



GOLDEN GOPHER TRACK & FIELD

The 1998 NCAA Outdoor Championships
Hosted by SUNY-Buffalo · Buffalo, N.Y.

UB Stadium

NCAA Outdoor Championship Notes
Wednesday through Saturday, June 3-6

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THE FACTS: Four Golden Gopher athletes have qualified to compete at this season's NCAA Outdoor Championships hosted by the State University of New York at Buffalo Wednesday, June 3 through Saturday, June 6. Of the four, three are repeat competitors at the NCAA Championships. Senior **TYE HARVEY** (Jamestown, Calif.), junior **VESA RANTANEN** (Virrat, Finland) and sophomore **STAFFAN STRAND** (Uppsaland-Vasby, Sweden) are all returning All-Americans. Senior **RICK OBLEMAN** (Regina, Sask., Canada) will be competing in his first NCAA

Championship, running in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Harvey and Rantanen will be pole vaulting Wednesday, while Strand will compete in the high jump Thursday.

RAZORBACK RACE: The Arkansas Razorbacks are the six-time defending champions of the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Arkansas became the second school to ever chalk up six straight titles last season in Indianapolis. Southern California, which finished third a year ago, won nine consecutive titles from 1935-1943. The Trojans also strung together seven titles from 1949-1955. Arkansas can join the

WHO ² WATCH

Minnesota left Indiana a year ago with four All-Americans from the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Of those four, two return to Buffalo for this year's NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Sophomore **STAFFAN STRAND** and junior **VESA RANTANEN** will be back each looking to capture an NCAA title. Strand finished second a year ago in the high jump and is listed second among qualifiers this year. He is a four-time Big Ten champion - twice outdoors - and took fourth at the NCAA Indoor Championships this season. Rantanen is the defending NCAA indoor champion in the pole vault. Last year he placed sixth, and in 1996, he took 10th. He is 13th among qualifiers, but stands a good shot of finishing well. He holds the University of Minnesota outdoor pole vault record of 18-5 1/2 (5.63m) which he set at the Texas Relays last season. The field's top qualifier, Jacob Davis of Texas, qualified this year with a height of 19-4 1/2 (5.90m). Also competing for the Golden Gophers are senior **TYE HARVEY**, who's 12th in the pole vault field, and senior **RICK OBLEMAN**, who's eighth among qualifiers in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. It is the first NCAA Championship for Obleman, and it is Harvey's second after missing last season due to injury

Schedule of Events

(all times are EST)

Wednesday, June 3

- 4 p.m. Javelin (finals)
- 5 p.m. Pole Vault (finals)**
- 6:10 p.m. 400-meter Relay (semifinals)
- 6:40 p.m. 400-meter Hurdles (semifinals)
- 7:10 p.m. 800-meter Run (semifinals)
- 7:25 p.m. 3,000-meter Steeplechase (semifinals)**
- 8:15 p.m. 200-meter Dash (trials)

Thursday, June 4

- 6 p.m. High Jump (finals)**
- Long Jump (finals)
- 6:20 p.m. 110-meter Hurdles (trials)
- 7:05 p.m. 400-meter Dash (semifinals)
- 7:35 p.m. 100-meter Dash (trials)
- 8:10 p.m. 1,500-meter Run (semifinals)
- 8:40 p.m. Mile Relay (semifinals)
- 9:20 p.m. 10,000-meter Run (finals)

Friday, June 5

- 3 p.m. Hammer (finals)
- 3:20 p.m. Decathlon 100-meter Dash
- 4:05 p.m. Decathlon Long Jump
- 5:20 p.m. Decathlon Shot Put
- 6 p.m. Discus (finals)
- 6:10 p.m. 400-meter Relay (finals)
- 6:30 p.m. 400-meter Hurdles (finals)
- 6:35 p.m. Decathlon High Jump
- 6:55 p.m. 100-meter Dash (semifinals)
- 7:15 p.m. 800-meter Run (finals)
- 7:35 p.m. 110-meter Hurdles (semifinals)
- 7:45 p.m. Decathlon 400-meter Dash
- 7:50 p.m. 3,000-meter Steeplechase (finals)**
- 8:20 p.m. 200-meter dash (semifinals)

