

# 2015 Drake Relays Presented By Hy-Vee

Friday, April 24, 2015

## Notes



<b>Attendance</b> Morning/Afternoon: 9,672 Evening: 10,770 Friday: 20,442 Total Attendance: 26,233	<b>Weather - High - 58 , Low - 50</b> 8 a.m.: 52 degrees, SE12 mph Noon: 54 degrees, Calm, Light drizzle 3 p.m.: 56 degrees, E 8 mph, Overcast 6 p.m.: 55 degrees, Calm, Overcast 8 p.m.: 51 degrees, E 8 mph, partly cloudy Total Precipitation: 0.09"
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### DRAKE RELAYS RECORDS BROKEN

#### Men's Invitational 400

Kirani James, Nike, 44.22. Old record 44.41, Michael Johnson, Nike, 1996.

#### Women's Invitational 800

Ajee Wilson, Adidas, 2:00.03. Old record 2:01.68, Suzy Favor Hamilton, Nike, 1998.

#### Women's Invitational shuttle hurdle relay

USA Blue, 50.50 (Brianna Rollins, Dawn Harper-Nelson, Queen Harrison, Kristi Castlin). Old record 50.93, USA Red, 2014.

#### High School Boys Medley Relay

West Des Moines Dowling Catholic 3:26.48 (Cole Deskin, Joe Gorsche, Max Kasap, Ryan Schweizer). Old record 3:26.89, Linn-Mar, 2014.

#### High School Boys 800 Meters

Ryan Schweizer, West Des Moines Dowling Catholic, 1:52.15. Old record 1:54.62, Carter Lilly, Sioux City East, 2014.

#### High School Girls 100 Meters

Briyana Carter, Des Moines Roosevelt, 12.13. Tied record set by LaNeisha Waller, Cedar Rapids Washington, 2003.

#### High School Girls 4x200-Meter Relay

Cedar Rapids Jefferson, 1:40.96 (Abilene Ranschau, Jasmine Blue, Morgan Meese, Lucy Schneekloth). Old record 1:41.66, Des Moines Roosevelt, 2012.

### WORLD LEADING MARKS

#### Men's Invitational 110 Hurdles

Aleec Harris, Adidas, 13.16

#### Men's Invitational 400

Kirani James, Nike, 44.22.

#### Women's Invitational 800

Ajee Wilson, Adidas, 2:00.03.

#### Women's Invitational Shuttle Hurdle Relay

Team Blue, Brianna Rollins, Dawn Harper-Nelson, Queen Harrison, Kristi Castlin, 50.50

#### Women's Invitational Pole Vault

Katerina Stefanidi, Nike, 15-5 ½ (4.71m)

### **A WORLD BEST AND CLOSE TO BOOT**

A star-studded hurdling team of Brianna Rollins, Dawn Harper-Nelson, Queen Harrison and Kristi Castlin ran a world best time of 50.50 seconds to win the women's invitational shuttle hurdle relay. The second-place team also ran 50.50, with Rollins and Co. getting the win by taking those times to three places, 50.495 to 50.500. The second-place team had Tiffany Porter, Jasmin Stowers, Jacqueline Coward and Sharika Nelvis.

### **THESE GUYS WERE MOVING**

Aleec Harris improved his world-leading time in the men's 110 hurdles in winning the Beijing WC Preview event in 13.16 seconds. The race, run against a slight head wind, produced three of the top six times in the world. Harris, the reigning U.S. indoor champion in the 60 hurdles, had a previous best this year of 13.23. David Oliver was second in 13.19, which moves him to second on the world list. Third-place Andrew Riley is now tied for sixth at 13.32.

Aries Merritt, the 2012 Olympic gold medalist, finished fourth in 13.37. Decathlon world record holder Ashton Eaton came in seventh in 13.43.

