

1998 USATF WORLD CROSS COUNTRY TRIALS REPORT/RESULTS

January 31-February 1 -- Orlando, Florida

Report by Mike Scott/Results courtesy Fred Finke

Hot Races on a Warm Day in Orlando

Orlando--Today's races were no Mickey Mouse affair as many of America's top distance runners contended for the privilege of representing the United States in the upcoming IAAF World Cross Country Championships in Marrakech, Morocco on March 21-22. The first race on today's slate was the senior men's 4k national championships. Olympians Marc Davis and Dan Middleman and World University Games double-medalist Dan Browne were among the 17 athletes that competed for the opportunity to run in the inaugural 4k world championship race. Relative unknown Jason Bodner took the race out quickly, opening a 20-meter lead over the field during the first circuit over the flat, grassy 2000-meter loop. The chase pack--consisting of Browne, Davis, Middleman and steeple standout Scott Strand--reeled in Bodner during the next kilo. Former Army standout Browne--now living and training in Boulder as part of the Army's World Class Athlete Program--surged strongly at two miles and began to pull away from the field. Davis gave chase but was unable to keep pace with the lieutenant. Browne ran strongly to the finish to win his first national championship in 11-minutes, 8-seconds. Davis (11:20) held on for second over Strand (11:21), while Middleman garnered fourth in 11:26. Bodnar (11:32) and List star Teddy Mitchell (11:40) rounded out the top six, while collegiate standout Kyle Baker (11:49) finished in the alternate's position. The junior women's 6k national championships was next up on the program. Fifty runners--the largest field of the weekend--toed the line. Foot Locker runner-up Mariel Ettinger (LaGrande, Ore) charged to an early lead over the field during the first circuit, but was caught early on during the second lap. Boise's Melinda Campbell (Newport, Ore) and Providence's Rachel Hixson moved to the fore and began dueling over the final lap. Ettinger trailed this twosome while Laura Heiner, BYU's Tara Rohatinsky, Stanford's Ann Ramsey, and Dartmouth's Erin Dromgoole challenged for the final team spots. Campbell proved strongest over the final kilo and ran away to win the national title in 20:49. Hixson was affected by the relatively warm conditions (high 60s) and struggled over the last hundred meters, dropping from second to sixth as she staggered across the line. Heiner sprinted best to claim second in 21:09, just ahead of Ettinger (21:10) and Rohatinsky (21:10). Seattle native Ramsey (21:16) finished well to garner 5th, while Hixson (21:20) claimed the final team spot. Droomgoole finished 7th in 21:22, while BYU's Sarah Ellis (21:25) and NC State's Amy Beykirch (21:29) finished 8-9. Jen Schindler, the 1997 junior national champion in Portland, was never in contention and finished 11th in 21:39, while Foot Locker finalist Laura Turner (21:55) finished 14th. The final race on today's slate was the senior women's 8k Trials race. 1997 national harrier champ Deena Drossin had already been named to the team by virtue of her win in Portland. Drossin, however, chose to compete here as preparation for the world championships. Drossin was expected to be challenged by Nenna Lynch, winner of last year's Trials in Houston, and 1995 national champion Joan Nesbitt. The closely bunched field started out quickly, passing the mile in 5 minutes. By two miles (passed in 10:23), Lynch, Nesbitt, Drossin, and Ihle had opened a small gap over the field. Lynch surged strongly just after the halfway point and quickly ran away from the field. Behind Lynch, Eugene's Liz Wilson caught Nesbitt and the twosome dueled for second. Drossin and Kris Ihle ran in 4th and 5th while Missoula's Michele Chalmers moved into the sixth. Lynch ran alone to the finish to win her second straight Trials race in 26-minutes, 45-seconds. Nesbitt (27:08) sprinted away from Wilson (27:10) to garner runner-up honors, while Drossin (27:18), Ihle (27:23), and Chalmers (27:27) rounded out the team. Sunday's senior women's 4k national championship features an outstanding field including US 5000 record-holder Amy Rudolph, US 5k road champ Elva Dryer, '97 US cross country bronze medalist Kathy Franey, and middle-distance standouts Fran ten Bensel and Karen Hecox-Candale. The senior men's 12k and junior men's 8k teams were selected at the national championships in Portland in December.

