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Contenders race for victory at World Athletics Championships Oregon22

Global stage brings outstanding athletes to compete for greatness

BY ERIC BERNIKER · TWITTER @EricBerniker

The 2022 World Athletics Championships brings the world's brightest stars in track and field to Eugene. From the 100m sprint to a 50km walking race, the fastest and most talented athletes will compete for the top spot in their respective domains. With a 270 million dollar upgrade, Hayward Field hosts the largest stage in track and field for the first time on American soil.

100M MEN

The top contenders to win the 100-meter dash have to be Fred Kerley and Trayvon Bromell. While Bromell won the 2022 USATF Outdoor Championships, at 6-foot-3, 205 pounds, Kerley has been a force in the sprinting community since 2017 when he won the 400m at the USATF Championships. Taking silver in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the Worlds will be an opportunity for Kerley to defeat Italian Lamont Marcell Jacobs, the gold medalist at the Olympics in Tokyo.

100M WOMEN

On the women's side, Jamaica will dominate the 100m. Elaine Thompson-Herah, the fastest woman in the world who won both the 100 and 200m in Rio in 2016 and holds the second fastest 100m time ever at 10.54 set in Eugene in 2021, is poised to defend her title. The proclaimed second-fastest woman in the world Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce also hails from Jamaica. The 35-year-old won gold in the 100m at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics and is the only person to win four titles in the 100m, which she did at the World Athletics Championships in 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2019.

200M MEN

American Kenny Bednarek headlines the 200m event. After taking silver in Tokyo, Bednarek ran the most sub-20 performances over 200 meters with 12 total, 10 being wind legal. He will compete against reigning gold medalist Andre De Grasse from Canada alongside Kerley, who is always a threat.

200M WOMEN

Christine Mboma, BBC African Sports Personality of the Year award recipient, is the favorite to win the 200m after winning the event in the Diamond League race in Brussels. Mboma will contend with Jamaican Shericka Jackson who won the Diamond League's most recent 200m in Rome on June 9 as well as Thompson-

Herah, who won the gold in Tokyo.

400M MEN

Grenadian sprinter Kirani James is the favorite to win the men's 400m dash. Since holding the fastest 400 times ever recorded by a 14 and 15-year-old, James has competed on the biggest stages in international track. After winning gold in London in the 400 in 2012, James took silver in the last two Olympics in the event. Americans Michael Cherry, Michael Norman and Vernon Norwood will all contend with James.

400M WOMEN

With her illustrious career waning, Allyson Felix will compete in the Women's 400m, an event she has become more invested in with age. The favorites in the event are Marileidy Paulino of the Dominican Republic and Shaunae Miller-Uibo from the Bahamas who took gold and silver in the event in Tokyo.

800M MEN

Kenyan Emmanuel Kipkurui Korir and Ferguson Cheruiyot Rotich headline the field here. The two took gold and silver with Kipkurui Korir in first at Tokyo and Cheruiyot Rotich winning at BAUHAUS-galan in Stockholm. Canadian Marco Arop who took 1st place at the Diamond League Meeting in late May could emerge as a challenger to the two Kenyans whose main competition is each other.

800M WOMEN

At 20 years old, British Keely Hodgkinson is



Raevyn Rogers pushes Ajee Wilson to the finish line at the USATF outdoor national championships in June. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)

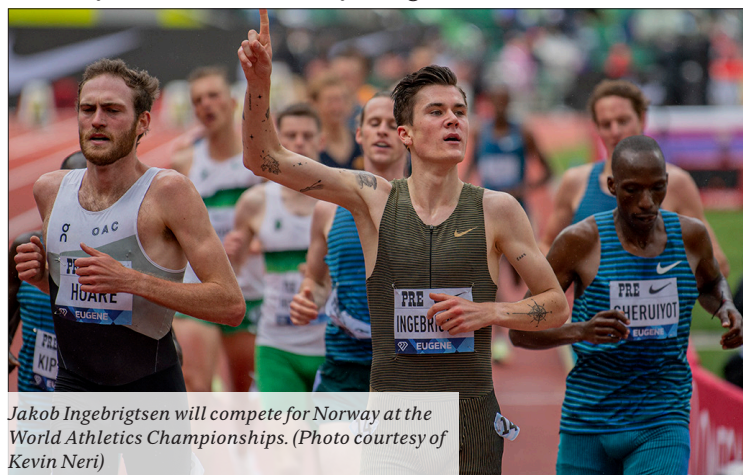
favored to take the women's 800m. After taking silver in Tokyo in the event she has since claimed the throne in the 800m, winning 1st place at the Diamond League meet, making the young phenom the person to beat entering the World Games. American Athing Mu, who won gold in Tokyo and did not compete at the Diamond League event took first at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene in 2021 making her a strong contender to challenge Hodgkinson.

1500M MEN

Norwegian Jakob Ingebrigtsen has won his last three 1500m competitions including a gold medal in Tokyo, a first place finish at the Bislett games in Oslo in 2021, and another win at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene in 2021. The man who took second in Tokyo and third at the Prefontaine is marquee challenger Kenyan Timothy Cheruiyot. Oregon star Cooper Teare who won the event during USA qualifying will also compete.

1500M WOMENS

Kenyan superstar Faith Kipyegon is still the favorite to win the women's 1500, an event she has dominated for almost 12 years. Kipyegon won gold at the 2016 Olympics, then had a baby in 2019 and took silver at the World Athletics Championships in the same year. Since then she took gold again at Tokyo in 2021 and won the Prefontaine Classic in the same year.



Jakob Ingebrigtsen will compete for Norway at the World Athletics Championships. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)

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RUSSIA AND BELARUS BANNED FROM WORLD ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, two European countries will not be invited to Eugene.

BY BRADY RUTH · TWITTER @BRADYRUTH10

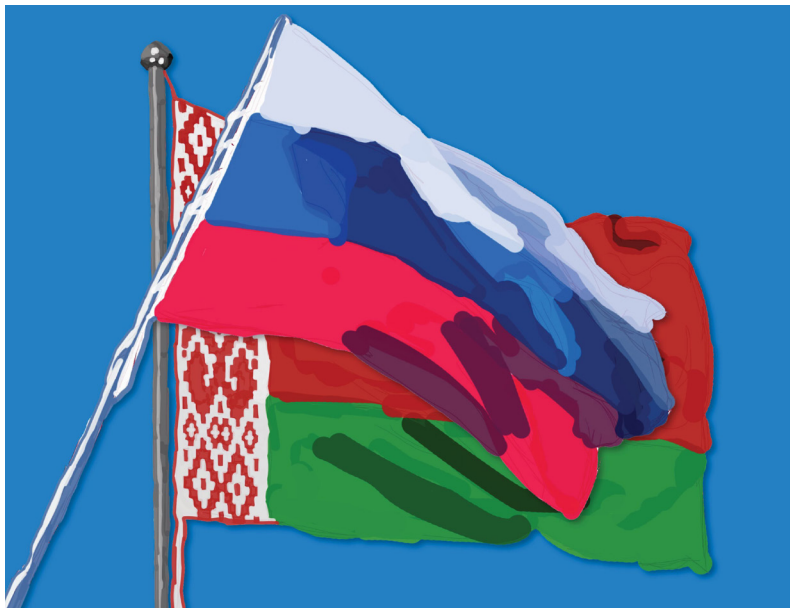


Illustration by Lynette Slape



“We cannot ignore the message that inclusion of these two nations’ athletes would send to our friends in Ukraine and the rest of the world.”

