

National Junior Championships

By Doug Speck

Spokane, Washington - June 26-27

This annual "end of season" championship for under-age 20 American athletes, sponsored by USA Track & Field (the new name for TAC (The Athletics Congress)), was held in

Spokane Washington with a fine job done by the hosting Spokane Sports Unlimited group.

Californians were all over the place, with a series of spectacular performances in this interesting meet that brings together the top preps and a number of first year Collegians, with the international "under 20" age restriction on the "Junior" level athletes. The only competition that will qualify a young athlete for a U.S. National team, the prize for the first two finishers this year was participation in the Pan American Junior Track and Field Championships in Winnipeg, Canada, July 15-17.

Calvin (and Alvin) Harrison and Suzy Powell continued their spectacular seasons with efforts by the Golden Staters far up the "all-time" prep ladder. Angela Harris (Skyline HS, Oakland) surprised with the nation's fastest 400m hurdle effort during the weekend. California first year Collegians Cruz Gallegos (Taft College), Jonathan Jordan (Long Beach CC), Jonathan Ogden (UCLA), Shelley Taylor (Arkansas), Kam Warner (Univ Washington), and Valyeta Althouse (UCLA) were also victorious in their events in fine style.

Calvin Harrison, State 400m Champion at 45.25, would take his act nationally here. Joined by brother Alvin, who dropped to the 100 and 200 for end of season championship action for North HS in Salinas, was moving back up to the 400m here. The duo starred in Heat 1 on Saturday (26th), with Calvin amazing viewers with a 45.10 heat win, and Alvin cruising 46.25 for second.

Collegian Ben Byers (Illinois) was 46.09 in Heat 2, with soph Desmond Johnson (New Orleans prep), the Arcadia/Foot Locker champ in April, 46.20 late in the season. The first two would make the Open Pan Am event, with the top four on the relay, so it appeared good Finals efforts would put the twins on the team. The twins both qualified for the 200m Finals also, Calvin 21.13 (-2.70 mps wind) winning and Alvin (21.31 -5.00 mps wind) second in his heat. Sunday's 400 Finals made big believers out of all in attendance, with Calvin even with the good group through the 200 mark, then putting on a move through the second turn that had him burst away from the pack and enter the straightaway with a big lead that he stretched to ten meters at the tape in a super 45.07 clocking. Alvin was third at 46.37, with Byers (46.30) and Desmond Johnson

(46.61) looking like a 3:00 4x400 relay team. Sadly, the twins were kept in the "drug-testing" room, where they must produce a urine sample for testing, with meet officials not realizing that they should have released the duo for the 200 Final and done the test later. Arriving at the track about 10 minutes prior to the start of that event, Calvin was third (20.83 -3.00 mps wind) with Alvin 21.52 in 5th.

"Calvin-check" (summary of the weekend's record destruction derby): the 45.07 is a new California all-time best, taking down the 45.09 from one Henry Thomas (Hawthorne) from 1985. The time is also the #2 prep time ever, behind Darrell Robinson's (Washington prep) 44.69 from 1982. One must wonder how Calvin could have done in the Eugene Senior USA Track & Field Championships, wondering if he might not have made the final and earned a spot on the U.S. World Championship 4x400 meter relay team. Remember the North Salinas High senior has not had anyone within a second of him at the finish in his recent races! If Calvin can keep pointed in the right direction academically during the next two years at Hamell JC and stay healthy the sky is truly the limit. He is quite a bit more impressive than people like Danny Everett and Steve Lewis as a prep.

Suzy Powell (Sacramento TC/Downey HS, Modesto), an eleventh grader, was equally as impressive! Against a very fine field that included Collegians Stacey Shroeder (Univ Florida) and former Californian Melinda Wirtz (Kent State), the defending champion in this meet, who moved to Ohio from the San Jose area for her senior prep season two years ago. A 168-8 opener had Powell lead early on, with Wirtz a 172-8 on throw #3. With Wirtz pressing a 172-3 on her fifth throw Powell lofted a 174-5 #5 effort that she later indicated came off the wrong finger. Cranking it all out on her final effort, Suzy blasted a 180-8 final toss that was oh, so close to the 183-11 National Record of 183-11 by Leslie Deniz (Gridley, Ca) from 1980 in one of those summer (7/3) meets that used to be organized to take advantage of the wind conditions in the Antelope Valley. Interestingly Suzy has the age 14-15 and 16 and frosh, soph, and junior grade records, with the 183-11 sitting nicely until the Modesto star puts it somewhere out of sight next spring.

