF National JO (15-16) 400 at 54.16 for the top time in the U.S. She has person bests of 11.74 and 23.77.

Freshman Symone Mason of Southridge (Miami, Fl.) was the USATF National JO (13-14) champion at 100 and second in 200. She had best of 11.83 and 23.28w, 23.77. Freshman Candace Hill of Conyers (Ga.) won the USATF Nat. JO (13-14) 100 in 11.81 and was third in the 200 at 23.85. Two Californian’s to watch are sophomore Kayla Richardson of Etiwanda and freshman Lauren Williams of Poly (Long Beach). Richardson ran 11.79 in the Southern Section Division I prelims before being injured in the final. Earlier she ran 23.84 with a barely over the allowable wind of 2.1. Williams has best of 11.84w, 11.96 and 23.71w, 24.00. As a sixth grader she ran 55.31 for the 400 but concentrated on the shorter races the last two years. Sophomore Hannah Waller of Buchanan (Clovis, Ca.) was fourth in the state meet and has a best of 54.42 to rank just behind Irby in the 400. Thornton is the world Youth leader at 53.90.

The U.S. will be aiming for a medal in the WYC 800 dating back to 2011. Freshman Daesha Rogers of Jackson (Miami, Fl.) was the AAU National JO (14) champion with a personal best of 2:08.15 and has run 55.82 for the 400. Sophomore Katie Rainsberger of Air Academy (Colorado Springs, Co.) was second in the State 4A 800 with a best of 2:08.98. She was also second in the 1,600 where she has a best of 4:53.41. Hina Takahashi of Japan is the world Youth leader at 2:07.19, followed by Isabel Ires at 2:07.43 and Ellie Baker at 2:07.59. Both are from Great Britain. Sophomores Maddie Boreman of Rouse (Leander, Tx.) and Taylor Werner of Sainte Genevieve (Mo.) are the U.S. leaders at both 1,500 and a mile. Boreman has best of 4:28.72 and 4:46.23 and Werner has run 4:30.22 and 4:49.32.

Freshman Sophia Cantine of Lakeside School (Seattle, Wa.) was the USATF Nat. JO (13-14) champion in the 800 at 2:10.11 and 1,500 at 4:32.48. Indoors, she has already run 2:47.64 for 1,000 meters. That time would have bettered Mary Cain’s freshman class record of 2:50.84 but it came on an oversize 300-meter track. Takahashi is also the world Youth leader in the 1,500 at 4:21.00. Sophomore Hannah DeBalsi of Staples (Westport, Ct.) is the U.S. 3,000 leader with 9:35.23 on the way to a 10:16.20 two-mile. She also has

run 10:10.26 for 3,200. Ella Donaghu of Grant (Portland, Or.) was second in the State 6A meet at 9:37.22 and has run 4:31.56 for 1,500 meters. Herriet Knowles-Jones of Great Britain is the world Youth 3,000 leader at 9:33.37 that was run in a mixed race. It 3,200 meters, Boreman has run 10:24.7 and Werner has a time of 10:25.88.

The U.S. has also had success in the hurdles, especially over 100 meters. Sophomore Ashley Miller of Cherry Creek (Greenwood Village, Co.) was second in the State 5A 100 hurdles and won the Great Southwest Invitational. She has bests of 13.75w and 13.86, both at altitude, and a sea-level best of 14.00 (twice). Sophomore Alexis Duncan of DeSoto (Tx.) won the Texas Southern Relays with a wind-aided 13.84 and had a legal best of 14.12 in a summer AAU meet. While the U.S. high schoolers run over 33-inches the rest of the worlds Youth athletes use 30-inch hurdles. Elizabeth Morland of Ireland is the world leader at 13.77 followed by Klaudia Siczarz of Poland at 13.87. The difference between the two highs is about .30 seconds so both Miller and Duncan are very competitive. Shelby West of Round Rock (Tx.) at 62.01 and Brianna Holloway of Oak Park (Mi.) at 62.21 are the 400 hurdle leaders. Miller is also the 300 low hurdle leader at 42.70. Sophomore Brittley Humphrey of Hoover (Al.) was the State 6A champion and has run 43.52. Aneja Simoncic of Slovakia is the world Youth leader at both distances running 59.95 and 42.87.

