

Summaries of all Three 2017 TrackTown Summer Series

Reprinted courtesy of Race Results Weekly(tm)
July 5, 2017; Volume 24, Number 27
P.O. Box 8233 FDR Station, New York, NY 10150-8233

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TrackTown Summer Series - San Francisco (1st of 3 meets)

(Presented by Beynon Sports)

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, USA; Thursday, June 29

Summary of Middle & Long Distance Events

NOTE: Hannah Fields of the Brooks Beasts lopped nearly 6 seconds off of her 1500m PB here, clocking 4:05.30 to get the win --Ed.

Team Scores:

1. San Francisco Surge, 90 points
2. Portland Pulse, 86
3. New York Empire, 84
4. Philadelphia Force, 69

MEN -

High School Mile:

NOTE: A fantastic race between Oregon-bound Cooper Teare and future Northern Arizona Lumberjack Luis Grijalva. The pair battled all the way to the line, with Teare closing in 59.63 seconds for the win --Asst. Ed.

1. Cooper TEARE, Unattached, 4:01.92
 2. Luis GRIJALVA, Unattached, 4:02.64 PB
 3. Everet SILVA, Unattached, 4:15.65
 4. Matt STRANGIO, Unattached, 4:21.41
 5. Jake RITTER, Unattached, 4:24.09
 6. Neil BRAGANZA, Unattached, 4:30.80
 7. Reed FOSTER, Unattached, 4:40.10
- DNF/Pace-- Ryan BOOTH, Unattached

3000m:

NOTE: Paul Chelimo was the class of the field, easily powering away for the win. His last lap was covered in 56.27 seconds (runner-up Graham Crawford closed in 56.23, but was nearly a second and a half back of Chelimo at the bell) --Asst. Ed.

1. Paul CHELIMO, Portland Pulse, 7:48.58
 2. Graham CRAWFORD, New York Empire, 7:49.93 PB
 3. Lopez LOMONG, Portland Pulse, 7:51.20
 4. Donn CABRAL, New York Empire, 7:52.20
 5. Anthony ROTICH, San Francisco Surge (KEN), 7:52.33 PB
 6. Travis MAHONEY, Philadelphia Force, 7:53.52
 7. Mason FERLIC, San Francisco Surge, 7:53.82 PB
 8. Josh THOMPSON, Philadelphia Force, 8:20.04 PB
- DNF/Pace-- Ryan BOOTH, Unattached

WOMEN -

800m:

NOTE: Sanne Verstegen passed 2016 Olympian Chrishuna Williams down the stretch for the win-- Asst. Ed.

1. Sanne VERSTEGEN, New York Empire (NED), 2:01.20
 2. Chrishuna WILLIAMS, Portland Pulse, 2:01.75
 3. Cecilia BAROWSKI, San Francisco Surge, 2:01.86
 4. Ce'Aira BROWN, Portland Pulse, 2:02.11
 5. Kenyetta IYEBELE, Philadelphia Force, 2:03.10
 6. Kendra CHAMBERS, New York Empire, 2:03.65
 7. McKayla FRICKER, San Francisco Surge, 2:06.14
 8. Alena BROOKS, Philadelphia Force (TTO), 2:06.54
- DNF/Pace-- Lianne FARBER, Unattached

1500m:

NOTE: Hannah Fields set a 5.7-second PB to win a tight race, overtaking Alexa Efraimson then Amanda Eccleston in the final 50 meters --Asst. Ed.

1. Hannah FIELDS, San Francisco Surge, 4:05.30 PB
 2. Amanda ECCLESTON, Philadelphia Force, 4:05.44
 3. Alexa EFRAIMSON, San Francisco Surge, 4:06.16
 4. Emily LIPARI, Philadelphia Force, 4:07.29 PB
 5. Lauren JOHNSON, Portland Pulse, 4:08.47
 6. Tori TSOLIS, New York Empire, 4:10.87
 7. Megan MOYE, New York Empire, 4:11.53 PB
 8. Lauren PAQUETTE, San Francisco Surge, 4:14.67
 9. Katrina COOGAN, Portland Pulse, 4:16.62
- DNF/Pace-- Ayla GRANADOS, Unattached

MIXED:

Open Mile:

1. Bryan CROOK, Unattached, 4:18.90
 2. Benedikt BUNZ, Unattached, 4:24.21
 3. Fredrik EDEN, Unattached, 4:45.29
 4. Tracee VAN DER WYK, Unattached, 4:46.76
 5. Richard ZARAZUA, Unattached, 4:47.04
 6. Kamran MURRAY, Unattached, 4:54.99
 7. Nicholas TRAUTMAN, Unattached, 4:59.81
 8. Daniel PHILLIPS, Unattached, 5:02.69
 9. Adam KRZESINSKI, Unattached, 5:08.95
 10. Kai WINEBARGER, Unattached, 5:14.42
 11. Bryan MAYBERRY, Unattached, 5:15.56
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TrackTown Summer Series - Portland (2nd of 3 meets)

(Presented by Beynon Sports)

Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, OR, USA; Sunday, July 2

Summary of Middle & Long Distance Events

NOTE: USA 1500m champion Robby Andrews was a DNF here and still needs to get the 3:36.00 qualifying standard to lock in his place for Team USA at the IAAF World Championships --Ed.