Kristin Heaston (Sacramento TC/Ygnacio Valley HS, Concord), another part of the

strong Northern Cal group gathered together by Coach Jerry Coleman each summer for the Junior Meet, was fourth in that Discus competition at 155-10 with consistent Soozie Shanley (Tulare HS) 6th at 148-4. Miss Heaston had her "great adventure" over in the Shot Put ring. Pac 10 Champ, Missouriite Valyeta Althouse (UCLA), had thrown 54-10, an interesting challenge for Heaston, who was used to leaving prepdom's competition far behind with her 52-11 1/2 best (=#3 Prep All-Time). An exciting competition had Althouse lead through two throws at 50-9 1/2, with Heaston blasting 52-1 1/4 on her fourth effort. The UCLA star showed her competitive abilities, gathering for a big 52-6 1/2 winning put, stating later "I knew I had to win, it's Bruin pride." Geez, they are going to retire some of the weight awards in this meet, as Coach Art Venegas's Bruin crew takes so many of them in this meet each year.

Jonathan Ogden (UCLA), who had quite a bit of playing time for the Bruin football team as a frosh last Fall, has thrown 58-11 1/2 with the 16 pound Shot this spring. The especially talented nearly 300 pound athlete was 62-9 3/4 last year with the 12 pound prep ball, with an amazing one year improvement at Bruinville typical of that which had one close follower of the sport state, "Give Art Venegas an athlete and he'll have the guy throwing at or close to 60 feet." Ogden bombed all five of his fair throws out farther than second placer, Georgia prep Adam Nelson (53-11) with a 57-7 best for the win.

If there is a "national" level meet the crew from the Acom Girls Track Club (Skyline HS, Oakland) is there. Angela Harris of the bay area team had the unfortunate situation of racing 54.98 and not qualifying for the 400m final, but more than made up for that the first day of action with a super 58.88 in her 400m hurdle heat, easily the best prep time run in the nation this year. The impressive eleventh grader was 59.46 in Sunday's Finals, placing third. Erin Blunt (UCLA), who put together a super frosh season for the Bruins, with a 57.68 best, finished second in the Finals at 58.07 to take that second U.S. team position.

Cruz Gallegos, last year a 9:02.90 3200m star at Centennial HS in Corona, has improved to times such as 14:32 for 5000m under Coach Craig Johnson at Taft College. The tall, thin star raced barefoot here, taking the 10,000 on Saturday evening at 30:40.60

over Stewart Ellington (Univ Tennessee) (31:14.08). Ellington, a former Channel Islands HS (Oxnard) and Milpitas HS star raved about his first year at "Volunteer-ville." Over 5000 Meters prep Patrick Joyce (Illinois) let Gallegos get out a ways, then steadily closed the gap, going by during the last couple of laps on his way to a 14:47.16-14:50.97 victory.

Jonathan Jordan (Long Beach CC), one of the stars of last summer's National Junior Olympic competition at Mt. SAC as a Chica-go area prep, followed a first day 24-5 1/2w (+3.60 mps) for fourth in the Long Jump with a big 52-4 3/4w (+11.60 mps--that's about 24 miles per hour!) Triple Jump win on Sunday. The Triple Jump win was an impressive one over a solid prep group, with State HS Champ Anthony Parrish (Marina HS, Huntington Beach) not getting untracked and with a big thigh bandage finishing 9th at 48-7 1/4w (+6.50).

Shelley Taylor (Arkansas), the former Edison HS of Huntington Beach star, the highest placing frosh in the NCAA Division I Cross Country Championships for the runner-up Razorbacks, had had some illness during the winter and spring. Finishing her spring in strong fashion, she continued her fine running here into the summer. Shelley would be facing Kinney National Cross Country Champion Amanda White (Maryland prep, but Stanford (!) bound) and a top field here. Interestingly, the body of this race would include the young lady who may be the Golden State's next great prep distance runner. White favors a quick start, with the Collegian Taylor bidding her time behind the Dial Award winner (emblematic of the nation's top twelfth grade scholar/athlete off her 4.0+ GPA and national level swimming and running careers). Taking the lead after three laps, Taylor was under 5:10 through the 1600, maintaining a steady lead to a 9:44.33 victory (worth about 10:30 for 3200 meters). Taylor had very impressive 9:29.44 (3000m) and 16:28.43 (5000m) bests this spring on the track (the 16:28 is her 3k pace here carried out for five more laps, with Coach Lance Harter's training seeming to agree with Shelley). Miss Taylor has become totally "Bill Clinton-ized," indicating that she would come home to California for a short visit, then return to Fayetteville, where they have a "nice little running group" for the rest of the summer. Look out for these people in the Fall, where Villanova's reign may fall to

the Deena Drossin and Taylor-led Arkansas Women's Cross-Country crew.

