

QP freshman runs to 200 gold

By PAUL SCHWARTZ
Staff Writer

NEW YORK — Many of the best track and field athletes in the East made their way to the best track in the country Tuesday night, and the results at the Eastern States championships showed that two bests equal a sensational meet.

More than 10 meet records were set, including seven Armory Track Center records and a host of state and county records from the 280-school, eight-state meet.

Area athletes did their share of record-setting, even though only one area performer took gold: Anike Orimonunje of Queen of Peace. Ten area athletes grabbed medals while two area records were set and a third was tied on the evening.

Orimonunje was again the area standout. The freshman, who set a Bergen County 300-meter record at last week's Bergen County championships, held off Sierra McClellan of Norristown (Pa.) to win the Eastern States girls' 200 in 24.99 seconds, setting an Armory record and taking more than a quarter-second off the Bergen record in the seldom-run event.

"She really finished the season strong," said QP assistant coach Lionel Leach. "In the middle of the year she slumped a little, but she came on strong at the end."

Dan Cooper, Ridgewood's senior pole vaulter and runner, was still vaulting when the 1,600-meter relay was called, forcing the Maroons to withdraw. But with his teammates rooting him on, Cooper became only the second vaulter in county history to surpass 14 feet, clearing the height on his third attempt to tie the record set by Paul Wilson of Bergen Catholic 17 years ago.

"I felt bad about dropping out of the relay because I really love it," said Cooper, who finished third in the pole vault. "But they knew this was my chance and supported me."

Passaic County was not exempt from record-setting as Kennedy's Tawana Watkins lowered her county record to 56.47 in the 400, finishing second to national leader Neisha Bernard-Thomas of Tilden High School in the Bronx, who ran an Armory-record 54.87.

Passaic's Waldemar Auguscinski found himself leading a star-studded shot put going into the finals after a personal-best throw of 57-3.

But first Bayonne's Glenn Di-

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Giorgio and then Freehold Township's Dave O'Rourke passed him in the final round. Auguscinski then produced another PR of 57-4½ on his final throw, keeping him third and moving him within 6½ inches of the 14-year-old Passaic County indoor record.

Other standout performances by

area athletes included a big personal best of 2:19.65 by Shauna Koenig of Hackensack to take second out of the unseeded heat in the girls 800; a personal best in the 55 by Courtney Cubicciotti of IHA, whose 7.25 was .06 off the Bergen record; and an indoor PR in the boys high jump by Ayo

Oluwale of St. Joseph Regional, who jumped 6-6.

The major disappointment came in the boys 800, where State champion Josh Kauke of Ridgewood struggled after being in front halfway through the race and finished ninth in 1:57.80, well off his best race. Paul Joyce of Clarkstown South was a surprise winner in 1:51.98, setting meet and Armory records.

EASTERN STATES TRACK RESULTS

BOYS RESULTS

At the Armory Track Center, New York

55 — 1, Sheldon Simpson, East Hartford, 6.35 (meet and Armory record); 2, Anthony Davis, Plainfield, 6.38; 3, Delante Penn-Andrews, Eastern (DC), 6.38; 4, Maxwell Booker, Essex Catholic, 6.38; 5, Lee Ansaldo, Bethlehem, 6.42; 6, Mike Major, Central, 6.44.

55 HH — 1, Rashad Baker, Wilson (NJ), 7.39; 2, Unyane Akpan, Ballou, 7.59; 3, Pierre Chapman, Linden, 7.61; 4, Dwight Ruff, Camden, 7.64; 5, Ernest Vincent, North Rockland, 7.66; 6, Ethaniel Sinclair, Linden, 7.67.

200 — 1, Carlos Bedoya, Archbishop Stepinac, 21.75 (meet record); 2, Andre Thompson, Spingarn, 21.80; 3, Sheldon Simpson, East Hartford, 22.47; 4, Mike Bolling, Willingboro, 22.48; 5, Dorian Bryant, Don Bosco, 22.66.

400 — 1, Mohamed Kanu, Lenape, 48.36 (meet record); 2, Andre Thompson, Spingarn, 48.97; 3, Brian Lucas, Rochester East, 49.18; 4, Bryan Kudlek, Oceanside, 49.23; 5, Chris Lolagne, Suffern, 49.44; 6, Sean Lambert, South Shore, 49.53.

800 — 1, Paul Joyce, Clarkstown South, 1:51.98 (meet and Armory record); 2, Justin Ramaniuk, Suffern, 1:53.44; 3, Walton Kingsbery, Red Bank, 1:55.25; 4, Dave Mullert, Dighton-Rehoboth, 1:56.24; 5, Clevon Johnson, Woodlawn, 1:57.03; 6, Damilon Drummond, Paul Robeson, 1:57.05; 8, Brian Burns, River Dell, 1:57.42; 9, Josh Kauke, Ridgewood, 1:57.80.

1600 — 1, Robert Dwyer, Berkshire School, 4:21.79; 2, Alex Bloom, Guilford, 4:23.70; 3, Mike Myers, Eastern, 4:23.81; 4, Will Keown, Lakewood, 4:26.75; 5, Andy Roth, Jackson, 4:28.92; 6, Bryan Skelly, Washington Twp., 4:30.01.

3200 — 1, Brian Boyett, Parsippany Hills, 9:24.24; 2, Joe Halin, Cherokee, 9:29.36; 3, Julio German, Sleepy Hollow, 9:34.31; 4, Frank Malpigli, Bay Shore, 9:34.73; 5, Steve Roberts, Mount Olive, 9:37.70; 6, Nick Pelligrino, Marlboro, 9:55.48.

800 relay — 1, Lenape, 1:28.46 (meet and Armory record); 2, Simon Gratz, 1:29.47; 3, Poly Prep, 1:30.58; 4, Half Hollow Hills East, 1:31.24; 5, Camden, 1:40.35. No sixth place.

1600 relay — 1, Simon Gratz, 3:20.64; 2, Metuchen, 3:22.74; 3, Transit Tech, 3:22.81; 4, Trenton, 3:24.86; 5, Boys and Girls, 3:25.44; 6, Buena, 3:27.03.