RENAUD LAVILLENIE *World Athletics commission chair*

In just a few days, Eugene will host over 190 countries and 3,000 athletes for a 10-day showcase of some of the best athletes on the planet. But, as countries from across the world prepare to send their best athletes to Track Town, two familiar groups will not be able to compete under the Hayward Field lights. Russia and Belarus will not be in attendance after being banned by World Athletics.

The sports governing body announced the ban on March 1. The ban also excluded the two countries and their athletes from the World Athletics Indoor Championships back in late March of this year, adding to a long list of suspensions and sanctions stemming from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February.

“The world is horrified by what Russia has done, aided and abetted by Belarus,” World Athletics CEO Sebastian Coe said in a press release about the ban. “The unprecedented sanctions that are being imposed on Russia and Belarus by countries and industries all over the world appear to be the only peaceful way to disrupt and disable Russia’s current intentions and restore peace.”

The Russian Athletics Federation already has a ban that’s been imposed since 2015 after several doping and performance enhancement scandals in the 2014 Sochi Olympics came to light. This ban from World Athletics will extend this ban. Belarus had no prior bans for doping.

Coe’s suspension appears harsher than many others. Unlike Olympic bans, athletes from Russia and Belarus will not be able to compete as “neutral” participants. A release from the World Athletics states that “all athletes, support personnel and officials from Russia and Belarus will be excluded from all World Athletics Series events for the foreseeable future, with immediate effect.”

The “foreseeable future” also includes a prohibition on international events taking place in either of the two countries. The domino effect continues for Russia and Belarus as more and more countries and events turn away from Moscow and Minsk.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and Belarus’s unwavering support turned the heads of the world and has led to many other bans. Politics and sports seem to be overlapping in their goals to punish Russia for its actions. Along with many economic and political sanctions, Russia and Belarus were also banned from the World Junior Hockey Championship, and Russia has been ejected from contention for the 2022 World Cup by FIFA.

The unison between politics and sports can often be looked down upon and seen as controversial. World Athletics stands with Ukraine and efforts to resolve conflict in Europe. It has less to do with sports, it claims, and more to do with unity.

“While we understand the implications of this decision for Authorized Neutral Athletes from Russia and Belarusian athletes who may not be condoning their nations’ deplorable military action in Ukraine,” commission chair Renaud Lavillenie said, “we cannot ignore the message that inclusion of these two nations’ athletes would send to our friends in Ukraine and the rest of the world.”

The hope is that the continuous barring of Russian and Belarusian teams will peacefully demonstrate the World Athletics’ disapproval of the invasion of Ukraine with aspirations that amends are in the works. Should there be significant progress before the start of the World Athletics Championships, which begin in Eugene on July 15, the organization could look into reversing the ban and allowing these countries and athletes to compete for glory in Oregon.

OVERTIME: EUGENE BUSINESSES PREPARE FOR THE INCOMING CROWD ON JULY 15

Local businesses brace for what will be a busy ten days during the World Athletic Championships.

• • • • • • • • • • **BY DYLAN CONWAY · TWITTER @DCONWAY_3** • • • • • • • • • •

Hayward Field is one of the most historic track and field venues in the world, hosting more USA Olympic Track and Field trials and NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships than any other stadium.

Another stamp on Hayward Field's historical value will be added on July 15 when it hosts the World Athletics Championships, the first United States venue to do so.

It will be an extremely busy 10 days in Eugene. With a city population of about 170,000, organizers of the event expect 200,000 visitors to come to Oregon from over 200 different countries in the time span of the championships. Organizers of the championships are expecting 20,000 to 25,000 visitors per day at Hayward Field.

With the brief increase in population due to the historic athletic event about to take place, local businesses near Hayward are expecting a huge boost in business, attending to all the visiting athletes and spectators.

Only a block from Hayward Field, the stretch of restaurants on 19th and Agate Street: 19th include Agate Alley Bistro, Studio One Cafe, McMenamins, Prince Puckler's Ice Cream, Hey, Neighbor! Pizza House and Sweet Life Patisserie, will be the hot spot of the crowd.

In the past year and a half, Hayward Field hosted a plethora of track and field events including the NCAA championships and the trials for the Tokyo Olympics. With these events causing more foot traffic around these restaurants on 19th, they seem to be prepared for the Worlds in July.

"I don't know if it will be busier than the trials or not; it's going to kind of be a trial by error," Lance Schendul, manager at Prince Puckler's Ice Cream, said. "I think we'll be probably pretty busy, especially before the meets, and then when the meet gets out, you'll get all the influx of people mostly."

In a business that peaks in the hot weather, Prince Puckler's Ice Cream will likely be an attractive spot for the athletes and other visitors. While Schendul is confident in the business's ability to handle increased foot traffic, the world championships bring in a new sort of business experience.

"With some of the new customers, it's just a different experience," Schendul said. "Everybody wants to ask me questions about the different types of ice creams and hopefully we'll be doing samples by then so we can help that out, but I mean it's just a different vibe."

In what could be viewed as a possibly overwhelming week for the businesses near the track, the companies are ready for the challenge.

"We get to see exactly what we were expecting to see and that is a huge bump on those weekends," Tony Schmidt, manager at Agate Alley Bistro said.

It's nothing out of the ordinary for the Agate Street restaurants to have a packed house. Since COVID-19 restrictions have died down, Schmidt said more people are out, noting that the last two years have been the busiest in Agate Alley's 14-year existence.

There are also fewer food options due to the companies that had to unfortunately shut

down during the pandemic.

"People are just going out and with restaurants that closed during COVID and haven't reopened, the accessibility seems to be a little bit less than it once was and our proximity from the stadium does not hurt either," Schmidt said.

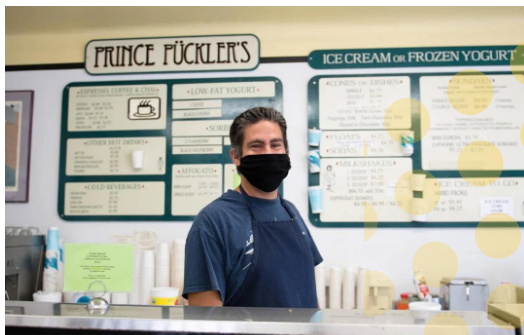
Even though these businesses thrive on being busy, adjustments and strategies will be put in place to pace things more during the Worlds that kick off on July 15.

Catherine Reinhart, co-owner of Sweet Life Patisserie, said how offering a grab 'n' go iced coffee drink like cold brew will help keep the line down and business running smoothly.

"We'll definitely be having more staff available and we'll definitely be upping the amount of products that we bring to that location," Reinhart said. "We'll probably be trying to think of some other ways to make it really easy to get people through the line really quickly."

Having Hayward Field in such close proximity to these businesses presents a huge opportunity when events happen, but it also introduces a challenge in how to handle the foot traffic.

With about 200,000 people pouring into Eugene from over 200 different countries, the businesses on 19th and Agate will be booming while getting the chance to serve people from all around the world.



Restaurants on the campus of the University of Oregon are preparing for the return of students, adapting to new safety precautions in the face of COVID-19 in Eugene, Ore. Sept. 26, 2020. (Madi Mather/Emerald)



Located on Agate St., Agate Alley Bistro is a popular restaurant location near the University of Oregon campus. Agate Alley Bistro is a popular breakfast spot in Eugene. (Maddie Stellingwerf/Emerald)



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An excavator knocks out a large chunk of the East Grandstand. Historic Hayward Field's East Grandstand is demolished on June 22, 2018. (Sarah Northrop/Emerald)



Located across from the William Knight Law Center, Hayward Field is the University of Oregon Track and Field team's stadium. (DL Young/Emerald).

