



**USATF**

**LONG DISTANCE RUNNING**

**DIVISION REPORTS  
FEBRUARY 2018 EDITION**

***Upcoming Events:***

Feb 3 USATF 100 Mile Trail Champs (Huntsville, TX)  
Feb 3 USATF XC Champs (Tallahassee, FL)  
Feb 17 NACAC XC Champs (El Salvador)  
Feb 17 USATF 100 Mile Road Champs (Las Vegas, NV)  
Mar 4 USATF 50km Champs (Long Island, NY)  
Mar 10 USATF 15km Champs (Jacksonville, FL)  
Mar 17 USATF Masters 8km Champs (VA Beach, VA)  
Mar 24 IAAF Half Marathon Champs (Spain)

***From the Desk of the Chair, Mike Scott***

2018 has already gotten off to a great start for USA Distance Running!

Mario Mendoza (8:07:45) and Camille Herron (9:56:02) won the USATF 100K championships at the Bandera Trail Run.

Leonard Korir successfully defended his Simplyhealth Great Edinburgh XC title in the Senior Men's race, winning by 3 seconds from Team Europe's Kaan Kigen Ozbilen. Also taking gold for Team USA was Saratoga's (NY) Kelsey Chmiel, who defeated Team Europe's Mariana Machado for the Junior women's crown.

Molly Huddle smashed the American Record for the 10-Mile (50:52), 20K (1:03:48), and the Half Marathon (1:07:25) on a cold, crisp day at the Aramco Houston Half Marathon. Sam Chelanga (1:00:37) was the top American male, running the third fastest U.S. Half Marathon. Farther back in the field the ageless Bernard Lagat smashed the US Masters record with his 1:02:00 performance.

January also saw the announcement that four cities - Atlanta (GA), Austin (TX), Chattanooga (TN), and Orlando (FL) - had submitted an Intent to Bid for the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Marathon. Bid submission and site visits are planned to occur during

the winter months, with the decision and announcement of the host scheduled for early spring.

***Men's LDR Report***

None submitted

***Women's LDR Report***

We are beginning our process of discussions with the four cities that expressed an interest in bidding for the 2020 Olympic trials marathon. We will work with each city as they build out their RFP and then review the bids and make a recommendation to the board.

We are finalizing our team for the World Half Marathon Championships and hope to have that announced any day.

This weekend we kick off our championships with the XC race in Tallahassee on a super fast xc course. Looking forward to the circuit continuing in March.

***Masters LDR Report***

The next event on the Masters Grand Prix is the 8K Championship hosted by the Shamrock/Towne Bank 8K in Virginia Beach, VA on Saturday, March 17, 2018. Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the one of the biggest running party events of the year. The course is flat and fast, so PR's should abound and American Records are possible. Masters Runners who participated in the first Championship race at this venue last year raved about the setting, where the race course circles the hotel district and the Boardwalk.

The USATF Event website can be found at:

<http://www.usatf.org/Events---Calendar/2017/USATF-Masters-8-km-Championships.aspx>

Unlike most other USATF Events, the LOC is handling Championship Registration through its online system run by haku. To register, please direct your browser to:

<https://register.hakuapp.com/?event=26c7aeed943a595e8cf6&option=3e9851c55d0a8637099a>

The second road event on the Masters Grand Prix circuit is the 10K hosted by the James Joyce Ramble in Dedham MA. Now in their 6<sup>th</sup> year of hosting the Championship, the Ramble is a scenic course through the small New England town of Dedham, just outside of Boston. Although there are some rolling hills, American Masters records have been set on the course.

The USATF Event website can be found at:

<http://www.usatf.org/Events---Calendar/2018/USATF-Masters-10-km-Championships.aspx>

The Entry Form is found at:  
<https://www.usatf.org/Products---Services/Event-Registration-Form.aspx?e=113076>

Complete USATF Masters Grand Prix Schedule. For planning purposes, please consult the Masters Grand Prix Calendar below.

#### *2017*

Dec 9 USATF Club Cross Country Lexington KY

#### *2018*

Feb 3 USATF Cross Country [8K/6K] Tallahassee FL

Mar 17 Towne Bank 8K/Shamrock Virginia Beach VA

Apr 29 James Joyce Ramble-10K Dedham MA

Jun 3 Dexter-Ann Arbor Half Marathon Ann Arbor MI

Aug 19 Atlanta's Finest 5K Atlanta GA

Aug 24 Michigan Mile/Crim Festival of Races Flint MI

Sep 23 USATF Masters 5km Cross Country Buffalo NY\*

Oct 14 Snohomish River Run-Marathon Snohomish WA

Oct 27 Tulsa Federal Credit Union Run-15K Tulsa OK\*\*

\*Also serves as Can-Am International Challenge Race- All finishing runners score for their country.

\*\*In Discussion

Once the websites are live, the races can be found on the National Championship Calendar. Clicking on the race takes you to the race website.