3200 relay — 1, Cherokee, 7:51.78 (meet record); 2, Phillips Exeter, 7:54.44; 3, Central, 7:55.19; 4, St. Anthony's, 7:59.88; 5, Old Bridge, 8:00.22; 6, Transit Tech, 8:02.15.

Distance medley relay — 1, St. Anthony's, 10:20.92.

Shot put — 1, Glenn DiGiorgio, Bayonne, 59-3½; 2, David O'Rourke, Freehold Boro, 57-9; 3, Waldemar Auguscinski, Passaic, 57-4½;

4, Adam Gelardi, Iona Prep, 56-7½; 5, Douglas Goodwin, Holy Trinity, 55-7¼; 6, Paul Pisano, Toms River East, 54-5.

High jump — 1, Craig Mellows, Madison, 6-6; 2, Ayo Oluwale, St. Joseph Regional, 6-6; 3, Telko Aryee, Ramapo (N), 6-4; 4, Daniel Olson, Albany Academy and Lonnie Washington, Elizabeth, 6-4; 6, Rafael Damo, Freehold Boro, 6-2.

Long jump — 1, I-Perfection Harris, Poly Prep, 22-5¼; 2, Khalim Barge, Camden, 21-10; 3, Hence Perdue, Spring Valley, 21-8½; 4, Chris Gillis, Pennsauken, 21-7½; 5, Danny Alvarez, St. Peter's Prep, 21-4; 6, Will Nunez, Washingtonville, 21-¼.

Triple jump — 1, Okolle Godwin, Half Hollow Hills East, 46-8; Adeniyi Omisore, Bishop Hendricken, 45-6; 3, John Augustynowicz, Rutherford, 44-7; 4, Lugmen Kolade, Gonzaga, 44-2½; 5, Hence Perdue, Spring Valley, 44-2¼; 6, Terril Ball, Farmingdale, 44-0; 8, Andrew Dolgin, Ridgewood, 43-2¾; 9, Anthony Toscano, St. Joseph Regional, 43-0.

Pole vault — 1, Zach Suttile, Randolph 14-6; 2, Brian Mahlawser, Farmingdale, 14-6; 3, Dan Cooper, Ridgewood, 14-0 (ties Bergen County record held by Paul Wilson, Bergen Catholic, 1983); 4, Scott Davidson, Livingston and Ryan D'Agostino, Iona Prep, 13-6; 6, Ryan Angel, Shenendehowa, 13-6.

GIRLS RESULTS

55 — 1, Amandi Rhett, Moorestown, 7.00 (meet and Armory record); 2, Chantel Coppedge, Montclair, 7.22; 3, Courtney Cubicciotti, IHA, 7.25; 4, Jatoya Moore, Uniondale, 7.26; 5, Shirrone McCarthy, A. Phillip Randolph, 7.27; 6, Ahndraea Allen, Roselle Park, 7.30.

55 HH — 1, Alethia Jenkins, Pennsauken, 8.03; 2, Amber Williams, Roxbury, 8.10; 3, Sherran Byam, Paul Robeson, 8.34; 4, Fara Kitton, JFK-Bellmore, 8.39; 5, Jamie Lilien, Pascack Valley, 8.49; 6, Keira Underwood, Elizabeth, 8.56.

200 — 1, Anike Orimonunje, Queen of Peace, 24.99 (meet and Armory record); 2, Sierra McClellan, Norristown, 25.04; 3, Latoya Benson, Washington Twp., 25.39; 4, Takara Wilks, Lincoln (NJ), 25.50; 5, Paula George, Taft, 25.65.

400 — 1, Neisha Bernard-Thomas, Tilden, 54.87 (meet and Armory record); 2, Tawana Watkins, Kennedy, 56.47 (Passaic record, old record, 57.16 by Watkins, 2000); 3, Shevon Stoddart, Uniondale, 56.98; 4, Stacey Holmes, Simon Gratz, 57.35; 5, Erica Johnson, Dunbar, 57.60; 6, Melanie Hardy, Cardozo, 58.30.

800 — 1, Priscilla Hazelwood, Plainfield, 2:17.70; 2, Shauna Koenig, Hackensack, 2:19.65; 3, Kelly Wallace, A. Phillip Randolph, 2:19.85; 4, Courtney McCrudden, Eastern (NJ), 2:20.02; 5, Caitlin Tormey, Notre Dame (NY), 2:20.47; 6, Akliah Bates, A. Phillip Randolph, 2:20.50.

1600 — 1, Lindsey Gallo, Howell, 5:08.11; 2, Kim Pereira, Parsippany, 5:10.93; 3, Heather Iatauro, Tri-Valley, 5:11.77; 4, Kristen Meyer, Hillsborough, 5:13.83; 5, Missy Jenkins, Valley Central, 5:20.96; 6, Jolene McMahon, Arlington, 5:23.29.

3200 — 1, Marianne Herbst, Mount Olive, 11:18.26; 2, Tiffany Rust, Hopewell Valley, 11:25.44; 3, Robin Van Auken, Highland, 11:43.72; 4, Nicole Boykin, White Plains, 11:49.87; 5, Hanna Oberman-Breinde, Fieldston, 11:54.14; 6, Caitlin Hanley, Pearl River, 12:18.94.

800 relay — 1, Moorestown, 1:40.77 (meet and Armory record); 2, Paul Robeson, 1:41.77; 3, Simon Gratz, 1:42.01; 4, Uniondale, 1:43.34; 5, Lakewood, 1:43.46; 6, Camden, 1:44.80.

1600 relay — 1, Willingboro, 3:56.26; 2, Trenton, 3:57.22; 3, Mount Vernon, 3:58.92; 4, Boys and Girls, 4:00.90; 5, New Rochelle, 4:01.66; 6, Ramapo (NY), 4:01.74.

3200 relay — 1, Manchester Central, 9:26.26; 2, Boys and Girls, 9:27.43; 3, Middletown South, 9:34.59; 4, Cornwall, 9:35.36; 5, Columbia, 9:42.92; 6, Westfield, 9:44.51.

Distance medley relay — 1, Warwick Valley, 12:16.53; 2, Half Hollow Hills, 12:20.95; 3, Boys and Girls, 12:24.01; 4, Hillsborough, 12:33.88; 5, Hopewell Valley, 12:46.18; 6, Bronxville, 12:49.37.