Athletes compete in the 5000m dash as the sun sets on Hayward Field. University of Florida Gators mens track team take home the national championship on the third day of the 2022 NCAA Track & Field Championships at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore., on June 10th, 2022. (Maddie Stellingwerf/Emerald)



The construction of the new Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus is starting to take shape. (Brad Smith/Emerald)

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COOPER TEARE

LOOKS TO MAKE HISTORY AGAIN IN MEN'S 1500M WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

BY ERIC BERNIKER · **TWITTER** @ERICBERNIKER

With a time of 3 minutes, 45.86 seconds on June 25, former Duck Cooper Teare qualified to run the 1500m at the 2022 World Athletics Championships, the last opportunity to earn a place in the Worlds.

"Oh my God, it feels amazing," Teare said. "It set in there for a second right after I finished. I think I'm going to get another wave of joy coming in pretty soon."

Teare, who had success competing in long distances, namely the 5000m, moved to the faster, full-mile race with the intention of setting a record and walking away with some hardware.

"I'm not here to just be happy making a world team," Teare said after the race. "I want to get a medal."

A two-time NCAA record holder at Oregon, Teare is the collegiate mile record holder with a 3:50.39 time. He also won the NCAA championship outdoor 5000m in 2021, and is No. 2 in NCAA history in the 5000m with a time of 13:12.27.

"In college I came in and went straight to the 5K, and I would run one tactical and one 'try to run fast' 1500 every year, and I don't

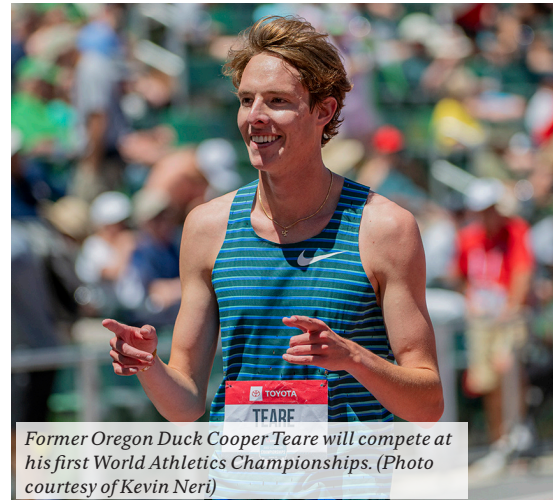
think I reached my potential," Teare said. "I knew I could run fast in a few races but you don't want to give it up and be a '5K 10K guy' if you can be a '15 5' guy."

During his qualifying run, Teare kept close to his teammate from the University of Oregon, Reed Brown, who did not qualify. In the last 200 meters Teare was able to unbox himself from the field, getting to the outside where he found room to accelerate.

With Brown's failure to qualify, Teare will be without his pace-setter. Having no allies to rely on, Teare will have to monitor and control pace on his own. Given his experience running longer distances he can be expected to maintain a high pace to avoid being caught in the middle of the pack amongst stronger finishers.

With his admittance to the world championship, Teare will get a chance to compete against Norwegian powerhouse Jakob Ingebrigtsen, the current world record holder in the event.

As a University of Oregon Alumni, Teare will have the support of the crowd behind him as he competes on the world stage.



Former Oregon Duck Cooper Teare will compete at his first World Athletics Championships. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)

"I like running fast. At Hayward you always want to run fast," Teare said. "I don't just want to win races, I want to have the time to go along with it, too."

The World Athletics Championships begin July 15, with the final taking place on July 19 at Hayward Field.



Cooper Teare outkicks the field to win the 1500-meter final at the USATF outdoor national championships. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)



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A HISTORY OF THE WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the first time on American soil, the Worlds are coming to Eugene

BY JACOB HAMRE · TWITTER @JACOBHAMRE_1

For the first time ever, the World Athletics Championships are coming to the United States. Choosing the perfect location for this accolade was no easy task. Eugene, Oregon, otherwise known as Tracktown USA, was picked to host the event that starts on July 15.

“It’s awesome. I’m hoping to see a full crowd,” former Duck and current Team USA distance runner, Cooper Teare said. “When you hear your name called and that roar that some other people don’t get, it’s definitely a confidence booster on the line. I’m looking forward to having the world in my backyard.”

Eugene tried to host the 2019 competition six years prior, but was ultimately unsuccessful, losing the bidding in the host selection process to Doha, Qatar. Coming in second place was good enough to secure the city with the following competition.

The first World Championships were held in 1983 after being approved in 1976. The first event was held in Helsinki, Finland. Since then, there have been 17 events with the 18th coming in 2022.

The World Athletic Championships are usually biennial but were postponed in 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event is run by World Athletics, formerly known as the International Amateur Athletic Federation, and was made in response to the 50 kilometer walk being removed from the Olympics in 1976.

It has become one of the most important track and field events in the world with 32 world records being set at the competition since its start.

The most recent worlds competition took place in Qatar in 2019. It was the first time ever being held in the Middle East, and there were indeed some issues – a lack of spectators, a flat atmosphere and warm conditions made for a challenging setting. Despite this, World Athletics President Sebastian Coe called it the best Championships in history.

Three of the 32 world records broken in the

competition’s history have taken place in Qatar.

Hayward Field needs no introduction to record-breaking performances, having housed over 20 of its own. Sydney McLaughlin broke the Women’s 400-meter hurdles at the U.S. Outdoor Track and Field National Championships in Eugene on June 25 with a time of 51.41 seconds.

“I mean its Tracktown USA, what do you expect?” McLaughlin said. “Everytime I come here I get this feeling that something amazing is going to happen.”

Khalifa International Stadium was the home to the event in 2019 and has the capacity to hold just over 45,000 people. Hayward Field, on the other hand, can only hold up to 25,000 at max capacity. There will be about 2,000 athletes coming to the event along with other staff and fans expected in the city of Eugene.

Most nearby hotels are already out of rooms during the 10-day event.

While thousands prepare to attend the event, final-touch renovations are still being added to Hayward Field.

The renovations at Hayward Field started in 2018 and took their final shape in the fall of 2020. Donations by the Knight family and other donors helped fund the project in hopes to make Hayward Field one of the most prestigious track and field venues in the country, costing over \$270 million dollars along the way.

“Plush. Luxury. Welcome to the five-star resort at Hayward Field,” former Oregon track and field coach Robert Johnson said. “The attention to detail where you can have the pole vault going on and then watch the javelin as well. Those were the things I noticed right off the bat.”

Adding more space for the expected large crowd is only one of the things different about the new stadium. Updated locker rooms, training rooms, a new nine-lane track, a practice area and other additions were all incorporated during the two-year

renovation process.

The inaugural event in 1983 had 41 events and lasted a week. Since then, eight events have been added with an additional three more days to correspond. The 2022 event is also expected to have 53 more nations than the first one, up to 207.

Out of the 17 championships, the United States has won 13 and aims to become the first country to win the event on home soil. Eight of the last nine have been won by the Americans with Kenya being the only other champion, winning in 2015. Whoever ends up winning the overall team event will be rewarded with a team event trophy, a newly added piece of silverware that was announced in March.

Hayward Field has seen plenty of usage leading up to the championships. The month of May was a busy month in particular, hosting both the Pac-12 Championships and OSAA High School Championships.

In the Pac-12 Championships, the trophy stayed put, as Oregon swept the competition for the 10th time in school history. Closing out the busy month was the Prefontaine Classic, a historic event, being the only Diamond League race in the United States, that has been held annually since 1975 in honor of Oregon great Steve Prefontaine

June was also a busy month for track and field fans in Eugene. Hayward hosted the NCAA Championships, NSAF Outdoor Nationals, and USATF Outdoor National Championships in less than a three-week span. In the NCAA Championships, the hometown Ducks were not able to win their 33rd team championship. The women’s team finished in 11th place while the men’s finished tied for 25th.

