

2006 Mid-America Region Masters Track & Field Championships



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Perennial champion Ron Kirkpatrick (M65-69) finishes first in the 100m

Strong Performances in Colorado

By TRIP REYNOLDS

DENVER, COLORADO – The 2006 Mid-America Region Masters Track and Field Championship held Labor Day weekend on the CSU campus in Fort Collins, Colorado was a great success. The event, also known as the 26th Annual Rocky Mountain Masters Games continues as one of the premiere masters track and field events in the United States!

The two-day event again brought masters and submasters competitors from all across the U.S. to metro Denver. Last year, Donald Pellmann set 5 world records in the 90-94 age division! Although no world records were set this year, nevertheless, masters performed as good or better than athletes who are decades younger.

The event marks a turning point for masters track in Colorado as the first event co-sponsored through the Colorado Masters Track Club, a spin-off

from the legendary Denver Track Club. The CMTC is looking forward to some outstanding team performances in 2007 and beyond. Based on individual performances, if CMTC members had dedicated all points to one team in 2006, the CMTC would have placed in the top three (3) at indoor and outdoor national championships.

Unusually cold weather on Saturday, September 2nd may have constrained some performances, but great weather on Sunday enabled PR's for many. Women athletes highlighted the event with many strong performances.

Barbara Jordan (W70-74) shot past the All-American standard of 19.8 in the 100m with a 16.76. Jordan also sailed by the All-American standard of 42.00 in the 200m with a 36.5. In the 80mHH Jordan ran 18.06 and Christel Donley who ran 18.22, both well under their age division standard of 22.2, joined her.

Cathy Nicoletti (W55-59) also bested her age division standard of 35.0 in the 200m by running 31.16, and 71.91 in the 400m to blast past her age division performance standard of 80.0.

In the field events, Donley threw the Javelin 23.88 well above the standard of 16.00, and Harriet Bloemker who threw 19.50 joined her. Donley also tossed 7.80 in the Shot Put to beat the standard of 6.00, and with 3,695 points she beat her recent performance in the Weight Pentathlon at Nationals.

The following women also tossed the shot better than their age division standards: Debbie Falzitto-Gocken (W40-44) at 9.43, Sharon Raham (W60-64) at 7.71, and Carol Young (W65-69) at 7.32.



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The event also saw a new American Record in the Long Jump by Nadine O'Connor (W60-64) who leaped to 4.55.

National champion Stacy Price (M50-54) ran 14.82 to a strong finish in the 100mHH, while also running 12.45 to finish first in the 100m open. The event saw the best 100m performance with Steven Bunn (M40-44) who ran 11.88. Ed Carter (M85-89) ran 18.43 to easily best his age division standard of 23.00 in the 100m.



Stacey Price Steven Bunn

Perhaps, more than any other athlete, Ken Welch (M30-34) should be recognized for truly achieving the best individual performance. Welch, who at 6'7" and 315 pounds, ran 27.26 in the 200m. At last year's event, weighing 350 pounds, Welch ran 13.93 in the 100m. This year Welch ran 13.15 and he's going to run faster!

In the shot put Gerald Vaughn (M70-74) posted a mighty 15.21 – just slightly off his World Record toss of 15.38.

Several athletes had performances better than their respective age division standards in the javelin competition. Ed Morland (M55-59) threw 45.80, Leonard Sokoloski (M60-64) threw 40.05, and Fred Hirsimaki (M80-84) threw 26.74.

The hammer throw again had strong performances with Rande Treece (M45-49) throwing 49.61, well above his age division standard of 39.00, and Tim Edwards' (M55-59) throwing 36.72.

In recognition for their many years of service to masters' track and field meritorious service awards were presented to Jim Bogus, Sue Norton, and Shirley Clemons.



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Sue Norton, Jim Bogus and Shirley Clemons

Next year's event is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend, Saturday, September 1, 2007 and Sunday, September 2, 2007 on the Colorado State University (CSU) campus in Fort Collins, Colorado. For more information, including entry forms, go the club's web site: www.coloradomasterstrack.org.