

News from: **USA Track & Field Pacific Association** (USATF's Largest Association – Representing Northern Calif. / Northern Nev.)

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## **SEVERAL PACIFIC ASSOCIATION AREA STARS ON U.S. TEAMS FOR WORLD RELAYS IN BAHAMAS THIS WEEKEND**

### **UP NEXT: US PARALYMPIC NATIONALS AND USATF NATIONALS ARE BACK-TO-BACK IN SAME REGION (NORCAL) FOR FIRST TIME**

Several athletes with Pacific Association and California ties will be featured in the IAAF World Relays competition in Nassau (The Bahamas) this weekend (May 24-25) -- before the track spotlight turns to Northern California and the West Coast for the remainder of the season.

The local stars include Cal grad David Torrence of Oakland (former USA indoor 3,000 meter champion) and Stanford grad Garrett Heath (former NCAA indoor champion for Stanford) – both on the men's 4 x 1,500 meter relay. Former Mt. Pleasant High School (San Jose) star Jeneba Tarmoh, who competed for Texas A&M, is on the women's 4 x 200 meter relay team roster. She has a 2012 Olympic gold medal from the winning USA 4 x 100 meter relay team at London, running in the prelims.

**\$1.4 MILLION PRIZE MONEY & TV SCHEDULE:** A total prize purse of \$1.4 million will be paid by the IAAF for the men's and women's races. The event will be televised live on Universal Sports Saturday and Sunday afternoons, starting at 3:30 p.m. (P.T.) each day.

#### **Other California athletes on the USA team roster include:**

**MEN:** Ameer Webb from Tustin, a former California Community College double sprint champion for Cerritos College (who led the world in the 100 meters early last season and is a 2-time NCAA champion) and American Collegiate 100 meter record holder Walter Dix (now living in Los Angeles) -- both in the 4 x 200 meter relay; Duane Solomon (Los Angeles and USC) and Brandon Johnson (Big Bear and UCLA) in the 4 x 800 meter relay, and Will Leer (Los Angeles and Pomona College) in the 4 x 1,500 meter relay.

**WOMEN:** Lakeisha Lawson (West Covina) 4 x 100 meter relay; Tori Bowie

(Chula Vista) 4 x 200 meter relay; Dee Dee Trotter (Los Angeles) 4 x 400 meter relay; Brenda Martinez (Rancho Cucamonga and UC Riverside) 4 x 800 meter relay; Kate Grace (Santa Monica) 4 x 1,500 meter relay.

## **WEST COAST HAS THE TRACK & FIELD SPOTLIGHT IN 2014 – WITH NAT’LS IN NORTHERN CALIF.: US PARALYMPIC NATIONALS AND USATF NATIONALS IN SAME REGION FOR 1ST TIME – BACK-TO-BACK; FIRST IAAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT THIS CENTURY SET FOR EUGENE IN JULY**

**Nearly every significant competition in the USA in June and July will be held on the West Coast:**

**Prefontaine Classic**, IAAF Diamond League meet, Eugene, Ore., May 31.

**USATF Pacific Association (Open) Championships & Grand Prix**, College of San Mateo, June 1.

**NCAA Championships**, Eugene, Ore., June 11-14.

**USATF Pacific Association Masters Championships**, College of San Mateo, June 14

**US Paralympics National Championships**, College of San Mateo, June 20-22.

**USATF National Championships**, Sacramento State, June 26-29 (men’s & women’s shot put at State Capitol, June 25).

**Golden West** (National High School) Invitational, Sacramento State, June 28 (following USATF competition that day). Meet is also open to junior (under age 20) athletes this year, as lead up to junior events in July.

**USATF National Junior Championships**, Eugene, Ore., July 5-6.

**IAAF World Junior** (under age 20) **Championships**, Eugene, Ore., July 22-27 – first IAAF championship event in the USA this century.

## **MERRITT’S BROWN CRACKS INTO NORTHERN CAL’S HISTORIC CENTER OF SPEED**

The Pacific Association (Northern California) area has long been known as the center of world speed. The latest installment was a then world-leading 9.93 seconds 100 meter time by Kemarley Brown of Oakland’s Merritt College at the California Community College Athletic Association Championships on May 17 at Mt. San Antonio College, setting a National JC and community college record.