July, however, will be used for preparation, as the venue continues to expand for the influx of people starting to arrive. No events are scheduled before the 15th, while construction continues the finishing touches on Hayward.



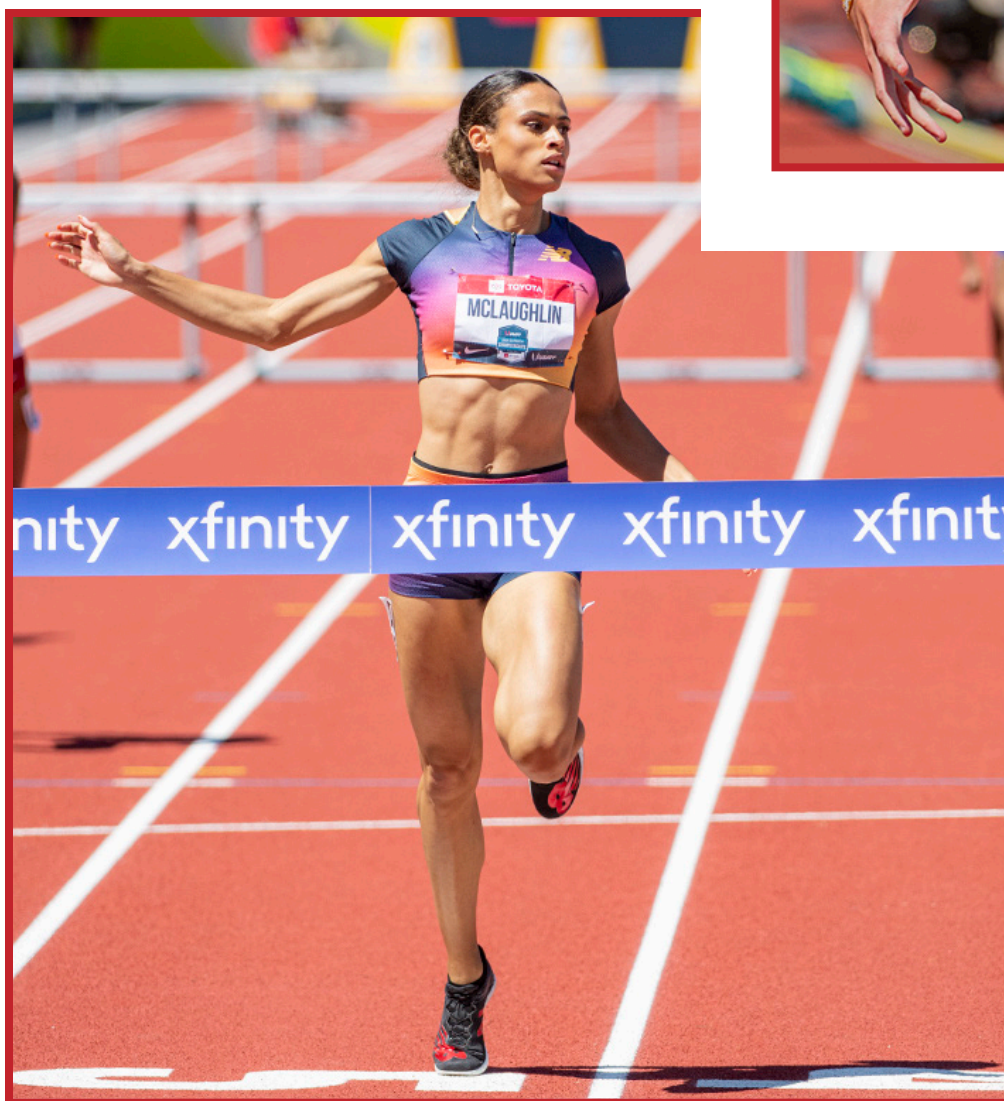
Above: Cooper Teare will compete on Team USA at the Worlds for the first time. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)

Below: Sydney McLaughlin crosses the finish line in record-breaking 51.41 seconds at the USATF outdoor national championships. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)



Above: Cooper Teare won the men's 1500-meter final at the USATF outdoor national championships. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)

Below: Sydney McLaughlin prepares for the 400-meter hurdles final at the USATF outdoor national championships. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)





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Jakob Ingebrigtsen wins the Bowerman Mile at the Prefontaine Classic in May. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)



Jakob Ingebrigtsen leads Timothy Cheruiyot in the Bowerman Mile. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)

WILL ANYONE CHALLENGE INGEBRIGTSEN FOR THE WORLD 1500 METER TITLE?



The gold medalist in the 1500 meters in the Tokyo Olympics comes to Eugene in search of his first outdoor world title. This time around maybe be different because he seems to be in a class of his own.

BY GABRIEL MARVIN · **TWITTER** @GMARVINDAILYEM



Jakob Ingebrigtsen will attempt to break Hicham El Guerrouj's 1500-meter world record at the World Athletics Championships. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)

There are certain athletes that come around once every decade or so who challenge the possibilities of athletic achievement that leaves the average person awe-stricken.

These types of athletes look at a record that is deemed unbreakable by nearly everyone as a chance to prove their capabilities. These athletes often train to the point where they sacrifice their own mental and physical health, as well as personal relationships in their quest for athletic immortality.

Jakob Ingebrigtsen is one of those athletes.

The 21-year-old from Sandnes, Norway, is no stranger to these feelings as he trained for the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics where he won the gold medal in the men's 1500 meter final in Olympic record-breaking fashion of 3 minutes, 28.32 seconds.

He did so while also taking down fierce rival and then-world leader, Kenyan runner Timothy Cheruiyot, who finished just behind him and took the silver medal.

Prior to the final race, many experts marked Cheruiyot as the odds-on favorite to take home the gold. That only added fuel to Ingebrigtsen's fire.

In what was the fastest 1500-meter race ever run, Ingebrigtsen proved that the moment was not too big for him.

"I will not be satisfied until I become the fastest ever," Ingebrigtsen told European Athletics.

This fiery mentality didn't come out of nowhere.

Growing up in a family of athletes, Ingebrigtsen learned from his older brothers Henrik and Filip, who paved the path for him by achieving world class times of their own. When he became the youngest European champion ever at 17 years old and beat out his older brothers in the same race, it was clear there was a new top runner in the family.

His breakthrough moment in Tokyo didn't absolve him from losing

completely, but he is still the world's No. 1 runner in the 1500 meters.

Ingebrigtsen did have one race where he fell short of Cheruiyot since the Olympics. Just a month after the Olympic final, Ingebrigtsen crossed the finish line eight hundredths of a second behind the first-place-finishing Cheruiyot at a Diamond League race in Zurich, Switzerland.

Since then, he hasn't lost an outdoor race in the 1500 meters or mile.

That isn't to say he hasn't raced against competitors other than Cheruiyot that have tested his dominance in the 1500 meters.

Samuel Tefera of Ethiopia is an athlete that many experts around the sport feel has the best shot of beating Ingebrigtsen in Eugene this summer. Tefera has proved that he is capable of the feat at the World Indoor Championships this year when he took first place – .25 seconds ahead of Ingebrigtsen.

The World Athletics Championships 1500-meter title is, of course, the top priority at the moment, but Ingebrigtsen isn't one of those athletes that shies away from making bold statements.

