

## PRESS RELEASE

15.12.2018

# ISTAF and Golazo Group agree Strategic Partnership: “We want to make Athletics more attractive”

**BERLIN.** New partner for Germany's oldest and biggest athletics meeting: the Golazo Group and TOP Sportevents GmbH, which organizes ISTAF, the international stadium meeting which was founded in 1921, and ISTAF INDOOR, established in 2014, are to join forces with immediate effect.

This strategic partnership combines the strengths of two experts in the field of innovative athletics events. The Golazo Group organizes numerous athletics events in Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands, including meetings in Brussels (Diamond League) and Liege, the Night of Athletics in Heusden-Zolder in Belgium as well as Cross Country races and Marathons in Rotterdam, Brussels, Düsseldorf and other European Cities. At the head of the Golazo Group is the former Belgian international athlete and Olympian Bob Verbeeck.

Henceforth Golazo will be a partner of TOP Sportevents GmbH, which organizes ISTAF and ISTAF INDOOR. Martin Seeber will continue to lead TOP Sportevents GmbH as well as being head of TOP Sportmarketing Berlin GmbH in addition to his role as meeting director of both ISTAF and ISTAF INDOOR.

Bob Verbeeck: “ISTAF has many aspects in common with our meeting in Brussels. It is also a meeting with great tradition, taking place in a unique stadium with fantastic fans. The best athletes in the world compete alongside national contenders and young talent on the rise. We are delighted that ISTAF and ISTAF INDOOR are now part of the Golazo family.”

Martin Seeber: “Just like ISTAF and ISTAF INDOOR, Golazo stands for innovation and modern presentation of athletics. With this partnership we will strengthen the standing of Berlin as a venue for athletics as well as further developing ISTAF and ISTAF INDOOR to make them even better for the future. ISTAF remains a strong Berlin event with deep roots in Berlin and with strong regional partners. The close cooperation with Bob Verbeeck and his Golazo group is to create a synergy in marketing, raise the international level and further develop the sport's presentation. Together we are stronger – together we will make athletics more attractive!”

**Golazo Group – [www.golazo.com](http://www.golazo.com)**

**ISTAF Indoor, Friday 1 February 2019 – [www.istaf-indoor.de](http://www.istaf-indoor.de)**

**ISTAF Berlin, Sunday 1 September 2019 – [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)**



If you would like further information, logos and picture material or have questions concerning this press release, please contact:

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NEWS RELEASE: ISTAF IN BERLIN'S OLYMPIC STADIUM



September 4, 2018

## Caster Semenya clocks fifth fastest 1,000 m during Robert Harting's farewell party

Caster Semenya produced another extraordinary result at the 77th ISTAF in Berlin's Olympic Stadium. A year after breaking the world best for the 600 m the South African stormed to the fifth fastest time in history in the 1,000 m. Running without pacemakers Semenya clocked a world lead and South African record of 2:30.70 minutes. There was a national record for the women's mile winner as well: Portugal's Marta Pen Freitas ran 4:22.45. At the end of the meeting Berlin's Robert Harting was in the focus: 45,500 spectators celebrated one of the most successful German athletes of all time. In his farewell competition Robert Harting finished second with 64,95 m. The ISTAF is part of the IAAF World Challenge Series.

Just three days after an impressive performance in the Diamond League Final in Zurich Caster Semenya produced another thrilling performance. Once the field got going at the second attempt after an initial false start the South African stormed ahead and took the lead. Passing 400 metres in 59.51 she was on schedule for a sub 2:30 time, which could have threatened the 22 year-old world record of Russia's Svetlana Masterkova (2:28.98). Running without any pacemakers Semenya could not quite hold on during the second lap. Passing the 800 m mark in 2:01.07 she finally clocked 2:30.70. She improved her South African record set earlier this year by 0.31 seconds.

„It was a great race, but I was tiring a little bit because I was leading all the time, “ said Caster Semenya. „I am very happy with the time. The crowd was fantastic, the meeting and the stadium are amazing.“ Behind her Uganda's Halima Nakaayi and Kenya's Nelly Jepkosgei broke national records as well, taking second and third with 2:34.88 and 2:35.30 respectively.

For the first time in the long history of the ISTAF a women's mile race was staged. Entering the home straight it was Marta Pen Freitas who came through and won with 4:22.45, breaking the Portuguese record. Kate Grace of the US was second in 4:23.23 while Germany's Konstanze Klosterhalfen missed the national record of Ulrike Bruns from 1985 (4:21.59). Klosterhalfen was briefly in the lead in the middle of the race, but could not quite hold on. She still finished third with a fine 4:24.27.

"I am happy with my record. The European Championships did not go that well for me so it is





great to come back and win here today. I just graduated from college and will go back to the US and plan the next steps," said Marta Pen Freitas, who was sixth in the 1,500 m in the European Championships in Berlin last month.

Another strong performance came in a women's running event: Colleen Quigley of the US took the 3,000 m Steeplechase in a strong personal best of 9:10.27 from Daisy Jepkemei (Kenya/9:14.66). Australia's Genevieve Lacaze was third with 9:23.69 while fourth placed Marusa Mismas ran a Slovenian record of 9:28.61.

Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou, the fastest woman in the world this year, won the 100 m with 11.08 seconds from Michelle-Lee Ahye (Trinidad and Tobago/11.13). Finishing strongly Germany's Gina Lückenkemper took third in 11.18. At the end of the programme Lückenkemper steered the German 4x100 m relay to a win, clocking 42.98 seconds. Great Britain was second with 43.19 and Switzerland finished third in 43.35.

In the Shot Put Christina Schwanitz this time managed to win in the Olympic Stadium a month after just losing out in the European Championships to Paulina Guba. The German took the Shot Put with 19.25 from Poland's Guba (18.58).

Three days after finishing third in the Diamond League Final in Zurich Olympic Javelin Champion Thomas Röhler bounced back in Berlin, taking the ISTAF event with 86.50 m. Fellow Germans Julian Weber (85.54) and Zurich winner Andreas Hofmann (85.09) finished second and third. „I had a lot of fun today. Especially the lap of honor felt like at European Championships. Our German triple triumph felt amazing. We live as one team and all get along very well. That's an important piece of our success. I won today, that was my goal. The result wasn't too important to me, but 86,50 meters are very good for the end of season," said Thomas Röhler.

In the 1,500 m Timothy Cheruiyot again confirmed his position as the world's number one 1,500 m runner this year. Three days after his triumph in Zurich he won with a fine 3:32.37 from fellow-Kenyan Ferguson Rotich (3:33.21). Ismael Debjani of Belgium was third with 3:34.40.

Tyquendo Tracey of Jamaica won the 100 m with 10.05 from Panama's Alonso Edward (10.08) and Isiah Young (USA/10.15). This was the farewell race of former World Champion Kim Collins (Saint Kitts and Nevis). He finished eighth in the field of nine with 10.45 and then confirmed: "Yes, this was my last race."

At the end it was all about Robert Harting. After a spectacular introduction of the athletes it was in the end Robert Harting's brother who slightly spoilt the party regarding the result: Olympic Champion Christoph Harting won the competition with 65.67 m. His brother took second, throwing 64.95 m at his very last attempt. Fellow-German Martin Wierig was third with 63.67 m.







Most of the 45,500 spectators stayed in their seats at the end of the last competition to celebrate Robert Harting, giving him a perfect farewell.

„This was an amazing goodbye at ISTAF today. I feel very honoured that so many people showed up. I always tried to be good example and we have grown together over the past years. Yesterday, I left home a little sad because I knew when I come back home I won't be a professional athlete anymore. Right now I am really happy and hope I can take all the positive emotions with me,“ said Robert Harting, who won Olympic, World and European gold medals.

„Today I felt really great, I was in a good mood and I could not think too much about myself because of the amazing crowd that celebrated such a great party. During my career I am especially grateful about the people who let me be the person I really am. I am really proud that everything worked out pretty well.“

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If you would like further information about the 77th ISTAF, logos and picture material or have questions concerning this press release, please contact:

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PRESS RELEASE



August 31, 2018

# One Big Athletics Party with Emotions to match at 77<sup>th</sup> ISTAF

*29 European medallists to compete / Robert Harting celebrates his farewell from top-class sport / It all starts on Sunday at 1320 with the European champion Christin Hussong*

**BERLIN.** Gold medallists, record hunters and rematches from the European Championships everywhere you look: that's how the 77<sup>th</sup> edition of ISTAF aims to be one big party at the end of a fantastic summer for track and field athletics. Three weeks after the European Championships a host of medallists from EM 2018 and top stars from around the world will be going about their business on Sunday, September 2 in Berlin's Olympic Stadium. The fast-moving reprise for the European Championships, all in one afternoon, will also be a farewell party: everyone's favourite Kim Collins will be sprinting for the final time on the famous blue track – and Germany's track and field idol Robert Harting will bring the curtain down on his magnificent career "in his own living room."

Meeting Director Martin Seeber says: "After the great European Championships ISTAF will be the big round-up of the track and field summer – with the biggest hits, relaxed atmosphere and emotions riding high. We are delighted that so many of those who competed at the Europeans and stars from around the world will be coming to Berlin, show their great ability once again in the Olympic Stadium and want to celebrate with the ISTAF fans. At the heart of this special ISTAF will be the final throw in the career of Robert Harting. Together with the fans we shall be saying good-bye not only to an extremely successful athlete but also a pre-eminent fighter for the values of the sport. It will surely be emotional – but also a great celebration. We want to celebrate with Robert, not mourn."

## Robert Harting celebrates his Farewell in his Living Room

Robert Harting and ISTAF – they have been synonymous for a decade. He first competed at the international meeting in Berlin in 2008 and was third on his debut. This was followed by his World Championship triumph in Berlin in 2009 and his subsequent appearance at ISTAF, finishing third and cheered on all sides. From 2010 to 2014 the name of the winning athlete remained the same – Robert Harting. This outstanding athlete didn't compete here in 2015 and 2016 and last year he was fifth. His tenth appearance at ISTAF will be his final competition as an elite athlete – and it will be a very special one: an open double-decker bus will be driven into the stadium and parked ringside to the discus, providing a mobile stage for family, friends and those who have been with him through his career. "ISTAF has been my home game, my home, for years," says Robert Harting. "In extreme situations I am delighted to be with my family, my friends – that's why I am saying good-bye at ISTAF."





The last throws of the discus ace will have the undivided attention of the entire stadium since the other competitions are scheduled to be completed by that time. Martin Seeber: “There will also be a few surprises for Robert and the fans.”

## 29 European Medallists, 11 European Champions

29 European Championships medallists will be in action on Sunday and 11 gold medallists from those same championships in Berlin.

The following European champions will compete at ISTAF: Paulina Guba (Poland, Shot Put), Paraskevi Papachristou (Greece, Triple Jump), Elvira Herman (Belarus, 100m Hurdles), Pascal Martinot-Lagarde (France, 110m Hurdles), Ramil Guliyev (Turkey, 200m), and Harry Aikines-Aryeetey (Great Britain, 4 x 100m)

The following German European champions will also compete at ISTAF: Christin Hussong (Women’s Javelin), Malaika Mihambo (Long Jump), Mateusz Przybylko (High Jump), Thomas Röhler (Men’s Javelin), Arthur Abele (Decathlon).

## Gina Lückenkemper: “There is nothing better than celebrating a successful European Championships at ISTAF”

Gina Lückenkemper, European silver medallist for the 100m and bronze medallist in the sprint relay, is one of those looking forward to the “Final” of the track and field Super Summer in the capital. “There is nothing better than to celebrate a successful European Championships with the great fans at ISTAF. We experienced that with the relay last year. The ISTAF spectators got behind us and it was all systems go. It was just great. This year’s ISTAF will again be a great party – especially since it’s Robert’s farewell.”

## The ISTAF Events

Men: 100m, 110m Hurdles, 1500m, High Jump, Discus, Javelin

Women: 100m, 100m Hurdles, 1000m, Mile, 3000m Steeplechase, Long Jump, Shot Put, 4 x 100m, Triple Jump, Javelin





## The Timetable

The doors of the Olympic Stadium open at 1300 and it's especially worth arriving early this time. As well as the traditional ISTAF SCHOOLS CUP the stars will also be in action. By 1320 the javelin of European champion Christin Hussong will be in flight in the arena. The track and field programme will finish shortly after 1800.

## For the younger ISTAF Fans: Great "Kids Club" and supervised "Pram Parking Area"

ISTAF this Sunday will also offer a great time to the younger athletics fans. With the support of BSR and AOK Nordost an area of several hundred square metres has been created around Berlin's Olympic Stadium as a "Kids Club." Numerous chances to play, dash about and try stuff will be on offer. Among the highlights will be an appearance by Christian Bahrmann (KiKANiNCHEN). The popular Kika presenter, actor, puppeteer and singer will be on the AOK stage from 1400 with an entertainment where you can join in yourselves. Special ticket offers for children and families will be available. An ISTAF family ticket (four people) will cost only 25 Euro. More information at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)

## Television: ISTAF live on ARD One and across 110 countries

ARD plans to broadcast live from 1630 to 1800 on its Channel One. In addition ISTAF will also achieve a high profile internationally with the meeting broadcast in 110 countries. 7.5 kilometres of cable will be laid in the Olympic Stadium, 35 cameras and 15 editing and graphic units will be employed in the live outside broadcast.

## Tickets from 9 Euro

Tickets for this very special ISTAF are from 9 Euro at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de), [www.tickets.istaf.de](http://www.tickets.istaf.de), the Tickethotline 030.30 111 86 30 (including local phone tariff while Charges on mobiles may vary) as well as at all advance booking venues. The box office at the Olympic Stadium opens on Sunday at 1200.





## Meeting with Tradition

ISTAF is the oldest track and field athletics meeting in the world. The history of event began on July 3, 1921. The sport clubs Berliner SC, SC Charlottenburg and Schwimm Club Poseidon organised initially in the old Grunewald Stadium and international between German and foreign athletes under the title of ISTAF. 20,000 spectators experienced thrilling competition which at that time included swimming events. ISTAF in the form we know it today began on August 1, 1937 with an international meeting with athletes from eleven countries.

## Water for Schools and Communities in Ghana: Plan International is new Charity Partner for ISTAF

Plan International is the new Charity Partner of ISTAF. To achieve their best performances in the Olympic Stadium, athletes need self-confidence, will power, a sense of fair play and team spirit. Values which also play a role in projects of the children's aid organisation Plan International. That is why both partners want to combine to help children in developing countries and develop the project "Water for Schools and Communities in Ghana."

In the project regions of south-eastern Ghana only 20% of people have access to clean water. Many schools lack adequate sanitary arrangements. Infections and disease quickly spread because of these poor conditions and can bring fatal for small children. The aim of this project is to make clean drinking water available to 15,600 community members by constructing fountains and sanitation.

Gina Lückenkemper, outstanding sprinter and supporter of this project, has visited Ghana and met her sponsored godchild Anabella. "I was very impressed by the water project of Plan International in Ghana. Girls are mainly responsible for ensuring there is always enough water for families. That means they are often travelling for days and cannot attend school. Building fountains right among the communities means girls now have time to go to school and learn. That is critical because education is the basis for self-determination."





To support this, ISTAF and the mascot “Berlino” will be doing their utmost in the Olympic Stadium for the work of the children’s aid organisation. “Clean drinking water is the basis for people’s health. That in turn helps children to develop and grow healthily. The water project in Ghana has all-round effect and is long lasting. And I am delighted that ISTAF is now doing its utmost in partnership with us now,” says Maike Röttger, CEO of Plan International Germany.

### Numbers, Dates, Facts

Total Participants: 194 athletes from 45 countries.

Longest Journey: approx. 14,000 Kilometres: Brooke Stratton (Australia, Long Jump), Ryan Gregson (Australia, 1500m)

Youngest Female Competitor: Diribe Welteji (Ethiopia, 1000m), 16 years

Youngest Male Competitor: George Meitamei Manangoi (Kenya, 1500m) 17 years

Oldest Female Competitor: Martina Ratej (Slovenia, Javelin) 36 years

Oldest Male Competitor: Kim Collins (St. Kitts and Nevis, 100m) 42 years





## Disciplines – Overview

### Start: 13:20 Women's Javelin

Gold with a European Championship record! The outstanding performance of the new European champion in the javelin, Christin Hussong (24) will be celebrated with a javelin gala to set this year's meeting in motion. At the European Championships Hussong set a personal best of 67.90m in the first round and left the Czech Nikola Ogrodnikova (61.85m), and the Slovene Martina Ratej (61.41m) trailing in second, and fourth places. This same trio from the European Championships are back for ISTAF with two German additions: Dana Bergrath and the multi-event specialist Carolin Schäfer, who won bronze in the heptathlon at the Europeans.

### 14:00 Triple Jump Women

Can Kristin Gierisch avenge defeat in the European Championships at ISTAF? The 28-year-old's silver medal with 14.45m was the first medal of any kind for a German female triple jumper at a major outdoor championship. Only Paraskevi Papahristou of Greece with 14.60m finished ahead of her. ISTAF brings both of them together for a rematch but also watch out for the Jamaican Kimberly Williams who has jumped 14.64m, further than either of them this year. Also competing will be the German champion Neele Eckhardt and compatriot Jessie Maduka.

### 15:00 Men's Javelin

Gold, Silver, Bronze – the men's javelin also offers a glittering array of high-class talent. The European champion Thomas Röhler takes on fellow German and runner-up Andreas Hofmann as well as bronze medallist Magnus Kirt of Estonia. Röhler and Hofmann will also be in pursuit of the man who still reigns supreme in terms of the men's javelin at ISTAF. Jan Zelezny is the only man to have thrown beyond 90 metres when the new IAAF specifications came into force. The great Czech achieved 91.30m in 1995, can Röhler and Hofmann dethrone the ISTAF king?

### 15:10 Men's High Jump

Same place, same wave? The men's high jump creates a reunion for the three athletes who produced such a thrilling contest at the European Championships: Europe's new high jump hero Mateusz Przybylko against the Belarussian silver medallist Maksim Nedasekau and Ilya Ivanyuk (Russia, Neutral Athlete). Also taking off from the West Curve of the Olympic Stadium will be the German duo of Eike Onnen and Tobias Potye as well as the strong Japanese Naoto Tobe.