Saturday, June 6

- 1:20 p.m. Decathlon 110-meter Hurdles
- 2:05 p.m. Decathlon Discus
- 3:50 p.m. Decathlon Pole Vault
- 5 p.m. Triple Jump (finals)
- 5:35 p.m. Decathlon Javelin
- 6 p.m. Decathlon Shot Put
- 6:10 p.m. 110-meter Hurdles (finals)
- 6:25 p.m. 400-meter Dash (finals)
- 6:40 p.m. 100-meter Dash (finals)
- 7:05 p.m. Decathlon 1,500-meter Run
- 7:20 p.m. 1,500-meter Run (finals)
- 7:40 p.m. 200-meter Dash (finals)
- 8:10 p.m. 5,000-meter Run (finals)
- 8:40 p.m. Mile Relay (finals)

Events in bold signify Golden Gopher events
Time is subject to change

GOLDEN GOPHER TRACK & FIELD

Comeback Kid

Last year senior **TYE HARVEY** was never able to gun for his second conference pole vault title after winning the crown at the 1996 outdoor meet. Nor was he able to enter the NCAA Championships after automatically qualifying earlier in the year. Harvey was ready to compete, but had an untimely accident which prevented his performance. While driving with his teammates to the Big Ten Championships, Harvey's van was hit, and he put his arm out on the dashboard to brace the impact. The momentum of both the airbag and the accident caused his right wrist to shatter, requiring surgery, pins and plates, and ending his season. His climb back to the top has required intensive rehabilitation and has been remarkable. He took third at this season's Big Ten outdoor meet and qualified for this year's NCAA Championships.

Fact Box

Trojans' string of seven crowns with a victory this weekend.

MINNESOTA AND THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The Golden Gophers have won the NCAA outdoor title only once in their history. Minnesota's lone championship came in 1948 when Fortune Gordien and Lloyd LaMois were both individual champions. Gordien took home his third straight discus title and LaMois won the Golden Gophers' only triple jump crown.

Since that victory, Minnesota has finished in the top 10 twice. First in 1971 when the team was eighth and again last season. Under Head Coach **PHIL**

LUNDIN's direction a year ago, the Golden Gophers leapt from 58th in 1996 to ninth in 1997. Besides Minnesota's title in 1948, the highest any other Golden Gopher outdoor squad has finished is third, which was done twice, once in 1932 and again in 1947.

INDIVIDUAL GOLDEN GOPHERS AT THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Minnesota's program has had eight NCAA outdoor champions and 45 outdoor All-Americans. The last national champion was Gary Bjorklund in 1971 when he won the six mile run. Minnesota has never had a high jump or steeplechase champion and its last pole vault winner was Jack DeField who won in both 1943 and 1942.

Of the four Minnesota athletes competing, three are returning outdoor All-Americans. Senior **TYE HARVEY** was a pole vault All-American in 1995 after placing tied for eighth. Junior **VESA RANTANEN's** sixth-place finish last year earned All-America accolades, and sophomore **STAFFAN STRAND** was a high jump All-American a year ago after taking second place.

U OF M NINTH AT LAST YEAR'S NCAA OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The U of M took ninth at last year's championships on the heels of four All-Americans. **STAFFAN STRAND** led the Golden Gophers with a second-place finish in the high jump. **BENJAMIN JENSEN** (Mandal, Norway) took third in the decathlon, **VESA RANTANEN** finished sixth in the pole vault, and former Golden Gopher **JASON SCHLUETER** took sixth in in the discus. Jensen will not be competing this season due to an injury which has kept him sidelined from decathlon competition all season.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS:

Minnesota won its first ever Big Ten indoor title March 1 under the direction of Big Ten Coach of the Year **PHIL LUNDIN**. **STAFFAN STRAND** and junior **BENJAMIN JENSEN** were both Big Ten individual champions. Strand

By the Numbers

9th

Minnesota's finish at last season's NCAA Outdoor Championships with four athletes competing

4

Athletes qualified to compete at this year's NCAA Championships

2

Returning All-Americans from last year

8

NCAA outdoor champions in Golden Gopher history

7

U of M field champions at the NCAA Outdoor Championships

1971

The last time a Golden Gopher won an outdoor event at NCAAs. Gary Bjorklund won the six mile run in 27:43.10

2nd

The highest any current Golden Gopher ever finished at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Staffan Strand took second in the high jump last season. However, Vesa Rantanen won the pole vault at this season's NCAA Indoor Championships

28

Golden Gopher outdoor All-Americans prior to 1990

17

Golden Gopher indoor All-Americans after 1990

1948

The last time Minnesota won an NCAA Outdoor Championship

37

Individual event titles Minnesota has taken this season

3

Records broken by Minnesota athletes this year

GOLDEN GOPHER TRACK & FIELD

on the high jump with a meet record 7-4 1/2 leap, while Jensen won the heptathlon with a Minnesota school indoor record of 5,769 points.