Team Results:

1. New York Empire, 86
2. Philadelphia Force, 85
3. San Francisco Surge, 80
4. Portland Pulse, 78

MEN -

800m:

NOTE: Drew Windle muscled his way to a victory in the final straight, overtaking Erik Sowinski with 100 to go and holding off a charging Andres Arroyo. Windle's time is 1:46.21; he is London-bound with Team USA's World Championships' squad --Asst. Ed.

1. Drew WINDLE, Portland Pulse, 1:46.21
2. Andres ARROYO, New York Empire (PUR), 1:46.44
3. Erik SOWINSKI, San Francisco Surge, 1:46.63
4. Shaquille WALKER, San Francisco Surge, 1:46.71
5. Jesse GARN, Philadelphia Force, 1:46.84
6. Edward KEMBOI, New York Empire, 1:46.87
7. Harun ABDA, Portland Pulse, 1:47.22
8. Cas LOXSOM, New York Empire, 1:47.42
9. Curtis BEACH, Philadelphia Force, 1:47.93

DNF/Pace-- Stephen BULLARD, Unattached

1500m:

NOTE: Six one-thousandths of a second separated Ben Blankenship from Kyle Merber at the line, with Blankenship earning the victory in 3:37.424 to 3:37.430. What was billed as a world-championships standard attempt for Robby Andrews turned into a pure race once Andrews stepped off after two and a half laps. Craig Engels made a bid for the win in his first professional race, but it was Blankenship powering to the front 200 meters out from the line. Merber, charging from well back in the pack, nearly stole the show with a lean at the line. In a photo-finish the win went to Blankenship; the final lap was clocked in at 54 seconds --Asst. Ed.

1. Ben BLANKENSHIP, Philadelphia Force, 3:37.43 (3:37.424)
 2. Kyle MERBER, Portland Pulse, 3:37.43 (3:37.430)
 3. Craig ENGELS, Philadelphia Force, 3:37.65 PB
 4. Colby ALEXANDER, San Francisco Surge, 3:37.86
 5. Johnny GREGOREK, New York Empire, 3:38.77
 6. Pat CASEY, New York Empire, 3:41.22
 7. Cristian SORATOS, Portland Pulse, 3:43.78
- DNF-- Robby ANDREWS, San Francisco Surge
DNF/Pace-- Lopez LOMONG, Unattached

WOMEN -

3000m:

NOTE: Lauren Paquette and Stephanie Garcia made this a two-woman race shortly after reaching one kilometer. Over the bell lap Garcia managed to gap Paquette and took the win in 9:01.05 --Asst. Ed.

1. Stephanie GARCIA, New York Empire, 9:01.05
2. Lauren PAQUETTE, San Francisco Surge, 9:03.95 PB
3. Marisa HOWARD, San Francisco Surge, 9:08.84 PB
4. Sara SUTHERLAND, Philadelphia Force, 9:10.79 PB
5. Megan ROLLAND, Portland Pulse, 9:13.92 PB
6. Lianne FARBER, San Francisco Surge, 9:21.99 PB
7. Alexina WILSON, Philadelphia Force, 9:24.89 PB
8. Ashley MATON, Portland Pulse, 9:29.89 PB

TrackTown Summer Series Final

Icahn Stadium, New York, NY, USA; Thursday, July 6

Summary of Middle & Long Distance Events

NOTE: Story by your editor in New York --Ed.

NEW YORK (06-Jul) -- The first Track Town Summer Series Final at Icahn Stadium here delivered a terrific fan experience, punctuated by compelling middle distance races which featured dramatic stretch runs and fast times. A crowd of 3800, many of whom stood on the outer lanes of the track during the 1500m races, roared with delight each time the athletes passed the grandstand. The runners were close enough to touch.

"The support I felt before the race, during the race, after the race: monumental," said Robby Andrews who competed in the 1500m and who had many family members and friends in the stadium. "It's really special to me right now."

It was Andrews who delivered one of the meet's best moments. The 26 year-old, who won the USA 1500m title 12 days ago in Sacramento, still needed to get the IAAF qualifying standard for his discipline (3:36.00) in order to lock in his berth on Team USA for next month's IAAF World Championships. He came ready to run, he said, after dropping out of the TrackTown Summer Series - Portland 1500m just three days ago.

"I needed an extra few days to reset, and really get ready to drive one home," said Andrews, who represented the San Francisco Surge here tonight.

