

19-Footer For Miles At Vault Summit

by Jon Hendershott

Reno, Nevada, January 4-5—Snow fell outside the Reno Livestock Events Center, but inside Derek Miles was the hot vaulter in the elite competition at the 18th National Pole Vault Summit.

The 35-year-old Miles, the 7th-placer at the '04 Olympics, scaled 19-¼ (5.80) on his third

year at this time I was hobbling around.” He had surgery to place a titanium rod in his right shin to aid healing of the stress fracture that hindered him in '06.

“I’m looking forward to this year, even if I really don’t know where I’m at right now,” said Miles, who used a 12-stride approach.

In 4th, 40-year-old Jeff Hartwig set two Masters World Records, first at 17-8½ (5.40) and then at 18-½ (5.50).

“This was for all the fans who support the pole vault,” said the outdoor AR holder after making short work of the 17-7 (5.36) standard Pat Manson, another 40-year-old, had achieved in the previous section.

Men’s Results

Emerging Elite: 1. tie, Harvey (Asics) & Litchfield (PocTC) 17-7 (5.36); 3. Mondschein (PVP) 17-7;

4. Manson (Inl) 17-7 (5.36) Masters WR (old MWR 17-1/5.21 Manson in series; previous MWR 17-¾/5.20 Yegorov [Kaz] '07);

5. Landers (unat) 17-7; 6. Norberg (unat) 17-1 (5.21); 7. Gensic (USAF) 17-1; 8. Niedermeyer (unat) 17-1.

Elite: 1. Miles (Nik) 19-¼ (5.80) (17-4½, 17-8½, 18-½, 18-4½, 19-¼ [3], 19-2¾ [xpp]) (5.30, 5.40, 5.40, 5.60, 5.70, 5.80 [3], 5.86 [xpp]); 2. Stevenson (Nik) 18-8¼ (5.70); 3. Ryan (VS) 18-½ (5.50);

4. Hartwig (Nik) 18-½ Masters WR (old MWR 17-8½/5.40 Hartwig in series) (17-4½ [2], 17-8½ [2] MWR [old MWR 17-7/5.36 Manson in earlier section], 18-½ [2], 18-4½ [xxx]) (5.30 [2], 5.40 [2], 5.50 [2],

5.60 [xxx]);

5. Je. Scott (unat) 17-8½ (5.40);... nh—Pauli (Nik), Hysong (Nik), Lanaro' (Mex).

College: 1. Caldwell (NM) 17-2¾ (5.25); 2. Imlach (SacSt) 16-10¾ (5.15); 3. Hancock

eTN Q&A: Tim Mack

Olympic vault defender Tim Mack is fully recovered from the calf injury which hit him early in '06 and then the right shoulder surgery he had late that year. He jumped well enough in '07 to U.S. Rank No. 5.

Mack didn't compete at the Pole Vault Summit but did serve as a clinic speaker in Reno, where he spoke with T&FN's Jon Hendershott:

T&FN: How is your health?

Mack: I'm healthy; I just have to continue with my therapy. I do think everything is pretty much on track. But it's also a long year and you have to be really patient.

T&FN: Is that hard to do?

Mack: It's really hard. You see a lot of the younger guys jumping really high right now. But I've been in the game long enough to know that everybody's got their own schedule. Everyone is on his own pace. And every year is different too.

T&FN: And how is it for you personally, being the defending Olympic champion?

Mack: It is a little bit tough if I really think about that. At the same time, it can't be about [being defender]—it's about the event. It's always been about the [Games]. It's hard to keep yourself steering in that direction, because it's about the event.

I have the opportunity to do something that's only been done once in the history of the Olympics [by American Bob Richards, who won in '52 and '56]. It's only been done once for a reason: because it's not easy.

You have to avoid some of the pitfalls; some of the thoughts that can creep in. You have to stay on as even a keel as you can.

I'm 35 and just have to be ready when it counts. I try to get as ready and focused and motivated as I can for every competition. I'm just going to make sure I have enough energy left at the end of the season when I need it. But I feel I'm pointed in the right direction.

(Mo) 16-10¾; 4. Fraley (AF) 16-10¾.