"Been there, done that. Let's be the first to do back-to-back-to-back," Ingebrigtsen showed reporters what he wrote on a goal-card after his back-to-back Bowerman mile win at the Prefontaine Classic.

Already boasting some illustrious accomplishments, Ingebrigtsen has done what so many distance runners have dreamed of achieving. With that being said, it begs the question: what's left?

He comes back to Eugene in mid July with one thing on his mind.

"I have yet to win a world championship, so this is my main focus," Ingebrigtsen told reporters after his last Diamond League race of 2021.

The final will be a hot race in more ways than one. High temperatures lean towards lower times from the athletes and if Ingebrigtsen is in top-notch form like we've seen from him in the biggest moments, a record breaking time isn't something that can be ruled out.



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EMMANUEL IHEMEJE SKETCHING HIS NAME INTO HAYWARD FIELD'S HISTORY BOOKS

BY NINA-GRACE MONTES · TWITTER @NINAGRACEMONTES

Meet one of Oregon's best triple jumpers who will represent Italy during the World Championships

As Emmanuel Ihemeje prepares for his last jump at the 2022 Pac-12 Championships, he turns towards the crowd at Hayward Field and starts to clap.

As the cheering intensifies, Ihemeje starts his first skip. He runs down the track and gains so much momentum that if you blink, you'll miss him. Once he gets close to the sand pit, he leaps off of his right foot and stamps his footprint clearly into the pit.

The officials scurry to his landing-spot and announce the distance: 54 feet, 10 inches (16.71 meters). After six rounds of competition, he had saved his best jump for last and was crowned the men's Pac-12 triple jump champion.

Once he realized he won, he points to the scoreboard with his number flashing across the screen. With a big smile across his face, it hit him that he has the potential to be the best

in the world.

"Each jump I was trying to add pieces to the puzzle," Ihemeje said. "On the last jump, I got my confidence and I was ready to enjoy the ride. Once I landed and I heard the crowd cheering, I knew I was good."

After soaking in the win and listening to the music of the crowd's cheers, Ihemeje wraps himself in his blanket that looks like a burrito.

"It's my luck," he said. "I bring it with me to every meet. It was a gift from a special person and since receiving it, I've won back to back championships. It goes with me everywhere."

Ihemeje was born and raised in Bergamo, Italy, where he fell in love with the sport. His career exploded early on.

During the European Junior U20 Athletic Championships in Grosseto, Italy in 2017, triple jump indoor world record holder and two-time world champion Teddy Tamgho invited Ihemeje to join his training group in France.

After moving to France to further his skills, he followed his family to the United States two years later. He settled in Los Angeles and enrolled at Cal State Northridge. However, his experience in

California only lasted a few months due to the pandemic.

Ihemeje quickly found himself attending classes at his new school remotely and practicing alone. When he decided another change was in order, he entered the NCAA transfer portal and found himself in Eugene.

One of the biggest reasons why Ihemeje chose the University of Oregon was because of his mentor and coach, Robert Johnson.

"Basically, he is the brain; I'm just the legs and the arms," Ihemeje said. "I just execute whatever he tells me because I put all my trust in him."

Their relationship has generated huge wins from the start.

During Ihemeje's first competition with Oregon, he broke the indoor school record with a mark of 53.10.25 at the Razorback Invitational in 2021. A little over a year into his Oregon career, he's a two-time indoor national champion, an outdoor national champion, a Pac-12 champion and an Olympian.

"I don't think there is a ceiling for that guy," Johnson said of Ihemeje. "Everything that I've asked him to do, he's been able to do and he's done it with a smile on his face."

Ihemeje is expected to compete at the World Championships here in Eugene in late July.

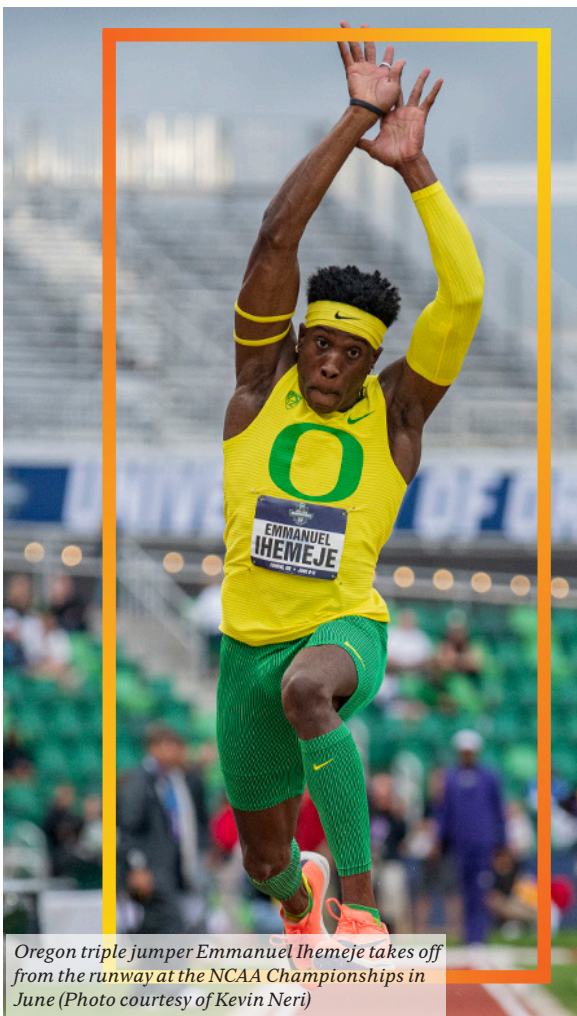
"It's just a calculated approach with EJ and making sure we continue to nurture and continue to put him in a position to be successful," Johnson said. "We want to make sure we bring him along slowly because his future is very bright. We could be greedy and try to get it all now, but we are slowly but surely plotting the future out."

Ihemeje has a strong competitive nature and consistently strives to better his work, which is why he fits in so well into Oregon's program.

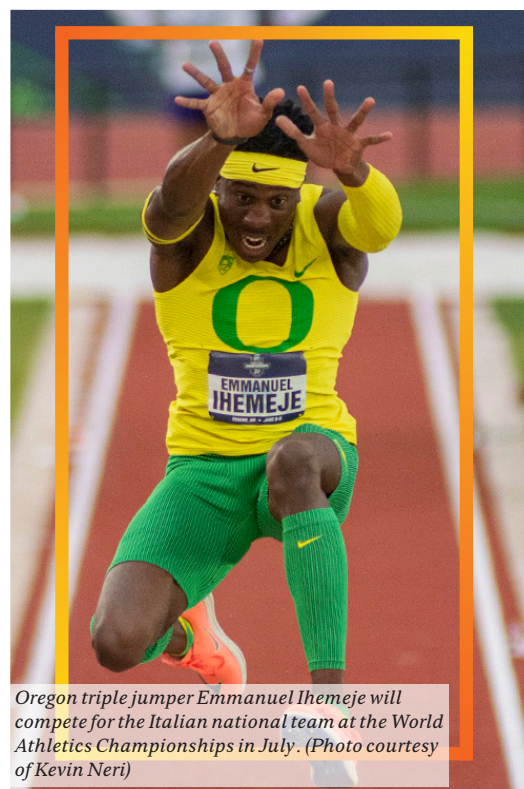
"I eat pressure for breakfast," Ihemeje said. "I like competition, I like being challenged, and I know I can keep improving. It's beautiful being a part of this team."

At the age of 23, he's built a strong resume and isn't even close to finished.

"Coming here was the best choice I've ever made in my life," Ihemeje said. "It's a whole different vibe, a whole different environment that I really love and really fits me as a person. It was not a miracle, but it was something great that happened in my life."