Shot put — 1, Dana White, Camden, 41-6½; 2, Tonia Sabino, Toms River South, 40-5 ½; 3, Kerri Trendowicz, Tappan Zee, 39-3; 4, Kelly Hagner, Shenendehowa, 39-1; 5, Candice Schultz, Toms River South, 38-4; 6, Marina Lander, Notre Dame (NY), 38-½.

High jump — 1, Shauna Byfield, Manhasset, 5-9 (meet record and ties Armory record); 2, Jessica Taibe, Hunterdon Central, 5-8; 3, Jennifer White, Manalapan, 5-6; 4, Patty Dudek, Bordentown, 5-6; 5, Nicole Parker, Dighton-Rehoboth, 5-6; 6, Lindsay Hayes, Red Bank, 5-6.

Long jump — 1, Paula George, Taft, 18-6¼; 2, Amber Williams, Roxbury, 17-9½; 3, Hannah Huegel, Phillips Exeter, 17-7¼; 4, Deanna Finley, Brandels, 17-¾; 5, Kristen Zeleznik, Voorhees, 16-9; 6, Kerry Walker, Campus Magnet, 16-7; 8, Kennelisha Reid, Passaic Tech, 16-4½.

Triple jump — 1, Michanne Campbell, Mount Vernon, 36-7; 2, Allison Elmo, Monroe-Woodbury, 35-11½; 3, Nicole Dumpson, Port Washington, 35-10½; 4, Christine Post, Valley Central, 35-2¾; 5, Kristen Zeleznik, Voorhees, 35-2¼; 6, Nyla Wormley, Montclair, 34-5; 7, Emily Lamparello, NV/Old Tappan, 34-1.

Pole vault — 1, Amy Linnen, Mount Sinai, 12-10 (meet, Armory and National record); 2, Charlotte LaRoche, Centerville, 10-6; 3, Jamie Stitt, Shenendehowa, 10-6; 4, Alicia LaRoche, Centerville, 10-0; 5, Anne Wyllie, Hunterdon Central, 9-0; 6, Holly Stettner, Hunterdon Central, 9-0.

Special guest at Eastern States

The 1999-2000 winter track season is all but over. The final meets of the season are the Eastern States championship at the Armory Track & Field Center in New York on Feb. 29 and the two "national" meets held at the Armory from March 10 to 12 and at the University of Indiana on March 11 and 12.

These meets may produce some of the top racing and field event performances of the year because athletes from many states will come together to compete at each meet.

The Eastern States meet returns Tuesday for the sixth straight year to the Armory under the direction of the Ridgewood trio of Jacob Brown, Larry Coyle, and Mike Glynn with their partners Brian Rodak of Ramsey and Tom Zaccone of Hackensack. It will again feature sensational competition in 16 boys and 16 girls events, including the distance medley and 3,200-meter relays, which are a prime qualifier for the Penn Relays two months later.

But the high schoolers, at least for about four minutes, will take a back seat to the at-



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tempt by American's top female distance runner, Regina Jacobs, to break the national and world records in the indoor 1,500 meters.

Jacobs, who has run 4:03.45 for 1,500 meters earlier this season, is to take aim at the world mark of 4:00.27 set by Romania's Doina Melinte at the Meadowlands on Feb. 9, 1990, and the American mark of 4:00.8 set by Mary Decker (now Slaney) on Feb. 8, 1980, at the Millrose Games in New York.

Jacobs' attempt, set for 7:55 p.m., will be paced by former New Jersey standout and 1996 Olympian Michelle DiMuro Ave, who will run the first 1,000 meters. Other runners are also expected to round out the field as required by international rules.

Admission is free, and Jacobs will sign autographs after the event.

It's a great chance to catch a great high school meet and perhaps see history made.

JUMPING HIGHER — Jill Turner of Pascack Hills and Ayo Oluwole of St. Joseph Regional skipped the recent State group championships. Turner would have been unable to compete in the State Meet of Champions because she went to Florida with the Pascack Hills chorus last week, and Oluwole missed because the Green Knights chose not to enter.

But the duo won consolation prizes at Wednesday's Garfield Classic, which meet co-director Darren Ressler said was the best

overall competition in the meet's seven-year history.

Turner won a rare three-girl jump-off at 4-11, beating Corinne Reiser of West Milford and Tonya Atkinson of Hackensack.

"It's been nearly three weeks since I last competed, and I was a little rusty," said Turner, who jumped 5-4 earlier in the season at the Northern Bergen Interscholastic League championships. "Now I'm going to do a lot more lifting and get ready for the spring."

In the spring, the multitalented junior is expected to run the hurdles, long jump, high jump, and perhaps run the 100 for the Cowgirls.

Oluwole, who leaped 6-4 to win the boys meet, a height he's jumped several times this season, will get another chance at the Easterns, but the Columbia-bound senior is also looking to the spring.

"I don't think I'll throw the shot anymore," said Oluwole. "But I think I can hurdle again now that my hamstring is OK, and I can't wait to throw the javelin and high jump a lot higher."

In its seventh year, the Garfield Classic continues to be some of the most entertaining 90 minutes of track action every winter. With small select fields in both the high jump and shot put qualifying in a three-meet series, the classic usually produces great competition and several personal bests each year.

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Feb, 29, NY Armory: It was quite a night for New Jersey athletes here, with Mohamed Kanu of Lenape and Amandi Rhett of Moorestown leading an assault that produced three state records and 17 gold medal performances in the 32 events, nine for the NJ girls and eight for the boys.

Kanu was part of two records. He broke Rahn Turner's 400-meter mark as he ran 48.26 and then anchored a 1:28.46 800R win in what could have been, but for two mishaps, a 1-2-3 NJ finish.

Rhett had a busy evening, taking to the track five times as she first won the 55M in a PR of 7.00 and then ran a 23.7 anchor leg to bring the Quakers from behind for a SR 1:40.77 victory in the 800R.

Three other AG champions joined Kanu in the winner's circle. Brian Boyett of Parsippany Hills had no trouble taking the 2M in 9:24.29, but Glen DiGiorgio of Bayonne had to come from behind to take the SP at 59-3 1/2. Alethia Jenkins of Pennsauken got a close race from Amber Williams of Roxbury as she had a PR of 8.03 in the 55H.