### 15:15 Women's Mile

A first for ISTAF: a women's race over the British distance of the Mile (1609.344m) has been included on the programme of the oldest athletics meeting in the world for the first time. The last time a men's mile was staged was in 1997. Taking centre stage will be Germany's biggest female running talent, Konstanze Klosterhalfen. She was fourth at the European 5,000m, the best performance by a German woman ever in the championships. But her time was some ten seconds slower than her best. Can she run as well on ISTAF's famous blue track as last year when she ran the 1500 under four minutes to break her own German U-23 record with 3:58.92? The field in general is strong including the European silver medallist at the distance, Eilish McColgan (Great Britain).

### 16:05 Men's 110m Hurdles

ISTAF fans will also have the chance to see European champions over the men's high hurdles. The new champion, Pascal Martinot-Lagarde of France, lines up against the bronze medallist and Olympic silver Orland Ortega of Spain. Also competing are the German champion Gregor Traber and compatriot Erik Balnuweit.

### 16:05 Women's Shot Put

For much of the European Championship final Christina Schwanitz had the lead but this outstanding performer lost her chance of the gold when Poland's Paulina Guba dethroned her in the final round, dashing her hopes of a third successive European title. Now Schwanitz has her chance for revenge. A third thrower has to be reckoned among the favourites and she is the American Raven Saunders. In addition to Schwanitz, her compatriots Sara Gambetta and Katharina Maisch are competing.

### 16:10 Women's Long Jump

Gold against bronze, ISTAF winners and a strong Canadian: high quality competition awaits Malaika Mihambo on her ISTAF debut. The new European champion competes against the bronze medallist Shara Proctor and her fellow Briton Jazmin Sawyers who won the 2016 competition here in decisive style. Alexandra Wester also knows what it is like to win an ISTAF title, she took the 2016 indoor version with a jump of 6.95m. Also in contention is the Canadian Christabel Netty whose best is 6.99m.





### 16:13 Men's 1500m

The fastest man in the world this year at this distance will be on the start line. Timothy Cheruiyot of Kenya has run 3:28.41 this outdoor season and tends to reserve his best for the Diamond League meetings, so the Berlin fans should be in for a treat. Last year he won the DL final in Zurich, taking away a \$50,000 jackpot for his efforts. He is undefeated at 1500 this season. The Germans Timo Benitz, Marius Probst and Marc Reuther also compete.

### 16:23 Women's 1000m

Are ISTAF's fans about to witness the latest sensational performance by Caster Semenya? Last year the 27-year-old triumphed over 600m with the fastest time in the world this year, now the South African is going to attack the 1000m. The distance was last staged here in 1991. Semenya showed that, as double Olympic 800m champion and three times a World gold medallist at the same distance, she also is super-fast over two-and-a-half laps as she did in Rabat in Morocco in June. She ran a personal best and the fastest time in the world this year of 2:31.01 though failing to break the world record of 2:28.98, set by the Russian Svetlana Masterkova 22 years ago. The German 800m champion Christina Hering will run her first ever race at 1000m at ISTAF.

### 16:40 Men's Discus

His last throw, his farewell to international competition. For his last appearance on a major stage, Robert Harting has chosen his fellow competitors – and they all agreed without hesitation. Stepping into the circle will be his brother Christoph, his great rival Piotr Małachowski, Robert Urbanek – both from Poland – Gerd Kanter of Estonia and Hannes Kirchler of Italy along with his German team-mates Daniel Jasinski and Martin Wierig. A special guest will be the new King of the Athletes, ie, the European Decathlon champion Artur Abele of Germany.

### 16:45 Women's 100m

Marie-Josée Ta Lou has run faster than any other woman over the 100m this season with her 10.85. The Ivory Coast athlete tops the world list alongside Britain's European champion Dina Asher-Smith. Gina Lückenkemper of Germany took the silver medal behind Asher-Smith at the Europeans. Will Lückenkemper get her nose in front this time?

### 17:00 100m Hurdles

Gold, Silver and Bronze and strong competition from the USA. Pamela Dutkiewicz, the European silver medallist, and fellow German Cindy Roleder, European bronze medallist renew their rivalry with the champion Elvira Herman of Belarus. But the Americans might well spoil the European Championship rematch. Christina Manning has run faster than all three Europeans this year. Also competing are the Germans Ricarda Lobe, fifth at the Europeans, and Nadine Hildebrand.





### 17:10 Women's 3,000 m Steeplechase

The line-up in the Steeplechase is very strong with three favourites who have all established their personal bests this season. Kenyans Roseline Chepngetich and Daisy Jepkemei improved to 9:08.23 and 9:10.71 respectively. And there is former Kenyan Winfred Mutile Yavi, who now competes for Bahrain. She has a PB of 9:10.74 and took the Asian Games title just a few days ago. Unfortunately Germany's European Champion and national record holder Gesa Krause had to withdraw due to a cough. She will still come to watch the ISTAF and set herself a new target for Sunday: „May be I manage to sign 3,000 autographs!“

### 17:30 Men's 100 m

This promises to become the quickest farewell in the history of the ISTAF. At the age of 42 crowd favourite Kim Collins will end his career on the blue track. The sprinter from Saint Kitts and Nevis has been a regular competitor at the ISTAF and won here twice, in 2015 and 2016. It remains to be seen if he can make it three ISTAF victories on Sunday. He will face a strong field, led by World and European 200 m champion Ramil Guliyev. The 28 year-old from Turkey is not the only European Champion in the field. Britain's Harry Aikines-Aryeetey took the gold in Berlin with the 4x100 m relay.

### 17:45 Women's 4 x 100 m

The top three teams from the European Championships will be back in the Olympic Stadium for a rematch: Great Britain, the Netherlands and Germany took gold, silver and bronze a few weeks ago. With Germany winning last year at the ISTAF this relay event was very popular with the spectators. Gina Lückenkemper, the runner-up in the European 100 m final, will head the German team on Sunday.

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If you would like further information about the 77<sup>th</sup> ISTAF, logos and picture material or have questions concerning this press release, please contact:

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## PRESS INFORMATION

August, 28th 2017

# Caster Semenya breaks 600 m world best at ISTAF

**BERLIN.** Caster Semenya crowned the 76th ISTAF edition of in Berlin's Olympic Stadium with a world best in the 600 m. The South African ran 1:21.77, improving the former 20 year-old mark from Cuba's Ana Fidelia Quirot by almost one second. A meeting record was established by Kenya's Norah Tanui who took the 3,000 m Steeplechase in 9:03.70. Second-placed Gesa Krause ran a German record with 9:11.85. Another highlight was the men's Javelin. Germany's World Champion Johannes Vetter won with 89.85 m. 42,500 spectators watched the events of the ISTAF meeting, which belongs to the IAAF World Challenge Series.

Germany's most spectacular athletics meeting had seen 18 world records or world bests in its long history. On Sunday spectators witnessed number 19 in the 600 m. Meeting Director Martin Seeber had agreed to switch from the 800 to the 600 m after Semenya requested this. It was worth doing it, as the Olympic and World Champion delivered a thrilling run. Guided by pacemaker Ilona Usovich of Belarus until almost 400 m she then stormed away and held on to clock 1:21.77, smashing her PB of 1:25.56 in fine weather conditions. It was back in 1997 when Cuba's Ana Fidelia Quirot ran 1:22.63. Since the 600 m are a non-standard event the IAAF does not ratify world records.

Second placed Ajee Wilson of the US ran a North American area record with 1:22.39 while Francine Niyonsaba of Burundi took third in 1:23.18. „I won my first world title here in Berlin, so this city is special for me. I wanted to deliver to this amazing people“, said Caster Semenya. „The 600 is a bit easier compared to the 800. I love speed, so I liked it.“

A very fast race developed in the 3,000 m Steeplechase. Kenya's pacemaker Caroline Tuigong guided the field through the 1,000 m mark in 3:02.56 and then dropped out. The pace remained high with a 6:07.88 split time for 2k. America's World Championships silver medalist Courtney Frerichs was in the lead at this point, but she did not finish. It was then Norah Tanui who stormed away, winning in 9:03.70. She smashed the former meeting record which stood at 9:21.64. Gesa Krause, who was unlucky in London when she was tripped and fell in the final, ran a great race late in the season, improving her national record from 9:15.70 to 9:11.85. „This is a great end to the season for me after the disappointment in London“, said Krause.



There was a great victory for another German runner: 20 year-old Konstanze Klosterhalfen took the 1,500 m in another personal best. This time she improved to 3:58.92, winning from Eilish McColgan (Great Britain/4:01.60) and Susan Krumins (Netherlands/4:02.25). „I don't know how I ran this time today. But I thought I just go for it, the spectators will help me. And it worked“, said Klosterhalfen, who is now number four in the world this year.

There was a personal best for Christina Manning in the 100 m Hurdles as well. The American ran a fine 12.54 with a 1.4 tailwind. Danielle Williams of Jamaica was second in 12.58 while Alina Talay (Belarus) took third with 12.72.

Julian Forte showed a great race in the 100 m, almost in Usain Bolt style storming away in the second part of it and winning with a personal best of 9.91. Well behind the Jamaican, who missed the final in the World Championships in London, were Ramil Guliyev (Turkey/10.09) and Adam Gemili (Great Britain/10.10). „London is behind me. The past is the past. I was of course planning to peak in London, but the personal best at the end of the season is good“, said Julian Forte.

The Javelin Throw came to life in round two. First it was Czech's Jakub Vadlejch who took the lead with 85.15 m, which was his best of day and was good enough for third in the end. Then Olympic Champion Thomas Röhler threw 85.94 m. But his lead was short lived as well. Fellow-German Johannes Vetter improved from 78.70 in round one to 86.06 m in the second round. The World Champion then further improved to 89.85 with his fifth attempt. Röhler could not top that, although he improved to 86.07 with his final throw. „It was a thrilling season with a superb end. I am really finished now. I am looking forward to the European Championships in Berlin next year“, said Johannes Vetter.

It was not a German day however in the Discus Throw. The two Berlin Olympic Champions Robert and Christoph Harting had to settle for fifth (64.59) and eighth (62.83) respectively. Piotr Malachowski of Poland took victory with 67.18 m from Philip Milanov (Belgium/66.90) and World Champion Andrius Gudzius (Lithuania/66.60).

A London World Champion confirmed his position as the current number one: America's Sam Kendricks won the Pole Vault with 5.86 from Poland's Piotr Lisek (5.81) and France's Renaud Lavillenie (5.71).

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*More information about the ISTAF are available at: [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)*



## MEDIA INFORMATION

August 25, 2017

# Eight World Champions, Many German Stars and Debut of Fan Tribune

**BERLIN.** Full stage dress rehearsal and debut before the general public: the 76<sup>th</sup> edition of ISTAF this Sunday (August 27, 2017) has plenty to offer. 180 elite athletes will be performing once more in Berlin's Olympic Stadium and among them are eight gold medallists from the recent World Championships in London as well the cream of Germany's track and field stars, for whom the meeting with such deep historical roots will also serve as a dress rehearsal for next year's European Championships at the same venue. But there is also innovation for competitors and fans alike: for the first time ISTAF organizers have installed a 250 square metre fan tribune which will also act as a tunnel for the athletes. The action begins at 2.30pm with the SCHOOLS CUP. The star athletes will be in the spotlight from 4pm.

Two weeks after the World Championships in London, eight gold medallists will be in action: Ramil Guliyev (Turkey / ISTAF event: 100m), Adam Gemili (Great Britain / 100m), Sam Kendricks (USA / Pole Vault), Andrius Gudzius (Lithuania / Discus), Caster Semenya (South Africa / 600m), Dafne Schippers (Netherlands / 4 x 100m), Phyllis Francis (USA / 200m) and Johannes Vetter (Germany / Javelin).

The German fans have a wide range of treats in store including their Olympic champions Thomas Röhler (Javelin) as well as the Harting brothers, Robert and Christoph (Discus), plus 1500m rising star Konstanze Klosterhalfen, Gesa Krause (3,000m steeplechase), the German sprint relay squad with Gina Lückenkemper and Lisa Mayer and also the double World Shot Put champion David Storl.

In total, including former competitions, eight Olympic champions and 16 World and 15 European champions will compete in the 76<sup>th</sup> edition of Berlin's historic meeting. Of the about 180 competitors from 39 countries, 44 are from Germany. The youngest female athlete at this year's ISTAF is Johana Kaiserova (CZE / 4x100m) at 17 years of age. The youngest male athlete is the 18-year-old Bo Kanda Lita Baehre (Pole Vault) from



Bayer Leverkusen. The oldest female competitor is Jennifer Meadows (GB / 1.500 m) at 36. The oldest male competitor is sprinter Kim Collins (St. Kitts and Nevis) at 41.

Tickets for the world's oldest athletics meeting can be bought at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de).

### Timetable

The action begins in Berlin's Olympic Stadium this Sunday at 2.30pm with the ISTAF Schools Cup (Ticket Office and Stadium Opening at 1pm). The main programme begins at 3.30pm.

\*Subject to alteration

### ISTAF on Television

In Germany, ZDF will be showing ISTAF in its "SPORT EXTRA" programme (Sunday, 3.45 – 7pm). ISTAF will also be shown internationally in more than 160 countries either live or on delay. The TV production facilities will include 7.5 kilometres of cable within the Olympic Stadium, 35 cameras and 15 edit and graphic units as well as Outside Broadcast vehicles.

### Tickets from 9 Euro

Tickets for ISTAF start from 9 Euro. For 29 Euro you can be among the fans enjoying the atmosphere on the lower tier of the grandstand. Further information about this and ticket prices can be found at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or the ticket hotline 01806/300 333 \*(0,20 Euro/Anruf including VAT from a German landline, 0,60 Euro from a mobile) or from all CTS Ticket Agencies.





## A Tunnel for the Athletes, a stage for the Fans: ISTAF transforms Berlin's Olympic Stadium

There's never been anything like this before! For the 76th edition of ISTAF in Berlin's Olympic Stadium on August 27, 2017, world class athletes will be running through a tunnel for the first time. The ISTAF organizers have installed a giant 250 square metre fan tribune above the famous blue track on the east bend of the arena

For the German sprint relay squad and many more of their fellow star athletes the 76<sup>th</sup> edition of ISTAF will be the last real live test in the Berlin Olympic Stadium before the European Athletics Championships next year at the same track. At the same time the oldest meeting in world athletics will mark a debut for many star performers: the runners will be moving into top gear and run through a tunnel on the east bend because a fan tribune has been built to form a "roof" over the blue track. The aim of the ISTAF organizers in building this ten metres by 25 long and four metre high construction is "to bring athletes and fans closer together." Meeting director Martin Seeber says: "We want stars and role models that are accessible in track and field. We want to create a place right in the stadium where fans big and small can meet their idols, collect autographs and have selfies taken with a view of the Marathon Gate. That's why our first move was to construct a fan tribune on the east bend which stretched over the blue track and created a tunnel for the athletes at the same time.

One of the leading German sprinters Lisa Mayer is delighted with this innovation. "Fan tribune and tunnel – that's a really great idea," said the 21-year-old. "I'm excited to see how it works out, am convinced that spectators and athletes will find it great. I'm so looking forward to this ISTAF. Last year was my first time as a competitor. I first came here with my parents and we sat in stands and that alone was a really special atmosphere but it's even more so when you're out on the track, it's fantastic."

## Quotes

**Martin Seeber, Meeting-Director:** “In sporting terms this is the best line-up we’ve had for a long time. The spectators will see countless medallists in action and thrilling competitions in 15 events. Apart from the top international stars I’m especially pleased about the “German New Wave” – young athletes whose great performances and relaxed approach really strike a chord. Personalities who also give our sport profile away from the stadium and bring a breath of fresh air. I’m excited to see how our new fan tribune is received and what the public make of it.”

**Frank Kowalski, Chief Executive, European Athletics Championships 2018:** I’m really looking forward to the 76<sup>th</sup> edition of ISTAF and the great atmosphere in Berlin’s Olympic Stadium with plenty of spectators. The line-up of athletes is high quality and promises thrilling sport of the highest level. Just looking at the javelin and discus fields, we can look forward to top class competition. The idea of the fan tribune is very creative and will bring athletes and fans much closer to one another. I am convinced that this innovation will prove an unforgettable experience for many athletics fans. ISTAF is the major last track and field in the Berlin Olympic Stadium before next year’s European Championships. For us it will be a good opportunity to see how everything functions under competition conditions and take stock from that. I wish meeting director Martin Seeber and his team a successful event that it all goes well.”

**Robert Harting:** “ISTAF, thanks to its great reputation and innovations, continues to be a highlight at the end of the season. Berlin is my city and I am always hugely excited to throw in front of the home fans.”

**Gina Lückenkemper:** “I am so looking forward to ISTAF. This meeting with its great fans is the number one highlight at the end of the season. And they know how to celebrate as well!”

**Christoph Harting:** “The entire experience of ISTAF speaks for itself. I’m already getting excited about competing and the atmosphere.”

**Rebekka Haase:** “ISTAF is the absolute top highlight at the end of the season. We’ll be giving it everything we’ve got on the blue track. My first time at ISTAF was 2009 – it was my first experience of major athletics. Back then it was already a dream, firstly to be at ISTAF and then compete in the Olympic Stadium.”

## Events Summary

### 4pm JAVELIN MEN

ISTAF is underway as the best javelin throwers in the world – gold, silver and bronze medallists as well as the Olympic Champion set the 76th edition in motion. In addition to the World champion Johannes Vetter and Olympic champion Thomas Röhler, who finished fourth in London, the competition includes the World Championship silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch and bronze medallist Petr Frydrych (both Czech Republic). Vetter of Germany threw 89.89m in the first round in London and in a high class final the 24-year-old left Jakub Vadlejch (89.73) and Petr Frydrych (88.32) trailing in his wake. Thomas Röhler (88.26) missed a bronze medal by only seven centimetres, leaving Germany's Olympic champion fourth. Which of "The Big Four" will triumph at ISTAF or will an outsider be celebrating with a surprise win? Last year Johannes Vetter sent the javelin hurtling to a distance of 89.57m.

