



Alex G. Spanos Sports Complex, California State University, Sacramento  
July 9-18, 2004

# Ticket Holder Newsletter

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## Olympic hopefuls gear up for U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials in Sacramento

The Olympic Games return to their ancient roots in 2004, when the world's best athletes converge on Athens, Greece for the Summer Olympics. Closer to home, history is repeating itself a bit more quickly.

The U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials returned to Northern California in 2000 after a 32-year absence. The 2000 Olympic Trials featured eight days of sellout crowds; one world plus three American records; and a daily stream of standout performances from the likes of Marion Jones, Allen Johnson, Gail Devers, Michael Johnson, Tom Pappas and Maurice Greene.

Unlike Athens, which played host to the first modern Olympics in 1896, Sacramento isn't waiting 108 years for a return engagement. The 2004 U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials return to Hornet Stadium on July 9-18, making Sacramento the first city host successive Trials in a quarter-century.

With 10,000 eight-day ticket packages already sold, the bar is set high for the local organizing committee. Similarly, the stakes couldn't be any higher for the U.S. athletes trying to qualify for Athens.

Four years ago in Sydney, Australia, the U.S. men and women combined to win 20 medals in track and field, including 10 gold medals. That figure nearly doubled the medal total of the second-best country in Sydney - Russia, with 12.

With the exception of Michael Johnson, who retired in 2001, the headliners at the 2000 Olympic Trials should be strong contenders again in Sacramento. Devers and Allen Johnson were ranked No. 1 in the world in the sprint hurdles in 2003. Johnson won his fourth world outdoor title in the 110-meter highs in Paris, France.

Devers, a two-time winner of the 100-meter dash at the Olympics, set a still-standing American record of 12.33 seconds in winning the 100 hurdles at the 2000 Trials in Sacramento. This time, Devers will be attempting to qualify for her fifth Olympic team. Long jumper Willye White (1956-72) is the only other U.S. woman to compete in five Olympics in track and field.

Jones won five medals in Sydney, including golds in the 100, 200 and 4x400 relay. She took the 2003 season off to have a baby but looked strong in her return to

competition earlier this month at the Millrose Games in New York. Jones has indicated that she plans to compete in three events at the Trials - the 100, 200 and long jump.

Dragila finished fourth at the 2003 World Championships - her first loss in either an Olympics or world outdoor meet - but opened 2004 with a series of 15-foot-plus vaults.

The United States will rely heavily on its veterans in Athens. But what most excites Humphrey and George Williams, the men's Olympic coach, is the influx of young talent. Justin Gatlin (100, 200 meters), Sanya Richards (400), Allyson Felix (200) and Christian Cantwell (shot put) are among the new wave of U.S. stars.

"We're going to have a great mixture of veterans and youngsters," Williams said. "We'll bring home a truck load of medals from Athens. This is the U.S.A. - the greatest team in the world."

Other countries choose their Olympic track teams by committee, or by factoring in years of meritorious service. In the United States, it's trial by fire. No other major track power takes such a rigid approach to selecting its Olympic team, but the formula is a winner, and it makes the U.S. Olympic Trials one of the most exciting spectator events in the world.

In most events, the top three finishers in Sacramento will automatically qualify for the Olympics. To place three individuals in an Olympic event, each of the nation's three athletes must meet the Olympic "A" qualifying standard. In 2000, the U.S. had three "A" qualifiers in 26 of the 33 men's and women's events.

Fifty-five world records have been set in the U.S. Olympic Trials over the years. The list of Trials record-setters reads like a who's who of the sport - Ralph Boston, Bobby Morrow, Florence Griffith Joyner, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Bob Seagren, Michael Johnson and Glenn Davis.

The most recent world record came on the final day of the 2000 Olympic Trials, when Dragila, a graduate of Placer High School in nearby Auburn, thrilled the hometown crowd with a vault of 15-2 1/4. The 2000 Trials attracted more than 187,000 fans over eight days of competition, shattering the previous record by more than 35,000.

### Announcing the Release of Four Day Tickets, Available April 1

Know someone who wants to go to the Olympic Trials but can't make the eight day commitment? The four day package is designed just for them! Four day tickets are reserved seats for either the first four days (July 9-12) or the second four days (July 15-18) of competition. Appropriately titled Heat I and Heat II, four day tickets are available in Gold, Silver and Bronze sections and priced at \$140, \$100 and \$80, respectively.