### **JOHNSON'S RECORD FINALLY FALLS**

World leader Kirani James broke one of the most impressive Drake Relays record of all, winning the Beijing WC Preview 400 to erase Michael Johnson's name for the record book. James won in 44.22, the best time in the world so far. Johnson set the previous Drake record of 44.41 in 1996 during the leadup to his sensational performance at the Atlanta Olympics. James owned the previous world best of 44.31.

### **SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS**

The Beijing WC Preview women's pole vault produced a world-leading vault and a mark that would have been a national collegiate record had it not been disallowed. Winner Katerina Stefanidi, a former Stanford athlete from Greece, cleared 15 feet, 5 ½ inches, the top vault in the world this year. Runner-up Demi Payne, a junior at Stephen F. Austin, cleared 15-3 ½, which is better than the current collegiate record of 15-1 ¾. However, it won't be allowed because it was the second time she competed in a Relays pole vault this week. Payne had jumped in the Court Avenue pole vault on Wednesday. The collegiate record of 15-1 ¾ is held by the third-place finisher in the event, Sandi Morris of Arkansas. Morris, the previous world leader, cleared 14-9 ½.

### **A DOUBLE FOR DROUIN**

2014 Drake Relays champion Derek Drouin became the fifth men's high jumper in meet history to win multiple crowns in the men's special invitational high jump, as he won the Beijing World Championship Preview with a clearance of 7-7 ¼. He tied his season-best mark, as he soared 7-7 ¼ in Texas, which ranks as the second-best jump in the world this season. Drouin also became only the third athlete to win back-to-back titles in the event.

### **THEY CALL HIM BATMAN**

Bershawn "Batman" Jackson beat a strong field to win the Beijing WC Preview 400 hurdles in 48.87 conds. That was short of the 48.61 he ran at Baylor earlier this month, which is the No. 2 time in the world, but it was still an impressive victory.

Jackson outran a field that included Olympians Michael Tinsley and Javier Culson and 2014 USA champion Johnny Dutch. Tinsley had won the event the last two years. Culson was the Relays champion in 2011 and 2012. Tinsley, a silver medalist at the 2012 Summer Olympics had won his previous five races at Drake Stadium, winning all three races he raced in at the 2013 USA Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

### **FAST TIMES IN WOMEN'S 800**

The Beijing WC Preview women's 800 produced the two fastest times in the world this year. Reigning USA outdoor champion Ajee Wilson won the race in 2:00.03 and Brenda Martinez took second in 2:00.51. The previous world best was 2:00.62 by Chanelle Price in Gainesville, Florida, earlier this month. Price placed ninth in tonight race, finishing in 2:03.15.

### **BARBER'S CLIPPING ALONG**

Defending champion Jade Barber of Notre Dame set herself up for a run at another title in the women's 100 hurdles. Barber ran the fastest time in the preliminaries, winning her heat in 13.39 seconds into a head wind.. She has been an All-American indoors and outdoors and has won hurdling championships in the Big East and ACC. Barber is third on the collegiate list this year with a wind-aided 12.81. Baylor All-American and Big 12 champion Tiffani McReynolds had the second-fastest qualifying time at 13.41.

As the night session got underway, Barber helped Notre Dame win the university 4x200 relay. Barber ran the second as the Irish raced to a 1:34.82 clocking for their second straight victory in the event. Her twin siser Kaila ran the first leg for the Irish, who ran 1:34.54 last year.

### **DOUBLING THEIR PLEASURE**

Oklahoma State picked up its second women's relay victory of the meet when the Cowboys won the 4x800 in 8:27.88. Natalja Piliusina, a senior from Lithuania, anchored the victory after running the anchor on the winning 4x1600 relay team on Thursday. She's expected the anchor the distance medley on Saturday.

### **STRONG OPENER FOR ARKANSAS HURDLER**

Arkansas' Omar McLeod opened his outdoor season in the 110 hurdles with a solid run. McLeod, the NCAA indoor 60 hurdles champion this year, won his preliminary heat in 13.80 seconds to lead all qualifiers. McLeod easily could have run faster, but he pulled up and coasted the final 10 meters.