Rashad Baker of Wilson atoned for his fall in the AG finals as he won the 55H in a season-leading 7.39, but this time it was Herb Reid of Lenape who went down in the trials. There were two reversals of an AG finishes in the girl's events. Priscilla Hazelwood of Plainfield outran Courtney McCrudden of Eastern and Tara DeBrielle of Overbrook in the 800 in 2:17.70 and a strong double anchor by Shakirah Rutherford and Danielle Myricks brought Willingboro from way back to defeat Trenton in the 1600R in 3:56.26.

Lindsey Gallo of Howell, like Hazelwood, finally showed her true form as she came from behind to win the mile from Kim Pereira of Parsippany in 5:08.11. (All-group 1600 winner Shannon Hawrylo of Hunterdon Central confined herself to a pair of relay legs.)

Marianne Herbst of Mount Olive defended her title in the 2M as she outduelled AG silver medalist Tiffany Rust of Hopewell Valley in a very small field in 11:18.26. (Like Hawrylo, Kim Meyer of Hillsboro anchored a DMR team, then chose to run the mile where she finished 4th.)

Craig Mellows of Madison gave new meaning to the meet's name as the Aussie native took the HJ at 6-6 after the apparent winner was d/qed for a uniform violation. Paul Klemic of Mainland didn't make the long journey, but will no doubt be up for the Nationals.

The same was true of Nacole Moore of Bridgeton in the girls' SP, but Dana White of Camden was the surprise winner at 41-6 1/2 over Tonia Sabino of Toms River South, who also topped 40-0 for the first time.

The other NJ wins came in events not contested at the AG meet, like the two 800Rs. (Just for the record, the Lenape lineup also included Reid, Ian Moore and Luis Tomlinson; Rhett's teammates were Lisa Reindl, Danielle Lyons and Anu Ward.)

Cherokee was in the unseeded section of the 3200R, but made it the seeded section as it ran 7:51.78 with Josh Joseph's opening 1:58+ leg giving it a never-relinquished lead.

Zach Suttile of Randolph had a PR as he won the PV at 14-6 and freshman Anike Orimogunje of Queen of Peace upset AG 55M champ Takara Wilks of Lincoln in the 200M in 24.99. (Wilks had run 25.01 to lead the trials; earlier, she had run a PR 7.11 in the 55 trials, only to be dqed for a false start in the final.)

In the 800R trials, Cherokee had gotten with a tick of Camden's SR when it ran 1:29.05, while the Purple Knights qualified in 1:30.55 despite a severe bumping that got Plainfield d/qed. (Jade Smith was knocked into the infield by Anthony Davis.) In the finals, the two SJ teams went head-to-head into the second turn on the second leg, but Camden dropped the stick and was out of it.

Davis finished 2nd in a very close 55M final to Connecticut champ Sheldon Smith of East Hartford, running a PR of 6.38. Maxwell Booker of Essex Catholic was also credited with that season-leading time in 4th in a blanket finish.

The 800M was one of the top races of the night. Paul Joyce of Clarkstown South set a MR of 1:51.98 (the 800 is a rather recent innovation in this meet which for most of its history ran the 1000 instead). Walton Kingsbery of Red Bank was the top NJ finisher in 3rd at 1:55.25, outrunning the 1-3 AG finishers, Josh Kauke of Ridgewood and Chris Pruitt of Hunterdon Central.

In the mile, Robert Dwyer of the Berkshire School made a mid-race move which no one could answer. Mike Myers of Eastern tried to stay with him, but paid for it and lost 2nd in the sprint to the tape.

The girls' AG 400 champ, Tawana Watkins of Paterson Kennedy, could not stay with NJ champ Neisha Bernard-Thomas of Tilden and settled for 2nd at a PR of 56.47.

Jessica Taibe of Hunterdon Central had a PR of 5-8 in the HJ, but lost a jumpoff for the gold medal to Shauna Byfield of Manhasset, who topped 5-9 on her first try. Amber Williams, prepping for her pentathlon try here at the Nationals, had another 2nd in the LJ at 17-9 1/2. (Now, if she can only get that SP out where it belongs—past 35 feet.)

Khalim Barge of Camden was 2nd in the boys' LJ behind I-Perfection Harris of Poly Prep (We kid you not!)

B: 55-Simpson 6.35, 2-Davis 6.38. 4-Booker 6.38. Also: Bolling, Wlbro 6.49 (false-started in final); Strada, RBC 6.63; Dutch, WashTwp 6.64; Roberts, PsscTch 6.65; DeGennaro, TRNth 6.68; Wade, Linden 6.68. 200-Bedoya, Stpnc 21.75. 4-Bolling 22.28 (22.15ht). 5-Bryant, DnBsc 22.66. Also: Anderson, Eliz 22.68; Dutch 22.69; White, NewProv 22.72; Durant, Tnck 23.05. 400-Kanu 48.36SR. Also: Kordos, Buena 4.9.66; Jones, Syrvle 50.24; Landers, Wall 51.04. 800-Joyce 1:51.98. 3-Kingsbery :55.25. Also: Pruitt, HuntC :57.40; Burns, RvrDil :57.42; Kauke, Rdgwd :57.80; Heerema, WMIld :59.24; Schmidt, Dover :59.39; Weems, WashTwp :59.68; Rodriguez, Pnskn :59.83; Noel, Clmba 2:01.17; Blank, Haddfld :01.26. M-Dwyer 4:21.78 3-Myers :23.81. 4-Keown, Lkwd :26.75. 5-Roth, Jksn :28.92. 6-Skelly, WT :30.01. Also Pereira, Pspny :32.00. 2M-Boyett 9:24.24. 2-Halin, Chrke :29.36. 5-Roberts, MtOlive :37.70. 6-Pellegrino, Mrlbro :45.48. HH-Baker 7.39. 3-Chapman, Lndn 7.61. 4-Ruff, Cmdn 7.64. 6-Sinclair, Lndn 7.67 (7.59ht). 7-Stephen, Pldf 7.69 (7.66ht). Also: Bonsu, OldBrdge 7.66; Moriarty, CBA 7.74; Hamwright, Hglnd 7.75; Dennis, Hlsbro 7.79; C. Williams, Pldf 7.80; Daux, Lndn 7.81; Rosalino, NewProv & Dahms, Hadd 7.85; J. Williams, Cmdn 7.90. HJ-Mellows 6-6. 2-Olowole, SJMont 6-6. 4-Washington, Eliz 6-4. PV-Suttile 14-6. 3-Cooper, Rdgwd 14-0. Also: Davidovic, Livtn, & C. Mazza, TREst 13-6; Serrano, WMIld; Renna, HuntC, & Thomson, Wall 13-0. LJ-Harris 22-5.25. 2-Barge 21-10. 4-Gillis, Pnskn 21-7.5. 5-Alvarez, SPJC 21-4. TJ-Okolie, HlHlWlHsE 46-8. 3-Augustynowicz, Rthfd 44-7. 7-Yokokawa, Peddie 43-6.75. Also: Dolgin, Rdgwd 43-2.75; McManus, SJMont 42-2.5/ SP-DiGiorgio 59-3.5. 2-O'Rourke, FrhldBro 57-9. 3-Auguscinski, Pssc 57-4.5. 6-Pisano, TREst 54-5. 7-Herman, TRNth 53-9.5. 800R-Lenape 1:28.46SR. Also: Camden 1:30.55; Hcksck :32.40; Mtchn :33.02; Wlbro :34.49; Lkwd :34.54. 1600R-Gratz (Pa) 3:20.04. 2-Mtchn :22.74. 4-Trntn :24.86; 6-Buena :27.03. Also: Hlsbro :28.85; TRSth :30.10. 3200R-Chrke 7:51.78. 5-OldBrdge 8:00.22. Also: HuntC :04.40; CBA :04.50; WashTwp :05.50; Crfd :07.23; DonBsc :11.14; Hack :12.51; TRSth :13.34; Shwne :14.49. DMR-StAnthony 10:20.92. 5-Clmba :32.49. Also: RdBnk :44.80.

