

THE MARKS

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jim Conlin, President (jconlin@swtfoa.com)

Ten years ago we started this track officials association. We met at Cedar Valley College at the urging of Billy Walters. At the time the officials in the area were in a bit of disarray. Having Chester Bradley as the new Certification Chairman helped a lot. We still needed an association or a club that would help the officials improve. Leadership like Dick Stinson, Shelby Sharpe, Chester Bradley, Ed Boyce, Don Barnett, Jim Carlisle, Billy Walters, John Pritchett, etc. helped form the SWT&FOA.

In ten years time we have come a long way. First and foremost the level of officiating has improved a lot. We have very few "holes" i.e. officiating areas where we don't have experts. This is a direct result of the focused educational opportunities that George Young and others have set up. We are also the largest officials association in USATF. I believe when I look down the roster of names that we have not sacrificed quality for quantity. We truly have some of the best officials in the country in our own association. They all work very hard to improve the others around them. None of this is accidental. It's part of the vision that the originators of this

association had when we started this effort ten years ago. **I'd like to commend all of you for making this the best and biggest officials association in the country!** I'm hoping that we will have further confirmation of the quality we have here when we see who gets nominated to officiate in national meets and the trials in 2004.

On a more somber note Jim Carlisle is stepping down as Certification Chairman of the Association. Mica Barton has generously agreed to take over the duties of that office. She will have considerable help from other members of the association to put on clinics and rate folks for upgrades. Jim did a fantastic job as Certification Chairman. His energy and enthusiasm for the position will be missed. In a lot of cases Jim was the first contact many of you had with the Association. Jim's health will be in our prayers and I would also like to ask each of you to help Mica execute her new duties.

We will have the NCAAs at UT this year and the Trials this summer. It will be an exciting year. I wish all of you a great track season!

YOUTH MEETS

by Jeff Brazzell,
Competition Director
(jbrazzell@swtfoa.com)

Here is your MARK, SET your calendars, & let's GO! As one of your new board members I just want to thank you in advance for the busy schedule we all will have this 2004 season.

Here are a couple dates to keep in mind for USATF Youth Athletic Track Meets in the DFW Metroplex. Our Association meet will be June 24th -26th (site yet to be determined), and YES The REGION XII MEET will be held July 13th-17th at UTA Maverick Stadium. The multi's will be on 13th and 14th, which is a Tuesday and Wednesday. We sure need those officials who are fortunate enough to be retired to be available to come and help us on those critical days. I will have the remainder of the Youth Summer Track schedule by the next newsletter.

With the amount of officials we have in our association there should be no reason we can't support the youth and not have ourselves overworked at any one track meet. I know from experience some like to work the more prestigious meets, whether it is college or pros, but just remember balance is always good, and that the youth are our future. I have

January 2004

Association Board

President: Jim Conlin
(817) 249-6958 jconlin@swtfoa.com

Vice President: Dennis Van Order
(817) 465-0493 dvanorder@swtfoa.com

Treasurer: Don Barnett
(972) 223-4800 dbarnett@swtfoa.com

Certification Chair: Mica Barton
(214) 824-3245 mbarton@swtfoa.com

Competition Director: Willie Davis
(972) 580-0286 wdavis@swtfoa.com

Member Services: Chris Marcellus
(972) 266-9096 cmarcellus@swtfoa.com

Awards: Robert Mears
(903) 465-6239 rmears@swtfoa.com

Training Director: George Young
(817) 484-7261 gyoung@swtfoa.com

Competition/Training: Jeff Brazzell
(817) 596-0163 jbrazzell@swtfoa.com

Officiating Calendar: Mark Martin
(817) 535-4455 mmartin@swtfoa.com

been on both sides of having hosted meets (Founder/Coach of MACH I/Weatherford, TX), and not had enough officials, and working track meets (especially summer youth) where there were not near enough officials.

So lets pledge to make this Olympic Year a special one for the pre-bantam trackster right on through the pro trackster. If you have questions, comments or concerns for me Email me.