### **SOLON THROWER DOES IT AGAIN**

Shelby Gunnells of Solon repeated her title in the high school girls shot put with a throw of 45 feet, 5 ½ inches. That's the best mark at the Relays since 2009. She's the fifth thrower to win back-to-back championships in the event. Gunnells is the season leader with a throw of 47 feet.

### **ST. THOMAS TOPPLES AUGIE IN WOMEN'S DMR**

St. Thomas dethroned Augustana of South Dakota in the college women's distance medley relay. The Tommies won in 11:49.12 to beat Augustana to the finish. Augustana, the champion three of the past four years, ran 11:50.09. It was the second Relays title in the event for St. Thomas, which also won in 2009.

### **SLIGHT CARRIES BOONE TO COME-FROM-BEHIND WIN**

Dianna Slight's strong anchor carried Boone to a come-from-behind victory in the high school girls distance medley relay. Slight passed Cedar Rapids Jefferson star Jasmine Blue in the final 30 meters to bring Boone to the finish in 1:46.43. That moves the Toreadores to 11th on the state's all-time list as Slight anchored in 55.5 seconds. Pleasant Valley was second in 1:46.73 and Jefferson third in 1:46.87.

### **THOSE MOVIN' MAROONS**

West Des Moines Dowling Catholic's Ryan Schweizer ran an impressive anchor 800 to carry to the Maroons to a meet record in the boys sprint medley relay. Schweizer got the baton in third place and ran his leg in 1:49.7 to bring Dowling home in 3:26.48, which ranks fifth on the state's all-time list. Linn-Mar set the old record of 3:26.89 last year.

### **TWICE AS NICE**

A little more than three hours after the medley, Schweizer put his name in the record book again, winning the boys 800 in 1:52.15. That broke the record of 1:54.62 set last year by Sioux City East's Carter Lilly. This is the fifth year the boys have run the 800 at Drake. Schweizer is the first non-senior to win it. Runner-up Daniel Chan of Ames (1:53.87) and third-place finisher Jay Wolfe of Creston (1:54.32) also ran faster than the previous record.

### **WHOA NELSON**

Erik Nelson of Waukee unleashed a massive heave of 187-8 on his final attempt to win the boys discus. It was the best winning throw since 2008, and it marks the 15th straight year the event has had a different winner. Nelson's triumph marked the first time a Waukee thrower won the boys discus in the history of the event, which began in 1943.

### **LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN FOR JENKS**

Stephanie Jenks of Linn-Mar picked up her second victory of the 2015 Relays, winning the high school girls 800 in 2:09.64. It was the seventh Drake Relays championship for Jenks, a junior, and her time ranks No. 7 on the state's all-time list. She won the 3,000 on Thursday and will run the 400 hurdles and 1,500 on Saturday.

### **THE STREAK GOES ON**

Oklahoma Baptist stretched its Drake Relays winning streak to three in the college men's 4x800 relay, putting up a time of 7:31.73 with senior Clay Shepperson on the anchor. Shepperson also anchored the Bison's victories in the event in 2013 and 2014. They've now won the race five times in the last 10 years.

### **HE LIKES THE DRAKE RUNWAY**

Clear Lake's Chandler Diercks continues to shine in the long jump at Drake Stadium. Diercks, the favorite going in, won his second straight Drake Relays title with a leap of 22-8 ½. He also has won the last two Class 3A state championships in the Drake jumping area.

### **FRANKLIN'S MINT PERFORMANCE**

Ohio State's Alexis Franklin became just the second repeat champion in the university-college women's 400 hurdles. Franklin outran Big Ten rival Montayla Holder of Iowa to win in 57.40 seconds, the No. 9 collegiate time in the country this year. The only other repeat champion in the event is Alabama's Beau Walker in 2004 and 2005.