With two laps to go, Andrews was sitting comfortably in fifth position behind pacemakers Joe McAsey and Daniel Winn, and contenders Johnny Gregorek, and Craig Engels. The pace was solid, and Andrews knew that 3:36 was within reach.

"I think at 800 I saw 1:55," Andrews recalled. "I knew even if we did a 60 (second lap) there, we'd be able to close."

At the bell, Winn stepped into the infield leaving Gregorek in the lead with Andrews, Engels and Ben Blankenship in hot pursuit. Gregorek led down the backstretch and poured it on in the last 200 meters. He knew that Andrews would be coming.

"I knew Robby has a crazy close, so I didn't quite know I had it," said Gregorek. "I knew I had a chance. With about 25 meters left I found that last gear. When Robby's coming up on your shoulder, that's a scary sight."

As the fans shouted encouragement, Andrews bolted down lane-two trying to catch Gregorek who was on the inside. Andrews fell just short of catching his rival, finishing second, but both men went under the IAAF standard with room to spare. Gregorek --who also qualified for the IAAF World Championships by virtue of his third place finish at the national championships-- clocked a personal best 3:35-flat to Andrews's 3:35.25. Blankenship got third in 3:35.29.

"It's been a wild week or so," an elated Andrews told reporters after taking a cool-down jog and posing for photos with friends and family. "TrackTown did an awesome job setting both races up. Super happy to come out here and have an awesome crowd." He added: "It means the world to me to have my family here."

The women's 1500m also came down to the final sprint. In a replay of the TrackTown Summer Series - San Francisco exactly one week ago in Palo Alto, Hannah Fields of the San Francisco Surge battled Amanda Eccleston of the Philadelphia Force for victory. In California, Fields passed Eccleston to get the win, but here the situation was reversed. Fields had the lead and Eccleston would first overtake Alexa Efraimson then Fields just before the line.

"Honestly, with about 150 to go they kind of started to have this tiny little pull-away, and I just thought, shoot, that might be it," Eccleston recounted. "Then you come on the homestretch and I'm like, no, I can't give up! I have to at least see if I can do it. I kind of surprised myself; I haven't had that last 50 all year."

Eccleston was clocked in 4:05.51 to Fields's 4:05.76 and Efraimson's 4:06.25. Fields, who is having a breakthrough season, was disappointed.

"I think it's a little different when you come down the straightaway leading," Fields told Race Results Weekly. "You have your eyes set on the finish line instead of on somebody else. I think it kind of played to my disadvantage."

In the men's 800m, Drew Windle of the Portland Pulse once again used a daring homestretch run to go from fourth to first inside of the final 50 meters and get the win in 1:44.63. He just nipped Chris Sowinski of the San Francisco Surge at the line, the man he passed for a World Championships team spot in Sacramento.

"You know, I've always liked that strategy, especially from an entertainment standpoint," Windle said of his closing sprint. "You know, it's a lot of fun to watch, and it's fun to do it."

Sowinski thought he had the win.

"I thought Drew was coming on the inside, so I tried to close that down, and he ended up being on the outside," lamented Sowinski. "He's had a heck of a finish all year."

Sanne Verstegen of the New York Empire won the women's 800m in 2:00.22

In other events, Stephanie Garcia of the New York Empire was the overall winner of the mixed, staggered 3000m where the women were given a 390m head-start over the men. That lead proved to be too great for even USA 5000m champion Paul Chelimo to overcome. Garcia had an 18-second lead over the men at the bell and won going away in 8:52.74, a personal best. Chelimo, representing the Portland Pulse, clocked 7:47.96.

"It was so exciting," a smiling Garcia told Race Results Weekly. "I don't think many people can say they've beaten Paul Chelimo, but I can. So, it's an extra special treat."

There was also a 5-kilometer road race, and Tommy Curtin (14:11.9) and Kim Conley (16:07.8), both representing the New York Empire, were victorious. Conley, who had a disappointing USA Championships, was happy to get the win.

"That was a lot of fun," said Conley. "I needed it coming off of USA's, having a rough weekend. It felt good to run to win."

In the all-important team scoring, the New York Empire reigned supreme with 200.5 points, followed by Portland (196.5), Philadelphia (189) and San Francisco (180). Each member of the winning team earned a \$1000 bonus in addition to any individual prize money they won.