**Meeting Record: 91.30m (1995, Jan Zelezny, CZE)**

### 4.10pm SHOT PUT MEN

Five World Championship finalists are in the field and among them is David Storl. Germany's best shot putter could only finish tenth in London. The double World champion, triple European champion and twice silver medallist in Olympics and World Championships has shown on numerous occasions his exceptional ability at ISTAF. His tally so far is two victories and one second place. Will the 76th edition of ISTAF turn out to be a successful dress rehearsal for next year's European Championships at the same venue? His rivals including Michal Haratyk (Poland), Ryan Whiting (USA), Darrell Hill (USA) and O'Dayne Richards (Jamaica) will be doing their best to make sure that doesn't happen.

**Meeting Record: 21.61m (2011, Ryan Whiting, USA)**

### 4.20pm 200m WOMEN

Will the 400m World champion Phyllis Francis (USA) sprint her way to victory over half that distance? The competition is red hot and with speed in abundance. That certainly applies to Marie-Josée Ta Lou. The Ivory Coast athlete took World Championship silver in London over both 100 and 200m. Also a contender is the reigning European champion and British record holder in the 200m, Dina Asher-Smith who took silver in the sprint relay in her "hometown" World Championships. The fastest in the field on this year's performances is the American Kyra Jefferson (22.02). Rebekka Haase and Laura Müller of Germany will have to grab any chance they can in this race.

**Meeting Record: 21.91 (1991, Katrin Krabbe, GER)**

### 4.20pm POLE VAULT MEN

The pole vault in Berlin's Olympic Stadium creates a World Championship rematch between the American Sam Kendricks, Piotr Lisek of Poland and Renaud Lavillenie of

France. A thrilling World Championship final ended in victory for Kendricks who is the world leader on height this year. He cleared 5.95m to beat Lisek and the world record holder Lavillenie with the latter duo both clearing 5.89 but Lisek winning silver on countback. Also in the line-up is Germany's multi-eventer Kai Kazmirek who won a bronze medal in the decathlon at the London World Championships.

**Meeting Record: 6.05m (1994, Sergei Bubka, UKR)**

#### **4.30pm 5.000m MEN**

Can Richard Ringer of Germany make a success of his dress rehearsal for the European Championships 2018 in the Berlin Olympic Stadium? The 5,000m bronze medallist in the same championships last year in Amsterdam missed his chance at the World Championships in London but he wants to make amends at ISTAF. "I am determined to run a really good race and show what I've got," said the multiple German title holder. He has done it in the past in Berlin. He was fourth at ISTAF in 2015, only eight seconds outside his outstanding personal best of 13:10.94. Only three Germans have run faster. He faces strong opposition including Paul Tanui, the Kenyan who won a 10,000m bronze medal at the World Championships in London.

**Meeting Record: 12:50.55, Masai Moses Ndiema, KEN)**

#### **5.25pm 100m WOMEN**

Gina Lückenkemper will never forget August 5, 2017 when she broke the "sound barrier" and sprinted into the history books. In her World Championship qualifying round the 20-year-old crossed the line in 10.95. The last German woman to break 11 seconds in the 100m was Katrin Krabbe 26 years ago (10.99). Apart from Katrin Krabbe, whose best was 10.89 in 1988, the only ones to have run faster than Gina Lückenkemper have been Heike Drechsler (10.91/1983), Silke Gladisch (10.86/1987), Marita Koch (10.83/1983) and the national record holder Marlies Göhr (10.81/1983). Gina Lückenkemper's rivals at ISTAF will include her speedy team-mate Lisa Mayer and the winner of a World Championship gold in London – Tianna Bartoletta (USA) who won the long jump and achieved two golds at the Rio Olympics last year, long jump and 4 x 100m.

**Meeting Record: 10.78 (2000, Marion Jones, USA)**

#### **5.05pm 600m WOMEN**

ISTAF Premiere: at the request of South Africa's World 800m champion and Olympic gold medallist Caster Semenya, the organizers have included a 600m on the programme. "Berlin is my city – and I want to end my season there with a super-fast time," said the 26-year-old. "I've always had a warm welcome at ISTAF even when times were tough for me and received great support." But Caster Semenya, whose best 600m time is 1:25.56, will have to contend with top class competition. Among the South African's rivals will be Francine Niyonsaba of Burundi, who won silver medals in both London and Rio.



### **5.15pm 1.500m WOMEN**

800M under two minutes; 1500m sub four minutes; 5,000m under 15 minutes: Konstanze Klosterhalfen has become the youngest athlete ever to achieve these times. The 20-year-old has gone from record to record this year. At the World Championships in London she missed qualifying for the final but the athlete from Leverkusen recovered in fine style last week in Birmingham in the UK by breaking the German record for 3,000m (8:28.90) which had stood for 17 years. Her personal best for 1500m is 3:59.30. Rivals on the start line for ISTAF will include Angelika Cichocka (Poland) and Gudaf Tsegay (Ethiopia).

**Meeting Record: 3:58.43 (Süreyya Ayhan (Turkey, 2002))**

### **5.15pm LONG JUMP WOMEN**

In London Darya Klishina leaped to 7.00m to take the silver medal in a high class competition at the World Championships. The double European Indoor champion from Russia has been permitted to compete in IAAF competitions despite the exclusion of the Russian Federation and compete as “neutral athlete” because she has been able to show evidence of undergoing tests outside her own country’s anti-doping system. Klishina has lived and trained in the USA for the past four years. On her ISTAF debut the 26-year-old will encounter among her rivals Ivana Spanovic, the 27-year-old Serb who won Olympic bronze in Rio and finished fourth in London. Also likely to make an impact in Berlin will be Claudia Salman-Rath. The Frankfurt athlete finished tenth in the long jump at the London World Championships.

**Meeting Record: 7.08m (1993, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, USA)**

### **5.40pm DISCUS MEN**

Both of Berlin’s Olympic discus champions, the Harting brothers Robert and Christoph, will compete in their “living room” the man who sprang a surprise at the World Championships to win the gold, Andrius Gudzius (Lithuania) and the bronze medallist Mason Finley (USA). Also in the line-up is Martin Wierig of Germany, last year’s ISTAF winner Lukas Weißhaidinger (Austria) and Piotr Malachowski. The World and European champion from Poland has had numerous fine contests with Robert and Christoph Harting in the past. At the 2009 World Championships in Berlin and Moscow in 2013 he took the silver behind Robert Harting. But at the 2010 European Championship Malachowski won gold to leave Robert Harting with the silver medal. Last year the Pole took silver at the Rio Olympics behind Christoph Harting, having previously beaten the latter at ISTAF in 2015. With good reason has Robert Harting recently described Piotr Malachowski as his “lifelong opponent.”

**Meeting Record: 70.60m (1996, Lars Riedel, GER)**

### **5.45pm 110m HURDLES MEN**

The world record holder Aries Merritt (12.80) is the co-favourite following the American’s fifth place in the London World Championships, three-hundredths-of-a-second short of taking the bronze medal. Having recovered from serious illness, Merritt

is on his way to his old form. In 2015 he underwent a kidney transplant donated by his sister. Merritt, who is coached by the German Andreas Behm, still holds the ISTAF meeting record of 12.97. The 2012 Olympic champion faces a field including three Germans: Matthias Bühler, Erik Balnuweit and Maximilian Bayer. Ronald Levy of the USA with 13.05 has run faster than Aries Merritt this year.

**Meeting Record: 12.97 (2012, Aries Merritt, USA)**

### **6pm 100m WOMEN**

Carolin Schäfer won Germany's first medal at the World Championships in London when the 25-year-old took the silver in the heptathlon with a strong performance for 6696 points. This year she is the fifth fastest German over the sprint hurdles with 13.07. On Sunday she will be showing what she can do against the specialist sprint hurdlers. The favourites are the Americans Dawn Harper-Nelson (season's best of 12.63) and Christina Manning (season's best of 12.58)

**Meeting Record: 12.37 (1986, Yordanka Donkova, BUL)**

### **6.10pm 3.000m STEEPLECHASE WOMEN**

Sometimes you still win, even if you finish ninth or tenth. That was how it was for Gesa Felicitas Krause at the World Championships in London. She had run just over two laps into the final of the women's steeplechase and couldn't avoid a fallen rival. Gesa Felicitas Krause stumbled, fell, knocked her head and someone stepped on her ankle. But the 25-year-old kept going – showing so much determination that she clawed her way back up the field to finish ninth to tumultuous applause. "That's sport for you, falling down is part and parcel of it," she reflected as she fought back the tears. The German record holder with 9:15.70 will encounter the World Championship silver medallist Courtney Frerichs (USA, 9:03.77) among her rivals.

**Meeting Record: 9:21.64 (2012, Sofia Assefa, ETH)**

### **6.30pm 100m MEN**

In 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015 the superstar Usain Bolt made the World Championship 100m title his very own but this year a new name was on top of the podium, celebrating the gold medal – Ramil Guliyev. The 27-year-old born in Azerbaijan, who has run for Turkey since 2013, won ahead of the strong favourite in London, Wayde van Niekerk of South Africa. As Usain Bolt's successor, Guliyev will run the 100m and encounter another World champion: Britain's Adam Gemili who was part of their gold medal winning 4 x 100m squad in London. Also on the start line will be the fast Frenchman Christophe Lemaitre and the German record holder Julian Reus. As many as seven sprinters here have broken 10 seconds for the 100m.

**Meeting Record: 9.82 (2011, Yohan Blake, JAM)**

### **6.45pm 4X100m WOMEN**

After seven years this event is back on the programme! Once again a potentially

thrilling sprint relay is back on the ISTAF schedule and right in the thick of it will be the German women's 4 x 100m squad. Even though hopes that they might win a place on the podium at the London World Championships were dashed, there has still been plenty to celebrate with an extremely successful year behind them: fourth place in the Rio Olympics, bronze medal at the European Championships, victory at the European Team Championships – and the crowning moment of gold at the World Relays. The German quartet ran 42.84 ahead of Jamaica and China. At ISTAF the German team will meet the Netherlands including the World champion Dafne Schippers and the USA squad with their Olympic gold medallist Tianna Bartoletta, the German U-20 team, who this year ran an age group world record and took gold at the European Championships as well as a Berlin invitation squad.

**Meeting Record: 41.55 (1987, USA)**

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If you would like to know more about the 76<sup>th</sup> edition of ISTAF on August 27, 2017 or have questions about media information or require Logos and Photo Material, please contact:

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Downloads (Logos, Graphics, Photos) also available at: [www.topsportonline.de/downloads](http://www.topsportonline.de/downloads)





## PRESS INFORMATION

13th June 2017

# ISTAF brings showtime stage to Berlin's Olympic Stadium on 27<sup>th</sup> August

ISTAF presents a glittering array of stars including Renaud Lavillenie, Christoph Harting and Innovation for the Fans

**BERLIN.** Two great stars of track and field have confirmed that they will be competing in this year's ISTAF on August 27 in Berlin's Olympic Stadium: Renaud Lavillenie of France, world record holder in the pole vault, and Berlin's very own Olympic discus champion Christoph Harting will be aiming for honours in the most prestigious German athletics meeting of the year. The ISTAF organisers will also be providing an innovative feature for the fans with a stage constructed above one of the bends as the athletes run underneath, creating the effect of going through a tunnel.

The ISTAF meeting, which this year has added to its main sponsors with the arrival of the tyre manufacturer Bridgestone, has been consistently the biggest spectator attraction of any athletics meeting in the world and 27,000 tickets have already been sold for this year's event, the 76th edition and an IAAF World Challenge Meeting.

Two weeks after the World Championships in London, some 180 elite athletes from around the world will be expected in Berlin's Olympic Stadium, including the world record holder in the pole vault, Renaud Lavillenie of France and Berlin's Olympic discus champion Christoph Harting. "The fans can expect thrilling competition in what should be 16 events in track and field," said the meeting director Martin Seeber.

The 30-year-old Lavillenie holds the current world record in the pole vault with 6.16m. The 2012 Olympic champion produced the highlight of the ISTAF INDOOR meeting in 2015 when he cleared 6.02m, a world best for the year. "Renaud Lavillenie is one of the best athletes in the world and has a special rapport with the fans," said Martin Seeber.

Christoph Harting won Olympic gold in the discus in sensational style last year in Rio, following in the footsteps of his brother Robert, who triumphed in London in 2012. Christoph will be aiming to win for the first time at the ISTAF meeting, although he already achieved that distinction at ISTAF INDOOR in February. Poland's World

Champion from 2015 Piotr Malachowski will be among his rivals while it remains to be seen whether his brother will be lining up against him. „It would be great if Robert would be in there as well. I look forward to these challenges,“ said Christoph Harting.

For the first time in seven years, spectators at ISTAF will be seeing a women's sprint relay including the high-flying German squad with Lisa Mayer, who sprang a surprise by winning the gold over 4 x 100m at the World Relays in Nassau in the Bahamas early in the year. "The women sprinters are part of the "New German Wave" in track and field. Their success gives a great reason to restore the sprint relay to the ISTAF programme," said Martin Seeber.

One year before the European Athletics Championships in Berlin's Olympic Stadium, ISTAF is ringing the changes with innovation for spectators: as the athletes set off on the first bend at the 400m start line, they will run through a tunnel, constructed with a tribune for fans above the famous blue track. It will be ten metres wide and 25 metres long, around four metres above the track, all done, as the ISTAF organisers say: "To bring athletes and fans closer together." Victory ceremonies are also planned to be staged on the tribune. The meeting director Martin Seeber explained: "We want to bring the stars of track and field right up close to the fans. We'd like to create an environment in our stadium where fans whatever their age can meet their idols, have autographs signed and take selfies with the Marathon Gate behind them." The top German sprinter Lisa Mayer thinks this innovation is a great idea: "A fan tribune and a tunnel - that's a really cool idea," said the 21-year-old.

### **The Events (Provisional Programme):**

Men: 100 m, 800 m, 110 m hurdles, 5.000 m, Triple Jump, Shot Put, Pole Vault, Discus, Javelin.

Women: 100 m, 200 m, 100 m hurdles, 1500 m, 3,000 m Steeplechase, Long Jump, 4 x 100 m.

More information about the ISTAF and tickets is available at: [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)

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If you would like to get further information on the 76th ISTAF on August 27th 2017, logos or photo material or have a request concerning the press information, please contact:

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## PRESS RELEASE

02. September 2016

### Magnificent ISTAF: 17 gold-medalists, 19 legends, Rio-rematch and countless emotions

**BERLIN.** World-class athletics and Rio stars will be very close to you at ISTAF-jubilee: For the 75th time, The International Stadium Festival (ISTAF) is happening in Berlin – and the world's oldest and most visited athletics-meet this time is unique in many ways. Only two weeks after the Olympic Games in Rio, many Olympic Champions and European Champions are participating at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin. For the first time since 1970, ISTAF will be held on Saturday and under floodlights. From 6:00 pm, DAS ERSTE will telecast live for two hours. In addition, again numerous reforms and athletics innovations are waiting for the fans.

Overall 14 medalists from Rio are presenting themselves in ISTAF – including seven current Olympic Champions. Above all, Thomas Röhler (Javelin), who again won a gold medal in Javelin Throw following Klaus Wolfermann 44 years ago. Also part of the field are Röhlers „Gold-Companions" **Thiago Braz da Silva** (Brazil/Pole Vault), **Sara Kolak** (Croatia/Javelin Throw), **Caster Semenya** (South Africa/800 m), **Michelle Carter** (USA/Shot Put), **David Rudisha** (Kenya, world record holder over 800 m), and **Tianna Bartoletta** (USA), who triumphed in Rio in Long Jump and with 4x100-m-relay.

The audience are presented ten European Champions from Amsterdam: **Adam Kszczot** (800 m), **Robert Sobera** (Pole Vault), **Piotr Malachowski** (Discus) and **Angelika Cichocka** (1,500 m; ISTAF: 800 m) from Poland, **Zigismunds Sirmis** (Javelin Throw) from Latvia and the Germans **Gesa Felicitas Krause** (3000 m Steeplechase), **Cindy Roleder** (100 m Hurdle Race), **Christina Schwanitz**, **David Storl** (both Shot Put) and **Max Heß** (Triple Jump).

13 Olympic winner, 16 World champions and 17 European champions from former tournaments will also participate in the 75th ISTAF Berlin tradition meet. Out of 157 active participants, 35 are from Germany. The youngest female athlete at the pole is 17 year old **Celliphine Chepteek Chespol** (Kenya, 3.000 m SC), youngest male starter is 16 year old **Yeneblo Biyazen** (Ethiopia, 3.000 m). The eldest female participant is 35 year old **Kerry O'Flaherty** (Ireland, 3.000 m SC), eldest male participant **Bernard Lagat** (41 years, USA, 3.000 m)).





## Hertha-Curve is Harting-Curve

Special excitement promises the discus-competition. Local hero **Robert Harting** will encounter amongst others, the silver medalist in Rio from Poland, Piotr Małachowski and the German surprise, third, Daniel Jasinski. Therefore, discus thrower and the audience are waiting for a premiere: The discus-competition will change its direction this time. The discus will be thrown from the Ostkurve and in the direction of marathon gate. „The Hertha-Curve is Harting-Curve", says Meeting-Director Martin Seeber. „Robert wanted this change for years. Because now the athletes will have headwinds, the discus will fly further". Robert Harting is happy with this changeover. „This can probably make up to two meters", says Harting and supposes – „if everything is okay"– even 20 years old ISTAF-record of Lars Riedel (70,60M) is no longer inviolable.

## Obergföll will challenge her last competition / more farewells

Two weeks after her last Olympic appearance in Rio, **Christina Obergföll** will celebrate her gala-farewell in Berlin Olympic Stadium during ISTAF and will let her javelin fly for the last time. Even **Betty Heidler** (Hammer Throw), **Björn Otto** (Pole Vault) and **Raúl Spank** (Triple Jump) will say goodbye in ISTAF.

The **running-legend Bernard Lagat** (41) will run his last career-race at 75th International Stadium Festival on 3rd September in Berlin Olympic Stadium in Europe. „I will celebrate a big party with the great fans in Berlin", says the Kenyan-born US-star who is competing the 3,000 m at ISTAF.