### **CARTER CONTINUES ROOSEVELT'S STREAK**

Des Moines Roosevelt's Briyana Carter tied a high school girls 100 dash record, winning in 12.13. Carter, a junior for the Roughriders, earned Roosevelt's eighth 100 meters crown, the most by any school in the event, and the program's fifth-straight title in the event. During the Roughriders' streak in the 100, four different girls have claimed victories on the Blue Oval.

### **A BLOW FOR THE LITTLE GUYS**

Isaiah Trousil of West Burlington/Notre Dame became the first runner from a small school to win the high school boys 100 in 21 years. Trousil outran his rivals to win in 11.95. The last runner from a small school to win the event was Randy Thompson, who raced to victories in 1994 and 1995 for Corwith-Wesley-Luverne. Thompson later ran at Iowa State.

### **WAYLAND LEADS THE WAY**

Wayland Baptist, out of Plainview, Texas, won its second-straight women's 4x200 relay college crown, crossing the line in 1:36.20. Wayland Baptist is one of only four schools to win the 4x200 college title, as Lincoln (Mo.) has won eight titles, Oklahoma Baptist has claimed two titles, while Lindenwood has claimed one victory in the event.

### **WAYLAND LEADS THE WAY**

In the men's college distance medley relay, Wayland Baptist won its third event of the Drake Relays, finishing the race in 10:03.03. Running the 1600-meter anchor leg for the Pioneers was Benard Keter, who showed off his versatility after winning the men's 10,000 meters on Thursday night in 29:34.75.

### **LINCOLN LOGS ANOTHER WIN**

Lincoln (Mo.) won its fifth men's 4x200 relay college title in the past 10 years with a time of 1:25.57, to edge Minnesota State, who finished second in 1:25.91. The Blue Tigers won three titles from 2009-11, and also won the 2006 event. Lincoln has nine total 4x200 titles, with its first win coming in 1975.

### **JEFFERSON'S WINNING FOURSOME**

Running the same foursome that won the Class 4A state championship last year, Cedar Rapids Jefferson broke the Relays record and put up the No. 2 time in state history in winning the girls 4x200 relay. The J-Hawks blazed to a 1:40.96 clocking, just shy of the 1:40.94 a Jefferson team logged in 2013. The old Relays record was 1:41.66 by Des Moines Roosevelt in 2012. Abilene Ranschau, Jasmine Blue, Morgan Meese and Lucy Schneekloth ran on the winning team. That same quartet finished second at Drake last year. This year's runner-up, Waukee (1:41.18), also bettered the old record.

### **RAZORBACKS LOOKING GOOD**

Arkansas led the qualifying in the university women's 4x400 with one of the best times in the world. The Razorbacks won their heat in 3:31.77. That's the third-fastest collegiate time this year and ranks fifth in the world.

### **IRISH SAVIOR**

A sizzling anchor by senior Chris Giesting gave Notre Dame the last spot in Saturday's finals in the university 4x400 relay. Giesting sped around the blue oval in an eye-opening 45-flat to help the Irish finish in 3:08.42, fast enough to edge Arkansas for the final spot. Giesting is an All-American in the 400 and just missed making the finals at the NCAA indoor meet this year. Illinois ran the fastest qualifying time, 3:05.63.

### **CENTRAL MISSOURI DOUBLES UP**

Central Missouri State, coached by Drake Relays Hall of Famer Kip Janvrin, picked up a couple of victories in women's field events. Erika Kinsey, a 27-year-old redshirt freshman from Sweden, cleared 6-½ to win the high jump. Kinsey was the European Junior high jump champion in 2007 and starred at this year's NCAA Division II indoor meet, winning the high jump and triple jump and finishing fourth in the long jump. Teammate Heavin Warner won the discus with a throw of 178-2.

### **OLE (MISS) RELIABLE**

With Mississippi freshman Brooke Feldmeier's win in the women's 800 meters, the Rebels have won a title at the past 10 Drake Relays. The women's program has won 20 individual titles, while the men have won five.