RESULTS

1998 World Cross Country Trials 01/31/98 - 02/01/98

Finals MEN'S 4,000 METER RUN SR. 1. Browne, Dan, WCAP/NIKE 11:07.31; 2. Davis, Marc, NIKE 11:19.23; 3. Strand, Scott, New Balance 11:20.33; 4. Middleman, Dan, NYAC 11:25.04; 5. Bodnar, Jason, Asics 11:31.76; 6. Mitchell, Teddy, New Balance 11:39.54; 7. Baker, Kyle, Michigan State 11:48.18; 8. Stallings, Jeremy, Unattached 11:53.84; 9. Berry, Eric, Strictly Running 11:57.23; 10. Krause, Kevin, Unattached 12:24.29; 11. Snelling, Lou, Unattached 12:28.55; 12. Gallagher, Steve, Unattached 12:42.72; 13. Haas, Michael, Unattached 12:49.62; 14. Hope, John, Unattached 12:53.82; 15. Kail, Christopher, Unattached 13:12.73; 16. Rosa, Lee, Unattached 13:30.27; 17. Gorski, Keith, Unattached 16:19.56.

Finals WOMEN'S 6,000 METER RUN JR. 1. Cambell, Melinda, Unattached 20:48.59; 2. Heiner, Laura, Unattached 21:08.43; 3. Ettinger, Mariel, Unattached 21:09.25; 4. Rohatinsky, Tara, Unattached 21:09.84; 5. Ramsey, Ann, Unattached 21:15.91; 6. Hixson, Rachel, Unattached 21:19.06; 7. Dromgoole, Erin, Unattached 21:23.98; 8. Ellis, Sarah, Unattached 21:24.24; 9. Beykirch, Amy, Unattached 21:28.71; 10. Annis, Caroline, Unattached 21:35.24; 11. Schindler, Jen, Unattached 21:39.00; 12. Palmer, Erica, Unattached 21:46.99; 13. Moody, Tera, Unattached 21:50.98; 14. Turner, Laura, Unattached 21:54.80; 15. Sabino, Katie, Unattached 21:55.39; 16. Weltzer, Lisa, Unattached 22:01.93; 17. Whitmore, Heather, Unattached 22:04.75; 18. Bosen, Kimberly, Unattached 22:05.42; 19. Keene, Kelly, Unattached 22:07.30; 20. Barnes, Kristen, Unattached 22:13.47; 21. Clifford, Katie, Unattached 22:18.57; 22. Gray, Sarah, Unattached 22:21.66; 23. Rencher, M.Jill, Unattached 22:23.54; 24. Mitchell, Rebecca, Unattached 22:30.61; 25. Johnson, Pamela, Unattached 22:34.27; 26. Dela Vina, Michelle, Unattached 22:37.85; 27. Villarreal, Elena, Unattached 22:41.09; 28. Arnold, Jenny, Unattached 22:45.06; 29. Potter, Emily, Unattached 22:51.27; 30. Gillespie, Jolee, Unattached 23:00.58; 31. Martin, Lisa, Unattached 23:21.42; 32. Anderson, Jennifer, Unattached 23:25.64; 33. Nigh, Nicole, Unattached 23:26.54; 34. Weber, Alicia, Unattached 23:32.99; 35. McKeon, Carrie, Unattached 23:36.12; 36. Jackson, Victoria, Unattached 23:38.73; 37. Lindquist, Shannon, Unattached 23:44.64; 38. Moffenbier, Lindsey, Unattached 24:23.99; 39. McGuinn, Krystyne, Unattached 24:30.49; 40. Mullin, Kora, Unattached 24:48.16; 41. Ayers, Julie, Unattached 24:49.03; 42. Denero, Tracy, Unattached 24:59.71; 43. Dapier, Molly, Unattached 25:00.53; 44. Verhaeghe, Missy, Unattached 25:05.81; 45. Hefferin, Denise, Unattached 25:09.91; 46. Wrede, Kristin, Unattached 25:18.10; 47. Tanaka, Sonja, Unattached 25:24.95; 48. Gardino, Shauna, Unattached 26:26.94; 49. Lafferty, Emily, Unattached 27:43.17; 50. Perrin, Albrie, Unattached 29:45.58. Finals WOMEN'S 8,000 METER RUN SR. 1. Lynch, Nnenna, Unattached 26:44.54; 2. Nesbitt, Joan, Unattached 27:07.18; 3. Wilson, Elizabeth, Unattached 27:09.02; 4. Drossin, Deena, Unattached 27:17.37; 5. Ihle, Kris, Unattached 27:22.25; 6. Chalmers, Michele, Unattached 27:26.63; 7. Garcia, Donna, Unattached 27:37.84; 8. McNamara, Christine, Unattached 27:50.29; 9. Ayala-Troncos, Carmen, Unattached 27:58.05; 10. Cordell, Kelly, Unattached 28:05.43; 11. Phillips, Blake, Unattached 28:09.94; 12. Fonshell, Kate, Unattached 28:36.94; 13. Knoeller, Cori, Unattached 29:07.44; 14. Dueringer, Stephanie, Unattached 29:13.31; 15. Hall, Kristen, Unattached 29:28.62; 16. Johnson-Lane, Turena, Unattached 29:42.48.