There was a story in the second pack in this 3000m event, as Julia Stamps (Santa Rosa Express/Rincon JHS), just an eighth grader, did not seem the least bit hesitant to wade in against girls four to five years her elder. The junior high athlete, having run 4:38.35 for 1500 meters and 10:57.76 for two miles, tagged along near the end of the second pack in the 3k race, moving very, very strongly over the final two laps on the way to her 10:02.54 in 5th. Wow! This young lady can be very, very special!

Former West HS of Bakersfield star, Kam Warner, now a frosh star at the University of Washington, drove across the state for the Long Jump competition here, with last year's National Prep #2 jumper (20-6 1/4) a comfortable winner at 19-5 3/4w (+3.60).

Brian Wilkinson (Merced) finally had the 1500m/mile race that he wanted all spring, and while he did run a personal best for the 1500 meters for third, the snap was just not quite there to pull the time of well under 3:50 that we all know he was capable of this spring. Against 3:45.50 1500m star Eric O'Brien (Univ No Carolina) and last year's Kinney National Cross Country Champion, Corey Ihmels (now at Iowa State Univ), Brian led through 61.2 and 2:06.4 lap posts. O'Brien accelerated by during the third lap (60.4), with a final 400m to the finish at 58.0 to win at 3:50.25, with Ihmels next at 3:51.00, and Wilkinson, who could not hold contact when the racing started, next at 3:53.46.

Jeremy Fischer (Camarillo HS) just missed the U.S. Junior National team with a 7-1 1/2 third place in the High Jump, with Jesse Stern (Harvard-Westlake, North Hollywood) the same fate in the Pole Vault at 15-9. A fine California prep turnout in the Pole Vault turned into disaster for most when the event was held into a strong wind that came up about a half an hour after the event started, with the starting height a lofty 15-5.

Miesha Marzell (Bishop O'Dowd, Oakland) was third in a spirited 800m event, running second through the 600 point, then losing the second U.S. Junior team spot down the home-stretch to the University of Missouri's Sara Webber 2:08.21-2:09.71.

There were some interesting results from Californians who were attending Universities around the nation. Kenny White (Muir HS, Pasadena now at Purdue) was an 800m final-

ist racing 1:52.48 to qualify on Saturday, and placing 7th at 1:51.66 in the Championship run.

Next year's Junior Championship competition is scheduled for Tallahassee, Florida, with the meet "typically" falling the fourth weekend in June. It is a bit into the summer for some athletes and requires a bit more thought into seasonal planning, but as you can see from the results below, there are a number of California athletes who could be very, very competitive for a spot on the U.S. Junior National team, which is made up of the first two athletes in each event (with typically the first four 100m and 400m finishers making up relay squads). Next year is a World Championship year, with a mid-summer competition in Portugal against the best teenagers in the world. It could be a great experience for those "under-20" Californians who plan their season out to include the Junior Championship meet.

RESULTS MEN

100 (-3.00) JONATHAN BURRELL, John Marshall, Cleveland, OH 10.38; 6. -BRIAN LEWIS, Highlands, North Highlands, CA 10.75 200 (-3.00) *STAFFORD 20.70; 3. -CALVIN HARRISON, North Salinas, CA 20.83; 4. -LEWIS 21.38; 5. -ALVIN HARRISON, North Salinas, CA 21.52 (h1: -2.70 1. -C. HARRISON 21.13; h2 -5.00 ROHSAAN GRIFFIN 21.14; 2. -ALVIN HARRISON 21.31; 3. -LEWIS 21.83; 400 -CALVIN HARRISON 45.07; 3. -ALVIN HARRISON 46.37; 4. **DESMOND JOHNSON, St. Augustine, New Orleans, LA 46.61; 7. RONNIE WILLIAMS, LONG BEACH CC 47.70 (h1: C. HARRISON 45.10; 2. ALVIN HARRISON 46.25 3. CHRYSSTIN WUTH-RICH, LONG BEACH CC 47.93; RYAN SCOTT, MANKATO STATE 48.13. h2: BEYERS 46.09; 4. WILLIAMS 46.77 800 *WINSTON TIDWELL, West, Topeka, KS 1:50.13; 7. KENNY WHITE, PURDUE 1:51.66. (h1: -STALLINGS 1:49.95; (h2: ROYSTER 1:50.56; 3. CHRISTOPHER GASTON, SANTA ROSA JC 1:52.77; h3: SAMANSKY 1:52.34; 3. WHITE 1:52.48;