## DAS ERSTE is telecasting the 75th ISTAF from 6:00 pm live

DAS ERSTE in Germany is telecasting live between 6:00 and 7:55 pm as a part of ARD-Sportschau for about two hours – more than for a long time. The tradition-rich and most visited athletics-meet of the world will be viewed worldwide in more than 160 countries live or with the time-shift telecast. A 7.5 km cable for TV-production is placed in Berlin Olympic stadium, 35 cameras and 15-interface vehicles and graphic vehicles as well as outside broadcast vans are in action.





## Athletics legends: 19 Olympic Champions as guests of honor at the stadium

Special guests for the jubilee: Invited by ISTAF the 19 German athletics-Olympic Champions are in the most beautiful German athletics arena. The athletics legends receive a special welcome and will then cheer their "followers" at the tribune.

Disziplin	Jahr	Name	Vorname
200 m / 4x100 m relay	1976 / 1980	Eckert	Bärbel
4x100 m relay	1976 / 1980	Göhr	Marlies
	1960	Cullmann	Bernd
4x400 m relay	1972	Käsling-Lühnenschloss	Dagmar
	1972	Kühne-Schiemann	Rita
	1972	Seidler-Fischer	Helga
	1976	Maletzki-Brachmann	Doris
	1976	Streidt (Wendland)	Ellen
80 m hurdles	1964	Balzer	Karin
20 km walking	1972	Frenkel	Peter
400 m & 4x400 m relay	1972	Zehrt-Holtz	Monika
High jump	1972 / 1984	Nasse-Meyfarth	Ulrike
	1992	Henkel	Heike
	1984	Mögenburg	Dietmar
Javelin throw	1972	Wolfermann	Klaus
decathlon	1988	Schenk	Christian
Shot put	1988	Timmermann	Ulf
	1996	Kumbennuss	Astrid
Discus throw	1988	Hellmann	Martina

Tickets for ISTAF-jubilee are available starting from 9 Euro at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de).







## Quotes

**Martin Seeber, Meeting-Director:** „It is my 30th ISTAF – and 75th ISTAF will be one of the most emotional. There will be a reunion with legends of athletics and great sportsmen will celebrate their farewells in Olympic Stadium. We have not seen so many top-class athletics for a long time. The audience will experience many medalists and enthralling matches in 16 disciplines. Even the weather should be fine – I am really looking forward to ISTAF-jubilee."

**Claus Frömming, Communications Director Athletics-EM 2016:** „We are proud to be at 75th ISTAF as an innovation partner here. The event has re-invented itself in the past three or four years and is an impulse for athletics worldwide. For our partnership is: A successful ISTAF is good for the European Championships 2018 and a successful EM 2018 will sustain well for ISTAF. Therefore we commonly try and develop a modern presentation of athletics for stadium visitors. Both the events – ISTAF and Berlin 2018 – will greatly benefit from each other."





## Events - Overview

### **Javelin Throw (Women) | 3:05pm | Meeting record: 70.53 m (2013, Maria Abakumova, RUS)**

Great goose bump moments are expected right at the beginning of the meeting. Christina Obergföll throws her last spear at the 75<sup>th</sup> ISTAF, ending her great javelin career at 35. The world champion of 2013 wanted to celebrate her farewell at the Olympic Stadium. Also at the start is Christina Obergföll's French training partner Mathilde Andraud. The Croatian Olympic champion Sara Kolak, who won Gold in Rio with a personal best of 66.18 m is considered the favourite to be the ISTAF winner.

### **Triple Jump (Men) | 4:00pm | Meeting record: 17.69 m (1996, Jonathan Edwards, GBR)**

Six athletes in the field have already jumped more than 17m this year- with Max Hess leading the way. The ISTAF makers had specially included triple jump in the program after Hess sensationally won the Gold at the European Championships in Amsterdam. Today Hess also jumps against the Polish EA silver medallist Karol Hoffmann and the American Chris Carter, who won the meeting in Paris a few days ago.

### **Javelin Throw (Men) | 5:00pm | Meeting record: 91.30 m (1995, Jan Zelezny, CZE)**

One discipline, two Gold winners: 44 years after Klaus Wolfermann, Germany again has an Olympic champion in javelin throw. Thomas Röhler won in Rio with a throw of 90.30 m. Today, the Thuringian encounters amongst others, his compatriot Johannes Vetter, who narrowly missed a medal at Rio and stood fourth with a strong 85.32 m. Also among the favourites is Zigismunds Sirmais. The Latvian comes to Berlin with a Gold medal at the European Championships in Amsterdam.

### **Shot Put (Men) | 5:05pm | Meeting record: 21.61 m (2011, Ryan Whiting, USA)**

David Storl created history this year. He is now the first shot putter to have won three European titles. In the Netherlands, David Storl won with a season best of 21.31 m. Other favourites are Ryan Whiting (USA), whose personal best is 22.28 m. A special focus is also on the two Starters from Poland - the 19-year old U20 World Champion Konrad Bukowiecki and his 16-year older compatriot Tomasz Majewski. The Olympic champion of 2008 and 2012 contests his last competition in Germany at ISTAF and ends his great career.







**3,000 m (Men) | 5:20pm | Meeting record: 7:28.99 min (2010, Tariku Bekele, ETH)**

No matter how the competition ends, running legend Bernard Lagat (41, USA) will always treasure it as a special memory: He is running the last race of his career in Europe at ISTAF. "I want to celebrate a big party with the amazing Berlin fans," says the two-time world champion about his farewell performance on the blue track. Martin Sperlich and Florian Orth from Germany also are at the Start.

**Pole Vault (Men) | 5:25pm | Meeting record: 6.05 m (1994, Sergey Bubka, UKR)**

The big favourite is the Brazilian Thiago Braz da Silva, who won Gold in his homeland with an Olympic record (6.03 m). Sam Kendricks (USA) won Bronze with 5.85 m. Both the top favourites encounter the Polish European champion Robert Sobera, who won the „weather lottery" in Amsterdam with 5.60 m.

**800 m (Men) | 6:05pm | Meeting record: 1:41.09 min (2010, David Rudisha, KEN)**

On August 22, 2010, the audience looked spellbound towards the blue track at the Berlin Olympic Stadium, when the then 21-year-old David Rudisha took control over the 800m race in the second round and stormed to the finish in 1:41.09 minutes. World record! At 27, David Rudisha now returns to ISTAF, as a world record holder and Olympic champion in 2012 and 2016. He will encounter amongst others, the Polish European champion Adam Kszczot and his compatriot and EA silver medallist Marcin Lewandowski. That this is his first race after the Olympics shows how important ISTAF is for David Rudisha.

**Long Jump (Women) | 6:10pm | Meeting record: 7.08 m (1993, J. Joyner-Kersey, USA)**

With a double Gold to ISTAF: it could not have been better for Tianna Bartoletta in Rio de Janeiro. First, the American flew to the Olympic gold (7.17 m) in the long jump and then secured her Olympic title with the American 4x100 m relay. From the German perspective, the jumps of the Berliner Melanie Bauschke and the Wattenscheiderin Sosthene Moguenara are also interesting today.





**800 m (Women) | 6:15pm | Meeting record: 1:54.99 min (2008, Pamela Jelimo, KEN)**

New personal best, national record - Caster Semenya won the gold medal in Rio in 800 m with a superior performance. The South African secured an Olympic victory in top form with 1:55.28 minutes. At ISTAF she will encounter amongst others, the Olympic silver medallist Francine Niyonsaba from Burundi and last year's ISTAF winner Lynsey Sharp from Great Britain.

**Discus Throw (Men) | 6:40pm | Meeting record: 70.60 m (1996, Lars Riedel, GER)**

Strongest ISTAF discus competition of all time for the anniversary: On September 3 2016, the Olympic silver medallist Piotr Małachowski and the German „surprise third" Daniel Jasinski in Berlin's Olympic stadium. Two weeks after the Olympic Games, at the 75<sup>th</sup> ISTAF, the medallists of Rio encounter Robert Harting, who can start again at the oldest and largest crowd pulling athletics meeting after his lumbago in Rio.

**Shot Put (Women) | 6:40pm | Meeting record: 20.98 m (1984, Helena Fibingerová, TCH)**

Christina Schwanitz against the top trio from Rio. Shortly after Christina Schwanitz became the first female putter to defend her EA title in Amsterdam, she landed in the sixth place at the Olympic Games with 19.03 m. Today she encounters the three best athletes from Rio: gold medallist Michelle Carter (USA), silver medallist Valerie Adams (NZL) and bronze medallist Anita Márton (HUN).

**110 m Hurdles (Men) | 6:45pm | Meeting record: 12.97 s (2012, Aries Merritt, USA)**

Pascal Martinot-Lagarde has established himself in the World rankings with continuous top timings. What the Frenchman has been missing is a medal at top international events. Both at the World Cup in Beijing in 2015 as well as at the Olympic Games in Rio, the 24-year-old narrowly missed bronze and finished fourth. Today he encounters at the Start, amongst others, last year's winner Andrew Riley (Jamaica) as well as the young German Gregor Traber, who missed the final in Rio by a whisker.





**100 m Hurdles (Women) | 7:00pm | Meeting record: 12.37 s (1986, Yordanka Donkova, BUL)**

The success curve of Cindy Roleder continues to point upwards: At the 2015 World Championships in Beijing, Germany's fastest hurdler celebrated her international breakthrough with a silver medal and in Amsterdam this year, she won the EA title. She expects tough competition at ISTAF. Dawn Harper of the USA comes to Berlin with an Olympic Gold at Beijing and a Silver at London, her compatriot Jasmin Stowers boasts of the fastest personal best among the participants at 12.35 s.

**3,000 m Steeplechase (Women) | 7:10pm | Meeting record: 9:21.64 min (2012, Sofia Assefa, ETH)**

Gesa Krause ran a German record of 9:18.41 minutes in Rio and won her first EA title at Amsterdam previously. Will she crack the ISTAF record today? After the Olympics final, which she finished in the sixth place, she declared: "I can do better." Her biggest rival today is the Kenyan Purity Kirui, who is considered the favourite. Celliphine Chepteek Chespol, also from Kenya and the winner of the U20 WM 2016 in Bydgoszcz, Poland has good chances of winning too.

**200 m (Women) | 7:30pm | Meeting record: 21.96 s (1991, Katrin Krabbe, GER)**

ISTAF looks forward to the appearance of 19-year old "Miss Speed" Gina Lückenkemper, Germany's new sprint hope who has seen a meteoric rise in the international arena. Dortmund-born Gina is coming to Berlin with two bronze medals from Amsterdam. Here, she will compete with her two sprint compatriots Lisa Mayer and Rebekka Haase as well as the American Janeba Tarmoh.

**100 m (Men) | 7:40pm | Meeting record: 9.82 s (2011, Yohan Blake, JAM)**

After securing the third place at ISTAF 2015, Christophe Lemaitre is back in Berlin again today – this time with a bronze medal from Rio! The Frenchman ended his dry spell at the Olympics and is back in the fast lane. Also in the race today are Kim Collins (St. Kitts and Nevis), the fastest ISTAF regular and winner of 2015 and Ben Youssef Meite from the Ivory Coast, who won the Diamond League Meeting in Paris last week.





## Timetable:

14:30 hrs	<b>STADIUM INAUGURATION</b>
15:05 hrs	<b>JAVELIN THROW - WOMEN</b>
15:15 hrs	<b>16 X 50 M SCHOOL RELAY – HEAT 1</b>
15:25 hrs	<b>16 X 50 M SCHOOL RELAY – HEAT 2</b>
15:35 hrs	<b>16 X 50 M SCHOOL RELAY – HEAT 3</b>
15:45 hrs	<b>16 X 50 M SCHOOL RELAY – HEAT 4</b>
16:00 hrs	<b>TRIPLE JUMP - MEN</b>
16:00 hrs	<b>BOYS/GIRLS 50 M JUNIORS SPRINT</b>
16:25 hrs	<b>16 X 50 M SCHOOL RELAY – FINAL</b>
16:35 hrs	<b>PRESENTATION CEREMONY SCHOOL RELAYS</b>
16:40 hrs	<b>INAUGURATION OF ISTAF 2016</b>
16:55 hrs	<b>100 M WHEELCHAIR RACE</b>
17:00 hrs	<b>JAVELIN THROW - MEN</b>
17:05 hrs	<b>PRESENTATION CEREMONY JUNIORS SPRINT</b>
17:05 hrs	<b>SHOT PUT - MEN</b>
17:20 hrs	<b>3,000 M - MEN</b>
17:25 hrs	<b>POLE VAULT - MEN</b>
18:05 hrs	<b>800 M - MEN</b>
18:10 hrs	<b>LONG JUMP - WOMEN</b>
18:15 hrs	<b>800 M - WOMEN</b>
18:25 hrs	<b>PRESENTATION CEREMONY</b>
18:40 hrs	<b>DISCUS THROW - MEN</b>
18:40 hrs	<b>SHOT PUT - WOMEN</b>
18:45 hrs	<b>110 M HURDLES - MEN</b>
19:00 hrs	<b>100 M HURDLES - WOMEN</b>
19:10 hrs	<b>3,000 M STEEPLECHASE - WOMEN</b>
19:30 hrs	<b>200 M - WOMEN</b>
19:40 hrs	<b>100 M - MEN</b>
19:50 hrs	<b>PRESENTATION CEREMONY &amp; FIREWORKS</b>
20:00 hrs	<b>END OF ISTAF 2016</b>

If you wish to know more about the 75<sup>th</sup> ISTAF or require logos and photo material or have questions about this press release, please contact:

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## PRESS INFORMATION



12<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### **The first new ISTAF INDOOR record has already been set: 12,600 seats in stadium sold out in record time!**

Berlin – The third edition of the ISTAF INDOOR on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 is already sold out and the box office at the Mercedes Benz Arena is closed! Over 12,600 people are keen to witness at first hand the spectacular athletics bash featuring Frenchman Renaud Lavillenie's attempt at the world pole-vault record and the comeback of Olympic discus champion Robert Harting. The capacity crowd means that the ISTAF INDOOR is again the best-attended international indoor athletics event.

Upwards of 12,500 spectators will watch 71 athletes from 18 nations compete in a total of eight disciplines featuring top-notch competitors. These include two Olympic champions, a Paralympic champion, 4 world champions, 5 European champions, one world record holder. Once again the successful show format and a special concert by chart-topping band Glasperlenspiel ("Geiles Leben") will be gearing up athletes and spectators alike for the event. The eight disciplines are the 60-metre sprint (men and women), 60-metres hurdles (men and women), long jump (women), pole vault (men) and discus (men). For many athletes the ISTAF INDOOR is their most important test in the run-up to the World Indoor Championships in Portland/USA (18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March).

As with the first two editions of the event, all the show elements of a modern high-tech stadium (music, fog, lights and pyrotechnics) will be harnessed to introduce the athletes as they make their entrance onto the ISTAF INDOOR stage. The main programme of this year's event will run from 5pm to 9pm. Masters of ceremonies will be ZDF presenters Wolf-Dieter Poschmann and Karsten Holland.

For the media, too, the ISTAF INDOOR is more and more of a pull. The Lagardère agency has acquired the international rights to the event and sold them on to TV stations in the USA, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Jamaica, South Africa, France, Holland, Belgium and the Middle East. In Germany ZDF will air its coverage of the proceedings in "das aktuelle sportstudio" on Saturday and Das Erste will present the highlights at 10am on Sunday in "Sportschau extra".

Says meeting director Martin Seeber: "We promised that the third edition of the ISTAF INDOOR would top the previous tournaments, and 24 hours before the start of the event I'm quite certain that the promise will be kept. The stadium is completely sold out and a lot of the world's best athletes arrived early in the week and are raring to go. They include world stars like Renaud Lavillenie, Robert Harting and Dafne Schippers. You can't get much better than that."



## **The key athletes at the ISTAF INDOOR in chronological order of discipline:**

### **60m (men, paralympic); start: 16:52**

The 60-metre sprint for athletes with handicaps is set to be a showcase of German medal hopes for the Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro. Top of the list is 2012 Paralympics champion and three-times world champion **Heinrich Popow** of Leverkusen. In a race with a mix of start categories, the thigh amputee is unlikely to be the first over the line, however. The visually impaired **Thomas Ulbricht** or calf amputee **Johannes Floors** have more of a chance to set the meeting record for this new competition.

### **Pole Vault (men); start: 17:15**

France's world record holder and Olympics champion, **Renaud Lavillenie**, will be looking to clear the highest bar of the year again at the ISTAF INDOOR and even raise the bar a little. Last year he won the competition with a vault of 6.02 metres but was defeated by the world-record height of 6.17m. "I'll be back in Berlin next year and have another shot at the world record," he promised. And he'll be joined by another pole vaulter wanting to improve his performance: **Raphael Holzdeppe** is planning his first 6-metre+ jump and Berlin might be the place to achieve it. They'll be up against stiff competition in the form of **Tiago da Silva** (personal best: 5.92m, Brazil), **Piotr Lisek** (5.82m, Poland), **Robert Sobera** (5.81m, Poland) and **Jerome Clavier** (5.81m, France), all of whom have cleared 5.80 metres or higher. German contenders are **Tobias Scherbarth** (5.73m), **Carlo Paech** (5.80m) and **Malte Mohr** (5.91m).

***The ISTAF INDOOR pole-vault record (6.02 metres) was set by Renaud Lavillenie in 2015.***

### **Long jump (women); start: 17:40**

**Shara Proctor**, the current World Championships runner-up and British record holder, will be competing in Berlin alongside other world-ranked jumpers such as **Erica Jarder** (pb: 6.71m, Sweden) and **Chantel Malone** (6.45m, British Virgin Islands). Rising star **Alexandra Wester** (ASV Köln), who leapt 6.72m in Düsseldorf, the third-best jump in an IAAF tournament this year, will head a German quartet that includes German champion **Lena Malkus**, still recovering from a shin problem. **Xenia Stolz** (Wiesbadener SV) will want to improve on her recent indoor personal best of 6.41m. **Melanie Bauschke** of LAC Olympia 88 Berlin is keen to jump 6.75m or more in front of a home crowd to qualify for the World Indoor Championships in Portland (USA).