Women's Results

Elite: 1. Schwartz (Nik) 14-1¼ (4.30); 2. Asay (Shel) 14-1¼; 3. Holliday (NBal) 14-1¼; 4. Bartolina (unat) 13-9¼ (4.20); 5. Sims (unat) 13-5¼ (4.10).

College: 1. Hutson (InSt) 13-5¼ (4.10); 2.



KIRBY LEBLANC OF SPORT

Healthy once again, Derek Miles won his fourth PV Summit title in 7 years

attempt to best Athens teammate Toby Stevenson (18-8¼/5.70).

It was the fourth Summit win for Miles, who won three straight 2002-04. This victory was especially gratifying since, as Miles said, “Last

Dahlgren (Id) 13-1½ (4.00); 3. Morgan (Cal) 13-1½.

— International Results —

WORLD JUNIOR RECORD

Xiamen, China, January 5—In her third race over the 26-mile distance, China's Yingying Zhang broke the World Junior Record at the Xiamen Marathon. In theory, the 18-year-old prodigy would have the option of being China's third Olympic marathoner (joining Chunxiu Zhou and

gium, December 23—

10.5K: 1. Koech (Ken) 30:31; 2. Lebed (Ukr) 30:31; 3. Masai (Ken) 30:32; 4. Khamis (Bhr) 30:33; 5. Wondimu (Eth) 30:33.

Women's 6K: 1. Dejaeghere (Bel) 19:41; 2. Holovchenko (Ukr) 19:41; 3. Etea (Eth) 19:42; 4. Kalovics (Hun) 19:47; 5. Coulaud (Fra) 19:49.

BELFAST

IAAF Permit Series #4; Belfast, Northern Ireland, January 5—

9K: 1. Kipsiro (Uga) 30:19; 2. B. Kosgei (Ken) 30:24; 3. Makau (Ken) 31:00; 4. Skinner (GB) 31:10; 5. Webb (GB) 31:30.

Women's 5.6K: 1. H. Yelling (GB) 21:20; 2. Butler (GB) 21:26; 3. D. Byrne (Ire) 21:39; 4. Gill (GB) 21:54; 5. L. Byrne (Ire) 22:00.

CAMPACCIO

San Giorgio su Legnano, Italy, January 5—

10K: 1. Soi (Ken) 29:46; 2. Lebed (Ukr) 29:46; 3. Feleke (Eth) 29:48; 4. Dinkesa (Eth) 29:53; 5. Maregu (Eth) 29:58;

6. Businei (Uga) 30:04; 7. Adhanom (Eri) 30:09; 8. Chatbi (Mor) 30:09; 9. Idrissi (Mor) 30:12; 10. A. Sihine (Eth) 30:29.

Women's 6K: 1. Reed (GB) 19:55; 2. Kalovics (Hun) 20:13; 3. Romagnolo (Ita) 20:17; 4. Kurui (Ken) 20:24; 5. Bellotti (Ita) 20:33; 6. Weissteiner (Ita) 20:38; 7. Holovchenko (Ukr) 20:39; 8. Ri (Ita) 20:40; 9. Rungger (Ita) 20:43.

AMOREBIETA

Amorebieta, Spain, January 6—

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10.7K: 1. T. Bekele (Eth) 32:11; 2. Ebuya (Ken) 32:12; 3. M. Masai (Ken) 32:29; 4. M. Kogo (Ken) 32:49; 5. Nyasango (Zim) 33:26; 6. Lamdassem (Spa) 33:47; 7. Asmeron (Eri) 33:54; 8. E. Martín (Spa) 33:56; 9. Habassa (Mor) 34:04; 10. Ríos (Spa) 34:15.

Women's 6.7K: 1. V. Cheruiyot (Ken) 23:27; 2. Batha (Eri) 23:53; 3. Carneiro (Por) 23:57; 4. Charki (Mor) 24:06; 5. I. Fuentes-Pila (Spa) 24:32.

— Prep Highlights —

LOUGHLIN GAMES

New York, New York, December 15(200 banked)—Girls 1000: 1. Price (Easton, Pa) 2:47.85 (=6, =6 HS).