G: 55-Rhett 7.00. 2-Coppedge, Mter 7.22. 3-Cubicciotti, IHA 7.25. 6-Allen, RosPk 7.30. 7-Ward 7.37 (7.36ht). Also: Wilks 7.11; Griffin, McNair 7.34; Whitlock, Mter 7.41; Ellis, Tren 7.44; Solomon, Lkwd 7.46; Kilkenny, Mt Olive 7.51. Lawson, QP 7.54; Williams, Eliz 7.56. 200-Orimogunje 24.99. 3-Benson 25.38. 4-Wilks 25.50 (25.01ht). Also: Allen 25.34; Coppedge 25.71; Fisher, Cmdn 25.87. 400-Bernard-Thomas 54.87. 2-Watkins 56.57. Also: Rhoden, Ewing 59.35; Bradley, MiddSo 59.59; Alston, NoEdsn 59.70; McRipley, Peddie 59.72; Scarfuto, Mtchn :00.02; Connor, WT :00.08; Walker, Camden :00.19; Lyons, Moortn :00.60; Siebold, Dmrst :01.02. 800-Hazelwood 2:17.70. 2-Koenig, Hack :19.65. 4-McCrudden, Estn :20.02. Also: Zohny, Clmba :20.71; Cosnett, Hadd :22.05; Rhodes, Vrhs :22.48; Betlor, Haddfld :23.71; DeBrielle :22.75; Ricci, Buena :24.49; Scully, SoOcn :2.62; O'Rane, SoBrun :25.04. M-Gallo 5:08.11. 2-Pereira, Pspny :10.93. 4-Meyer :13.83. 2M-Herbst 11:18.26. 2-Rust :25.44. 3-Van Auken, Hglnd :43.72. 55H-Jenkins 8.03. 2-Williams 8.10. 5-Lilien, PscK 8.44. 6-Underwood, Eliz 8.56 (8.23ht). Also: McGill, Frnkln 8.46; Steele, NoEdsn 8.50; Wooden, Pnskn 8.63; El'Amin, Wlbro 8.70; Whitlock, Mter 8.76; McMillian, MtOlive 8.81; Sura, Lndn 8.94, HJ-Byfield 5-9. 2-Taibe 5-8. 3-White, Mnlpn 5-6. 4-Dudek, Bdtwn 5-6. 6-Hayes, RdBnk 5-6. Also: Barcellona, MsgrDvsn; Butts, Estrn; Mullen, NtreDme, & Composto, Isln 5-4. PV-Linnen, MtSinai 12-10NR. 5-Stetner & Wylie, HuntC 9-0. LJ-George, Taft 18-6.75. 2-Williams 17-9.5. 5-Zeleznik, Vrhs 16-9. TJ-Campbell, MtVrn 36-7. 5-Zeleznik 35-2.25. 6-Wormley, Mter 34-5. 7-Lamparello, OldTppn 34-1. SP-White 41-6.5. 2-Sabino 40-5.5. 4-Schultz, TRS 38-4. 6-Inskeep, Syrvle 37-5. 800R-Moortn 1:40.77. 5-Lkwd :43.46. 6-Cmdn :44.80. Also: Eliz :44.65; Tren :45.09; Frnkln :46.91; PCT :47.43; Pnskn :47.91; FrhldBro :49.38. 1600R-Wlbro 3:56.26. 2-Tren :57.22. Also: WashTwp 4:04.00; Rdgwd :10.02; Pnskn :11.81. 3200R-Mcnhr(NH) 9:26.26. 3-MiddSo :34.54. 5-Clmba :42.96. 6-Wstfd :44.51. Also: Cjrke :44.57; Rdgwd :49.55; HuntC 10:02.37; StDmnc :11.39. DMR-WrckV 12:16.53. 4-Hlsbro :33.88. 5-HpwIV :46.08. Also: RdBnk :50.03; MiddSo :57.29; HuntC 13:00.62.



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REGINA JACOBS TO GO FOR THE 1,500 METER WORLD RECORD AT THE FIRST NEW YORK ROAD RUNNERS CLUB WORLD RECORD CHALLENGE

NEW YORK, FEB. 21 - America's number one ranked miler, Regina Jacobs, will take off in pursuit of the 1,500 meters women's indoor world record when she attempts to become the first woman ever to break the four minute mark at the New York Road Runners Club (NYRRC) World Record Challenge at the lightning fast Armory Track & Field Center Mondo track on Tuesday, February 29.