The Golden Gophers followed that up two weeks ago with their first Big Ten outdoor championship in 30 years. Sophomores **STAFFAN STRAND** and **FRED RODGERS** (Hamilton, Ohio) were the lone Big Ten individual champions for Minnesota. Strand won his fourth high jump title, while Rodgers became the U of M's first ever Big Ten champion in the 100-meter dash.

OBLEMAN'S FIRST AND

LAST STAND: Fifth-year senior **RICK OBLEMAN** will be competing in his first NCAA Track and Field Championships. It will also be the final meet for him in a Golden Gopher uniform. The former cross country and current track and field captain almost automatically qualified for the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a career-best time of 8:45.12. Instead he holds the NCAA field's eighth-best qualifying time. Obleman has been more known for his cross country prowess in his five years as a Golden Gopher. A three-time cross country MVP for Minnesota, Obleman became the U of M's first All-Big Ten cross country runner in 10 seasons when he was honored in his final season last year. He is also only one of three Golden Gopher athletes to earn All-Big Ten distinction in cross country.

FOUR SCORE: Minnesota has four returning All-Americans gracing its field roster this season in **BENJAMIN JENSEN**, **TYE HARVEY**, **VESA RANTANEN** and **STAFFAN STRAND**. Harvey and Rantanen share the team's top height in the pole vault, which has qualified both for the NCAA Championships.

Rantanen won the pole vault at the NCAA Indoor Championships and finished second in the conference at both indoor and outdoor meets this year. Harvey took third in the conference and 12th at the NCAA meet during the indoor season, and placed third at the outdoor conference championships.

This season, Jensen, the U of M's

Strand's Stand

Staffan Strand's record-breaking first jump of the indoor season instantly made him the talk of the Big Ten Conference. With a high jump leap of 7-6 1/2 (2.30m), Strand had broken a Minnesota school, a Big Ten and a U of M Field House record. The jump at the time was tops in the nation, No. 2 in the world and listed as seventh best in the collegiate record books.

Strand earned Co-Big Ten Athlete of the Month honors for the month of January and was named the *Trackwire's* Athlete of the Week for the week ending Jan. 31.

Additionally, he has won the Big Ten high jump title four times in his two-year career. He tied the U of M school outdoor record in his first and only meet of this season, going 7-5 (2.26m). Strand followed that with a conference championship record of 7-4 1/2 (2.25m) to win the Big Ten title again.

Some of Strand's career highlights include the following:

- ✓ 1997 Big Ten Freshman of the Year
- ✓ Three-time Swedish National Champion
- ✓ 1997 Under-23 European Champion
- ✓ 15th at the World Championships this past summer
- ✓ Three-time All-American
- ✓ Four-time Big Ten Champion

star decathlete, will not be able to try and advance his third-place efforts from last year's NCAA meet. He injured his hamstring in the first event of the Mount SAC decathlon in April, and was unable to compete in another decathlon.

Strand, a four-time Big Ten champion in the high jump, was second in the high jump at last year's outdoor championships. In his first, and only, meet this season, Strand leapt a Minnesota school-record tying 7-5 (2.26m). He also set a Big Ten Championships record, jumping 7-4 1/2 (2.25m) to win the conference title this year.

THE COACHING STAFF: Head Track and Field Coach **PHIL LUNDIN** is in his third season with the Golden Gophers. Already he has produced 10 All-Americans, 15 Big Ten Champions and 12 Academic All-Big Ten selections. After being an assistant to Roy Griak for six seasons, Lundin stepped up to head coach prior to the 1996 season. In his first year he took the Golden Gophers from a fifth-place finish in the Big Ten Conference in the indoor season to a third-place finish. The indoor team also went from a tie for 55th in the nation at the 1995 NCAA Indoor Championships to a 10th-place finish in 1997. The outdoor team, which took second at the Big Ten Championships in 1996 and 1997, leapt from 58th in 1996 to ninth last season at

the NCAA Championships under Lundin's direction. It was the Golden Gophers' best finish in 25 years.

This year, Lundin was the unanimous selection for Big Ten Indoor and Outdoor Coach of the Year honors after guiding the Golden Gophers to both the indoor and outdoor conference title. During the indoor season, Lundin's trio of athletes placed 14th at the NCAA Championships. He helped junior **VESA RANTANEN** win the national pole vault title, and become the first Golden Gopher NCAA champion since 1993.