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | CONTACT | PHONE/Email |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| January <u>INDOOR</u> | | | | |
| 31 | Red Raider Classic & Masters | Lubbock | Wes Kittley | 806/742-3355, x227 |
| February | | | | |
| 6 | High School All-Comers | Houston (UH) | Theresa Fuqua | 713/743-9465, theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu |
| 7 | Red Raider Invitational | Lubbock | Wes Kittley | 806/742-3355, x227 |
| 7 | Houston Indoor Invitational | Houston (UH) | Theresa Fuqua | 713/743-9465, theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu |
| 14 | UH/RunSport All-Comers Meet | Houston (UH) | Theresa Fuqua | 713/743-9465, theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu |
| 20-21 | Southland Conference Indoor Championships | Houston (UH) | Tina Cheatham | 972/422-9500 |
| 27-28 | Conference USA Indoor Championships | Houston (UH) | Theresa Fuqua | 713/743-9465, theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu |
| March <u>OUTDOOR</u> | | | | |
| 18-19 | College Station Multis | College Station | Martha Brennan | 979/458-2880, 979/845-9534, 409/845-3743 |
| 20 | College Station Relays | College Station | Martha Brennan | 979/458-2880, 979/845-9534, 409/845-3743 |
| 19-20 | Texas Southern Relays | Houston (Rice) | Clyde E. Duncan, Sr. | 713/313-7620, Duncan_CE@tsu.edu |
| 20 | TTU Invitational | Lubbock | Wes Kittley | 806/742-3355, x227 |
| 20 | Baylor/Dr. Pepper Invitational | Waco | Tom Hill | 254/710-1266 |
| 27 | UTA Invitational | Arlington | Wayne Cunnings | 817/272-2367, wecunn@uta.edu |
| 26-27 | Rice/Bayou Classic | Houston (Rice) | Darrel Robinson | 713/348-8861, drobin@rice.edu |
| April | | | | |
| 3/31-4/3 | 77th Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays | Austin | Bubba Thornton | 512/471-1372 |
| 10 | Texas A&M Invitational | College Station | Martha Brennan | 979/458-2880, 979/845-9534, 409/845-3743 |
| 16-17 | Michael Johnson Invitational | Waco | Tom Hill | 254/710-1266 |
| 17 | TCU Invitational | Fort Worth | Dick Stinson Derek Koonts | 817/923-5620 817/257-7324, d.koonts@tcu.edu |
| 23 | GDSC/UNT Regional Qualifiers Meet | Denton (UNT) | George Young | 940/898-7166, g.young@charter.net |
| 24 | North Texas Invitational | Denton (UNT) | George Young | 940/898-7166, g.young@charter.net |
| 26 | TAPPS 4A Regional Meet | Denton (UNT) | George Young | 940/898-7166, g.young@charter.net |
| 29-30 | SPC Outdoor Championships | Fort Worth (TCU) | Chris Marcellus | 972/266-9096, cmarcellus@swtfoa.com |
| 4/29-5/1 | Big 12 Outdoor Championships | Norman, OK | | |
| 4/30, 5/1 | Region II 4A UIL | Denton (UNT) | George Young | 940/898-7166, g.young@charter.net |
| May | | | | |
| 1 | UTA Open | Arlington (UTA) | Wayne Cunnings | 817/272-2367, wecunn@uta.edu |
| 7-8 | Tom Tellez Invitational | Houston (UH) | Theresa Fuqua | 713/743-9465, theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu |
| 6 | Texas A&M All-Comers Meet | College Station | Martha Brennan | 979/458-2880, 979/845-9534, 409/845-3743 |
| 7-9 | Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Championships | Denton | George Young | 940/898-7166, g.young@charter.net |
| 13 | A&M All-Comers Meet | College Station | Martha Brennan | 979/458-2880, 979/845-9534, 409/845-3743 |
| 14-16 | Southland Conference Outdoor Championships | San Marcos | Tina Cheatham | 972/422-9500 |
| 12-15 | WAC Outdoor Championships | Houston (Rice) | Darrel Robinson | 713/348-8861, drobin@rice.edu |
| 28-29 | NCAA Midwest Regional | College Station | Martha Brennan | 979/458-2880, 979/845-9534, 409/845-3743 |
| June | | | | |
| 9-12 | NCAA Outdoor Championships | Austin | Bubba Thornton | 512/471-1372 |
| 19 | Southwestern Association Open & Masters Championships | Coppell | Chris Marcellus | 972/266-9096, cmarcellus@swtfoa.com |
| 24-27 | USATF Junior Nationals | Buffalo, NY | INVITATION | |
| 24-26 | SW Association Junior Olympic Championships | TBA | Jeff Brazzell | 817/596-0163, jbrazzell@swtfoa.com |
| July | | | | |
| 9-18 | U.S.Olympic Trials | Sacramento, CA | INVITATION | |
| 13-17 | Region XII Junior Olympic Championships | Arlington (UTA) | Jeff Brazzell | 817/596-0163, jbrazzell@swtfoa.com |
| 24 | Texas Masters Championships | Coppell | Chris Marcellus | 972/266-9096, cmarcellus@swtfoa.com |
| 22-24 | TAAF Texas State Games | Grapevine | Craig Dishman | 817/656-7275 |
| August | | | | |
| 5-8 | USATF National Masters Outdoor Championships | Decatur, IL (Millikin University) | Ron Althoff | (740) 548-3996, Altrack@aol.com |

Complete calendar located at www.swtfoa.com and clicking on "Officiating Calendar"

HOW CAN I WORK THE BIG MEETS?

by Mark Martin, Officiating Calendar Director (*mmartin@swtfoa.com*)

There are many times that I am working at meets and run across friends that I have not seen for a while. During our discussions, the most asked question that they want to know is, "How can I become an Official for this meet?" The answer to this question is **BE ACTIVE** in the meets that are in your area! As an Official, one has an opportunity to learn while working these meets. One must develop a good reputation and establish a rapport with the other officials... and I am not talking about politics or "Good Ol' Boy" attitudes. I am talking **experience, expertise, responsibility, and dependability.**

I also understand about the financial

impacts in addition to the amount of time that officiating can take from an individual and their family, especially the younger officials at the Association Level. There are 16 Indoor meets and 23 Outdoor meets shown on the schedule that are within 300 miles of DFW and do not require an invitation or qualifications other than your Official's Certification Card. These are meets outside of the Southwestern Association's Youth Meets. Some are Private School or High School meets but most are the College/University level.