***The ISTAF INDOOR long-jump record (6.74m) was set by Funmi Jimoh (USA) in 2015.***

### **60m Hurdles (women); start: 18:30**

All eyes will be on World Championships runner-up and last year's ISTAF INDOOR winner **Cindy Roleder**. As in the hurdles final at the Peking World Championships, the Leipzig native will be competing against **Sharika Nelvis**. The American was the world's fastest woman over indoor hurdles in 2015, and has a personal best of 7.83 seconds, although she only managed eighth place in Peking. Two places in front of her in Peking was 2012 junior World Championships runner-up **Noemi Zbären** (Switzerland). Two other young German women, **Pamela Dutkiewicz** and **Franziska Hofmann**, will be competing against the world's top runners thanks to the ISTAF INDOOR format for promoting junior talent.



***The ISTAF INDOOR 60-metres hurdles record (7.79 seconds) has been held by Sally Pearson (Australia) since 2014.***

**60m Hurdles (men); heats: 17:20 / 17:30; final: 18:40**

Three of the world's quickest hurdlers will be vying for the 60m title: **Orlando Ortega** (Spain), the fastest person over 60m and 110m hurdles in 2015, **Dimitri Bascou** (France), European Championships runner-up in 2015 over 60m hurdles, and **Garfield Darien**, twice European Championships runner-up over 110m hurdles. Due to the world-class field at the ISTAF INDOOR, there will be a qualifying round of two heats, as with the 60m dash over the flat. The six fastest hurdlers will go forward to the final. German aces **Erik Balnuweit** (pb 7.54 secs) and **Alexander John** (7.65 secs) will struggle to make the final six. Balnuweit, the German indoor champion, has the best chance after reaching the final of the European Indoor Championships last year.

***The ISTAF INDOOR 60m hurdles record (7.51 seconds) was set by Orlando Ortega (Spain) in 2015.***

**60m (women); heats: 17:50 / 18:00; final: 18:50**

200-metre world champion **Dafne Schippers** is the reigning star among women sprinters. She will have strong competition at the ISTAF INDOOR in the form of **Asha Philip** (pb 7.08 secs), Swiss record holder **Mujinga Kambundji** (7.11 secs), Ivorian **Marie Josée Ta Lou** (7.12 secs), South African **Carina Horn** (7.20 secs) and American **Jeneba Tarmoh** (7.22 secs). Anything other than a victory for the 'flying Dutchwoman' would be a surprise. As with the men's sprint, there will be two heats to decide the six finalists on the blue track. In view of the world class a place in the final for either of the young German sprinters **Lisa-Marie Kwayie** and **Chantal Butzek** would represent a great achievement. The ISTAF format is designed to give young German athletes a shot at top honours.

***The ISTAF INDOOR 60m sprint record (7.09 seconds) was set by Dafne Schippers (Netherlands) in 2015.***

**60m (mens); heats: 18:10 / 18:20; final: 19:00**

The ISTAF INDOOR is gearing up for Berlin's fastest-ever race over 60 metres. Five weeks before the World Indoor Championships in Portland (USA) and six months before the Olympic Games in Rio the world's top sprinters want to know where they stand. The field includes four sub-10-second 100-metre runners: **Henricho Bruinjies** (South Africa), **Kim Collins** (St Kitts & Nevis), European champion **James Dasaolu** (GB) and **Christophe Lemaitre** (France). They will be hustled by **Luca Jakubczyk** (10.07 secs), **Christian Blum** (10.20 secs) and the two-times German record holder **Julian Reus** (6.53 secs over 60m and 10.05 secs over 100m), the quickest Germans over short distances. This will be three out of three ISTAF INDOORs for Kim Collins and he is looking forward to the event hugely: "This meeting is different. It's like a concert or a disco with 12,500 spectators. I love the ISTAF INDOOR."

***The ISTAF INDOOR 60m sprint record (6.50 seconds) was set by Kim Collins (St. Kitts & Nevis) in 2015.***

**Discus (men); start: 20:15**

He's back at last! After an 18-month lay-off due to injury Olympic discus champion **Robert Harting** is making his comeback at the ISTAF INDOOR. And in his very first competition he will face some sobering adversaries. Four of the seven discus throwers competed in the final of the 2015 Peking World Championships. They

include Belgian World Championships runner-up **Philip Milanov**, Swede **Daniel Stahl** (fifth-placed in Peking), Jamaican **Fedrick Dacres** (7<sup>th</sup>) and Robert's younger brother, **Christophe Harting** (8<sup>th</sup>). Another contender is **Martin Wierig** (Magdeburg), twice discus champion at the ISTAF INDOOR. Robert Harting: "I can't wait for my comeback and to start roughing it with other throwers. It'll be really important for me to get back into competition and get used to the tension of the event again. Winning is not the most important thing for me. My body is like a car after it's been in the repair shop for a while. It's got a whole lot of new parts that have to be put to the test."

***The ISTAF INDOOR discus record (64.82m) has been held by Martin Wierig (Magdeburg) since 2014.***

### **ISTAF INDOOR – the sponsors**

As with almost all large sporting events, the ISTAF INDOOR would not be possible without its sponsors. Martin Seeber: "I would like to thank our sponsors and partners for their magnificent support. First and foremost I would like to express my gratitude to the DKB, Nike, Spielbank Berlin, AOK, Lotto, Getränke Hoffmann, Laserline, Messe Berlin and Volkswagen for their many years of assistance. This year we are also delighted to have the backing of two new sponsors, Allianz-Versicherung and the Swiss company UsedSoft. We are also grateful to our many helpers, without whom we would not be able to transform the arena so quickly into an athletics stadium and return it to its former state afterwards."

### **ISTAF INDOOR – the blue track**

The 85-metre-long track (7.32m wide and 13mm thick) was poured, marked and cut into strips specially for the ISTAF INDOOR in the Mercedes Benz Arena. It weighs a total of eight tons (13kg per square metre) and is 622 square metres in area. The track will be rolled up after the event and stored in the multi-storey car park of the Mercedes Benz Arena until ISTAF INDOOR 2017.

The blue track

Length	85 m
Width	7.32 m
Thickness	13 mm
Weight	8000 kg
Lanes	6

### **FACTS:**

Number of athletes	71
Nations	22
German competitors	23
Furthest journey to Berlin	Fedrick Dacres, Jason Morgan (Jamaika)
Shortest journey to Berlin	Melanie Bauschke, Christoph Harting, Robert Harting, Lisa Marie Kwayie, Lucas Jakubczyk (all from Berlin)
Number of spectators	12,627 (sold out)
Active helpers	300

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## PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016

### ISTAF INDOOR presents top-class line-up: World's best hurdlers heading for Mercedes Benz Arena!

Berlin – Yet another batch of international athletics stars will be competing at the ISTAF INDOOR on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in Berlin: six months before the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro the world's finest athletes will be vying for the title over 60 metres hurdles in the Mercedes Benz Arena.

The race will feature **Orlando Ortega** (Spain), quickest man over 60m and 110m hurdles in 2015, **David Oliver** (USA), world champion in 2013 and bronze medallist in 2008 over 110m hurdles, **Dimitri Bascou** (France), European Championships runner-up in 2015 over 60m hurdles and **Garfield Darien**, twice European Championships runner-up over 110 metres. Cuban-born Ortega, who will be competing for the first time for Spain following a dispute with his own athletics association, will be defending his title at the ISTAF INDOOR. Last year he won the dash with a world-best time of 7.51 seconds, a meeting record.

Due to the world-class line-up there will be two hurdles heats at the ISTAF INDOOR, as with the 60m flat. The six quickest sprinters will go through to the final. Based on their personal bests, there is little to choose between the top four runners, David Oliver (7.37 seconds), Orlando Ortega (7.45 seconds), Dimitri Bascou (7.46) and Garfield Darien (7.47). The German aces **Erik Balnuweit** (pb: 7.54s) and **Alexander John** (pb: 7.65s) will have trouble reaching the final. German indoor champion Erik Balnuweit has the best chance, having made the final of the European indoor Championships last year, where he just missed a place on the rostrum.

The ISTAF INDOOR presents world-ranking athletes in each of the seven disciplines. Now another clutch of top-notchers have signed up for the event, joining Olympic gold medallists **Renaud Lavillenie** (France, pole vault) and **Robert Harting** (Berlin, discus), 200m world champion **Dafne Schippers** (Netherlands), former world champion **Raphael Holzdeppe** (Zweibrücken, Germany, pole vault 2013) and **Kim Collins** (St. Kitts & Nevis, 100m, 2003) and the reigning 100m European champion **James Dasaolu** (Great Britain).

Meeting director Martin Seeber: "I'm particularly looking forward to the hurdles, as always. Orlando Ortega is such an elegant runner and has been the supreme hurdles sprinter of recent years. He's won at a number of events, including the ISTAF INDOOR, and would certainly have taken gold at the World Championships in Peking if he'd been allowed to compete. He's also a favourite at Rio, if he gets clearance to run for Spain."



Sixty athletes from around the globe will be appearing in the seven disciplines – 60 metres (men and women), 60 metres hurdles (men and women), pole vault (men), long jump (women) and discus (men).

With four weeks to go until the third edition of the ISTAF INDOOR 8,800 tickets have already been sold. The organisers once again hope to fill the Mercedes Benz Arena to its 12,500 capacity as they did last year. Tickets are available in five price categories starting at 15 euros and rising to 59 euros. Further information and tickets can be obtained from [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de), the hotline 01806/300333 \*(20¢ per call incl. VAT from a German landline; max 60¢ per call incl. VAT from a German cell phone) or any CTS ticket outlet.

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## PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 7th January 2016

### ISTAF INDOOR set for women's sprint blockbuster – World 200m champion Dafne Schippers among the line-up

Berlin – The women's world 200-metres champion Dafne Schippers is the next athletics superstar for fans to look forward to at the ISTAF INDOOR on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016. The "Flying Dutchwoman", who took gold and silver over the big two sprint distances at the World Athletics Championships in Peking, will be competing in the 60-metres dash in the Mercedes Benz Arena. Last year she won the race with a world-class time of 7.09 seconds.

At the tender age of 23, Dutchwoman Dafne Schippers has achieved more than many world-class athletes achieve in their whole career. In the heptathlon the flying Dutchwoman took gold at the World Junior Championships (2010) and the European Junior Championships (2011) and bronze at the World Championships in Moscow in 2013. At the European Championships in Zurich in 2014 she took two gold medals in the 100 and 200 metres and at the European indoor Championships in Prague she nabbed another gold over 60 metres. But her biggest victories so far have been her first place in the 200 metres and the silver in the 100 metres in Peking in 2015.

No surprise, then, that Dafne Schippers will be starting as favourite at the ISTAF INDOOR, but she will be facing stiff opposition. Indoors at Prague in 2015 Briton **Asha Philip** (pb: 7.08 seconds) pushed Schippers hard to take the silver medal. Another runner-up to Schippers – this time at the ISTAF INDOOR in 2015 – was South African **Carina Horn**, who ran a personal best of 7.20 seconds. Contestants will also include Swiss record holder **Mujinga Kambundji**, who has a number of wins over 100 and 200 metres under her belt. Of the women competing, **Jeneba Tarmoh** has achieved the fastest time over 100 metres. In 2013 the American joined the sub-11-second elite with a time of 10.93.

As in previous years, the women's sprint, like the men's, will have a round of two heats over 60 metres to decide the final line-up. The six quickest women will go through to the final on the blue track. If **Lisa-Marie Kwayie** or **Chantal Butzek** were to make the shortlist, it would be a huge triumph for the young German sprinters in light of the world-class competition. Their inclusion in the tournament is in line with the event format, which seeks to give young German athletes a shot at top honours. Following the retirement of the veteran Verena Sailer, the idea is to nudge up-and-coming talent to show what they can do.

Dafne Schippers: "I'm greatly looking forward to the ISTAF INDOOR. Last year was my first attendance and I'm still blown away by the atmosphere there was in the arena."





Meeting director Martin Seeber: "With Carina Horn, Jamile Samuel and Dafne Schippers booked to appear, we have three sprinters from last year who want to come back because they feel great competing in our tournament. They like the way we combine athletics with show-biz elements and make a big deal of introducing the athletes. It's a welcome validation for what we do. The great thing, of course, is that it allows us to present the crowd with another global athletics star in the form of Dafne Schippers."

Sixty athletes from around the globe will be appearing in the seven disciplines – 60 metres (men and women), 60 metres hurdles (men and women), pole vault (men), long jump (women) and discus (men).

The list of male athletes who have signed up to attend includes Olympic champions **Renaud Lavillenie** (France, pole vault) and **Robert Harting** (Berlin, Germany, discus), former world champions **Raphael Holzdeppe** (Zweibrücken, Germany, pole vault, 2013) and **Kim Collins** (St. Kitts & Nevis, 100 metres, 2003), and the current European champion over 100 metres, **James Dasaolu** (Great Britain).

With five weeks to go until the third edition of the ISTAF INDOOR 8,000 tickets have already been sold. The organisers once again hope to fill the Mercedes Benz Arena to its 12,500 capacity as they did last year. Tickets are available in five price categories starting at 15 euros and rising to 59 euros. Further information and tickets can be obtained from [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de), the hotline 01806/300333 \*(20¢ per call incl. VAT from a German landline; max 60¢ per call incl. VAT from a German cell phone) or any CTS ticket outlet.

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7. September 2015

## Press Release

### **48,500 spectators were more impressive than the weather – A great atmosphere and strong performances at the ISTAF**

**As expected, the *Internationales Stadionfest* Berlin (ISTAF) once again delivered a superlative athletics spectacle. Two wins by German athletes, a world record, seven personal bests, a teary farewell and a 48,500-strong crowd of impassioned fans in Berlin's Olympic stadium – the summarised outcome of this latest episode in the ISTAF series.**

The crowd put the autumnal weather to shame at the 74<sup>th</sup> edition of the ISTAF on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Although the rain stopped shortly before the start of the event, the wet stadium, blustery conditions and temperatures as low as 15°C made things unpleasant for all concerned – especially the 148 contestants.

In the first of 15 disciplines javelin world champion Katharina Molitor took second place with a throw of 61.19m, 2.05m off the winning throw of Israeli Margarita Doroshon. Shot put world champion Christina Schwanitz and hammer thrower Kathrin Klaas went one better, holding off the competition and attracting thunderous applause for their two victories for Germany. The wet and chilly conditions caused problems for shot putter David Storl, who took the silver medal, as he did at the World Championships in Peking.

The wind caused havoc in the star-studded men's pole vault. World record holder Renaud Lavillenie failed to achieve a valid vault and world champion Shawnacy Barber (Canada) came third with a vault of 5.64m. The runner-up in Peking, Raphael Holzdeppe managed only fifth place with 5.44m. Gold with a vault of 5.74m went to Piotr Lisek of Poland, the bronze medallist in Peking.

In the absence of his big brother Robert, local hero Christoph Harting took silver with an impressive throw of 65.15m. World champion Piotr Malachowski (Poland, 66.13m) beat the rest of the field. Of the five world champions from Peking who attended the ISTAF, only Christina Schwanitz and Malachowski repeated their victories of the World Championships.



The sensational bronze medallist over 3,000m steeplechase in Peking, Gesa Felicitas Krause, slashed over 11 seconds from her own national record over the shortened distance of 2,000m, setting a new German record of 6:04.20 minutes. Kenyan Virginia Nganga set a new world record of 6:02.16.

And then it was time for the hankies. Not because someone had caught a cold but to bid farewell to Germany's best sprinter of recent years, Verena Sailer, who jogged a lap of honour to the tune of "Time To Say Goodbye". The 29-year-old Mannheimer is retiring from competitive sport to concentrate on her studies and her professional future. In her last race at the ISTAF she had to settle for fifth place.

Meeting Director Martin Seeber: "Verena's retirement was definitely the most moving moment of the event. We'll certainly be seeing a lot of her in the future because we've given her an honorary lifetime admission ticket. On balance the ISTAF went off well. Unfortunately many ticket holders stayed away on the day because of the bad weather, which explains the empty seats. And most of the athletes were still weary after the World Championships in Peking just a week before. More important, though, was the enthusiasm of the crowd and the satisfaction of the sponsors. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to them, above all to the main sponsors Spielbank Berlin, Nike, DKB and Volkswagen."

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4<sup>th</sup> September 2015

## PRESS INFORMATION

### 74<sup>th</sup> ISTAF with world-class athletes from 39 nations – 20 medallists from Peking among the competitors

Berlin – Seven days after the close of the World Athletics Championships a raft of stars will be in Berlin's Olympic stadium for a repeat of their showdowns in Peking. The 74<sup>th</sup> *Internationales Stadionfest* in Berlin (ISTAF) will see 148 athletes from 39 nations vying for supremacy in 15 star-studded disciplines. As in 2014 they will be introduced to the public against a backdrop of music, lights and pyrotechnics unique in the world of athletics meetings. The ISTAF will again be televised in over 160 countries.

The ISTAF will feature 20 medallists from the World Championships in Peking, among them five world champions. Competitors at the 74<sup>th</sup> edition of this long-established tournament will also include three Olympic winners and 14 world champions and 17 European champions from previous championships. The athletes attending the ISTAF have a combined total of 117 medals earned at international competitions (Olympic Games, world championships and various continental championships).

Of the 148 active athletes attending, 40 will be representing Germany, of which 25 are women and 15 men. New Zealander shot putter **Tom Walsh** is furthest from home (18,000 km), long jumper **Melanie Bauschke** the nearest, living in the Charlottenburg district of Berlin, close to the Olympic stadium. The youngest woman competing is the 18-year-old 2,000m steeplechaser **Tigist Ketnet** (Ethiopia), the youngest man 20-year-old 800m runner **Timothy Kitum** (Kenya). The oldest woman is the American hammer thrower **Amber Campbell** (34), the oldest man the middle-distance runner **Bernard Lagat** (41), also from the States.

The successful new "ISTAF 3.0" format introduced in 2014 will be continued and expanded this year. The ISTAF will be the first athletics meeting to have an LED perimeter board running round the entire arena as in a football stadium, enhancing a concept that combines world-class athletics with entertainment and event marketing. All five digital-media displays (the LED board, the display behind the starting blocks, the presentation podium and two LED screens) can be linked up to provide identical content.



