

--SEE Updated NOTE (following state regionals) added on second page:

Commission On Athletics California CC Track Champs Set For San Mateo

CSM HOSTS SAN MATEO COUNTY'S BIGGEST STATE SPORTS EVENT MAY 18-19

Athletes from 103 men's and women's community college teams have qualified to compete in the largest state championship event to be held in San Mateo County.

College of San Mateo will host the 2007 COA California Community College Track and Field Championships on May 18-19 on its new Mondo facility, which affords a grand bay vista for spectators.

TIME SCHEDULE: Decathlon competition, in which CSM's Andrew van Straaten currently ranks fifth in the state, kicks-off the schedule each day, at 10 a.m. on Friday and at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

There will be eight field event finals on **Friday**, plus two 10,000 meter races on the track, at 11:30 a.m. (women) and 12:30 p.m. (men).

Saturday's field events start at 11 a.m. with the women's triple jump and track events at 12:40 p.m. with the women's steeplechase. The meet concludes with the men's 4 x 400 meter relay at 5:20 p.m.

STATE QUALIFYING: Regional championship meets on May 12 at American River College in Sacramento and at UC San Diego determined the all finals fields for the state meet. Top six finishers in most events at each regional meet advanced Lane events (races up to 800 meters and both relays) advanced the top four, plus the fastest fifth place finisher, to make-up a nine-person final.

SOME TOP PARTICIPANTS EXPECTED: Laney College sophomore sprinter Charonda Williams is the returning state women's championship MVP and currently leads all U.S. community college women in the 100 and 200 meters. City College of San Francisco has the defending state men's champion team. Jamaican Edino Steele of Pasadena CC was fifth in the 2006 World Junior rankings at both 200 meters (20.75) and 400 meters (45.81).

HOST CSM HAS EIGHT BERTHS: Host CSM has qualified two multi-event athletes for return trips to the state meet: Andrew van Straaten in the decathlon and Helena Silva in the heptathlon. Both are currently ranked fifth in the state. Silva also qualified individually in the javelin throw, taking second in the NorCal meet. Sela Painsi won the NorCal women's discus throw (141-2) by nearly 15 feet, placed second in the shot put (39-9 1/2), and was sixth in the hammer throw (133-6) to advance in all three events. She is the Coast Conference champion in all four throws. Jezabel Ortiz qualified in the women's 10,000 meters and Justin Montgomery advanced in the men's pole vault.

General admission for the meet is \$5.

Admission is \$3 for all identified students, faculty, staff, senior over 65 and children under 12

For additional meet information, contact the College of San Mateo athletic department at 650-574-6461

THREE FOSTER CITY AREA HOTELS TO HOUSE TEAMS: Two Foster City hotels will host most of the athletes. They are the Crown Plaza, the official headquarters hotel, and the Courtyard by Marriott. Overflow will be handled by the Hilton Garden Inn in the neighboring Bridgepointe area of San Mateo.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION DINNER AT FOSTER CITY CROWN PLAZA, MAY 18:

The California Community College Cross Country and Track Coaches Association (5CTCA) will induct its annual Hall of Fame class at a dinner ceremony, for the first time. The event will take place on Friday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Foster City Crown Plaza Hotel, following the first day of state meet competition at CSM.

Slated for induction into the 2007 class are 1976 Olympic 200 meter silver and 4 x 100 meter gold medalist **Millard Hampton** from San Jose City College; also five retired coaches: **Gary Ard** (Modesto), **Gordie Fitzel** (Orange Coast), **Larry Knuth** (Pasadena and Rio Hondo), **Gary Lewis** (Shasta), and **Gary Shaw** (Hartnell).

STATE TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP NOTES:

WILLIAMS TO BE CHALLENGED:

Laney's national sprint leader Charonda Williams, who did not run high school track, will face a serious challenge from a previous state champion who ranks among history's top high school sprinters, Jasmine Baldwin-Foss of Mt. San Antonio.