WOMEN'S 4K TRIALS REPORT AND RESULTS (from Fred Finke)

Here are the results of the Women's World Cross Country Championship Trials for the 4K race for the team that will represent the US in Morocco in March. It was a great race with the top six qualifying for the team and the 7th place finisher, Donna Combs Garcia, getting the dubious distinction of being the 1st alterante in both the 4K and 8K teams. There was a pack of three going through the mile in 4:56 (Anne Timmons won the pool :) and with about 50 meters to go, it was Rudolph and Dryer in a dead heat after pulling away from eventual 3rd place finisher, Kathleen (Franey) Fleming just after the 1 1/4 mile mark. At the tape it was Rudolph edging out Dryer by about a half a second. The race condition? 65 degrees, dry and good surface. Fred Finke Senior men's Team Leader World XC, Morocco, 1998

SITE: Walt Disney World, Oak Trail Golf Course

Meet Director: Jeff Wentworth 1998

World Cross Country Trials 02/01/98

Finals WOMEN'S 4,000 METER RUN SR. 1. Rudolph, Amy, Kane, PA 12:37.32; 2. Dryer, Elva, Albuquerque, NM 12:37.78; 3. Fleming, Kathleen, Wellesley, MA 12:47.20; 4. Candaele, Karen, Carpinteria, CA 12:53.41; 5. Bense, Fran, Lincoln, NE 13:00.90; 6. Watcke, Molly, Newbury, MA 13:01.92; 7. Garcia, Donna, Marietta, GA 13:05.51; 8. Palacios, Cathy, Jacksonville, FL 13:12.04; 9. McNamara, Christine, Camillus, NY 13:17.78; 10. McGroovy, Kim, State College, PA 13:23.82; 11. Alborano, Dina, Massapequa, NY 13:25.45; 12. Panaggio, Anne, Bettendorf, IA 14:36.11; 13. Vitori, April, Mason, OH 14:48.27; 14. Dimery, Gemma, Fairborn, OH 15:35.83; 15. Cameron, Stephanie, Middletown, OH 15:36.56; 16. Rodell, Megan, North Ft. Myers, FL 15:44.08; 17. Mackey, Jennifer, Merritt Island, FL 16:11.78.