

HYUNDAI CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP AT AMERICAN RIVER MAY 18-19 FEATURE SPEED

World Leading CC Record Breaker Natasha Mayers of LA Southwest Faces CCSF's Unbeaten Sensation Tania Woods

Move over Marion Jones. California has two more sprint superstars on the horizon. One is already faster than MJ this year.

World pacesetter sprinter Natasha Mayers of Los Angeles Southwest College faces former California high school champion Tania Woods of City College of San Francisco in the Hyundai California Community College Track and Field Championships Friday and Saturday, May 18-19, at American River College in Sacramento.

SCHEDULE: Most events in the all finals meet will be contested Saturday, starting at 2:30 p.m. (field events). Running events begin at 3:45 p.m. Friday night's schedule includes four field events (women and men's long jump and javelin throw) starting at 5 p.m. and the women's and men's 10,000 meters, starting at 8 p.m.

The decathlon and heptathlon will be contested both days, starting at 11 a.m. Friday and 8:45 a.m. Saturday.

TELEVISION: A two-hour taped-delay telecast of the championships will air on FOX Sports Net Bay Area on Sunday, June 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. It will repeat on Tuesday, June 12, at 12 noon. Other regional playback times are still pending.

WOMEN'S SPRINTS: Mayers, a sophomore, has the world's fastest 100 meters time under all conditions this year, a wind-aided 11.01, and is also near the top with her wind-aided 22.82 in the 200.

At last Saturday's (May 12) Southern California championships at Mt. San Antonio College, Mayers ran a wind-legal National JC/CC 100 record 11.12, the same time Marion Jones posted in a Golden Spike Series meet at Princeton that day. plus a legit 22.91 in the 200. (Heading the wind-legal list, ahead of Mayers and Jones, is former NCAA sprint champion LaTasha Jenkins -- at 11.02.) Among those currently trailing Mayers is two-time defending NCAA 100 meter champion Angela Williams (11.18) of USC, who holds the USA high school record of 11.11 (for Chino, Calif., in 1998)

In the SouCal championships, Mayers tied the JC/CC 200 meters record of 22.91 by Jamaica Olympian Merlene Frazier of San Jacinto College, Texas (1984). Mayers, a citizen of the Caribbean island of St. Vincent's, does not get credit for American (citizen) CC records, which Woods could threaten Saturday. Those marks are 11.23 in the 100 and 23.12 in the 200, both by Zelda Johnson of Mt. San Antonio.

Defending state champion Mayers won each of last year's sprints, by over a half second, in 11.38 and 23.79.

Woods, a freshman, is similarly undefeated -- and hasn't been pressed this year. She's the only Northern Californian under 12 seconds in the 100, at 11.49 (run in an open race at the Mt. SAC relays), and leads the North in the 200 by more than a second at 23.45

In California high school annals, only 5-time Olympic medalist Marion Jones has run the 200 faster than Woods. In 1999, Woods won the California prep sprints for Oakland's Skyline High. Her 22.88 in the 200 is the fastest by ANY high school athlete since Marion Jones set the prep record of 22.58 for Thousand Oaks High in 1992 and is No. 3 all time. Woods' prep 100 best was 11.43, also on the all-time top 20. (She took last year off from school.)

Mayers won her Southern California titles by huge margins -- .82 in the 100 and by 1.52 in the 200. Woods set the only men's or women's NorCal meet record with her 23.62 in the 200 during the NorCal trials at Fresno, May 5. In the finals she fought headwinds but still ran away with the 100 by .66 and the 200 by .186.

TEAM RACE: Mt. San Antonio, the defending women's and men's champion, is favored again. The Mounties won both Southern California Championships last week. The women scored 135 points, ahead of Moorpark (88), West Los Angeles (81), San Diego Mesa (64), Cerritos (56), Golden West (38), LA Southwest (35), and Bakersfield (33). The Mt. SAC men won with 119 _ points over Long Beach (95), Bakersfield (76), Cerritos (55), Cuyamaca (47 _), Moorpark (45), San Diego Mesa (43), and San Bernardino Valley (40).

In the North, Woods and CCSF's stable of sprinters took the women's title with 106 points, followed by Fresno (67), Sequoias (60), American River (56 _), Yuba (49 _), West Valley (49), Contra Costa (46), and De Anza (43). Sacramento (74) won a tight men's battle over San Joaquin Delta (73 _), Chabot (71), American River (64), Modesto (60), West Valley (57), Hartnell (46), Merritt (45), and Santa Rosa (44 _).

More than 100 men's and women's teams from every part of the state are taking part in the championships.

DEFENDING CHAMPS: Other women defending their crowns (with their 2000 winning mark) include Sherron Rhetta of West Los Angeles in the 800 meters (2:15.95), Paola Leyva of Mt. SAC in the triple jump (40-8 _), and Mireya Beltran of Mt. SAC in the heptathlon (4439). Leyva and Beltran are both from Culican, Mexico.

The returning men's champions include Phil Tabor of host American River in the 800 (1:49.78), Bryan Harris of San Joaquin Delta in the discus throw (162-1), Matt Primous of Santa Ana in the high jump (6-10), and the Mt. SAC duo

of Mike Mitchell in the 200 (20.59) and Giovanni Lanaro in the pole vault (16-7). Lanaro has gone 17-6 _ this year to break the Mt. SAC record set in 1965 by Bob Seagren, the 1968 Olympic champion.

THE CC OLYMPIC ROAD: Many Olympians and world record holders have come through the community college ranks. Women's pole vault Olympic champion and world record holder Stacy Dragila started as a Yuba College heptathlete in the California CC championships.

Tyree Washington (formerly of San Bernardino Valley College), this week's USA Track and Field athlete of the week for his world leading 44.28 in the 400 meters, is the current national JC/CC record holder in the 400 meters – an event in which ex-JC athletes have held the world record continuously since Lee Evans (San Jose CC) in 1968.

The USA men's 4 x 100 meter and 4 x 400 meter gold medal relay teams at the Sydney Olympics each had a quartet of ex-JC students: Maurice Greene, Jon Drummond, Brian Lewis and Bernard Williams in the 4 x 1; twins Alvin and Calvin Harrison, Antonio Pettigrew and Jerome Young in the 4 x 4. Alvin Harrison (Hartnell) also won the silver medal in the 400 meters at Sydney and Mark Crear (Mt. San Antonio) won the bronze medal in the 110 high hurdles.

Ato Boldon (San Jose City College) won silver and bronze medals in the sprints for Trinidad. In fact JC/CC produced athletes had the top THREE 100 meter times in the world for 2000 and seven of the top 10!

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California Community College Cross Country and Track Coaches Association NEWS

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