The LED displays will be given over to advertising for 80 percent of the time, with the remaining 20% providing the crowd with information and animated images. All athletes competing in a given discipline will be introduced to the public on the centrally located LED podium, framed by flame cannons, fog machines, CO<sub>2</sub> boosters and other effects. They will also jog into the arena from a tunnel in the infield, similar to the entry of sports teams before a match, to the strains of their own selected piece of music playing from concert-sized speakers.

Masters of ceremonies in the stadium will be ARD athletics expert Ralf Scholt and Tim Tonder and also the Berliner Karsten Holland.

Meeting Director Martin Seeber: "Our spectators can look forward to a tranche of stars fresh from the World Championships. In the pole vault, for instance, all five medallists from Peking are competing, in the discus all three, in the men's javelin and shot put two of the three medallists... – the list goes on. We're waiting with bated breath to see the reaction to the extra digital features. The LED technology is a real plus for our sponsors and improves the content on offer to the crowd. I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the partners and supporters, to thank our biggest sponsors, the Spielbank Berlin, Nike, DKB and Volkswagen."

### **105 minutes of coverage on ZDF – Largest amount of TV air time for years**

In Germany ZDF will be covering the ISTAF live from 17:00 to 18:45 – a record duration compared with recent years. The world's oldest and best-attended athletics meeting will be beamed live or at later times to televisions in over 160 countries. 7.5 kilometres of cables have been laid in the Olympic stadium and 35 cameras and 15 mobile editing and graphics units and outside broadcasting vehicles will be in operation.

### **The athletes to watch during the 74<sup>th</sup> *Internationales Stadionfest* (in chronological order):**

#### **Javelin (women) | Start 14:05 | Meeting record: 70.53 metres**

This will be her fourth ISTAF and her first appearance as world champion: in Peking **Katharina Molitor** (Bayer 04 Leverkusen) nabbed a surprising gold medal with her last throw, a personal best distance of 67.69 metres. On Sunday she will be up against the bronze medallist **Sunette Viljoen** (South Africa), the fourth-placed **Christina Obergföll** (world champion in 2013) and the sixth placed javelin thrower **Christin Hussong**.

#### **Shot put (women) | Start 14:35 | Meeting record: 20.98 metres**

Second discipline, second world champion: after her triumph in Peking **Christina Schwanitz** is looking forward to the showdown in Berlin's Olympic stadium. She will be meeting up again with American **Michelle Carter**, who took bronze in the finals in Peking. Other rivals will be present in the form of the Chilean putter **Natalia Duco** and **Paulina Guba** from Poland, who managed 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> place respectively. Two of the strongest up-and-coming Germans – **Shanice Craft** and **Lena Urbaniak** - will also be competing.

#### **Hammer (women) | Start 16:05 | Meeting record: 79.59 metres**

Following the withdrawal of Anita Włodarczyk due to sickness, the women's hammer could turn out to be just as exciting as the German Bundesliga without Bayern Munich. While the Polish world champion and record holder struggles with 'flu, four finalists from Peking will be vying for medals on Sunday - **Betty Heidler** and **Kathrin Klaas** from Germany and **Alena Sobaleva** (Belarus) and **Amber Campbell** (USA). Two other Berliners, **Carolyn Paesler** and **Charlene Woitha** are also among the line-up.

### **2000m steeplechase (women) | Start 16:05 | Meeting record: n.a.**

A new meeting record is inevitable on Sunday because the shortened 2,000 metres steeplechase is making its ISTAF debut. And who can say that a German record will not be set? With the inclusion of the event **Gesa Felicitas Krause**, who took bronze in Peking and with it the first track medal for a German since 2001, has seen her wish come true. Gesa is keen to improve on her own (unofficial) German record, which currently stands at 6:15.52. By her own admission she lacks the strength at the end of the season for the full 3,000m distance. After the world championships final she will again be up against world-class athletes **Virginia Nyambura** (Kenya) and **Ruth Jebet** (Bahrain), who took gold in the 3,000m at last year's ISTAF.

### **Pole vault (men) | Start 16:40 | Meeting record: 6.05 metres**

This year's ISTAF offers arguably the best pole-vault line-up ever! All five medallists from Peking are taking part. These are: surprise world champion **Shawnacy Barber** (Canada), runner-up **Raphael Holzdeppe** (Zweibrücken), world record holder **Renaud Lavillenie** (France) and the Poles **Piotr Lisek** and **Pavel Wojciechowski**, both of whom equalled Lavillenie's achievement in Peking and shared bronze. Other confirmations include the sixth and ninth-placed vaulters from Peking, **Kevin Menaldo** (France) and **German Chiaraviglio** (Argentina), and the 2013 ISTAF champion, **Konstadinos Filippidis** (Greece).

### **800m (women) | Start 17:05 | Meeting record: 1:54.99 minutes**

Last year **Maryna Arzamasova** arrived in Berlin from Zurich with the European Championships gold medal. This year she's bringing the gold medal from the World Championships in Peking. The Belarus runner's final spurt was too much for the rest of the field. At the ISTAF she will be reprising her encounter with Morocco's **Arafi Rababe** and Poland's **Joanna Jozwik**, who took fourth and seventh place respectively in Peking. Another of her rivals over the two-lap race will be former World Champion **Caster Semenya** (South Africa).

### **Long jump (women) | Start 17:05 | Meeting record: 7.08 metres**

The women's long jump has not been on the ISTAF programme since Heike Drechsler, two-times Olympic champion and Athlete of the Year, was competing. Aged 39 at the time, Drechsler brought up the rear with a jump of 5.92m. No matter: the fans packing the Olympic stadium rewarded her with a standing ovation and chanting in unison. On Sunday Germany's best present-day long jumpers – **Sosthene Moguenara**, **Lena Malkus** and Berliner **Melanie Bauschke** – will be up against strong international competition from the Peking finals in the form of bronze medallist **Ivana Spanovic** (Croatia), fourth-placed **Christabel Netey** (Canada) and fifth-placed **Lorraine Ugen** (United Kingdom).

### **800m (men) | Start 17:15 | Meeting record: 1:41.09 minutes**

At first glance it seems a foregone conclusion that **Adam Kszczot** will win, the current European champion arriving at the ISTAF with the silver medal from Peking. In the World Championships he put in a strong finish to come second behind world record holder David Rudisha. Yet the ISTAF has attracted two other men who have a bone to pick – **Mohammed Aman** of Ethiopia, world champion from 2013, and **Nijel Amos** of Botswana. In Peking Aman was disqualified in the semi-final and Amos missed the finals by three hundredths of a second. Of the World Championships finalists the fifth and sixth-placed runners, **Pierre-Ambroise Bosse** (France) and **Musaeb Balla** (Qatar), will also be contenders. Whether Berliner **Dennis Krüger** can keep up when the going gets tough remains to be seen.



### **Shot put (men) | Start 17:20 | Meeting record: 21.61 metres**

The men's shot put is shaping to be another rematch of the tussle in Peking. Five of the top eight putters from the World Championships are attending the ISTAF. They are: silver medallist **David Storl**, bronze medallist **O'Dayne Richards** (Jamaica), **Tomas Walsh** (New Zealand), Olympic champion **Tomasz Majewski** (Poland) and **Admir Kolasinac** (Serbia). All have hurled the shot further than 22 metres. **Ryan Whiting** (USA), current ISTAF record holder (21.61m), is also among the contenders.

### **Discus (men) | Start 17:35 | Meeting record: 70.60 metres**

An ISTAF without Robert Harting is like Berlin without the Brandenburg Gate. The Olympic champion had hoped to make his first appearance since his cruciate ligament injury but it was not to be. On Tuesday, after conferring with his coach, he withdrew from the line-up. And yet the ISTAF public can still expect great things in the discus despite the absence of the three-times world champion. Alongside current world champion **Piotr Malachowski** (Poland) the field will include the silver and bronze medallists from Peking: Belgian **Philip Milanov** was the surprise runner-up, setting a new national record with a throw of 66.90m, and **Robert Urbanek**, the second Pole on the podium, took the bronze medal (65.18m). **Daniel Stahl** of Sweden, 5<sup>th</sup>-placed in Peking, is also in the running. The two best German discus throwers currently in active service, **Christoph Harting** (8<sup>th</sup> at the World Championships and the world's third-furthest thrower this year) and **Martin Wierig** (failed to make the finals in Peking), will be keen to show that they can improve on their recent performances.

### **110m hurdles (men) | Start 17:40 | Meeting record: 12.97 seconds**

This year's quickest man over 100m hurdles was barred from competing in Peking, which is why **Orlando Ortega** will be wanting to demonstrate that he would have been the one to beat. The Cuban ran 12.94 seconds in Paris in July, four hundredths of a second faster than the man who won in Peking. But Ortega left Cuba for good in 2013 and is hungry to compete for his adoptive country of Spain. At the ISTAF he will be up against the speedy Jamaican **Andrew Riley**, American **Kevin Craddock** and **Mikel Thomas** of Trinidad & Tobago. Germans **Matthias Bühler** and **Gregor Traber** will be pushing them as much as possible.

### **100m hurdles (women) | Start 17:55 | Meeting record: 12.37 seconds**

For **Cindy Roleder**, who dashed to her silver medal in Peking with a PB of 12.59 seconds, it will be another encounter with the European champion and fifth-placed runner in Peking, **Tiffany Porter** of the UK. The fastest woman over the distance this year, America's **Sharika Nelvis** (12.34 seconds), only managed eighth place in Peking and will be looking to improve in Berlin. Her compatriot and co-favourite for the World Championships title, Olympic victrix **Dawn Harper Nelson**, will be smarting from her fall in the semi-finals in Peking. Two other runners, **Lolo Jones** and **Ginny Crawford**, complete a quartet of American hurdlers.

### **5000m (men) | Start 18:05 | Meeting record: 12:50.55 minutes**

Two personal bests and six season bests – that was the result last year, when the ISTAF resumed hosting the 5,000m distance after a break of five years. One of the contenders who turned in a PB last year was **Richard Ringer**, German champion over the distance. In the meantime he has pared his personal best down to 13:10.94 and made it to the World Championship finals in Peking. Richard will be doing his level best to stay with the Kenyans, Ethiopians and Americans as long as possible. They include **Isiah Koech** (Kenya, best time 12:48.64) and **Bernard Lagat** (USA, 12:53.60).

### **100m (women) | Start 18:25 | Meeting record: 10.78 seconds**

The ISTAF anticipates a needle showdown in the 100m sprint. Four of the nine women starting have run under 11 seconds this year. They include Americans **Jenebah Tamoh** (season best of 10.93 seconds) and **Barbara Pierre** (10.92 secs), **Michelle-Lee Ahye** of Trinidad (10.97) and **Marie Ta Lou** of Ivory Coast (10.97). Three of the women from the fifth-placed 4 x 100m relay team will be representing Germany – **Gina Lückenkemper**, **Rebekka Haase** and the German champion **Verena Sailer**.

### **100m (men) | Start 18:35 | Meeting record: 9.82 seconds**

Rounding off the day's proceedings, the supreme event of the competition, the 100-metre sprint, also features absolute top-class athletes. Five of the nine contenders have run under 10 seconds. In July Frenchman **Jimmy Vicaut** equalled the 11-year-old European record with a time of 9.86 seconds. His compatriot, four-times European champion **Christophe Lemaitre** (PB: 9.92 secs) is the only white sprinter to have run a sub-10-seconds 100 metres. Former world champion **Kim Collins** (St Kitts & Nevis) PB: 9.96 secs), the American **Ryan Bailey** (9.93 secs) and **Isiah Young** (9.99 secs) are the other quick men in the line-up. The host country is fielding two members of the 4 x 100m relay, **Sven Knipphals** and **Aleixio Platini Menga**. The German relay team took fourth place in Peking.

**Advance ticket sales are ahead of last year's, with 55,000 seats sold so far.**

55,000 tickets have been sold so far for the 74<sup>th</sup> *Internationales Stadionfest*. The organisers anticipate a final gate of up to 60,000 on the day (2014: 45,000). Like last year, prices start at 9.00 euros for seats in the upper tier. Seats with the best views level with the finishing line can be had for 39.00 euros.

**Tickets in all five categories are still available and can still be reserved today (Saturday) at all CTS ticket outlets and by clicking the print@home button on [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de). Ticket booths at the East Gate (*Osttor*) of the Olympic stadium open at 11.30am on the day.**

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## PRESS INFORMATION

31<sup>st</sup> August 2014

### A crowd of 45,322 enjoys a great athletics gala complete with world record at Berlin's ISTAF

Berlin – Great sporting feats including a world record! The 73<sup>rd</sup> *Internationales Stadionfest* Berlin has lived up to the 'festival' part of its name. On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 45,322 spectators joined 164 athletes from 40 nations in a rip-roaring sports extravaganza in Berlin's Olympic stadium. The crowd was treated to three wins for German athletes – shot putters Christina Schwanitz and David Storl and discus thrower Robert Harting. But the highlight of the event was a new world record set by hammer thrower Anita Wlodarczyk.

The 29-year-old Pole flung her hammer 79.58 metres, improving on Betty Heidler's record by 16 centimetres and bringing her a standing ovation from the crowd. It is the 16<sup>th</sup> world record to be broken in the 93 years of the ISTAF. Anita Wlodarczyk: "I'm in great form this year and it's boosted my confidence. This is my lucky venue. I set a world record here in 2009, too." The gold medal comes with a cheque for 20,000 dollars, largely courtesy of main sponsor Spielbank Berlin.

Crowd favourite Robert Harting was likewise in fine fettle at the end of a long season, winning his discus event decisively with a throw of 68,21m in front of his home crowd – his fifth ISTAF victory in a row. Shot putter David Storl was equally untroubled, managing 21.41m to American Ryan Whiting's 21.06m.

European champion shot putter Christina Schwanitz was harder pushed to take gold in her event, pipping the leading Russian Yevgeniya Kolodko by ten centimetres with her last throw of 19.53m.

The long jump competition also drew a lot of attention, with paralympics winner Markus Rehm taking part unofficially and achieving a leap of 7.86m. Ethiopian Mohammed Aman also shone in the 800 metres, winning with a time of 1:43.52 minutes.

Meeting Director Martin Seeber was happy with how the 1-day event went: "Our new format with the extra show elements was a success. I've had a lot of positive feedback from spectators, sponsors, TV companies and athletes on our streamlined programme and our new way of presenting the athletes. This ISTAF gave us 16



best-of-season performances, nine personal bests and a world record. All that can also be put down to the great atmosphere. We had 2.2 million television viewers in Germany alone. That's more than we've had for years!"

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## PRESS RELEASE

30 August 2013

### 55,000 spectators to see the best athletes in the world: 21 medallists from Moscow at the ISTAF!

Berlin – The 72nd *Internationales Stadionfest* on 1 September 2013 will be a big pay back day for the World Championships in Moscow. All four German world champions from Moscow as well as medallists Christina Schwanitz (Silver) and Björn Otto (Bronze) will be up against the international competition 14 days afterwards at the Berlin Olympic Stadium. A total of 21 medallists from Moscow will be there, among them eleven world champions.

The 168 athletes will travel to Berlin from 34 different countries, 35 participants are from Germany. Shot putter **Valerie Adams** will now arrive from Zurich but, as a New Zealander, she has the longest way home. With two Olympic gold medals and four World Championship titles, she is the most successful athlete at the ISTAF. The most successful male competitor is Kenyan **Ezekiel Kemboi**, who also has two Olympic gold medals but in addition has won a total of three world championships. The youngest participant is shot putter **Shanice Craft** (20 years of age), the youngest male participant, who will be competing in the 1,500 metres, is **Yomif Kejelcha** from Ethiopia (16). The most senior athlete in the field is discus-veteran **Virgilijus Alekna** (40) from Lithuania.

In total, all athletes together have won 121 medals at international competitions (Olympic Games, World and European Championships) - the women 61 medals and the male athletes a total of 60. In total, the line up includes ten Olympic gold medallists, 24 world champions and twelve European champions.



**The most important athletes at the 72nd *Internationales Stadionfest* in the order of their respective disciplines:**

#### **Javelin (women), Start time 13:20 Hours**

**Christina Obergföll** after her success at the World Championships in Moscow, will now change from being the predator to become the prey. **Maria Abakumova**, 2011 world champion, wants to take revenge for the defeat in front of her home crowd 14 days ago. Both have personal bests of over 70 metres. Close behind is South African Viljoen Sunette, whose PB stands at 69.35 metres. **Vera Rebryk**, the 2012 European champion from Ukraine, will also be competing. **Linda Stahl**, who won bronze at London 2012, and **Katharina Molitor** will be representing the German colours.

#### **Shot put (Women), Start time 13:30 Hours**

The Dresden-based, cheerful **Christina Schwanitz** is responsible for this competition. Her surprising personal best of 20.41 metres in Moscow gained her the silver medal and put the women's shot put on the ISTAF's programme. She is up against the world and Olympic champion Valerie **Adams** from New Zealand, whose personal best stands at 21.24 metres. Two other very strong competitors are Russian **Anna Omarova** (PB 19.69m) and German **Nadine Kleinert** (20.20), who, after a long career, will compete for the last time this Sunday before retiring.

#### **Hammer throw (Women), Start time 15:12 Hours**

In the women's hammer throw, the Moscow gold and silver medallists will be competing! For Berlin-based world record holder **Betty Heidler**, who unfortunately failed to make the finals in Moscow, the ISTAF will mark a reunion with world and Olympic champion **Tatjana Lysenko** and the runner-up, **Anita Wlodarczyk** from Poland. The Russian took gold in Moscow with a strong throw of 78.80 metres, Wlodarczyk grabbed silver with 78.46 metres. Cuban **Yipsi Moreno** placed sixth in Moscow. With **Kathrin Klaas**, there is a second strong German hammer thrower among the competitors.

#### **Pole Vault (Men), Start time 15.50 Hours**

They are the new superstars of the German athletics: Pole vault world champion **Raphael Holzdeppe**, bronze medallist **Björn Otto** and **Malte Mohr**. The Germans took three of the top five places at the World Championships in Moscow. At the ISTAF, again, Holzdeppe will look forward to engaging in an exciting contest with his teammates. One of their fiercest international competitors is likely to be Czech pole vaulter **Jan Kudlicka** (5.83).

