

Below is a perspective on the USA Olympic Trials women's 100 meters situation – from someone who has covered every Olympic Trials since 1972 and the (California) high school careers of both athletes involved...

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SIMPLE WOMEN'S 100 METER OLYMPIC TEAM FACTS – HASTE NOT NEEDED

Simple facts on the women's 100 meter third place tie controversy at the 2012 USA Olympic track and field trials in Eugene, Ore. :

--The top FOUR finishers in the 100 meters (and 400 meters) make the USA Olympic Team, although only three run in the individual event at the Olympic Games. The others are guaranteed team spots in the USA relay team "pool" (for the 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 meter teams).

--So both former California high school state 100 meter champions Jeneba Tarmoh (2007 for Mt. Pleasant, San Jose) and Allyson Felix (2003 for Los Angeles Baptist, North Hills), who tied for third at the trials, will be on the team roster USA Track & Field submits to the UOSC next week.

--The actual declarations for each event at the London Games are not due until after teams arrive in London late in July. So USA Olympic Coach Amy Deem does not need to list her third 100 meter runner until the final entry date for the 100 meters. (Deem confirmed this in a conversation prior to a press conference in Eugene this week.) There can be other event entry adjustments among athletes already on the team, due to injuries and other factors.

--Felix and Tarmoh will likely be slated to run on the USA 4 x 100 meter relay team at the Samsung Diamond League meet in Monaco on July 20. They could request to schedule their 100 meter runoff at that meet – which will be televised live worldwide – and also provide a healthy paycheck. They would have a similar opportunity at the London Diamond League meet the previous week, July 13-14.

(The first Diamond League meet after the Olympic Trials is July 6 in Paris. But there is no women's 100 meters race currently scheduled at that event.)

AND THE FINANCIAL BENEFIT:

A showdown at a major meet, along with the buildup through July, could be a financial windfall for both athletes. A runoff in Eugene Sunday would provide them no additional revenue for the race, while increasing the risk of injury (after

already running as many as six sprint races over the previous week). If one of the pair did not reach the Trials 200 meter finals, she would have the advantage of extra rest prior to a Sunday runoff.

Additional statistic notes: Both runners are also former California high school 200 meter champions, although Felix won her title in that event as a junior in 2002 and took the 100 title as a senior. Felix still holds the all-time high school record in the 200 meters, 22.11 seconds, set in 2003. On the all-time high school 100 meter list, Tarmoh ranks higher at No. 13, 11.24, and Felix ranks No. 16, 11.29.
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