Oregon triple jumper Emmanuel Ihemeje takes off from the runway at the NCAA Championships in June (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)



Oregon triple jumper Emmanuel Ihemeje will compete for the Italian national team at the World Athletics Championships in July. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)

RUNNING UNDER HER SHADOW

Raevyn Rogers returns to Hayward Field, where she'll compete under her picture on the tower.

BY AARON HEISEN · TWITTER @AARON_HEISEN

The Hayward Field Tower sits on the corner of 15th and Agate. It stands at 188 feet and eight inches – the second tallest building in Eugene, Oregon. It's 10 stories of shimmering aluminum that is visible from as far as Autzen Stadium to Spencer Butte.

To Eugenians, it signifies the heart of the city known as TrackTown, USA.

To one former Oregon track athlete, it represents more. Something personal.

The tower sports five past Ducks' silhouettes and former track coach Bill Bowerman's figure sits at the top.

Right under Bowerman is Raevyn Rogers: the only female athlete on the tower.

During her time at Oregon, she earned eight All-American honors and six National Championship wins. Oregon showed its adoration by placing Rogers on the tower.

Not only did it signify her athletic greatness, but it also resonated with her grandma – whose recognition of Rogers trumps any comparison.

"It's an honor, but it's an expectation," Rogers said. "They put me on the tower with the expectation that I would do great things."

Her accomplishments will forever be stitched in Oregon's thread.

Throughout her young professional career, Rogers has made many strides to fulfill that expectation.

Along with her collegiate accolades, Rogers won the Bronze medal in the 800 meters at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and a Silver medal at World Athletics Championships in Doha in 2019.

However, 2022 will be different. The Worlds will be held in Eugene, marking the first time in event history that the championships will be on American soil.

And when it begins, Rogers will compete in her red, white and blue jersey, under the watchful eye of her supersized image on the tower. She'll also compete in front of her hometown fans that had the pleasure of watching her grow from a freshman into an Olympic medalist.

"I'm so deeply rooted here in Oregon, I just want to keep expanding on that. And this is a different chapter of growth that everyone in Oregon will be able to experience with me," Rogers said.

While the pressure of her figure on the tower may make her nervous, the fans will provide a comforting and familiar feeling.

When Rogers returned to Eugene for the 2022 Prefontaine Classic, she was welcomed with open arms and a loud roar from the crowd as the Public Announcer introduced her before the 800-meter race.

In July at the Worlds, she said she hopes to reward those roaring fans with strong performances.

"I want to go out there and make the Ducks family proud," Rogers said. "I want to go out there and perform my best... I really want them to know that I left it out there. They'll be able to tell, too. They've watched me since I was a freshman, they'll be able to know if I left it out there or not."

Making the Duck family proud is one thing. Making her family proud will always take precedent – and that's what happened when they saw Rogers' figure atop the tower.

In 2014, Rogers made the decision to come to Oregon for college, meaning she'd be moving away from her family based in Houston, Texas. The separation was tough, but it motivated Rogers to compete at a high level in order to justify the long move.

So when her parents and grandmother made the trip to Eugene for the 2021 U.S. Olympic trials, seeing Rogers' figure atop the tower helped warrant all the years of missing her.

To Rogers, seeing herself on the tower signified success, recognition and expectation, but it was her grandma's reaction to her image that solidified its place in Rogers' heart.

"My grandmother is the closest thing I have to my grandpa and my grandpa passed," Rogers said. "So she's a very strong figure in our family and to see her so excited that it was worth it for me to come all the way out here."

Returning to Eugene for Worlds will mark another chapter in Rogers' career competing at Hayward Field. Winning a medal in front of the fans that watched her mature, her family who sacrificed to send her halfway across the country, and her silhouette on the tower would be the cherry on top.

Raevyn Rogers finished third in the women's 800-meter final at the USATF outdoor national championships. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)

OREGONIAN SHOT PUT STUD RYAN CROUSER CONTINUES TO THRIVE

Crouser is returning to Eugene this month.

BY JACK AARON · TWITTER @JACKMAARON

Olympian Ryan Crouser's physique can be best described as mountainous. His massive 6-foot-7 320-pound frame, along with his dedicated training, has helped bolster him to become one of the strongest shot-putters in the world.

Crouser was born in Portland, Oregon, and spent his formative years about 40 minutes Southwest in Boring. Throwing has been a long-standing passion of the Crouser family. Ryan's uncle, Brian Crouser, qualified for two Olympic javelin teams. His father, Mitch, was an alternate on the 1984 Olympic discus team.

"Coming from a family that is big into track and field... makes it even more meaningful because they're able not to just be here and support me, but they can appreciate the amount of hard work and effort that went into it," Crouser said.

Crouser burst onto the track and field scene in 2009 while he was a sophomore competing for Sam Barlow High School in Gresham. Crouser threw the 3.58-pound discus 202.49 feet. This record-breaking throw stood for only one year, as he shattered it again in 2010 with a throw of 23.54 meters.

After a star-studded high school career, he looked to do it all over again at the collegiate level. While Crouser's family had long been part of the Oregon Duck tree, he decided to take his talents to Austin to compete for the University of Texas starting in 2012.

Crouser's freshman year was mildly successful, however health problems stunted his 2013 season. He had to deal with infections which caused him to lose weight in addition to a hand injury. He decided to redshirt his indoor sophomore season.

He returned to dominate in the outdoor season, where he won his first NCAA Shotput Championship while throwing for a personal best at the time, 69.71 feet at the 2013 Texas Relay. Crouser continued his reign throughout his college career, winning in 13 different events.

Following a master's degree in finance, Crouser embarked on his professional career. It didn't take long for him to adjust to the new stage as he set a new personal best 71.65 feet in shot put during the 2016 Olympic Trials.

Crouser's greatest achievement came in the 2020 Olympic Trials at Hayward Field where he broke a world record that had stood for 31 years. On June 18, 2021, he threw 22.83 meters, nearly one foot further than the previous record.

Crouser said this was a special moment for him and his family since he'd been going to Hayward since he was a child.

"I hadn't been home since 2019. It felt really special to be here in front of friends and family," Crouser said. "It was a great opportunity and they all came together to showcase all the hard work and dedication that I've committed."

Just after breaking the record, Crouser reflected on his effort.

"It's been a lot of hard work and dedication, but I think the biggest thing to getting the world record was getting out of my way and letting it happen," Crouser said. "The most difficult thing that I've had trouble with is when I know that I can do it and trying to make myself do it."

Crouser noted he still has work to do to perfect his craft. "I can improve on the meet side of things. I need to get used to relaxing in high energy situations like it was today. It's been a while since I've been on a competition stage with a bunch of fans."

In addition to being an NCAA Champion and gold medal Olympian, Crouser was named Track and Field News 2021 World Male Athlete of the Year – an illustrious honor for a uniquely talented man.

Crouser currently works with the Arkansas Track and Field team as a volunteer assistant and posts shot put videos on his YouTube channel. He'll be returning to Hayward Field in mid-July for the World Athletics Championships.