This track and field spectacle is co-sponsored and organized by the Armory Track and Field Center and the NYRRC. The NYRRC is the largest running organization in the world and producer of the world famous New York City Marathon.®

Fans are welcome free of charge to witness this historic track and field moment. The NYRRC World Record Challenge will take place at 7:55 p.m. during the Eastern States High School Indoor Championships meet. The Armory Track & Field Center is located in Upper Manhattan at 216 Fort Washington Ave (168th Street just off Broadway).

Jacobs, silver medalist in the 1,500 at the 1999 World Championships, will be going after Mary Slaney's American indoor record of 4:00.8 set at the Millrose Games on February 8, 1980 (it was the world indoor record at the time) and the current world standard of 4:00.27 clocked by Romania's Doina Melinte on Feb. 9, 1990 while setting the mile mark (4:17:14) at the Meadowlands.

A \$10,000 check will be presented to Jacobs by the NYRRC and the Armory if she breaks the world record. Jacobs will be paced by Michelle Ave in her world record pursuit.

"We applaud Regina on her bold bid to break the world record and welcome this wonderful opportunity to continue our involvement in bringing the very best track and field events to all of our running friends in the New York metropolitan area," said Allan Steinfeld, president and CEO of the NYRRC.

"The Armory is thrilled that Regina has chosen NYC for this attempt to break the historic sub-four minute barrier for the 1500 meters," said Norb Sander, president of the Armory High School Sports Foundation.

Jacobs, who competes for the New York Athletic Club, has been building up to this moment throughout the winter indoor season. She ran on the Armory track at the New Balance Games on January 8, clocking 4:03.45 for 1500 meters while winning the mile in 4:21:79. At the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden on February 4, she won the mile by more than 14 seconds in 4:24:04. In both of those races Jacobs was paced by Ave, who runs for ASICS.

Jacobs, 36 and a resident of Oakland, California is also the top-ranked American woman at 3,000 meters and is the current USATF 3,000m indoor champion and outdoor 1500 and 5000m champion.

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TRACK AND FIELD

Jacobs Seeks Record In the Indoor 1,500

For those who may wonder where the next generation of great American middle-distance runners is, Regina Jacobs, the top female miler in the United States, pointed to tonight at the Armory Track and Field Center in Manhattan.

And that, Jacobs says, is why she accepted the challenge of the New York Road Runners Club to try to become the first woman to break four minutes indoors in the 1,500 meters. The world indoor record of 4 minutes 0.27 seconds was set by Doina Melinte of Romania in 1990. The race, which will be run during the Eastern States high school indoor championships, may be just what middle-distance running needs in the United States.

"One of the reasons they brought me in was to get the kids excited about what they can do and to really lay a map for the future of American track and field," Jacobs said yesterday. "In order to get them to that point, they've got to see me doing what I'm doing up close and personal, be next to me, come up to me and ask what I was running at their age, so they can see they're no different than me.

"And," added Jacobs, who flew in from Oakland, Calif., last Thursday to get acclimated to the track and the time zone, "some of the girls are running faster than I did at their age."

One of them is Robin Mortel of A.P. Randolph High in Manhattan, who won the 1,000 meters at the Public Schools Athletic League championships this month in a national best time of 2:55.25.

With the growth of professional track and field and big-money prize events in Europe, the American circuit has found it more difficult to attract the elite fields that lure sponsors. The New York Road Runners Club hopes to change that. If Jacobs breaks the world record, she will receive \$20,000 from the club, backed by Lloyd's of London.

The club's challenge will be held on the fast Mondo track favored in Europe; to ensure a world-record pace, Michelle Ave, a leading half-miler, will be the pace-setter.

"My world-record attempt is about proving Americans can break records on American soil," Jacobs said. "The Europeans are green with envy about it because all of the fast times that have been set over here. I love the idea of us running and providing records in mid-distances."

LENA WILLIAMS

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FEB 2000

Taking the Long Route

Hickman Found Her Way to Marathon by Way of Track Meets

By JERE LONGMAN

Libbie Hickman, the top qualifier for the Olympic marathon trials Saturday, eased into her running career. The daughter of an oil company executive, she finished high school in Cairo. Track and field season usually consisted of one meet, against other Americans attending international schools in places like London or Germany. Mostly, she played basketball. Egyptian women and girls would approach her in the gym and touch her blond hair and tell her it felt like silk.

There was not much distance running to be had in Cairo's searing heat. And while it was O.K. to train in shorts inside the high school compound, to do so on the streets sometimes clashed with Muslim custom. Once, Hickman said, she was jogging on the roads in a Cairo suburb when a car drove past and one of the passengers reached out slapped a friend of hers on the behind. Hickman said she picked up a rock and hit the back windshield of the car.

"We took off sprinting the other way," she recalled. "I think they had a bad image of what America was. They watched 'Dallas.' I think they thought Americans were quite sleazy."

The clock, not cultural custom, will present the main barrier at the marathon trials in Columbia, S.C. The entry standard for the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia, is 2 hours 33 minutes. Among American women, only Hickman, who ran 2:28:34 in finishing sixth at the 1999 Chicago Marathon, and Kristy Johnson, who finished 10th in Chicago in 2:32:34, have met the qualifying standard. This created the possibility that someone could win the Olympic trials in a slow time and not be eligible to compete in Sydney, such is the deteriorated state of American marathoning.

Wanting to make the trials meaningful and to appease corporate sponsors, the United States track and field federation decided that the winner would qualify for the 2000 Summer Olympics, no matter the finishing time. (The Americans are guaranteed at least one spot in Sydney.) Beyond that, things are complicated. A maximum of three American runners can qualify for the Sydney Marathon. If Saturday's winner runs slower than 2:33, only she will compete in Sydney. If the winner runs faster than 2:33, the Americans will get up to three Olympic berths. Those berths would be filled by sub-2:33 finishes in Columbia, or by eligible qualifying times achieved elsewhere. Theoretically, Hickman could still qualify for Sydney by finishing last in the trials because she has an eligible qualifying time. But she believes this will be a moot point. At the 1996 trials, run on the same course, the top three finishers ran below 2:33.