Our Association is the largest in the country, 428 individuals, based upon the number of Certified Officials. Many

of these folks are working at the Masters Level with Olympic experience. These Officials have the most knowledge and experience to offer to the novice official or to the official who wants to be upgraded in classification for the next Olympiad.

So, take a look at the schedule, pick a few meets that you are interested in being associated with, and contact the person listed. If there is not a contact name by the meet that you are interested in, contact me or one of the other Board Members. We will make every effort to put you in contact with the school or organizer for that meet.

CERTIFICATION NEWS

by Jim Carlisle, Certification Chair (*jcarlisle@swtfoa.com*)

The 2003 USATF Annual Convention was held the first week of December in Greensboro, North Carolina. I was provided with a report that showed the Southwestern Association with 428 certified officials. This still leads the nation with the Gulf Association (404) being a close second. There are 8,668 certified officials in the USA.

Number of Southwestern officials since 1996:

1996 = 165

2000 = 273

2003 = 428

One of the major rule changes that will occur in USATF is the adopting of the IAAF false start rule (exceptions will be made in youth and masters). There is still debate occurring and the USA athletes will petition the IAAF in the spring to change the rule before the 2004 Olympics. Stay tuned. This rule really does not affect many of our officials, but it seems to be very controversial with some of the elite athletes.

I have upgraded 15 officials in 2003. Because 2004 is a re-certifying year, upgrades will need to be requested and completed earlier in the summer so proper materials can be in place prior to re-certification. More info will come in the next newsletter or on the web site. Also, re-certification info for 2004-08 will be forthcoming as well. There will be changes that will primarily affect Master and National level officials.

The following officials are missing in action. They have moved and did not leave a forwarding address. I know some of you know where these folks are. It is very important that you let me know their whereabouts. Email me any info that you might have on them.

Bulent Agbuga; Dan Bateman; Shelley Bauman (RR); Ryan Davis; Traci Hightower; Thomas Johnson; Waylon Kemp; Alan Moore; Garey Peveto; Melanie Shuffield; JoAn Waggoner; LaShanda Walker; John Weatherford

On the sadder side, I am resigning as certification chair. I have been diagnosed with a chronic illness. This is treatable and at the present is not life threatening. The doctor has advised me to give up things in my life that cause stress and giving up work or my wife is not an option. I am reducing the outside activities with track and field, along with some other activities. I will be assisting in the transfer of records to the new certification chair over the next few weeks. I anticipate being able to officiate but not in the manner which I have been used to. I have enjoyed being able to serve you in this capacity and I look forward seeing you somewhere down the road.

Check out the SWTFOA website:

www.swtfoa.com

SWTFOA WEBSITE NEWS

By Chris Marcellus, Member Services (cmarcellus@swtfoa.com)

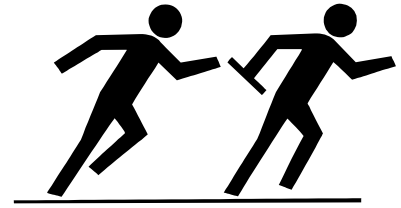
The SWTFOA website debuted this past Fall, and by all accounts it has developed into a useful tool for the certified officials in the Southwestern Association. Some of its features:

- 1) A continuously updated calendar with contact info for the meets (when we can attain it)
- 2) Links to purchase useful officiating equipment and apparel
- 3) A rules page where you can see the yearly rule changes of all the various governing bodies and view online rule books
- 4) A "Track Links" page to get to high school, college, and governing body sites

In the future I hope to have an online form to update your contact info and also to be able to add your e-mail address to an association contact list to inform you of important happenings and events within our association. The SWTFOA renewal form is also available online, as is the SWTFOA apparel order form.

If you have any suggestions as to how the website can be improved, please contact me and let me know. The website was created as a tool for all officials to use, and I want to tailor it to meet our needs. Also, if you have any suggestions for apparel additions, please pass them along.

If you would like to save the association money on postage, send me your e-mail address and I will e-mail you the link to the online newsletter.



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWESTERN TRACK & FIELD OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

The Marks
c/o Chris Marcellus
332 NE 5th St.
Grand Prairie, TX 75050

Official SWTFOA
Website !!!
www.swtfoa.com

