

**Subject:** Drake Relays Presented By Hy-Vee Men's 400-Meter Hurdle Field Features Six Of The Top Eight In The World

**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 5:27:38 PM Central Daylight Time

**From:** Drake Athletic Communications <drakeathleticcommunications@gmail.com>

**To:** Tyler Patton <ty.patton@drake.edu>

**DRAKE ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS | MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

**CONTACT:** Ty Patton, Drake Athletic Communications

(515) 271-3014 | [ty.patton@drake.edu](mailto:ty.patton@drake.edu)

**Drake Relays Presented By Hy-Vee Men's 400-Meter Hurdle Field Features Six Of The Top Eight In The World**

**DES MOINES, Iowa** – Six of the top eight men's 400-meter hurdlers in the world are scheduled to compete in the Rio Olympic Games Preview at the 2016 Drake Relays presented by Hy-Vee, Relays director Brian Brown announced March 22.

In addition to the world rankings, the field's accomplishments also includes three Olympic medalists.

**[VIDEO: Drake Relays presented by Hy-Vee director Brian Brown discusses the men's 400-meter hurdle field.](#)**

Bershawn Jackson, the reigning Relays champion in the event, returns to the Blue Oval after finishing his 2015 season ranked No. 1 in the world by *Track & Field News*. A veteran competitor, Jackson won the bronze medal at the 2008 Olympics and his personal best of 47.30 makes him the 10th fastest hurdler in history.

He will be challenged by the 2008 Olympic silver medalist, Kerron Clement. Clement finished the 2015 season ranked eighth in the world and the two-time world champion's personal best of 47.24 is the seventh fastest in history.

Two 2012 Olympic medalists dot the field, including Michael Tinsley, the 2012 Olympic silver medalist that finished his 2015 season ranked sixth in the world. The 2012 games bronze medalist, Javier Culson, also returns to Drake Stadium as the No. 7 ranked competitor in the world and a two-time World Championships silver medalist.

Jeffery Gibson joins the veteran competitors after winning bronze at the 2015 World Championships. The Bahamian national record holder in the event at 48.17 was ranked No. 2 in the world last season and will be using the Blue Oval to launch his Olympic aspirations.

The final ranked competitor in the field is Relays regular Johnny Dutch. Dutch ranked fifth in the world a season ago and his personal best of 47.63 was set on the Blue Oval during the 2010 USA Championships.

Also making a return to the Blue Oval is Justin Gaymon. The former Georgia Bulldog was a four-time Drake Relays collegiate champion and record holder in the event. Completing the field is Drake assistant track and field coach and LaRon Bennett. Bennett was a three-time All-American in the event and has competed in two U.S. Olympic Trials.

Single-session tickets for the 2016 Drake Relays presented by Hy-Vee go on sale to the general public on March 24 at 9 a.m. All-session and multi-session tickets for the 2016 Drake Relays presented by Hy-Vee are currently available at [www.DrakeRelays.org](http://www.DrakeRelays.org), [www.DrakeTix.com](http://www.DrakeTix.com) or by calling the Drake Athletic Ticket Office at 515-271-3647.

-DRAKE-