Team Scores:

- 1. New York Empire, 200.5 points***
- 2. Portland Pulse, 196.5**
- 3. Philadelphia Force, 189**
- 4. San Francisco Surge, 180**

***Each athlete on the winning team earned a \$1000 bonus; see details below for middle & long distance events**

MEN -

800m:

1. Drew Windle, Portland Pulse 1:44.63 PB \$4000
2. Erik Sowinski, San Francisco Surge 1:44.66 3000
3. Edward Kemboi, New York Empire (KEN) 1:44.77 PB 2000 + 1000i
4. Andres Arroyo, New York Empire (PUR) 1:44.98 PB 1000 + 1000i
5. Jesse Garn, Philadelphia Force 1:45.04 PB 750
6. Shaquille Walker, San Francisco Surge 1:46.04 500
7. Harun Abda, Portland Pulse 1:46.64
8. Casimir Loxsom, New York Empire 1:47.34 1000i
9. Curtis Beach, Philadelphia Force 1:47.36
- Chris Geisting DNF (pace)

1500m:

1. Johnny Gregorek, New York Empire 3:35.00 PB \$4000 + 1000i
2. Robby Andrews, San Francisco Surge 3:35.25 3000
3. Ben Blankenship, Philadelphia Force 3:35.29 2000
4. Craig Engels, Philadelphia Force 3:35.95 PB 1000
5. Colby Alexander, San Francisco Surge 3:36.10 750
6. Kyle Merber, Portland Pulse 3:36.65 500
7. Cristian Soratos, Portland Pulse 3:37.15
8. Pat Casey, New York Empire 3:41.97
- Joe McAsey DNF (pace)
- Daniel Winn, DNF (pace)

High School Mile:

1. Owen Hassler, Prospect Park 4:45.77
2. Itamar Pres, Chelsea Grey 4:46.20
3. Mike Rodriguez, King Island Express 4:48.31

3000m:

1. Paul Chelimo, Portland Pulse 7:47.96 \$4000
2. Lopez Lomong, Portland Pulse 7:48.77 3000
3. Graham Crawford, New York Empire 7:49.12 PB 2000 + 1000i
4. Anthony Rotich, San Francisco Surge (KEN) 7:51.12 PB 1000
5. Mason Ferlic, San Francisco Surge 7:52.04 PB 750
6. Donn Cabral, New York Empire 7:52.78 500 + 1000i

- 7. Josh Thompson, Philadelphia Force 7:57.76 PB
- 8. Travis Mahoney, Philadelphia Force 8:00.48
- Meron Simon DNF (pace)
- Alex Leight DNF (pace)

i = Earned \$1000 bonus for being on the winning team

WOMEN -

800m:

- 1. Sanne Verstegen, New York Empire (NED) 2:00.22 \$4000 + 1000i
- 2. Chrishuna Williams, Portland Pulse 2:00.34 3000
- 3. Ce'Aira Brown, Portland Pulse 2:00.84 PB 2000
- 4. Cecilia Barowski, San Francisco Surge 2:02.04 1000
- 5. Kenyetta Iyevbele, Philadelphia Force 2:02.68 750
- 6. Alena Brooks, Philadelphia Force 2:03.37 500
- 7. McKayla Fricker, San Francisco Surge 2:04.33
- 8. Kendra Chambers, New York Empire 2:06.56 1000i
- Stephanie Van Pelt DNF (pace)

1500m:

- 1. Amanda Eccleston, Philadelphia Force 4:05.51 \$4000
- 2. Hannah Fields, San Francisco Surge 4:05.76 3000
- 3. Alexa Efraimson, San Francisco Surge 4:06.25 2000
- 4. Lauren Johnson, Portland Pulse 4:07.20 1000
- 5. Emily Lipari, Philadelphia Force 4:07.67 750
- 6. Megan Moye, New York Empire 4:08.22 PB 1000i
- 7. Emma Coburn, New York Empire 4:11.89 1000i
- 8. Katrina Coogan, Portland Pulse 4:19.94
- Stephanie Van Pelt DNF (pace)

High School Mile:

- 1. Lauryn Heskin, TSC 5:16.78
- 2. Alissa Graham, Club 44 5:19.76
- 3. Amari Lallemand, unattached 5:27.06
- 4. Siena Muccini, TSC 5:27.94
- 5. Juliette Salazar, NY Starz 5:29.04
- 6. Shadea Jackman, Club 44 5:38.66

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3000m:

- 1. Stephanie Garcia, New York Empire 8:52.74 PB \$4000 + 1000i
- 2. Nicole Tully, New York Empire 8:54.28 PB 3000 + 1000i
- 3. Marisa Howard, San Francisco Surge 8:57.15 PB 2000

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| 4. Megan Rolland, Portland Pulse | 9:00.48 PB | 1000 |
| 5. Sara Sutherland, Philadelphia Force | 9:05.08 PB | 750 |
| 6. Alexina Wilson, Philadelphia Force | 9:16.80 | 500 |
| 7. Lianne Farber, San Francisco Surge | 9:19.77 | |
| 8. Ashley Maton, Portland Pulse | 9:30.00 | |
| Kim Conley | DNF (pace/doubled back from road race) | |
| Ashley Higginson | DNF (pace) | |
- i = Earned \$1000 bonus for being on the winning team