Sophomore Vashti Cunningham of Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, Nv.) is the world Youth high jump leader at 6-0¼ an invitational meet just before winning the state Division I title. In the summer she also had jumps of 6-0 and 5-11 and totaled eight meets over 5-10. She is the sister of Randall Cunningham, who ranked second in the world in 2013 among Youth athletes with a 7-3¼ clearance. Michaela Hrubá of Czech Republic is just behind Cunningham at 6-0. Freshman Carson Dingler of First Presbyterian (Macon, Ga.) is the leader in the pole vault with her 12-6 indoor clearance in January. Right behind is another freshman Makayla Linebarger of (Reed, Sparks, Nv.), who just set a personal best of 12-5½ in an indoor meet. Two Californian's freshman McKenna Caskey of Mater Dei (Santa Ana) and sophomore Claire Kao of Dana Hills (Dana Point) are over 12-4, with Caskey's mark coming indoors. Stina Seidler of German is the world Youth leader at 13-5¾. Sophomore Rhesa Foster of Clovis North (Clovis, Ca.) has a world Youth best of 20-2 in the long jump and six meets over 19-6 including a 19-8 for third place in the State meet. Sharin Oziegbe of Germany is second at 20-2½, and Kaiza Karlin of Sweden is third at 19-9¼. Anastasia Calinina of Moldova is the world Youth triple jump leader at 42-0 followed by Iida Kalliomaki of Finland at 41-8¾. Nashedah Mumin of Mission Oaks (Tulare, Ca.) is the U.S. leader at 39-9½.

Katelyn Gochenour of Marian (Omaha, Nb.) is the U.S. javelin leader at 156-8 closely followed by Tairyn Montgomery of Redondo Union (Redondo Beach, Ca.) at 155-1. Montgomery prevailed at the USATF Nat. JO (15-16) championships with her personal best and also had three meets over 150-0. Nikol Tobockova of Czech Republic is the world Youth leader at 182-3. The high schoolers throw a 600-gram implement while the rest of the world Youth throw the 500-gram weight. The difference between the to weights is about 15 feet. Nickolette Dunbar of Whippany Rock (N.J.) is the U.S. shot put leader at 45-7½ closely followed by Emily Stauffer of Cocalico (Pa.) at 45-4 and

junior Meia Gordon of Cypress Creek (Houston, Tx.) at 45-02½. Maria Orozco of Mexico is the world Youth leader at 55-8½ followed by Yu Dong of China at 55-3. The high schoolers use a 4-kilo shot the rest of the Youth in the world throw the 3-kilo shot. The difference between the two weights is about six feet so that leaves the U.S. about four feet behind. Sophomore's Hannah Chappell of Oakdale (Roseville, Ca.) at 144-5 and Samantha Noennig of Hartford (Wi.) at 144-4 are the U.S. leaders in the discus. Alyona Byelyakova of Ukraine is the world Youth leader at 155-1 and Kristina Rakocevic of Montenegro is second at 152-6. Kamryn Brinson of Marist (Atlanta, Ga.) is the U.S. hammer leader at 156-3 while the world Youth leader is Sofiya Polkina of Russia at 211-3. Like the shot, the U.S. throws the 4-kilo implement and the world Youth use the 3-kilo weight. The difference is about 35 feet.