Assistant Coach **STEVE PLASENCIA** is in charge of molding the distance runners. Plasencia, who competed twice this season with his athletes as an unattached runner, spends the fall season as the team's head cross country coach. This year he took a young team all the way to the NCAA Championships. It was the first time Minnesota had been to the Championships since 1981.

GETTING RESULTS: Results for the 1998 NCAA Track and Field Outdoor Championship can be accessed through the internet. Results will be posted throughout the day on the NCAA Championships website at <http://www.ncaachampionships.com>.

1998 Minnesota Track and Field Top Outdoor Performances

100-Meter Dash (10.18, 10.35)

10.44*	Fred Rodgers	1st	Big Tens (5/24)
10.52	Fred Rodgers	1st	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
10.54*	Steve Burkholder	2nd	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
10.55	Fred Rodgers	1st	Last Chance (5/16)
10.60	Fred Rodgers	PR	Big Tens (5/23)

200-Meter Dash (20.50, 20.85)

20.86*!	Scott Beadle	1st	Last Chance (5/16)
21.28	Scott Beadle	3rd	Big Tens (5/24)
21.46*	Steve Burkholder	6th	Big Tens (5/24)
21.47	Steve Burkholder	1st	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
21.49	Tom Gerding	2nd	Last Chance (5/16)

400-Meter Dash (45.40, 46.40)

46.16*!\$&	Scott Beadle	1st	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
46.31\$	Scott Beadle	PR	Big Tens (5/23)
46.65	Scott Beadle	3rd	Jesse Owens (4/18)
46.78	Scott Beadle	2nd	Big Tens (5/24)
47.24*	Tom Gerding	2nd	Maroon&Gold (5/9)

800-Meter Run (1:47.30, 1:49.00)

1:48.92*\$	Jason Owen	4th	Tyson Inv. (4/17-18)
1:49.22	Jason Owen	3rd	Drake Relays (4/25)
1:50.99*	Ron Hoffner	8th	Tyson Inv. (4/17-18)
1:52.01	Ron Hoffner	19th	Sea Ray Rel. (4/10)
1:53.49	Jason Owen	27th	Sea Ray Rel. (4/10)

1,500-Meter Run (3:41.30, 3:45.50)

3:46.32	Sami Valtonen	14th	Cardinal Inv. (5/8)
3:50.09	Sami Valtonen	6th	Big Tens (5/24)
3:50.33*	Josh Brang	PR	Big Tens (5/23)
3:50.69	Sami Valtonen	PR	Big Tens (5/23)
3:52.84	Josh Brang	1st	MNClassic (5/2)

3,000-Meter Run

8:08.88	Sami Valtonen	5th	Tyson Inv. (4/17-18)
8:27.59	Chad Johnson	1st	MNClassic (5/2)
8:30.13	Jeremy Polson	2nd	MN Classic (5/2)
8:32.83	Erik Hartmark	3rd	MNClassic (5/2)
8:36.97	Charles McClure	5th	MNClassic (5/2)

3,000-Meter Steeplechase (8:44.00, 8:54.00)

8:45.12*\$	Rick Obleman	2nd	Cardinal Inv. (5/8)
8:51.78\$	Rick Obleman	4th	Tyson Inv. (4/17-18)
8:53.19\$	Rick Obleman	3rd	Big Tens (5/23)
9:07.16	Eric Pierce	7th	Big Tens (5/23)
9:17.90*	Matt Carter	8th	Bldy/Cast. (3/28)

5,000-Meter Run (13:50.00, 14:14.00)

14:14.31*	Chad Johnson	12th	Cardinal Inv. (5/8)
14:23.26*	Sami Valtonen	6th	Bldy/Cast. (3/28)
14:39.48	Chad Johnson	4th	Tyson Inv. (4/17-18)
14:47.90*	Jeremy Polson	6th	Tyson Inv. (4/17-18)
14:49.11*	Charles McClure	17th	Bldy/Cast. (3/28)

10,000-Meter Run (29:10.00, 29:55.00)

30:51.80	Chad Johnson	8th	Big Tens (5/22)
31:29.01*	Tony Riter	1st	Bldy/Cast. (3/28)
31:37.43	Eric Hartmark	16th	Big Tens (5/22)

110-Meter Hurdles (13.72, 14.00)

