2014 Drake Relays Presented By Hy-Vee Competitor Quotes Wednesday, April 23, 2014



Pole Vault at the Mall

Men's Winner

Renaud Lavillenie, Nike, 18-8.75

On winning the competition after finishing second last year ...

"It was good for me to take the win today and for me to be here because it was a crazy atmosphere."

On the atmosphere ...

"You don't see this any other place, but the thing is it's quite difficult because people are very close to us and to the runway and the mat. So we have to stay focused on what we have to do and don't look around."

Steven Lewis, 18-8.75, Second place

On finishing second on misses ...

"It was awesome to get a win and tie out with Renaud. It gives me good confidence for the season – this is my second competition back and I didn't compete indoors so this was like a little taste of an indoor season for me, which is awesome. The atmosphere is electric like last year, but this year I knew what to expect and it was a really good time."

Women's Winner

Yarisley Silva, Cuba, 15-4.25

On the competition ...

"This was my second time that I competed in this competition in the United States and I feel very happy. Today it was great to compete against some of the best in the world. I respect them all. I'm very happy to be here. I like the environment and the people and the competition."

Kylie Hutson, 15-4.25, Second place

On the competition ...

"This was my fourth time here, so it's always exciting coming here and I always enjoy it. There's people lining the runway and just clapping and cheering. Everything was so great. I took a lot of jumps tonight, but it's also exciting for me because I took a lot of jumps. I was really tired and that's always a good sign for later in the year when I'm on bigger poles. I love it here, every year."

Heptathlon

Day 1 Leader

Lindsay Lettow, unattached, 3,358 points

She is the defending champion ... former Central Missouri and Des Moines Christian athlete from Urbandale ... two-time NCAA Division II pentathlon and heptathlon champion ... finished fourth in pentathlon at US Indoor Championships this year ... trains in Warrensburg, Missouri, with 15-time Drake Relays decathlon champion Kip Janvin ... was in second place heading into final event of the day, the 200. Ran 24.67, the best time of the day, to take the lead.

On the 200 meter race ...

"I am thrilled with my 200. For these conditions, I'm very happy with it. I just tried to run big, open and relaxed, do the things I've been working on, and that paid off."

On her goals for the season ...

"The goal is 6,000 points. That's a general point goal, just see improvement in marks and do well at the U.S. Championships even though there's no World Championships. I don't have the standard (to qualify for nationals), but I'll still have some chances. If I can put everything together I can get it definitely."

On competing at the USA Indoor Championships ...

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"I enjoyed the indoor season a lot. It was fun to do well this year. It definitely gave me a boost going into the outdoor season."



DecathIon

Day 1 Leader

Andre Dorsey, Jr., Kennesaw State, 4,055 points

This is Dorsey's first decathlon ... it's the first time he has run the 100 and 400 meters in a meet and he had the best times in both at 10.76 and 49.87, respectively ... he finished 11th in the long jump and triple jump and this year NCAA indoor meet and qualified in the high jump ... was 14th in the triple jump in last year's NCAA outdoor meet.

On the 100 and 400 meter races

"I did my first 400 last Saturday. I'm still new to this running thing."

On his 6-6.25 high jump

"After going 7-4 indoors, I've been trying to get back that feeling. I'm not saying I lost it, but it escaped me a little bit. So my thought was go safe, go from six steps, do my best and just jump high."

On his goal for this decathlon ...

"The only goal was hopefully get a qualifying mark for USAs. I knew I wasn't probably going to make the 7600, but it was just something to get in and compete with some of the best in the nation. My whole goal was to just go against the best people I can before it's all over with."

Pole Vault at the Mall

Day 1 Leader Andre Dorsey, Jr., Kennesaw State, 4,055 points