Ryan Crouser pumps his fist after winning the U.S. Championship in the men's shot put. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)



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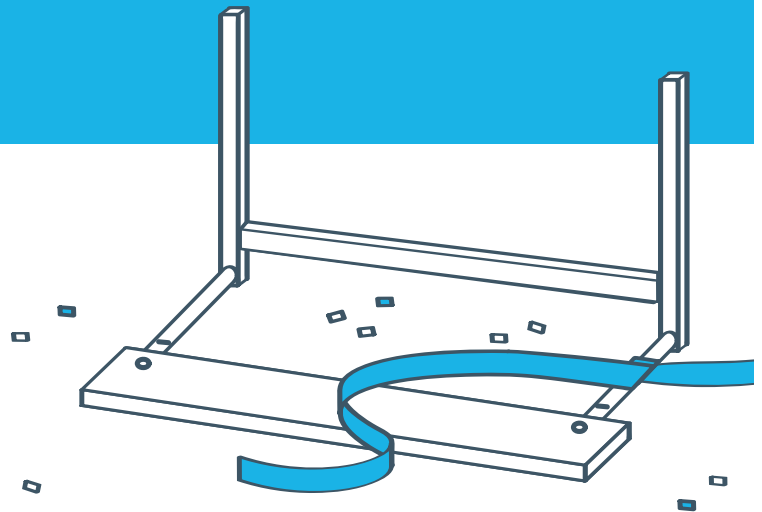
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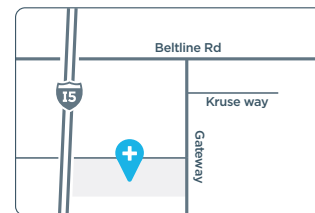
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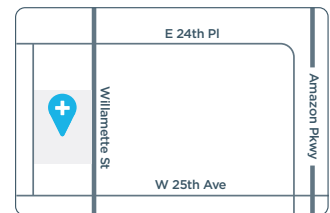
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100M RACE FOR SUPREME STATUS

***Sprinters strive to join elite sub-9.7 club
and carve out their own legacies***

BY KEIJI PATTERSON · TWITTER @PATTERSON_KEIJI

Since the 2017 retirement of Jamaican track and field icon Usain Bolt, the throne for fastest sprinter in the world has been up for grabs. The field is more competitive than ever with a group of contenders who have been stuck in the shadows of legends like Bolt, Tyson Gay, Justin Gatlin and others for the last decade.

Up-and-comer Marcell Jacobs of Italy shocked the competition when he won the 100 meters in the 2021 Summer Olympics with a time of 9.80 seconds. However, he has only raced in two events, posting times of 10.04 and 10.12, posing concerns about his conditioning.

United States hopeful Fred Kerley has been off to a hot start this season, exclusively posting times that are sub-10 seconds. Kerley boasts the best time in the world this season with 9.76 seconds at the United States Track & Field Outdoor Championships in Eugene, securing a pivotal Diamond League gold medal.

Prior to Kerley's recent victory, Kenyan Ferdinand Omanyala posted a world best of 9.86 seconds in Nairobi. So Omanyala can't be counted out, either.

However, several eyes will be on American veterans, 2019 world champion Christian Coleman and Trayvon Bromell. Coleman has been a polarizing athlete since he got suspended last season due to three missed drug tests.

After his one-year hiatus, Coleman has yet to return to the form he had when he secured the 2019 100m title in 9.76 seconds. Despite the rust, Coleman has posted a top-10 world time of 9.87 which he clocked at the outdoor championships this month before he scratched in the 100m final.

Bromell's 9.81 has been the second-fastest world time this season, which has provided the U.S. with optimism after Bromell disappointed in the Tokyo Olympics when he failed to qualify for the 100m final. Despite a third place finish at the USATF championships, Bromell clinched a spot in the world championships next month.

The competitor who edged Bromell (9.88) in the outdoor championships was Marvin Bracy with a time of 9.85 seconds. Bracy turned pro in 2010, and he shouldn't be overlooked given he's as seasoned as they come. Bracy is currently ranked ninth in the men's 100m.

Another familiar face in the track world is Andre

CHECK IT OUT

**Tune into the
World Athletics
Championships
Oregon22 at noon
July 15 at Hayward
Field to watch the
preliminaries and see
if anyone will join the
likes of legends Bolt,
Gay and Blake in the
legendary sub-9.7 club.**

De Grasse of Canada. Even though he placed third (9.89) at last year's Olympics, he's been overlooked in the event this season given his greater success in other events, like the 200m. American Erriyon Knighton, an 18-year-old phenomenon, is another sleeper pick for this race.

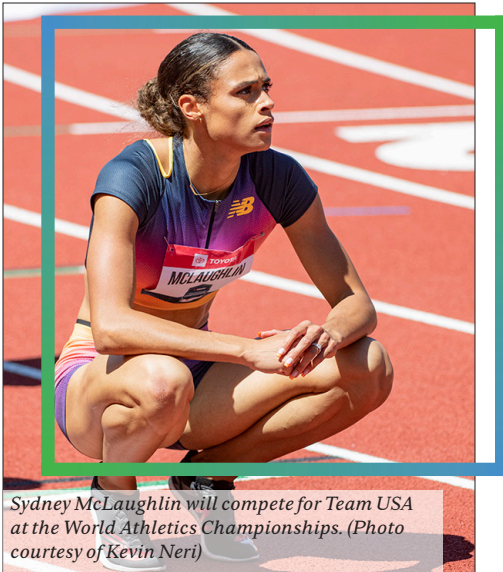
Knighton took the competition by storm at last summer's U.S. trials when he ran a qualifying time of 19.84 in the 200 meters. He went on to be a finalist in the event at the Olympics, so spectators are interested to see how he performs in the 100m and 200m events next month.

Micah Williams, the fastest sprinter on the Ducks' team, is a budding superstar himself. Williams failed to finish in the top three of the NCAA Outdoor Championships, but he looked poised to contend at the world championships after he posted two sub-10 times at the USATF Outdoor Championships. Let's see if Williams can use his home field advantage to secure his first title.

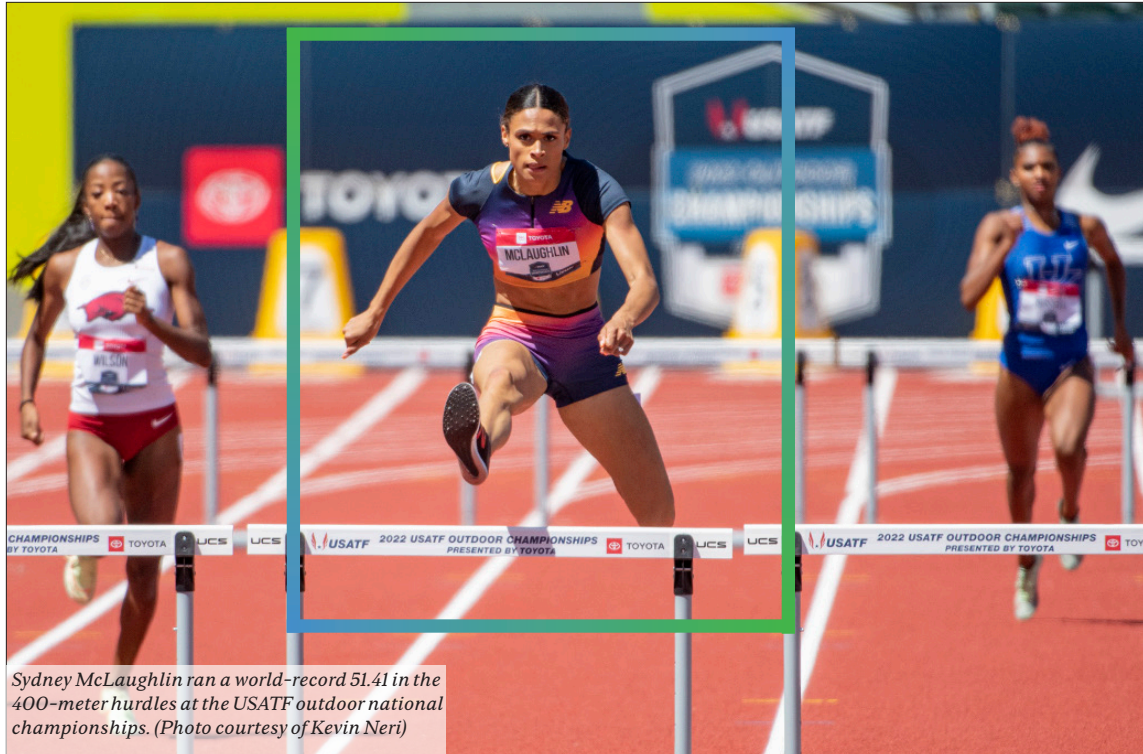
This field of contenders are 28 years and younger, so spectators should prepare for an intense competition. Tune into the World Athletics Championships that will take place at Hayward Field on July 15th to watch the preliminaries at 12 p.m. to see if anyone will join the likes of legends Bolt, Gay and Blake in the legendary sub-9.7 club.