#### **Shot Put (Men), Start time 15:55 Hours**

The Men's shot put also marked by a farewell: **Ralf Bartels** will retire from top class competition after 16 years in the ring. Since 2002 he won a total of eight medals at World and European Championships for Germany, including becoming European Champion 2006 and European Indoor Champion 2011. World champion **David Storl** (personal best: 21.86 metres), Czech **Ladislav Prasil** (21.47) and Portuguese **Marco Fortes** (20.77) will be among the athletes who will bid farewell to Bartels.



### **200m (Women), Start time 16:05 Hours**

The Women's 200m sprint will be a head-to-head race between the U.S. and Jamaica. The 4x100m relay world champion of Moscow, **Kerron Stewart** (Jamaica, personal best: 21.99 seconds), and the sixth placed athlete of the World Championships **ChaRonda Williams** (USA, 22.52) will probably fight out the battle for victory. But also Brazilian **Ana Claudia Silva** (22.48) and American **Natasha Hastings** (22.61) are able to run fast times. Hastings came fifth in the 400m in Moscow.

### **Long Jump (Men), Start time 16:05 Hours**

Four out of the top eight athletes of the World Championship finals in Moscow will be competing in the men's long jump at the ISTAF: Dutch **Ignisious Gaisah** (personal best: 8.43 metres), who surprisingly won the silver medal, will face **Christian Reif** from Germany (8.47, sixth at the World Championships), **Godfrey Mokoena** from South Africa (8.50, seventh at the World Championships) and Jamaican **Damar Forbes** (8.25, eighth at the World Championships).

### **1500m (Women), Start time 16:15 Hours**

The Women's 1500m is destined to be a fast race. 800-metre world champion, **Eunice Sum** from Kenya, wants to compete against the world's best over this distance. From the World Championship finals in Moscow there are three participants who will compete, including **Nancy Langat** from Kenya, **Ekaterina Sharmina** (Russia) and **Siham Hilali** (Morocco) are the other athletes who reached the World Championship finals in Moscow. The German colours are being represented by **Annett Horna** and **Elina Sujev**.

### **110 metres hurdles (Men), Start time 16:35 Hours**

Cuban **Dayron Robles** has been the dominating force in international hurdles for a number of years: He won Olympic gold in 2008, broke the world record in the same year and became world indoor champion in 2010. After a lengthy injury break, he now wants to stage a comeback at the ISTAF (personal best: 12.87 seconds). His challengers include Briton **William Sharmann** (13.26) and **Mikel Thomas** from Trinidad.

### **Discus throw (Men), Start time 16:40 Hours**

The spotlight in the discus throw will be on two men: **Robert Harting** (personal best: 70.66) and **Sebastian Dietz** (personal best: 42.18 – also a world record). Both of them became world champions this year and both took the victory at the London 2012 Olympic Games (Harting) and the Paralympics (Dietz). Hemiplegia-afflicted Sebastian Dietz improved the world record twice in the finals at the 2013 IPC World Championship! Both top athletes will compete in the same starter field despite their differences. For Dietz, the officials have staked out a line at 40 metres, for Harting and his competitors at 60 and 65 metres. Harting needs to measure himself against long-time opponent **Piotr Malachowski** (71.84) from Poland, **Virgilijus Alekna** (73.88) from Lithuania and **Martin Wierig** from Magdeburg.

### **800 Metre (Men), Start time 16.45 Hours**

The reigning world champion will be present in this middle distance race: **Mohammed Aman** has shown everyone in Moscow what he is capable at just 19 years of age (personal best: 1:42.53 minutes). In the final sprint he prevailed against

the Nick Symmonds (USA). On Sunday, at the ISTAF, he will, among others, encounter the American athlete who was sixth in the World Championships, **Duane Solomon** (1:43.27) and the fast Kenyan **Timothy Kitum** (1:42.53).

### **3000 Metre steeplechase (Men), Start time 16:55 Hours**

The most successful athlete in the field has been dominant force in the steeplechase for many years: **Ezekiel Kemboi** (personal best: 7:55.76 minutes) has already won two Olympic gold medals and three World Championship titles for Kenya. His fellow countrymen **Brimin Kiprop Kipruto** (7:53.64) and **Paul Kipsiele Koech** (7:54.31) have recorded even faster personal best times than him, allowing them to take second and third place in the all-time record lists, behind world record holder Saif Saaed Shaheen (7:53.63). The ISTAF-record by **Paul Kipsiele Koech** from 2011 may even topple (8:04.48)! For German champion **Steffen Uliczka** (8:22.93), the race is on for a good ranking.

### **100 Metre (Men), Start time 17:15 Hours**

Athletic's royal discipline will be headed this year by 4x100m relay world champion **Kemar Bailey-Cole** (personal best: 9.93 seconds), who only narrowly missed the podium in the finals of Moscow, placing fourth in the end. His fiercest opponents will be the men from the Caribbean island of St. Kitts and Nevis: 2003 World Champion, **Kim Collins** (9.97) and **Jason Rogers** (10.01). However, the three fastest Germans, too, **Martin Keller** (10.07), **Julian Reus** (10.08) and **Lucas Jakubczyk** (10.20), will not be wanting to show any weakness.

### **100 Metre (Women), Start time 17:25 Hours**

Running under 11 seconds once... Will **Verena Sailer** live her dream today? The personal best of the currently fastest German stands at 11.02 seconds. Not much is missing anymore to make the magical limit. She will still need to deliver a powerful performance in order to prevail against Jamaican **Aleen Bailey** (11.04), US-American **LaKeisha Lawson** (11.14) and her relay partner **Tatjana Pinto** (11.22).

### **1,500 Metre (Men), Start time 17:35 Hours**

The ISTAF 2013 will conclude with the Men's 1500m race. The favourites include the winner of the bronze medal in Moscow, **Johan Cronje** from South Africa (personal best: 3:33.46), as well as **Daniel Kipchigir Komen** from Kenya (3:29.02) and **Bernard Lagat** from the USA (3:26.34), as both can run under 3:30 minutes. Keep your fingers crossed for the German athlete, the Berlin local **Carsten Schlangen** (3:33.64) and Frankfurt's **Homiyu Tesfaye** (3:34.76), who ran to a sensational fifth place at Moscow.

## **More ISTAF-NEWS:**

### **me-ti GmbH allows first ISTAF-App and automated processes**

By using the Database Publishing System metiTEC from me-ti GmbH, ISTAF will be able to respond more flexibly to short-term changes in future. Now, print documents such as the starting lists can be updated within a few seconds by the push of a button. In addition, online versions of starting lists are generated for the website of ISTAF through metiTEC. By providing a ISTAF-App for mobile end devices created by metiTEC, the range of information offered, especially for spectators in the Olympic Stadium, is considerably expanded. In the technical disciplines, like with a live ticker, one may at any time call up an interim score, for instance.

### **Soul and jazz star Jocelyn B. Smith will be singing the German national anthem for the first time**

American singer **Jocelyn B. Smith** will be singing the German national anthem for the first time this year at the ISTAF. For Jocelyn, this will be the second time that she sings a national anthem at the Olympic Stadium. However, it was the American one ten years ago at the American Football event. "I am really looking forward to this; it is a great honour for me to sing the national anthem of my adopted homeland", says Jocelyn B. Smith. During the award ceremony she will perform her new song "What Are We Doing Here" in front of an audience for the first time - because her new album will be released only on 6 September. The album release concert will take place on 11 September 2013 at the "QUASIMODO" at Kantstraße.

### **52,000 tickets have so far been sold, as in the previous year – 55,000 spectators are being expected**

52,000 tickets have so far been sold for the 72nd *Internationales Stadionfest* 2013. The organisers are expecting an audience of about 55,000, as in the previous year. Prices start from just 9 euros for seats in the upper tier. The best views of the action are to be had in the seats level with the finishing line (39 euros). **All tickets are available until tomorrow, Saturday, from all CTS ticket outlets. On Sunday, the box offices at the Olympic stadium will already open at 10.30.**

**Wenn Sie Fragen zu dieser Pressemitteilung oder zum ISTAF haben, Fotomaterial oder Logos benötigen, wenden Sie sich bitte an:**

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### **Über das ISTAF:**

Das Internationale Stadionfest Berlin (ISTAF) ist das traditionsreichste und berühmteste deutsche Leichtathletik-Meeting und eine der beliebtesten und erfolgreichsten Sportgroßveranstaltungen Deutschlands. Am 3. Juli 1921 fand im Grunewaldstadion vor 20.000 Zuschauern erstmalig ein Stadionfest statt, als Veranstalter fanden sich damals die Berliner Sportvereine BSC, SCC und der Schwimm Club Poseidon zusammen. Das ISTAF wurde am 23. März 1937 geboren, als der Berliner Sport-Club (BSC), der Deutsche Sport-Club (DSC, später OSC) und der Sport-Club Charlottenburg (SCC) beschlossen, künftig internationale Sportfeste unter der Bezeichnung Internationales Stadionfest gemeinsam zu veranstalten. Am 1. August 1937 begann dann mit dem Schwung der vorangegangenen Olympischen Spiele von Berlin die glanzvolle Geschichte des ISTAF, bei dem in über 90 Jahren 15 Weltrekorde aufgestellt wurden. Am 31. August 2014 findet das 73. ISTAF statt.

Weitere Informationen zum ISTAF erhalten Sie unter [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)



## PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, 9 September 2011

### **The ISTAF is the world's largest meet in 2011 as well! At least 52,000 spectators will see 10 world champions from Daegu and four current world-record holders**

Berlin – We haven't had that yet at the International Stadium Festival ISTAF: **five current world-record holders will be starting straight away at the great anniversary celebration on 11 September 2011 at Berlin Olympic Stadium. Alongside Betty Heidler (Hammer Throw) and Barbora Spotakova (Javelin), Johan Blake and Michael Frater (both 4x100 Metre Relay) have also confirmed their starts. They are coming in order to congratulate the world's oldest and largest track and field meet.**

The International Stadium Festival in Berlin will be 90 years old this year and is at the same time celebrating its 70th run. Berlin Olympic Stadium, too, with which the ISTAF has been inseparably connected since 1937, has occasion to celebrate: it will be 75 years old. No wonder that well-wishers from all over the world are coming to Berlin. At least 30 medallists of the WC in Daegu (27 August – 4 September) will be in the starting blocks (as of 8 September). Altogether they won 34 medals, including 12 gold and 11 each of silver and bronze.

About 52,000 spectators will follow the competitions in the 17 disciplines of the world's oldest and largest track and field meet at Berlin Olympic Stadium. The stadium gates will already open at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning, the preliminary programme begins at noon and the main programme at 2:00 PM. At exactly 14:46 PM, the victims of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 - that shocked the world exactly ten years ago - will be commemorated with a minute of silence.



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The ZDF will broadcast the International Stadium Festival on Sunday for 70 minutes starting at 15.50 PM, showing the most important decisions live on German television. The ISTAF will be seen live and time-delayed in over 125 countries worldwide. On the evening after the event, there will be a live broadcast from the athletes' gala for the first time in ISTAF history. Berlin-Brandenburg Broadcasting will present its programme "rbb Sportplatz" at 10:00 PM from the athletes' Hotel Ellington on Nürnberger Strasse.

Ten current World Champions from Daegu will start at the ISTAF: **Yohan Blake** (100m, 4x100m), **Michael Frater** (4x100m), **Kirani James** (400m), **Francena McCorory** (4x400m USA), **Jesse Williams** (High Jump), **Dwight Phillips** (Long Jump), **Maria Abakumova** (Javelin), **Tatjana Lysenko** (Hammer Throw), **David Storl** (Shot Put) and **Robert Harting** (Discus Throw).

**The most important athletes at the 70th International Stadium Festival in the official order of the disciplines:**

#### **Javelin (Women), Starting Time: 12:30 PM**

The Russian world champion **Maria Abakumova**, who won the title with the second-best distance ever achieved of 71.99 m in a thrilling competition with new personal enthusiasm, will be up against **Christina Obergföll** in the first decision and the world-record holder **Barbora Spotakova** from the Czech Republic. Spotakova will arrive after 71.58m with WC silver, Obergföll was fourth in Daegu (65.24m). Also starting is **Katharina Molitor**, who won 5th place in Daegu (64.32m).

#### **Shot Put (Men), Starting Time: 12:40 PM**

The surprise winner and all-time youngest world champion in the Shot Put, **David Storl**, heaved the ball 21.78m at the Finale in Daegu. At the ISTAF he will come up against the silver medallist (21.64m) and world's best of the year **Dylan Armstrong** from Canada. The Olympic winner of 2008, **Tomasz Majewski** of Poland, or the WC tenth-place **Ralf Bartels** could also win this discipline.



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**Hammer Throw (Women), Starting Time: 14:15 PM**

**Betty Heidler**, who just barely missed gold in Daegu (76.06m), comes to ISTAF as silver medallist and current world-record holder in the Hammer Throw. There she will encounter the World Champion **Tatyana Lysenko** of Russia, who dominated the competition from the beginning and won with 77.13m. Also present: **Anita Wlodarczyk** of Poland (WC 5th place with 73.56m) and **Kathrin Klaas** from the LG Eintracht Frankfurt (WC 7th place with 71.89m).

**High Jump (Men), Starting Time: 14:35 PM**

In the Men's High Jump, there will be a repeat of the Finals in Daegu: world champion **Jesse Williams** of the USA, who won the first gold medal in the High Jump in 20 years for the USA with 2.35m, will be up against Runner-Up World Champion **Aleksey Dmitrik** (2.35m, Russia) and WC third-place **Trevor Barry** (2.32m) of the Bahamas. **Raul Spank** of Dresden will be starting for Germany; he wants to prove that he can do more than indicated by his 9th place at the World Championships (2.29m).

**Pole Vault (Women), Starting Time: 14:45 PM**

At the ISTAF the German **Silke Spiegelburg** will now be up against **Martina Strutz**, who surprisingly won the silver medal in Daegu with 4.80m. Alongside Spiegelburg and Strutz, WC third place **Svetlana Feofanova** (Russia) and the Pole **Monika Pyrek** will be starting.

**400 Metre Hurdles (Men), Starting Time: 15:05 PM**

At the 400 Metre Hurdles, WC third place from South Africa, **Louis Jacob van Zyl** (48.80s), who ran the best time this year (47.66s), will again be up against **Felix Sanchez**, who won WC gold in 2001 and 2003 for the Dominican Republic and just missed the pedestal in Daegu with fourth place. Other starters from the WC Finale in Daegu are **Cornel Fredericks** of South Africa (WC 5th place in 49.12s) and **Aleksandr Derevyagin** of Russia (WC 8th place in 49.32s). **Georg Fleischhauer** from Dresden (personal best time 48.72s) will represent the German flag.

**Long Jump (Men), Starting Time: 15:10 PM**

European Champion **Christian Reif** jumped 8.47m at the EC 2010 in Barcelona. This distance would have sufficed for a gold medal at the WC in Daegu. Two centimetres less sufficed for title holder **Dwight Phillips**: 8.45m. Reif wants to show at the ISTAF that he can beat the American by jumping farther than the 8.19m offered at the WC. With the WC 5th place **Luvo Manyonga** of South Africa and 6th place **Alexander Menkov** (Russia), more finalists from Daegu are taking a run-up for an ISTAF victory.

**400 Metres (Women), Starting Time: 15:15 PM**

Absolute world class – that's also what the competition is in the Women's 400 Metres. Four competitors from the finals in Daegu will also be running the stadium laps at the ISTAF. Among these are the US World Champion **Francena McCorory** from the 4x400 Metre Relay as well as the bronze-medal winners **Anastasiya Kapachinskaya** (400m and 4x400m) and **Antonina Krivoschapka** (4x400m) of Russia.

**Discus Throw (Men), Starting Time: 15:40 PM**

The Discus World Champion **Robert Harting**, who was able to defend his WC title of Berlin with 68.97m in Daegu despite knee trouble, will again be up against strong competition at the great anniversary event in his "living room:" alongside the Estonian **Gerd Kanter** (Runner-Up World Champion in Daegu with 66.95m) there will be **Virgilijus Alekna** of Lithuania (2nd place on the all-time winners list with 73.88m) and Harting's long-term rival **Piotr Malachowski** of Poland, who came in, for him disappointing, 9th place at the WC with 63.37m.

**100 Metre Hurdles (Women), Starting Time: 15:45 PM**

**Dawn Harper**, US Olympic winner in 2008, had to run her personal best time (12.47s) at the WC Finale in Daegu just to win bronze. Fellow countrywoman **Kellie Wells** really had bad luck, was disqualified. Among the favourites of this race is also the Canadian **Perdita Felicien**. **Jennifer Oeser**, who won bronze in Daegu in the heptathlon, will run for Germany.



### 100 Metres (Men), Starting Time: 15:55 PM

World Champion **Yohan Blake** of Jamaica, who was victorious after the false start of Usain Bolt in 9.92s in 100 Metres and also together with Bolt in the world-record time of 37.04s in the 4x100m relay, could endanger the 100m meet record of 9.86s at the ISTAF anniversary. This record is held by both Maurice Green (2000) und Asafa Powell (2006). Blake is being challenged by his relay colleague **Michael Frater**, who already ran 9.88 this year, and **Kim Collins** from the Caribbean island group of St. Kitts and Nevis, who won bronze in Daegu with 10.09s.

### 100 Metres (Women), Starting Time: 16:05 PM

The WC 3rd place in Daegu, **Kelly-Ann Baptiste** (10.98s) from Trinidad and Tobago will be up against, among others, two silver medallists from the Jamaican relay: **Kerron Stewart** (WC 6th place with 11.15s) and **Sheron Simpson**, who set a new national record with 41.70s.

### 400 Metres (Men), Starting Time: 16:15 PM

Among the world champions who are ranked with the German and international athletes at the 70th International Stadium Festival is the 18-year-old youngster and gold medallist **Kirani James** from the Caribbean island of Grenada. Alongside him, his fellow countryman **Rondell Bartholomew** (WC 6th place with 45.45s) and the US American **Jamaal Torrence** will be guests at Olympic Stadium.