14.09	Niles Deneen	5th	Big Tens (5/24)
14.15	Niles Deneen	4th	Bldy/Cast. (3/28)
14.23	Niles Deneen	6th	Jesse Owens (5/3)
14.24	Niles Deneen	2nd	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
14.25	Niles Deneen	PR	Big Tens (5/23)

400-Meter Hurdles (50.20, 51.30)

53.82	Bob Quade%	1st	Last Chance (5/16)
54.86	Bob Quade%	5th	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
55.00	Bob Quade%	2nd	Carleton Rel. (4/18)

4x100-Meter Relay (39.35, 40.00)

40.61	Minnesota	PR	Big Tens (5/23)
40.63	Minnesota	2nd	Big Tens (5/24)
40.99	Minnesota	1st	Last Chance (5/16)
42.01	Minnesota	9th	Bldy/Cast. (3/28)

4x400-Meter Relay (3:04.00, 3:07.00)

3:13.77	Minnesota	7th	Big Tens (5/24)
3:20.01	Minnesota	1st	Last Chance (5/16)

Distance Medley Relay

9:53.59	Hoffner, Gerding	5th	Sea Ray Rel. (4/11)
	Beadle, Owen		
10:00.66	Obleman, Gerding	7th	Drake Relays (4/25)
	Brang, Johnson		

High Jump (2.25, 2.18)

2.26*!#&	Staffan Strand	1st	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
2.25#~	Staffan Strand	1st	Big Tens (5/23)
2.18*	Tyler McCormick	3rd	Big Tens (5/23)
2.15	Tyler McCormick	8th	Texas Rel. (4/1-4)
2.14*	Marc Johannsen	4th	Big Tens (5/23)

Pole Vault (5.55, 5.26)

5.46\$	Tye Harvey	1st	Last Chance (5/16)
5.46\$	Vesa Rantanen	1st	Last Chance (5/16)
5.38\$	Tye Harvey	3rd	Drake Relays (4/25)
5.26\$	Vesa Rantanen	7th	Drake Relays (4/25)
5.20	Vesa Rantanen	2nd	Big Tens (5/24)

Long Jump (8.05, 7.70)

7.32*	Tyler McCormick	4th	Bldy/Cast. (3/28)
7.25	Tyler McCormick	8th	Big Tens (5/23)
7.24	Marcus Westberry	9th	Big Tens (5/23)
7.14	Tyler McCormick	8th	Drake Relays (4/24)
7.12	Marcus Westberry	1st	Maroon&Gold (5/9)

Triple Jump (16.45, 15.75)

15.43*	Marcus Westberry	4th	Big Tens (5/24)
15.25	Marcus Westberry	6th	Drake Relays (4/25)
15.12	Staffan Strand	6th	Big Tens (5/24)
14.95	Marcus Westberry	1st	Last Chance (5/16)

1998 Minnesota Track and Field Top Outdoor Performances

Shot Put (18.80, 17.80)

17.27	Adam Reed	2nd	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
17.22	Adam Reed	2nd	Last Chance (5/16)
17.12	Chad Yenchesky	5th	Big Tens (5/24)
17.08	Adam Reed	6th	Big Tens (5/24)
16.96	Chad Yenchesky	2nd	MN Classic (5/2)

Discus (59.00, 55.00)

55.82\$	Adam Reed	1st	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
55.20\$	Adam Reed	1st	Last Chance (5/16)
53.02	Mark Fahey	2nd	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
53.04	Adam Reed	7th	Texas Rel. (4/1-4)
52.81	Adam Reed	12th	Drake Relays (4/25)

Javelin (73.00, 67.00)

57.14	Benjamin Jensen	1st	Last Chance (5/16)
54.56	Glen Lindqvist	1st	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
54.32	Benjamin Jensen	1st	MN Classic (5/2)
52.02	Benjamin Jensen	6th	Big Tens (5/24)
49.14	Jesse Madsen	3rd	Maroon&Gold (5/9)

Hammer (67.50, 60.00)

52.12	Ben Meyer	3rd	Last Chance (5/16)
49.14	Ben Meyer	2nd	MN Classic (5/2)
48.74	Ben Meyer	1st	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
43.74	Alex Moore	3rd	Maroon&Gold (5/9)
43.54	Ben Meyer	6th	Carleton Rel. (4/18)

* career-best performance

! Minnesota Record

@Minnesota Field House Record

& Bierman Track Record

~ Big Ten Championships Record

NCAA Automatic

\$ NCAA Provisional

% Competed unattached

PR Preliminary heat/performance

+ Minn. Freshman Record

^ Carleton Relays Record