

USA Masters Track Championships in Spokane July 26-29 to Include World's Top Masters Track Athletes, a 100-Year-Old, Over 900 US Athletes

MEET INCLUDES 18 HALL OF FAMERS, 36 WORLD RECORD HOLDERS, 116 RETURNING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS 112 WASHINGTON STATE ATHLETES INCLUDING 18 FROM SPOKANE AREA

NEWS PROVIDED BY

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SPOKANE, Wash., July 17, 2018 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- From Thursday to Sunday, July 26-29, the USA Track & Field Masters Outdoor Championships in Spokane (Cheney), WA at Eastern Washington University's Roos Field, will showcase over 900 of America and the world's best track and field athletes in over 2400 events.

Competing are 18 USATF Masters Track and Field Hall of Famers, 26 Indoor and Outdoor World Record holders, and 62 Indoor and Outdoor American Record holders. The 19 World Outdoor Record holders hold 46 world records among them. There will also be 112 Washington State athletes and 19 from the Spokane area. Spokane area athletes are listed below.

Among the competitors: last year's 2017 USATF Masters Athlete of the year Sabra Harvey, 69, of Houston, TX. World Masters Association (WMA) Outstanding Male Athlete of the year in 2017 and 2012, Bob Lida, 81, of Wichita, KS, who set world M80 records in both the 200 and 400M at the WMA Indoor Championships in 2017. Also present will be former WMA Athletes of the Year; Irene Obera, (2016), 84, from Fremont, CA, Rita Hanscom (2009), 64, San Diego, CA; Charles Allie (2013), 70, Pittsburgh, PA, also a champion race car driver; and Canadian Citizen Christa Bortignon (2013), 81, West Vancouver, BC. Also attending are last year's WMA Event Group Athletes of the Year, Bill Harvey, 72, Glenbrook, NV, and Jeferson Souza, 44, Miami, FL (combined events).

Also participating: the meet's *two oldest competitors*, 100 year-old Orville Rogers of Dallas, TX who set two centenarian (M 100-104) indoor world records last year, and Roy Englert, Springfield, VA, 95, who was set world marks in his 95-99 age group indoors in the 800M, 1500M, and 3000M at the 2018 USATF Masters Indoor National Championship.

Other notables: NFL great Willie Gault, 57, Encino CA, an American and World outdoor record sprinter. 3-time Olympian Michelle Rohl, 53, a 22 time U.S. Racewalking Champion, American Record holder, and Pan Am Games medal winner, is doing an exhibition 800 and 1500 meter.

Rex Harvey, USA Masters Track & Field Chair, said: "Many of the athletes here in Spokane are doing their final tune-up before going to Malaga, Spain September 4-16 to compete in the World Masters Championships. I couldn't be more proud of our US Team; Athletes, Officials, and Administrators. We are working together to become the world's number one masters team."

SPOKANE AREA ATHLETES: Among the 112 Washington State athletes, 18 are from the Spokane area. In the throws: Kyle Unland, 51 Ryan Weidman, 46 and Marty Swager, 58. Taking on the sprints: USATF Sprint Coach and Athlete Gail Kuhnly, 56; 71 year old Caroline Cooney; Keera Payne, 35; Daniel Mendenhall, 62 and 70 year-old Jon Heimbigner in 80M hurdles. Samantha Cooney Starr, 39, will also do jumps and pent. Chris Morlan, 51, will run 5000M, along with Lou Karl, 62, Heath Robertson, 35, Heather LeFriece, 46, Anja Goetzinger, 31, Carl Combs, 52, and Kyle McNaught-Davis, 40. Jon Neill, 44 and John Statham, 68 will run 1500M. Roger Vergin, 80, of Poulsbo, WA, who won seven medals at the 2017 Albuquerque USA Indoor Masters, is in eleven events. George Mathews of Edmonds, outside Seattle, former national MTF Chair, is in the hammer and weight throws.

All athletes are subject to drug testing at the meet.

The meet runs all four days, 8AM to late afternoon. Spectators are free. Media welcome.

More information:

<http://www.usatf.org/Events---Calendar/2018/USATF-Masters-Outdoor-Championships.aspx>

Event Schedule: <https://tinyurl.com/yalvzjhy>

Athletes competing, awards, hometown, events: <https://tinyurl.com/y8xbyaps>

19 Masters *World Outdoor Record Holders Competing*:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IKEuWXajrqBC5WoswUw7k22hfRwk3S4Qx_a5I9BuyIg/edit?ts=5b44fd39#gid=0&range=V3

USATF Masters:

Visit USATF website for information at www.usatf.org, www.usatfmasters.org,

<https://twitter.com/USAMastersTrack>

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