WORLD CHAMP GOLD MEDALIST HOPES TO RECLAIM 2005 STATE TITLE:

Jasmine Baldwin-Foss of Mt. SAC, a gold and silver medalist at the 2004 World Junior Championships in Grosseto, Italy, will attempt to reclaim the 200 meter state title she won in 2005 and add a 100 meter crown. In her absence last season, Charonda Williams of Laney won both sprint titles. Baldwin won the silver medal in the 100 meters at the 2004 World Juniors in a fast 11.34 and was on the champion USA 4 x 100 meter relay team (43.49) – running the third leg and handing off to current NCAA sprint champion Shalonda Solomon (South Carolina). As an All-USA high school performer in 2004 for Bishop Amat High in La Puente, Baldwin became the No. 12 all-time high school performer at 100 meters (11.33) and the No. 5 all-time in the 200 (22.86).

PASADENA'S JAMICIAN EDINO LEADS LONG SPRINTERS:

Pasadena City College sophomore Edino Steele was the No. 5 junior (under age 20) runner in the world last year at both 200 meters (20.75) and 400 meters (45.81) and anchored Jamaica's 4 x 400 meter relay team which ran 3:06.99 (also No. 5 in the world).

He is currently the national JC leader at 200 meters (20.37) and 400 meters (45.83).

WOMEN'S RETURNING CHAMPIONS, WITH 2006 WINNING MARK:

100, Charonda Williams, Laney, 11.75; 200, Charonda Williams, Laney, 23.94; 5,000, Sarah Apgar, Southwestern, 18:17.70 (also was second in the 1,500 in 4:47.19); high jump, LaShay Bagsby, Bakersfield, 5-6; javelin throw, Michelle Thompson, Cuyamaca, 144-9.

Cristina Hibbert of American River was second in both the heptathlon (4,314 points) and the 400 hurdles (1:03.01) in 2006.

MEN'S RETURNING CHAMPIONS, WITH 2006 WINNING MARK:

400, Joseph Turner, Modesto, 47.19; triple jump, Rex Bridgforth, Moorpark, 49-9; discus throw, Matt Artau, Sacramento, 165-7.

Oscar Ogwaro of East Los Angeles was the runner-up in both the 1,500 and the 5,000 in 2006. He is the state leader in four events this season: 1,500 (3:52.69), 5,000 (14:15.05), 10,000 (29:41.30), and 3,000 steeplechase (9:05.20) and is entered in all but the 1,500 at the state finals.

DEFENDING TEAM CHAMPIONS & 2007 STATE QUALIFYING LEADERS:

MEN: City College of San Francisco is the defending men's team champion. The Rams scored 85 points in 2006 to finish ahead of Moorpark (81), Sacramento (79), and Long Beach (77).

Sacramento leads 2007 qualifying with 21 berths, followed by Moorpark (17), and Hartnell (15). CCSF, Fresno, and Riverside each have 14 qualifiers and Modesto has 12.

WOMEN: Cerritos won the 2006 women's championships with 89 points, ahead of Mt. San Antonio (65), American River (55 1/2), Sacramento (55), Long Beach (35), and Laney (33).

American River leads 2007 qualifying with 23 berths, followed by Sacramento (14), Mt. SAC (13), Bakersfield (11), and Laney (10). Modesto and Diablo Valley are tied with nine spots. Cerritos has five berths.

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Media Information and credential requests:

The state meet will feature a full service media operation, with wired and wireless internet access and telephones in a modern press box with fax/copier/photo printer and laser printer, plus food service hospitality area.

There will also be appropriate field access for credentialed photographers.

Printed results will be distributed and will also be available for transfer to reporters' USB thumbnail/flash drives.

--To request credentials, use the form at: <http://www.coasports.org/MediaCredentialRequestForm-Spring07.doc>

For further information and special requests, contact: Fred Baer frdbaer@aol.com

STADIUM PRESS BOX PHONE: 650-574-6237

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