100-meter runner Fred Kerley currently holds the world-best time of 9.76 seconds. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)



Sydney McLaughlin will compete for Team USA at the World Athletics Championships. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)



Sydney McLaughlin ran a world-record 51.41 in the 400-meter hurdles at the USATF outdoor national championships. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Neri)

POSSIBLE WORLD RECORD BREAKERS

BY ELLIOTT DEINS · TWITTER @ELLIOTTD_SPORTS

Hayward Field will host the 2022 World Athletics Championships. Elite athletes from around the globe will descend upon TrackTown, USA for fierce competition, glory and the opportunity to etch their names in the world record books. It can be difficult to keep track of around 2,000 athletes from over 200 different nations. Here are a few notable athletes likely to break a world record and have a stellar meet in July.

The United States' **Sydney McLaughlin** has broken the 400m hurdle record three times in the last year. McLaughlin shaved 0.7 seconds off the record time in last year's Olympics. At the USA Track and Field Championships on June 25, the 22-year-old two time Olympic gold medalist beat her previous record with a 51.41. She seems to get better every time she steps off the block.

Oregonian **Ryan Crouser** will be looking to win his first World Championship in shot put. Crouser has two Olympic gold medals and two World Championship final qualifications, but has yet to place first at the Worlds. He holds the world record in both indoor, 22.82m, and outdoor, 23.37m, shot put, 22.82m and 23.37m, respectively. The outdoor record was set at Hayward Field in January 2022. Crouser comes from a lineage of track greatness. His uncles, Dean and Brian Crouser, were the first siblings to win NCAA titles in different events at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. The two brothers combined for three national championship titles for the University of Oregon in 1982.

Jakob Ingebrigtsen ran the fastest mile in the last 21 years in early June with a time of 3 minutes, 46.46 seconds. The Norwegian took home gold from the Tokyo Olympics in the 1500m and currently holds the 1500m indoor world record, 3:30.60. Ingebrigtsen will have to trim 2.38 seconds off his personal best to set an outdoor world record, 3:26.00, that has been standing for 24 years.

Armand Duplantis has broken the indoor and outdoor pole vault record six times in the last two years. He topped his last outdoor record by a centimeter in Stockholm on June 30. The Swedish international was born in Louisiana, and is on a 15 meet win streak. At 22-years-old, Duplantis' potential seems limitless. Duplantis also stems from a track family. His mother and father, Helena and Greg competed on the international stage. Greg Duplatis placed fifth in the U.S. Olympic trials in 1992, and Helena Duplantis competed for Sweden in the Heptathlon.

History will be made at Hayward Field this summer. Lifelong dreams and awesome displays of athleticism will be achieved by the aforementioned athletes and the nearly 2,000 others competing. 20,000 estimated daily spectators will roar as these athletes give their all. The Track and Field World Championships will take place from July 15 to 24.

JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUM OF ART



Hung LIU (LIU Hung 劉虹, Chinese-born American, 1948-2021). *Polly and Her Horses* (detail), 2008. Mixed media, 41 x 41 inches. Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon; Gift of Artist Hung Liu and Trillium Graphics/David Salgado, 2018; 25.5

Remember This Hung Liu at Trillium

On view through August 28, 2022

In this exhibition, renowned contemporary Chinese-born American artist Hung Liu explores subjects ranging from still life imagery, to portraiture and landscape in innovative mixed-media works that reflect upon history, memory, tradition, migration, and social justice.



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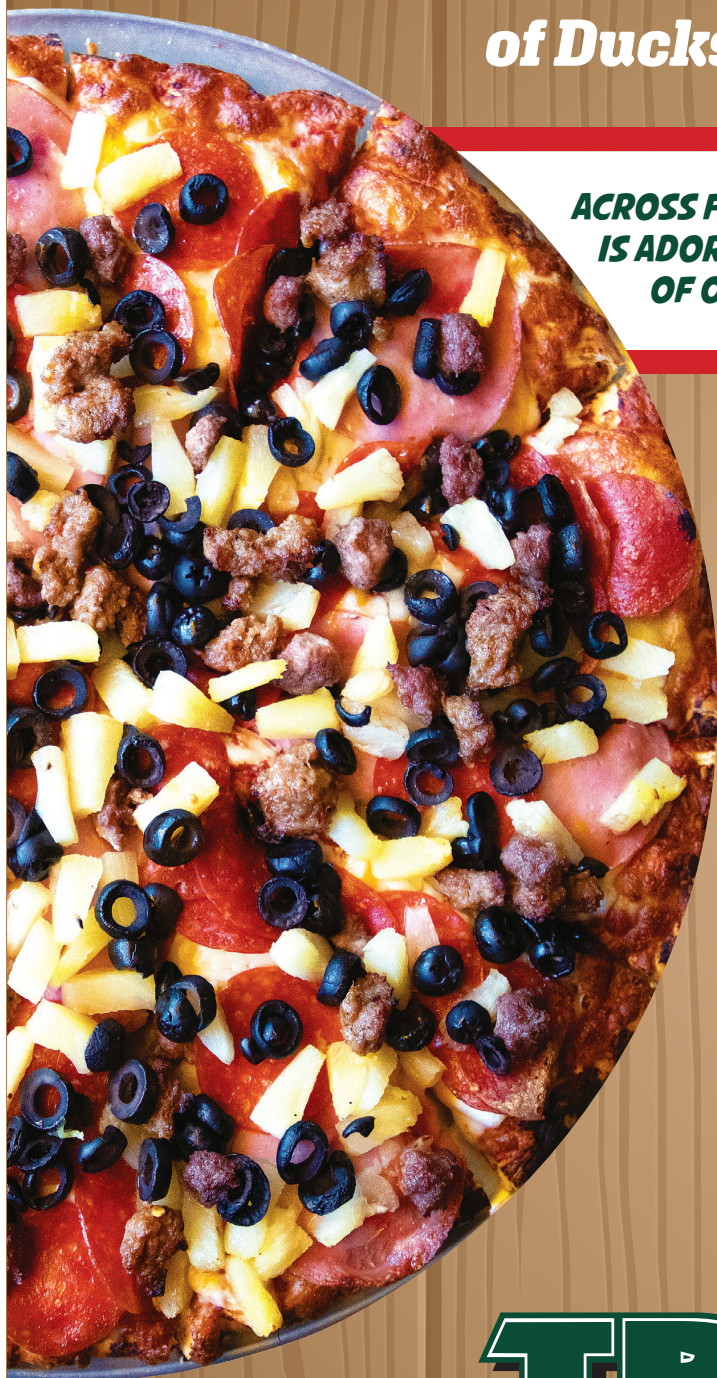


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