MITCHELL INVITATIONAL

New York, New York, December 21(200 banked)—Girls 4 x 1500: 1. Academy of Holy Names, Albany 19:16.5 (2 HS); 2. Bronxville 19:24.0 (4 HS); 3. Bay Shore 19:45.3 (5 HS); 4. Colonie Central, Albany 19:49.1 (6 HS).

BROWN INVITATIONAL

Providence, Rhode Island, December 28—Girls Wt: 1. Flowers (Classical, Providence) 61-¾ HSR (old HSR 60-10½ Griffin [Pocatello, Id] '97) (f, 61-¾, 60-5¼ [x, 4 HS]).

POLE VAULT SUMMIT

Reno, Nevada, January 5—PV: 1. Weiler' (Los Gatos, Ca) 17-2 (9, x HS); 2. Houston (NW Guilford, Greensboro, NC) 16-10; 3. Wesley (Marine City, Mi) 16-2; 4. Miller (California, San Ramon, Ca) 16-2; 5. Whitt (North, Norman, Ok) 16-2.

Girls PV: 1-1. Weygandt (Mansfield, Tx) 13-7 (4, x HS); 2. Schaffer (Easton, Pa) 12-11; 3. tie, Beard (South, Eugene, Or) & Doyle (Hays, Buda, Tx) 12-7.

11-1. LeLeux (Catholic, New Iberia, La) 12-6.

2 Weeks Till Geb's WR Shot

(condensed from a Dubai Marathon press release)

Under two weeks to go until Haile Gebrselassie's next date with destiny—the Standard Chartered Dubai Marathon on Friday, January 18—and the Emperor is being a bit cagier than his manager. Last week, Jos Hermens said, "I and he are certain he can do under 2:04." Geb himself however has one or two caveats, and is making no predictions. At least, not yet!

"Yes, I did 2:04 in Berlin [a World Record 2:04:26 three months ago]," says Gebrselassie. "But everything was perfect, the weather, the course, the pacemaking. Sure, it's possible to do under 2:04, but everything has to be perfect again".

Forecasts at the moment for early morning in Dubai next week are similar to Berlin in September, i.e. a temperate 13–15C (55–60F). "That would be great, wonderful," he says. As for the Dubai course, the new one out and back along the corniche past the 7-star Burj Al Arab Hotel has fewer turns.

Last year's winner, William Rotich, said immediately after his victory, "sub-2:05 is possible on this course."

As far as pacemaking goes, the lineup for Geb is arguably the best in the world. Former world half-marathon champion Fabiano Joseph of Tanzania has been enlisted, and should be joined by '02 New York/Boston winner Rodgers Rop, who paced Geb to 30K in Berlin; as long as Rop can get out of a Kenya increasingly beleaguered by tribal strife.

Dubai will be Geb's last marathon before the Olympics. He is making no presumptions on that front either, given that the Ethiopian marathon team has yet to be announced. "No, I'm not yet selected," he says laconically, "though I am top of the candidates. We'll see..."

Briton Richard Nerurkar, the former World Cup marathon champion, says, "Berlin taught Haile, I think, how to run the perfect marathon. He now knows the distance so much better than three years ago. But you'd also have to say that you need some luck for things to work out as they did in Berlin".

And Haile himself? "Training is OK; everything is OK, I have to be in good shape, but shape is not enough. The day of the race is also important. I'm waiting till I get to Dubai, and it's still two weeks to go. I'll tell you two days before."

Xiaolin Zhu), but the IAAF doesn't allow Juniors in the Olympic marathon.

Men: 1. Kenei (Ken) 2:09:49; 2. E. Kemboi (Ken) 2:09:50; 3. Deng (Chn) 2:10:43 PR.

Women: 1. Y. Zhang (Chn) 2:22:38 WJR (old WJR 2:23:37 M. Liu [Chn] '01); 2. X. Bai (Chn) 2:23:27 PR; 3. Y. Wei (Chn) 2:25:10; ... 13. Y. Sun (Chn) 2:38:21 PR (return from 2-year doping ban).

— Euro Cross Results —

BRUSSELS

IAAF Permit Series #3; Brussels, Bel-

in next week's eNewsletter:
the collegiate indoor season stars to get into full swing with invitationals at Arkansas, Kentucky, Dartmouth and Virginia Tech; on the roads, it's the USATF Half-Marathon Champs