"I think everyone looks at 2:33 and knows it's not that fast a time," Hickman said. "I think it's not going to play a factor with the women's field unless it is a freak day, with a heat wave or an ice storm. I kind of think it will take 2:30, maybe a little under, to win."

Actually, there will be a pressing cultural issue at the marathon trials: the flying of the Confederate flag over the South Carolina Statehouse. USA Track and Field has called for its removal. "I don't know why it's there in the first place, but some people think it's part of their history," Hickman said. "I think I better stay out of it. It's good to use your voice, but you don't want to destroy the essence of athletics."

Not wanting to risk a winter of snow and ice interfering with her training, Hickman and her husband, Walter, left their home in Fort Collins, Colo., and set up camp among the rolling hills of Solana Beach, Calif., north of San Diego. She has been running 100 to 110 miles a week on undulating terrain, preparing for the hills between Miles 21 and 23 on the 26.2-mile Columbia course that could separate the contenders from the pretenders.

Her relocation has been a tradeoff. Altitude training increases oxygen-carrying capacity, but sea-level training allows for faster workouts. She has been running 15 miles at 5:50 pace on a loop course, and her longer runs have been for two and a half



Libbie Hickman, winning the 10,000 meters at the national track and field championships last summer in Oregon, has run a 2:28:34 marathon.

A newcomer to distance running has a background at 10,000 meters.

hours at a 7:30 pace.

Hickman, 35, is still a relative newcomer to marathoning after a career on the track and the roads. She plans to start conservatively and not to run alone, which she did in getting caught in a no-man's land during the 1998 New York City Marathon. She is the reigning national track champion and road champion at 10 kilometers (6.2 miles). That should give her an advantage if someone begins making moves with a faster mile pace.

"If someone throws in a 4:50, that kind of surge wouldn't affect me," Hickman said. "Someone else might not be as comfortable."

Even if she wins the marathon trials, Hickman may opt to run the 10,000 meters instead in Sydney. She said she would make a decision based on her chances for the best finish. The Olympic marathon field is expected to include Tegla Loroupe of Kenya, the world record-holder (2:20:43), and Fatuma Roba of Ethiopia, the defending Olympic champion.

If she chooses the marathon, Hickman said, she believes she can be a contender. Only Joan Benoit Samuelson, who won the 1984 Olympic marathon in Los Angeles, has won a medal in the event for the United States. Anne Marie Lauck was the top American finisher at the 1996 Atlanta Games with a 10th-place finish.

"I don't want to jinx myself, but I think I'm a real smart racer," Hickman said. "I can compete in large events. I'd definitely be looking for a top-10 finish. It's going to be a strong field, but I wouldn't count myself out of medal contention. That's what I would be gearing for."

Jacobs Shoots for Fast 1,500

Regina Jacobs, the top-rated United States women's miler, said yesterday that she would try to become the first woman to break four minutes in the indoor 1,500 meters next week in New York. She will make the attempt at the Armory Track and Field Center next Tuesday in a race scheduled as part of the Eastern States high school indoor championships.

The world indoor record in the 1,500 is 4 minutes 0.27 seconds by Doina Melinte of Romania in 1990. The American record is 4:00.8 by Mary Slaney, set at the Millrose Games in 1980.

Jacobs, 36, will have two things in her favor for the race, which is scheduled for 7:55 p.m. First, the Mondo track at the armory is extremely fast. Second, she will be helped by a pace setter, Michelle Ave, a leading half-miler.

It was Ave who set the pace for Jacobs at the armory on Jan. 8 when she ran the mile in 4:21.79, the fastest time in the world this winter for that distance.

Earlier this month, Jacobs, who lives in Oakland, Calif., won the Millrose Games mile by 14 seconds. In 1999, she won the United States outdoor championships in the 1,500 and the 5,000.

TRACK AND FIELD

Jacobs Gets the Victory, But Not 4-Minute Target

By LENA WILLIAMS

The crowd was cheering for her, the track was fast, and the race itself was a special event. Everything was designed to help Regina Jacobs do what no other woman had done indoors: run 1,500 meters in under four minutes.

The 36-year-old Jacobs tried to come through for the crowd of more than 3,000 at the Armory Track and Field Center last night. But despite winning easily, she could not pull off the feat, or even set an American record.

She won the race in a time of 4 minutes 7.06 seconds, more than 7 seconds off the record of 4:00.2, set 10 years ago by Doina Melinte of Romania. The American record is

A confident, on-record pace dissolves during a difficult final lap.

4:00.8, set by Mary Slaney at the 1980 Millrose Games.

Finishing behind Jacobs, the top-rated female miler in the United States and third in the world, was Christine Junkerman, running for the Adidas Club, in 4:22.36 and Jodie D'Ariano, with Asics, in 4:25.55.

Had she broken the record, Jacobs would have received a \$20,000 prize offered by the New York Road Runners Club, which sponsored the race during the Eastern States High School Indoor Championships.

Until the final lap, Jacobs looked as if she were money in the bank.

Jacobs, running on the fast Mondo track and paced smartly for the first 1,000 meters by Michelle Ave, was at 2:40.02 at the 1,000 mark, one second behind her personal goal, but still on pace and within shot of the record.

She entered the bell lap in 3:32, faster than record pace.

But during that final lap, while running alone, Jacobs said she started to struggle and felt herself slowing, this despite the cheering from an enthusiastic crowd, many with her name on placards or buttons.

Jacobs, known for her endurance, could not endure.

"So much can happen in the last 400 meters at a time when I should be finishing strong and quickly," she said after the race.

"It's right there, that's what's so frustrating because when I ran the 1,000 I broke it like by 4 seconds. I ran a 2:31.

"You don't always get what you want. We did not accomplish the record today. Save that for another day, but we did inspire a big group of kids."

For the past year, Jacobs has been on a roll.

She won a silver medal in the 1,500 meters at the world track and field championships in Seville, Spain, last August and achieved a 1,500-5,000 double in the national outdoor championships. This past month, she won the Millrose Games mile by 14 seconds and set an American record of 2:35.29 in the women's 1,000 meters at the New Balance Invitational in Boston.