<http://www.usatf.org/Events---Calendar/National-Championships.aspx>

#### ***Mountain/Ultra/Trail (MUT) Report***

Teams: Selection criteria has been posted for all of our teams including Youth/U18 Mountain, Mountain, Long Distance Mountain, Trail, 100km, 50km, 24 Hours (2019), NACAC Mountain. All team staffs have been appointed.

Championships: Our first championship of the year -- USATF 100K -- was contested this month on January 6 at Bandera with Mario Mendoza and Camille Herron winning overall titles. Two championships are on tap for February 3 - USATF 100 Mile Trail, Rocky Raccoon, Huntsville, TX; February 17- USATF 100 Mile Road, Henderson, NV.

International Committees: The World Mountain Running Association (WMRA) and International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) held their first meeting of the year in Monaco during the weekend of January 12-14. Recap of the WMRA meetings can be found at [www.wmra.info](http://www.wmra.info). Nancy Hobbs is treasurer of the WMRA Council and Lin Gentling is the Americas rep to the IAU. Richard Bolt is our delegate on the 22-member steering committee member for the International Trail Running Association (ITRA) and stays apprised of all items happening with this group.

Executive Committees: The first meeting of the 14-member Mountain Ultra Trail committee was held on January 22. New guidelines were introduced and approved regarding Team Eligibility. The following will be included in team selection criteria: Any athlete selected to a USATF Mountain, Ultra, and Trail International Team who receives a uniform kit for participation in an event will return the uniform kit in its entirety upon failure to travel as a team member to said event. Failure to return the issued uniform in its entirety will render an athlete ineligible for future Mountain, Ultra, and Trail International Teams. Any athlete having been selected to a USATF Mountain, Ultra, and Trail International Team who fails to pay any and all fees or costs of accommodations, reservations, or any other expenses accrued but not cancelled by the specified cancellation deadlines will be rendered ineligible for future USATF Mountain, Ultra, and Trail Teams until such fees/costs are paid.

#### ***Cross Country Report***

##### *Great Edinburgh Cross Country Challenge*

The USA sent full teams to Edinburgh the second weekend of January for the Great Edinburgh Cross Country Challenge. The highlight of the meet were two individual victories in the junior women's and senior men's races.

Kelsey Chmiel was the first star of the day as she took the victory in the Junior Women's 4k race. Her time was 14:10. The US team barely missed winning, finishing only one point behind the team from Great Britain. Claudia Lane (7<sup>th</sup>), Katelynn Hart (9<sup>th</sup>) and Emily Venters (10<sup>th</sup>) were the other US scorers.

Next up were the Junior Men, who ran 6k. Top finisher for the US team was Danny Kilrea, who finished in fourth place with a time of 19:24. Other top ten finishers were posted by high school sophomore Grayden Morris (8<sup>th</sup>) and Dylan Jacobs (9<sup>th</sup>) as the US team finished third.

There was a 4 x 1 km co-ed relay. Unfortunately, the US team finished a disappointing seventh.

In the Senior Women's race, run over 6km, the US team again finished in third place. Leading the way was former NCAA champion Molly Seidel, who finished third with a time of 21:04.

The US team again won the individual title in the Senior Men's 8k race. Leonard Korir brought home the third straight individual title in this race. His time of 24:32 was enough for the hard-fought victory. Also in the top ten were Garrett Heath (6<sup>th</sup>), Emmanuel Bor (7<sup>th</sup>) and Chris Derrick (8<sup>th</sup>). Six score per team, and the US lost a close 47-50 point race to the European team.

#### *USA Cross Country Championships*

The USA Cross Country Championships will be held February 3 in Tallahassee, Florida at the famous Apalachee Regional Park course. Results will be in next month's newsletter.

#### *IAAF XC News*

The IAAF Cross Country Committee at its meeting on Saturday (20) in Seville recommended that cross country running should move towards a more extreme, edgier style to attract new audiences as well as a new breed of cross country runner to the discipline.

Meeting on the eve of the Cross de Itlica in Seville, one of the world's premiere cross country races, attendees also discussed the formation of a competitive but more compact international series aimed at growing the discipline's popularity and reach. Organizers of a number of regional and international cross country events were part of the discussion of changes that they hope will act as a springboard for cross country running's return to the Olympic program.

"The 2024 Olympic Games in Paris would be a fitting time to see the return of cross country to the Olympic program," said IAAF President Sebastian Coe, who attended the meeting and participated in Sunday's Cross de Itlica.

Cross country is already agreed to appear as a discipline at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games program in Buenos Aires.

The committee also received an update from organizers of the IAAF World Cross Country Championships 2019 to be held in Aarhus, Denmark.

Organizers of the event, scheduled for March 30, 2019, have already promised initiatives to help guide the Championships into new territory. The course for the event, set on and around the grounds of the Museum of Moesgaard, a Danish regional archaeology and ethnography museum, includes running across the museum's sloping grass roof.

The committee unanimously approved the inclusion of masters competition if a joint agreement with WMA can be worked out. Currently WMA has cross competition as part of its world stadia champs.

#### ***Road Running Technical Council Report***

None Submitted

#### ***Athletes Report***

None Submitted

#### ***Board Report***

None Submitted

#### ***National Office Report***

None Submitted