## **Rasul, Brock, Lyles, Hall and Ward Lead the Boys Into 2014**

Sophomore Amir Rasul of Columbus (Miami, Fl.) was the State 4A 100 and 200 champion, running 10.81 and 21.44 but it was in the summer when he stepped it up to another level. He had been very consistent in the spring with 100 times of 10.74, 10.74 and 10.72 and 200 times of 21.59, 21.57 and 21.44. Then at the USATF National JO (15-16) championships in Greensboro (N.C.), he won the 200 in 21.09 to take down the national JO record of 21.10 set in 1995 by the legendary age-grouper William (Obea) Moore from Southern California. Rasul also won the 100 with a personal best of 10.71. His time of 21.09 is the world Youth leading mark for athletes born in 1998 or 1999. Jordan Shelley of Great Britain is second at 21.44. Tarrick Brock of Crespi (Encino, Ca.) is the world Youth leader in the 100 at 10.57.

Josephus Lyles of T.C. Williams (Alexandra, Va.) is the world Youth leader in the 400 with hit 47.72 run in the AAU National JO (15-16) championships. Second place in the U.S. is freshman Quincy Hall of Plato (Mo.) at 48.34. Hall is the U.S. leader in the 400 hurdles with his 53.77 win at the AAU National JO meet. The high school runners use the 36-inch hurdles while the world Youth height is 33 inches. Witthawat Thumcha of Thailand is the world Youth leader at 52.79. The time difference between the two heights is about 1.2 seconds. The best time over the 300-hurdles is 39.78 by Xavier Jackson of North High (McKenney, Tx.). Brent Carroll of Berry (Charlotte, N.C.) is the U.S. 110 high hurdle leader at 14.86 and Harun Akin of Turkey as the world Youth leader at 14.17. The high school hurdlers go over the 39-inch hurdles while the World Youth use 36-inch hurdles. The time difference is about .30 seconds.

California distance runners, sophomores Phillip Rocha of Arcadia (Ca.) and Jacob Ogden of Dana Hills (Dana Point) are the leaders in both the 1,600 and 3,200. Rocha has best times of 4:16.50 and 9:17.42 while Ogden has run 4:17.01 and 9:18.85. This indoor season has seen runners from La Salle Academy (Providence, R.I.) dominate. In the 3,000, Matthew Bouthillette was sixth at the Yale Invitational in 8:40.25, Jack Salisbury was second at the Rhode Island Coaches Invitational at 8:49.37 and freshman David Principe was 16<sup>th</sup> at the Yale meet in 8:50.72. Sophomore Aiden of Saratoga Springs (N.Y.) is the indoor leader at 3,200 with a 9:19.76.

Justine Summerset of Mountain View (Mesa, Az.) leads the U.S. high jumpers at 6-8 and was second in the State Division I meet. Dezmon Patmon of Patrick Henry (San Diego, Ca.), at 6-5, is the only other jumper over 6-4. The world Youth leader is Ding Shuo of China at 6-9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. Colton Cohea of Sinton (Tx.) leads the pole vault at 15-0 with a third place finish in the state 3A meet. Next is eight grader Armand Duplantis of Lafayette (La.), who jumped 14-10 at the Pole Vault Summit in January. Hussein Assem Al-Hizam of Saudi Arabia is the world Youth leader at 17-3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. This event is just one example of how quickly an young athlete can improve over a short period of time. Devin King, who was on the 2013 U.S. World Youth team, went from 14-6 in 2012 to 17-3 in 2013. Sophomore Ja'Mari Ward of Cahokia (Il.) is the U.S. leader in the long jump at 24-2w, 23-4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and the triple jump where he recently went 49-0<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> at the Arkansas indoor invitational. The world leaders are Gbriel Bitan of Romania 24-3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and Fabian Edoki of Nigeria at 50-8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

It is clear the sophomore Lawson Monta of Salem (Greensburg, Pa.) has been making good use of his time since he set his personal best of 51-2 last year. In just his third meet this indoor season he has upped his personal best to 57-2. Cole Patterson of Halls (Knoxville, Tn.) was the leader at the end of 2013 with a 52-2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. The world Youth leader is Joseph Maxwell of Canada at 63-3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> from 2013. The U.S. uses the 12-pound orb while the world Youth use a 5-kilogram/11-pound weight. The difference between the two implements is about three feet.

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