**That was the fastest time ever by a NorCal based athlete at any level and the No. 3 all-time collegiate time.**

The No. 2 mark is 9.92 by Ato Boldon in 1996, while competing at UCLA. Boldon, however, is a Northern California high school "product" out of San Jose and was a state community college champion for San Jose City College before transferring to UCLA. A citizen of Trinidad, Boldon later won Olympic medals for his country. Brown hopes to do the same for his native Jamaica. He currently leads all athletes from that country of speed.

Previous best by a NorCal based athlete was the 9.95 by former world record holder and 1968 Olympic champion Jim Hines – also out of Oakland.

The legendary "**Night of Speed**" took place in Sacramento during the 1968 USA Outdoor Championships at Sacramento City College's Hughes Stadium. Three American men (including Hines) broke the world record in the 100 meters, running 9.9 seconds (hand-timed) in the semifinals.

San Jose State was known as "Speed City" in those days – with 1968 Olympic stars Tommie Smith, Lee Evans, and John Carlos -- as the USA dominated all of the sprint races from 100 through 400 meters.

Notes: The American collegiate record is 9.93 by Walter Dix of Florida State in 2007 – during the NCAA Championships at Sacramento State. He is now based in Los Angeles.

(The top two all-time college marks – and four of the top five -- are by foreign collegians.)

The fastest time ever run on a California track was 9.86 by Ato Boldon in 1998 – at Mt. SAC. Boldon also has the fastest time ever in Northern California, 9.89, at the Modesto Relays in 1997.

**See California all-time list below.**

## **THE ALL-TIME TOP FIVE 100 METER PERFORMANCES IN CALIFORNIA**

(with 7-way tie for fifth)

9.86, Ato Boldon, 1998, at Mt. San Antonio College Relays, Walnut, Calif.

9.89, Ato Boldon, 1987, at Modesto Relays, Modesto JC, Calif.

9.91, Maurice Greene, 2004, at U.S. Olympic Trials, Sacramento State, Sacramento, Calif.

9.92, Justin Gatlin, 2004, at U.S. Olympic Trials, Sacramento State, Sacramento, Calif.

9.93, Michael Marsh, 1992, at Mt. San Antonio College Relays, Walnut, Calif.

9.93, Ato Boldon, 1996, at Mt. San Antonio College Relays, Walnut, Calif.

9.93, Maurice Greene, 2000, at U.S. Olympic Trials, Sacramento State, Sacramento, Calif.

9.93, Shawn Crawford, 2004, at U.S. Olympic Trials (SF), Sacramento State, Sacramento, Calif.

9.93, Shawn Crawford, 2004, at U.S. Olympic Trials (Final), Sacramento State, Sacramento, Calif.  
 9.93, Walter Dix, 2007, at NCAA Championships, Sacramento State, Sacramento, Calif. (American Collegiate record)  
 9.93, Kemarley Brown, 2014, at CCCAA Championships, Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, Calif. (U.S. JC/CC record)  
 (compiled by Fred Baer from track & field resources)

**Collegiate All-Time List – Men’s 100 Meters  
 (listing compiled from *Track and Field News*)**

100 METERS			
9.89		Ngoni Makusha' (Florida St)	
9.92		Ato Boldon' (UCLA)	
9.93		Kemarley Brown' (Merritt College)	
		Walter Dix (Florida St)	
		Richard Thompson' (LSU)	
9.96		Travis Padgett (Clemson)	
		Harry Adams (Auburn)	
9.97		Raymond Stewart' (TCU)	
		Olapade Adeniken' (UTEP)	
		Mookie Salaam (Oklahoma)	
		Dentarius Locke (Florida St)	

' denotes foreign athlete

Notes: Boldon and Brown are the fastest California collegians. Dix set American Collegiate record in California at 2007 NCAA Championships at Sacramento State. Boldon was a state champion for San Jose City College before transferring to UCLA.

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