1500 ERIC O'BRIEN, NORTH CAROLINA 3:50.25; 3. -BRIAN WILKINSON, Merced, CA 3:53.46; 3000sc ROBBY DUNCAN, WEBER STATE 9:15.68; 3. JAIME BASTIDES, (Eisenhower HS, Rialto/SC Roadrunners) 9:41.25; 5. RAY BUTMAN, CLAREMONT-MC KENNA COLLEGE 9:45.99; 5000 -PATRICK JOYCE, Stevenson, Prairie View, IL 14:47.16; 2. CRUZ GALLEGOS (Taft JC) 14:50.97; 4. STEWART ELLINGTON, TENNESSEE 15:08.99; 7. DAVID MONK, (ATHLETES IN ACTION) 15:46.89; 10000 GALLEGOS 20:40.60; 2. ELLINGTON 31:14.08;

110hh (-4.30) JEFF JACKSON, BAYLOR 14.14; (h1: -1.05 -RILEY 14.28; WILLIAMS 14.50; h2 -0.86

JACKSON 14.38; 400H JACKSON 51.23; 5000 walk -WILLIAM VAN AXEN, Conetquot, Bohemia, NY 47:15.66.

HJ DILLON PHELPS, GEORGIA 7-2.25; 3. *JEREMY FISCHER, Camarillo, CA 7-1.5; PV LAWRENCE JOHNSON, TENNESSEE 18-1; 3. -JESSE STERN, Harvard-Westlake, North Hollywood, CA 15-9; 5. -TYE HARVEY, Sonora, CA 15-5; 6. -CHRISTOPHER BUDDIN, Orange Glen, Escondido, CA 15-5; 7. -DAVID GEHRKE, Diamond Bar, CA 15-5. L.J KEVIN DILWORTH, ODESSA JC 25-7.25W (23-4ok); 4. JONATHAN JORDAN, LONG BEACH CC 24-5.5w; PAUL BRADFORD, SAN MATEO 22-8.5. T.J JORDAN 52-4.75w; 8. -ANTHONY PARRISH, Marina, Huntington Beach, CA 48-7.25w; SP JONATHAN OGDEN, UCLA 57-7; 5. GABRIEL TORRE, ARIZONA 51-1.75; 8. JASON DOSSEY, SAN MATEO 50-2. DT -DOUG REYNOLDS, Greenway, Phoenix, AZ 171-1; 3. GABE TORRE 158-5; 4. OGDEN 156-7; 6. DAVID DUMBLE, BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE 153-6; HT -MARK MC GEHERATY, Classical, Providence, RI 192-5; 4. JEREMY ROBINSON, OREGON 175-8; 7. -WILLIAM STENGELE, Los Altos, CA 160-0. HT exhibition (12 #) -MARK MC GEHEARTY 217-1; 4. -DAVID CHARLES-WORTH, Los Gatos, CA 189-10; 6. -STENGELE 183-3; JT DELYLE WOODS, SAN JACINTO JC 220-0; Dec -RYAN THERIAULT, Cheyenne, North Las Vegas, NV 6894; 5. -TYRIN PRINCE, Highlands, Bakersfield, CA 6122; 7. ISIAH MUSTAFA, MOOR-PARK COLLEGE 6066;

WOMEN

100 (-7.00) *JENNIFER WILSON, William Penn, Philadelphia, PA 11.92; (h1 -3.80 -SAUNDERS 12.02; (h2: -3.31 *JENNIFER WILSON 11.89; h3: -1.87 *JEFFREY 11.95; 200 (-4.80) *WILSON 23.97; (h1: -3.10 *JENNIFER WILSON 24.14; **MINOTT 24.45; h2 -6.70 -PERRY 24.52; h3 -5.80 -KAREN BOONE (Hanks HS, El Paso, Tx) 24.16 400 *MONIQUE HENNAGAN, Spring Valley, Columbia, SC 52.30; (h1: *NEWSOME 53.93; NEWHOUSE 54.74; 3. *ANGELA HARRIS, Skyline, Oakland, CA 54.98; 6. -MALIKA FREEMAN, Skyline, Oakland, CA 56.97. Kitsap, Silverdale, WA 56.54; TISHA-SHEA HARTY, ST. JOHN'S 57.60. 800 ***JAWAUNA MC MULLEN, IS 324, Brooklyn, NY 2:07.89; SARAH WEBBER, MISSOURI 2:08.21; 3. -MIESHA MARZELL, Bishop O'Dowd, Oakland, CA 2:09.71; **JULIAN REYNOLDS, Benjamin, North Palm Beach, FL 2:11.59; MELISSA BALDERAS, BYU 2:12.26; **TRACI JORDAN, William Penn, Philadelphia, PA 2:13.88; -LIZ MUELLER, Waterford, CT 2:16.19. (h1: MUELLER 2:10.20; 4. -MARZELL 2:12.69; 5. **KRISTIE JOHNSTON, Central, Fresno, CA 2:14.05;