And don't forget about Eight Day Tickets! They are still available and prices go up May 15. In most cases, Eight Day Tickets are located in better sections of the stadium than Four Day Tickets and Single Day Tickets.

To purchase Eight Day or Four Day Tickets, please visit us on the web at [www.sacsports.com](http://www.sacsports.com) or call (916) 566-6560 for a ticket brochure.

## Alex G. Spanos Sports Complex Prohibited Items

As with all major sporting events since the events of September 11, 2001, the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Track and Field has increased security at the competition venue. The following items will not be allowed onto the grounds of the Alex G. Spanos Sports Complex: **Alcohol of any kind, animals (except seeing eye dogs), banners (no poles), glass bottles, plastic bottles larger than 1.5 liters, bootleg merchandise, cans, sticks or poles, coolers or ice chests, fireworks, horns, noisemakers, whistles, food, frisbees or beach balls, handcuffs, spiked attire, chains, laser pointers, lawn chairs, sleeping bags, large packs, drugs and drug paraphernalia, strollers, thermoses of any kind, umbrellas, video cameras and weapons – guns, knives, etc.**

### **ALL PERSONS AND CONTAINERS ARE SUBJECT TO SEARCH UPON ENTRY INTO THE STADIUM**

NBC Camera Policy – Spectators are prohibited from using any photographs, videotape or other audio and/or audiovisual recordings of any U.S. Olympic Team Trials and Exhibitions events or competitions on the Internet or for commercial purposes without the prior written consent of the United States Olympic Committee.

## Seat Assignments Completed

Seating assignments for the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Track and Field have been completed. Over 10,000 seats for the eight day competition have been filled, putting ticket sales ahead of the sell-out pace of the 2000 Trials.

As a ticket holder for the 2004 Trials, you should have received a post card within the last four months indicating your section, row and seat numbers for the Trials this July. Actual tickets matching the seats confirmed on the post card will be sent to you in June.

Please double-check your seat assignments carefully and make sure you have been assigned the correct amount of seats. If you have not yet received your seat assignments contact the Local Organizing Committee immediately at (916) 566-6560. Ticket orders received from this point forward will be assigned seats immediately and the location of those seats will be sent with a ticket confirmation within two to three weeks.

## Other Happenings at the Trials

There's so much more than great track and field competition at the Olympic Trials this year. The ten day span of the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Track and Field includes a fan interactive expo area, a mid-week salute dinner and a celebrity golf tournament.

### **FAN EXPO**

Located just outside the gates of the Alex G. Spanos Sports Complex is an interactive Fan Expo. Here you will find a variety of vendors showcasing their products plus the Olympic Trials Official Merchandise, concession stands and The Finish Line beer garden with live music. Groups confirmed for the Fan Expo include KFBK radio, Nike and the US Army's interactive Aviation Van. There is no charge for entry into the Fan Expo and you do not need a ticket to the Trials to check out all the fun!

### **SALUTE DINNER**

On July 14, the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Sacramento Region Sports Education Foundation will once again host the XEROX Salute Dinner with a multi-media presentation accompanying an excellent meal. This year's theme – "America's Olympic Golden Moments". A special presentation will be made to honor the legend of the Tennessee State Tigerbelles and their coach Ed Temple and keep an eye on future newsletters for the announcement of honorees.

Tickets for the dinner are priced at \$150 or \$1,500 for a table of ten. For more information on how to purchase tickets to this dinner, please contact Dustin Romero at the Sacramento Sports Commission at (916) 566-2400 or e-mail to [dromero@sacsports.com](mailto:dromero@sacsports.com).

### **CELEBRITY GOLF OUTING**

The Alistair Mackenzie course at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex will play host to the 2004 Olympic Trials Celebrity Golf Outing on July 13. This double shotgun start features continental breakfast before tee off, buffet lunch after the completion of your round, refreshments on the course and great tee prizes, plus contests for long drive and closest to pin contests.

Individual spots on the Golf Outing are \$125 each or \$500 per foursome. To sign up your group, contact Dustin Romero at (916) 566-2400 or e-mail to [dromero@sacsports.com](mailto:dromero@sacsports.com).

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*The 2004 Olympic Trials would like to thank the following organizations for their contributions (charter sponsors in **bold**)*

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