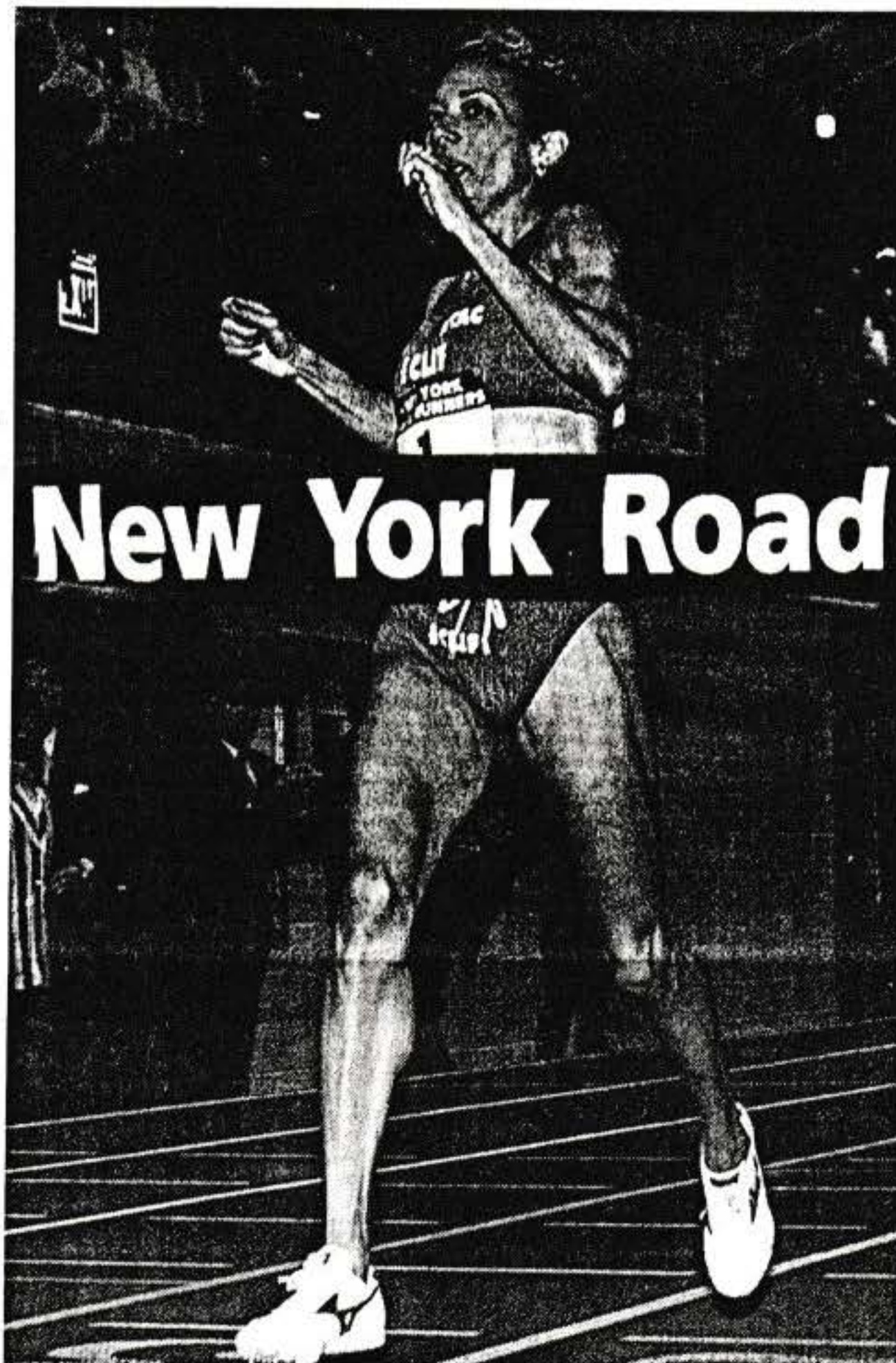
Of the reigning elite field of American middle-distance runners, Jacobs is considered the one most capable of running a sub-four-minute 1,500. She was enough of an odds-on favorite that three insurance companies refused to back the initial \$10,000 prize offered by the New York Road Runners Club. On Monday, Lloyd's of London agreed to back the \$20,000 award — which the club was also seeking — for a \$3,000 fee.

And before last night's race, Jacobs pronounced herself in "possibly the best mental and physical shape" of her career.

"I'm in great shape," said Jacobs, who arrived in New York from her home in Oakland, Calif., last Thursday with her husband, Tom Craig, who also serves as her coach. "In terms of preparation, in terms of diet, I feel like a prizefighter. I'm ready. How many times in your career do you get in this kind of shape?"

But it proved not to be enough on the last lap.

Jacobs reportedly has not decided whether she will run the mile at national indoor championships in Atlanta this weekend, or whether she will try to break Melinte's record of 4:17.14, set the same time she established the 1,500 mark.



Michelle V. Agins/The New York Times

Regina Jacobs was all alone in winning the 1,500 meters last night, far ahead of the rest of field but also far off the record she sought.

Drummond Season Ends Slowly

By WILLIAM J. MILLER

The dream indoor season for Darnion Drummond, Paul Robeson High School's outstanding senior runner, came to an end last night at the Eastern States Scholastic Championships at the Armory Track and Field Center in Upper Manhattan.

After leading from the start of the seeded section of the boys' 800-meter run, Drummond yielded to Paul Joyce of Clarkstown South in Rockland County with a lap left. On the final lap, Drummond all but gave up and finished sixth in the seven-man

heat in 1 minute 57.05 seconds.

After the event, Horace Sutherland, Drummond's coach, said the 18-year-old Jamaican was finished for the indoor season, meaning Drummond will not compete in the state or national championships.

"Damon spent the past week visiting colleges he might attend next fall, and I have no idea if he did any training," Sutherland said curtly. "He looked tired out there tonight, so I scratched him from any further indoor meets."

Drummond had a brilliant season: a national mark of 1:18.80 for 600 meters, a country-best of 2:28.58 in the 1,000 and a 1:53.11 in the 800.

But Joyce poured it on last night in the final lap and won in the fastest 800 time this season, 1:51.98, which also broke a New York State record that had lasted 17 years.

In other events, I. Perfection Harris of Brooklyn's Poly Prep won the boys' long jump at 22 feet 5¾ inches and Amy Linnen of Long Island's Mount Sinai High School cleared 12-10 in the pole vault, the national best for girls this year.