1500 -BECKI WELLS, Dickinson, ND 4:21.77; 5. LORI MILLER CAL STATE-NORTHRIDGE 4:41.40; 8. -MICHELLE MUETHING, Amador Valley, Pleasanton, CA 4:43.67; 3000 SHELLEY TAYLOR, ARKANSAS 9:44.33; 5. ***JULIA STAMPS, Rincon JH, Santa Rosa, CA 10:02.4; 10000 CYNTHIA MORES-HEAD, WAKE FOREST 37:59.63; 3. *GABRIELA

RODRIGUEZ, Oxnard, CA 39:35.09.

100hh (-6.00) TONYA WILLIAMS, ILLINOIS 13.80;
4. LE'GRETТА HINDS, LONG BEACH STATE 14.31;
8. *BISA GRANT, Bishop O'Dowd, Oakland, CA
14.47. (h1: -1.18 CARSON 13.81; h2 +1.75 WIL-
LIAMS 13.64; 4. HINDS 14.24; 6. KAM WARNER,
WASHINGTON 14.97; h3: -3.86 *GRANT 14.29;
400h -WILLIAMS 57.15; 2. ERIN BLUNT, UCLA
58.07; 3. *ANGELA HARRIS, Skyline, Oakland, CA
59.46; 4. CHRISTY BOYD, STANFORD 60.16; (h1:
BLUNT 58.02; 2. *HARRIS 58.88; 4. BOYD 60.75; h2:
WILLIAMS 59.28; 5. HINDS 63.31; 5000 walk *LISA
CHUMBLEY, Clear Creek, Houston, TX 25:00.36;

HJ -AMY ACUFF, Calallen, Corpus Christi, TX 6-
1.5; LJ KAM WARNER, WASHINGTON 19-5.75w; 4.
-KEISHA DOBY, Lynwood, CA 18-5.5w (18-4ok); 5.
JACQUELYN BRIDGEMAN, STANFORD 18-3.75. TJ
TYRA MOORE, NORTH CAROLINA 41-4.5w (39-
10ok); 3. KAYLA MONTGOMERY, ARIZONA 39-
5.75w (38-7.75ok); 4. -DOBY 38-11.5; 9. ANNE LEE,
STANFORD 38-2.75w; SP VALEYTA ALTHOUSE,
UCLA 52-6.5; 2. -KRISTIN HEASTON, Ygnacio Val-
ley, Concord, CA 52-1.25; 7. LESLIE WOOLERY,
SHASTA JC 44-5.5; 9. *SOOZIE SHANLEY, Tulare,
CA 41-11.5; 10. TIANN ROUSE, CAL STATE-
STANISLAUS 41-6; 13. -COREEN DE LOS SANTOS,
Ukiah, CA 40-08.25; DT *SUZY POWELL, Downey,
Modesto, CA 180-8; 2. MELINDA WIRTZ, unat., Me-
dina, OH 172-8; 4. -HEASTON 155-10; 6. *SHANLEY
148-4; 7. -TYRENDA STAMPS, Mt. Pleasant, San
Jose, CA 139-11; 11. -STACI ANN DARDEN, Sonora,
CA 136-10; 15. ROUSE 133-9; JT DEANNA ALEXAN-
DER, WICHITA STATE 161-11; 7. *SUZY POWELL,
Downey, Modesto, CA 135-5; 8. NICOLE HAYNES,
USC 133-10; Hept -MELISSA FLANDERA, Magnifi-
cat, Rocky River, OH 5086 (14.47 +1.9, 40-6, 18-
4.75 +12.10); 2. NICOLE HAYNES, USC 4913 (15.13
+3.4, 139-7jav); 8. ?SHANIA HAMBRICK, Moreno
Valley, CA 4434 (5-6, 25.37 +3.82).