### 800 Metres (Women), Starting Time: 16:25 PM

At the Women's 800 Metres, too, we will be seeing the participants from the WC Finals once again. Three runners will also be starting in Berlin: the 2009 World Champion and 2011 WC Runner-Up, **Caster Semenya** of South Africa (1:56.35min in Daegu) will be up against the WC third place **Janeth Busienei** of Kenya (1:57.42min). Also among the starters will be the US American **Maggie Vessey**, who ended up in sixth place at the WC Finale with her best performance of the season (1:58.50).





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### 1500 Metres (Men), Starting Time: 16:35 PM

The world's best of the year and WC silver medallist **Silas Kiplagat** of Kenya was only beaten at the WC Finale in Daegu by his fellow countryman Asbel Kiprop. At the ISTAF he will be up against, among others, four-time ISTAF-winners **Augustine Choge**, **David Kipchichir Komen** and **Haron Keitany** (all from Kenya). The men have announced a fast race and, on a good day, can surely endanger the 1985 meet record (Said Aouita, 3:29.46min). Three of them have already run under 3:30min.

### 3000 Metre Steeplechase (Men), Starting Time: 16:45 PM

As already shown at the World Championships, the 3000 Metre Steeplechase will belong to the runners from Kenya. At the Finale in Daegu, **Richard Mateelong** was one of four Kenyan runners who qualified. Alongside him, **Paul Kipsiele Koech** (personal best time 7:56.37) and **Patrick Kipkuri Langat** (8:05.59) will be starting on the blue track. They, too, intend to accomplish a lot. The ISTAF record, set in 1999, is 8:06.70.

**The weather forecast for Sunday promises a sunny day with few clouds and temperatures of up to 27 degrees Celsius. The probability of rain during the day is only two to five percent.**

The ISTAF is made possible through the support of renowned sponsors, above all Vattenfall Europe AG, the capital city campaign beBerlin and Volkswagen Automobile Berlin GmbH.

The International Stadium Festival has existed under this name already since 1921. The meet in the form we know today has existed since 1937 at the Berlin Olympic Stadium.

You can find photo material to use free of charge in the press area on [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de).



Volkswagen Automobile Berlin





If you have any questions concerning this press release or ISTAF, please contact:

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**About ISTAF**

The Berlin International Stadium Festival (ISTAF) is the most famous and tradition-steeped German track and field meet and one of Germany's most beloved and successful major sporting events. A Stadium Festival took place for the first time on 3 July 1921 at Grunewald Stadium before 20,000 spectators. The Berlin sporting associations BSC, SCC and the Poseidon Swimming Club were then united as organisers for the first time.

The ISTAF in the form in which it is known today was born on 23 March 1937, when the Berlin Sport Club (BSC), the German Sport Club (DSC, later OSC) and the Charlottenburg Sport Club (SCC) resolved to organise international sport festivals designated as International Stadium Festival in the future together.

The brilliant history of the ISTAF began on 1 August 1937 with the impetus of the previous Berlin Olympic Games. Over two million visitors were counted at the stadium gates since 1937 and 14 world records were set. The 70th International Stadium Festival will take place on 11 September 2011.

You can find more information on the ISTAF under [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)







## PRESS INFORMATION

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

### Spielbank Berlin rescues ISTAF athletics meeting – New deal secures TV coverage to 2015

**Berlin – This year's open-air athletics season, dominated by the London Olympic Games, kicks off with good news for the *Internationales Stadionfest* Berlin (ISTAF), the world's largest and oldest one-day athletics event: the 71<sup>st</sup> edition of the ISTAF will be held, as planned, in Berlin's Olympic Stadium on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012. That the tournament is taking place at all is thanks to the commitment of numerous sponsors, first and foremost Spielbank Berlin. With the backing of its principal shareholder, Novomatic AG, the casino is the Stadionfest's new chief sponsor.**

Following the departure of Vattenfall, ISTAF's new partners have signed up to provide financial backing in 2012 and possibly beyond. ISTAF CEO Martin Seeber: "We're are indebted to all our sponsors for enabling us to hold the ISTAF once again this year. Many people and agencies have mucked in over recent weeks and months to get us to the stage we're at now. Volkswagen Automobile Berlin has extended its contract, Nike and AOK have bumped up their contribution and in Messe Berlin, a new arrival, we have another strong partner. Yet without the green light from Spielbank Berlin we would not have been able to hold the ISTAF. That's the stark reality."

It's official: the 71<sup>st</sup> *Internationales Stadionfest* will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012. The competition will feature an array of medallists from the London Olympics and the stars of the European Championships in Helsinki. Meeting Director Gerhard Janetzky: "We are well placed in the calendar of international events - three weeks after the Olympic Games and slotted between the Zurich and Brussels meetings. As was the case last year, a bunch of top-ranked athletes will be making their way to Berlin."



## **New chief sponsors Spielbank Berlin and Novomatic AG**

ISTAF 2012 has been made possible in great part by the generous support of Spielbank Berlin and its principal shareholder, the Austrian company Novomatic AG.

Novomatic AG is one of the largest manufacturers of gaming technology. It is one of the largest integrated gambling groups in the world and the clear No.1 in Europe. Founded in 1980 by the industrialist Prof. Johann F. Graf, Novomatic AG employs more than 18,000 people across 32 countries. The company produces high-tech gaming machines and multiplayer systems and exports to over 70 countries. The Group operates or leases upwards of 200,000 gambling machines in approx. 1,200 self-owned casinos and electronic slot machine arcades. Novomatic AG also has stakes in numerous casinos, including a 92% share in Spielbank Berlin.

Dr. Franz Wohlfahrt, Chairman of Novomatic AG: "When Spielbank Berlin asked us if we could help out with ISTAF we jumped at the idea. As the joint-stock company, we're stumping up the money for Spielbank Berlin."

Spielbank Berlin is a company that is majority-owned by Novomatic AG. Set up in 1975 in Berlin's Europa-Center on Breitscheidplatz, the company moved to the newly built Potsdamer Platz complex in 1998. An average of 2,000 guests a day use the casino, which also features four bars, a first-class restaurant and a theatre. Since its launch the company has seen revenues top 1.8 bn euros. Much of this turnover and 91% of profits go to the Berlin State.

The casino also supports a range of cultural and sporting events such as the ISTAF. In 2011 alone Spielbank Berlin funded the athletics meeting to the tune of 225,000 euros. The money went to a multitude of beneficiaries that included two-times discus world champion Robert Harting, Team Berlin with the city's ten best athletes, the Champions Gala for the Berlin Sports Personality of the Year, ISTAF, Hertha BSC, Föcchse, BR-Volleys and the European Artistic Gymnastics Championships. Funds have also been channelled into horseracing and a host of amateur sports clubs.

Günter Münstermann, CEO of Spielbank Berlin: "I'm a big athletics fan and was pretty active myself in my younger days. I've been going with family and friends to the ISTAF for years and I love the amazing atmosphere. The tournament has been held in Berlin since 1921 and it should stay here. We've been supporting the event for three years now, so it's a natural thing for us now to be instrumental in preserving this important sports competition."

## **TV broadcast rights sold up until 2015**

In early January 2012 SportA, the sports rights agency for ARD and ZDF, bought the rights to broadcast the *Internationales Stadionfest* up until 2015. The Munich-based agency can now market television images of the event across Germany and may sell these rights to third parties. The current



transmission arrangement, whereby ISTAF is given at least 45 minutes of live coverage on ARD and ZDF on a biennial rotation basis, is set to continue.

### **The ISTAF supporters club**

The *Internationales Stadionfest* has been thrilling crowds for over 90 years with its riveting competitions embracing an array of athletics disciplines - the core focus of the Olympics. Over two million visitors have passed through the portals of Berlin's Olympic stadium since the first *Stadionfest* in 1921. Many millions more know the ISTAF from TV broadcasts beamed around the world. Add to that the 15 world records set during ISTAF meetings, which have raised the profile of the event still further. These include the unforgettable occasion in 1977 when Rosemarie Ackermann became the first female high jumper in history to clear 2 metres.

The ISTAF Supporters Club was set up in part to perpetuate this impressive success story. This support community has set itself the goal of securing the ongoing long-term existence of this, the world's oldest and best-known athletics meeting. The official ISTAF supporter base is made up of private individuals as well as SMEs. As mini sponsors, all make their important contribution to the preservation of the largest one-day athletics meeting in the world. An ISTAF advertising platform for companies can be had for as little as 249 euros.

By the end of April the ISTAF Supporters Club had already attracted 20 paid-up members.

### **Ticket prices with early-booker discount of 6.75 euros**

Tickets for the 71<sup>st</sup> ISTAF have been on sale since November 2011. As with last year's tournament there are five price categories, starting with upper-tier seats going for 9 euros and rising to 39 euros for the best seats in the house, located in the lower tier on a level with the finishing line. Mid-range seats are priced at 14 euros (Category 4, lower-tier curve), 19 euros (Category 3, lower tier, back straight) and 29 euros for Category 2 (level with the start of the 100m sprint).

With a range of ticket partnerships and special deals on offer, the aim is to repeat the achievement of last year and exceed the magic number of 50,000 spectators for the world's greatest one-day athletics event. CEO Martin Seeber: "We've already sold more tickets than we had at this time last year. Many athletics fans have been buying tickets very early on as a gesture of solidarity, sending out a signal that the ISTAF should not be allowed to die. That's something that gives us great satisfaction."

### **The 2012 "I WANT YOU!" Campaign**

The German women's high jump record holder, Ariane Friedrich, and discus world champion Robert Harting are the A-list faces in ISTAF's new "I WANT YOU!" campaign. From June 2012 onwards photos of the athletes will be

plastered on 3,500 posters and billboards across Berlin. The campaign is a direct appeal to sports-minded Berliners and athletics fans in general to support the ISTAF by buying tickets and making the trip to the Olympic stadium on the day. The "Stand up for ISTAF" message will be central to the campaign.

### **Fringe sports event in Olympiapark**

The "Sports in the Olympiapark" event, hosted traditionally by the Landessportbund Berlin on the grassed area next to the stadium the day before the ISTAF, will again be part of proceedings and is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012. Up to 100,000 spectators are expected for this combined Berlin Sports Day and festival for the younger generation.

Top ISTAF athletes, among them gold medallists fresh from London, will be using this sports festival in Europe's largest and grandest sports setting for a last training session, a chance for children and teens to train alongside them in the open air. The event will also be a showcase for over 40 burgeoning new sports. The stars of Berlin's sporting firmament will be presenting their clubs, among them Hertha BSC, FC Union, ALBA Berlin, Eisbären Berlin, Füchse Berlin and the BERLIN RECYCLING Volleys.

**Wenn Sie Fragen zu dieser Pressemitteilung, zum ISTAF, zur Spielbank Berlin oder der Novomatic AG haben, Fotomaterial oder Logos benötigen, wenden Sie sich bitte an:**

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### **Über das ISTAF:**

Das Internationale Stadionfest Berlin (ISTAF) ist das traditionsreichste und berühmteste deutsche Leichtathletik-Meeting und eine der beliebtesten und erfolgreichsten Sportgroßveranstaltungen Deutschlands. Am 3. Juli 1921 fand im Grunewaldstadion vor 20.000 Zuschauern erstmalig ein Stadionfest statt, als Veranstalter fanden sich damals die Berliner Sportvereine BSC, SCC und der Schwimm Club Poseidon zusammen. Das ISTAF wurde am 23. März 1937 geboren, als der Berliner Sport-Club (BSC), der Deutsche Sport-Club (DSC, später OSC) und der Sport-Club Charlottenburg (SCC) beschlossen, künftig internationale Sportfeste unter der Bezeichnung Internationales Stadionfest gemeinsam zu veranstalten. Am 1. August 1937 begann dann mit dem Schwung der vorangegangenen Olympischen Spiele von Berlin die glanzvolle Geschichte des ISTAF, bei dem in 90 Jahren 15 Weltrekorde aufgestellt wurden. Am 2. September 2012 findet das 71. ISTAF statt.

Weitere Informationen zum ISTAF erhalten Sie unter [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)



## PRESS INFORMATION

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

### Spielbank Berlin rescues ISTAF athletics meeting – New deal secures TV coverage to 2015

**Berlin – This year's open-air athletics season, dominated by the London Olympic Games, kicks off with good news for the *Internationales Stadionfest* Berlin (ISTAF), the world's largest and oldest one-day athletics event: the 71<sup>st</sup> edition of the ISTAF will be held, as planned, in Berlin's Olympic Stadium on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012. That the tournament is taking place at all is thanks to the commitment of numerous sponsors, first and foremost Spielbank Berlin. With the backing of its principal shareholder, Novomatic AG, the casino is the Stadionfest's new chief sponsor.**

Following the departure of Vattenfall, ISTAF's new partners have signed up to provide financial backing in 2012 and possibly beyond. ISTAF CEO Martin Seeber: "We're are indebted to all our sponsors for enabling us to hold the ISTAF once again this year. Many people and agencies have mucked in over recent weeks and months to get us to the stage we're at now. Volkswagen Automobile Berlin has extended its contract, Nike and AOK have bumped up their contribution and in Messe Berlin, a new arrival, we have another strong partner. Yet without the green light from Spielbank Berlin we would not have been able to hold the ISTAF. That's the stark reality."

It's official: the 71<sup>st</sup> *Internationales Stadionfest* will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012. The competition will feature an array of medallists from the London Olympics and the stars of the European Championships in Helsinki. Meeting Director Gerhard Janetzky: "We are well placed in the calendar of international events - three weeks after the Olympic Games and slotted between the Zurich and Brussels meetings. As was the case last year, a bunch of top-ranked athletes will be making their way to Berlin."



## **New chief sponsors Spielbank Berlin and Novomatic AG**

ISTAF 2012 has been made possible in great part by the generous support of Spielbank Berlin and its principal shareholder, the Austrian company Novomatic AG.

Novomatic AG is one of the largest manufacturers of gaming technology. It is one of the largest integrated gambling groups in the world and the clear No.1 in Europe. Founded in 1980 by the industrialist Prof. Johann F. Graf, Novomatic AG employs more than 18,000 people across 32 countries. The company produces high-tech gaming machines and multiplayer systems and exports to over 70 countries. The Group operates or leases upwards of 200,000 gambling machines in approx. 1,200 self-owned casinos and electronic slot machine arcades. Novomatic AG also has stakes in numerous casinos, including a 92% share in Spielbank Berlin.

Dr. Franz Wohlfahrt, Chairman of Novomatic AG: "When Spielbank Berlin asked us if we could help out with ISTAF we jumped at the idea. As the joint-stock company, we're stumping up the money for Spielbank Berlin."

Spielbank Berlin is a company that is majority-owned by Novomatic AG. Set up in 1975 in Berlin's Europa-Center on Breitscheidplatz, the company moved to the newly built Potsdamer Platz complex in 1998. An average of 2,000 guests a day use the casino, which also features four bars, a first-class restaurant and a theatre. Since its launch the company has seen revenues top 1.8 bn euros. Much of this turnover and 91% of profits go to the Berlin State.

The casino also supports a range of cultural and sporting events such as the ISTAF. In 2011 alone Spielbank Berlin funded the athletics meeting to the tune of 225,000 euros. The money went to a multitude of beneficiaries that included two-times discus world champion Robert Harting, Team Berlin with the city's ten best athletes, the Champions Gala for the Berlin Sports Personality of the Year, ISTAF, Hertha BSC, Füchse, BR-Volleys and the European Artistic Gymnastics Championships. Funds have also been channelled into horseracing and a host of amateur sports clubs.

Günter Münstermann, CEO of Spielbank Berlin: "I'm a big athletics fan and was pretty active myself in my younger days. I've been going with family and friends to the ISTAF for years and I love the amazing atmosphere. The tournament has been held in Berlin since 1921 and it should stay here. We've been supporting the event for three years now, so it's a natural thing for us now to be instrumental in preserving this important sports competition."

## **TV broadcast rights sold up until 2015**

In early January 2012 SportA, the sports rights agency for ARD and ZDF, bought the rights to broadcast the *Internationales Stadionfest* up until 2015. The Munich-based agency can now market television images of the event across Germany and may sell these rights to third parties. The current

transmission arrangement, whereby ISTAF is given at least 45 minutes of live coverage on ARD and ZDF on a biennial rotation basis, is set to continue.

### **The ISTAF supporters club**

The *Internationales Stadionfest* has been thrilling crowds for over 90 years with its riveting competitions embracing an array of athletics disciplines - the core focus of the Olympics. Over two million visitors have passed through the portals of Berlin's Olympic stadium since the first *Stadionfest* in 1921. Many millions more know the ISTAF from TV broadcasts beamed around the world. Add to that the 15 world records set during ISTAF meetings, which have raised the profile of the event still further. These include the unforgettable occasion in 1977 when Rosemarie Ackermann became the first female high jumper in history to clear 2 metres.

The ISTAF Supporters Club was set up in part to perpetuate this impressive success story. This support community has set itself the goal of securing the ongoing long-term existence of this, the world's oldest and best-known athletics meeting. The official ISTAF supporter base is made up of private individuals as well as SMEs. As mini sponsors, all make their important contribution to the preservation of the largest one-day athletics meeting in the world. An ISTAF advertising platform for companies can be had for as little as 249 euros.

By the end of April the ISTAF Supporters Club had already attracted 20 paid-up members.

### **Ticket prices with early-booker discount of 6.75 euros**

Tickets for the 71<sup>st</sup> ISTAF have been on sale since November 2011. As with last year's tournament there are five price categories, starting with upper-tier seats going for 9 euros and rising to 39 euros for the best seats in the house, located in the lower tier on a level with the finishing line. Mid-range seats are priced at 14 euros (Category 4, lower-tier curve), 19 euros (Category 3, lower tier, back straight) and 29 euros for Category 2 (level with the start of the 100m sprint).

With a range of ticket partnerships and special deals on offer, the aim is to repeat the achievement of last year and exceed the magic number of 50,000 spectators for the world's greatest one-day athletics event. CEO Martin Seeber: "We've already sold more tickets than we had at this time last year. Many athletics fans have been buying tickets very early on as a gesture of solidarity, sending out a signal that the ISTAF should not be allowed to die. That's something that gives us great satisfaction."

### **The 2012 "I WANT YOU!" Campaign**

The German women's high jump record holder, Ariane Friedrich, and discus world champion Robert Harting are the A-list faces in ISTAF's new "I WANT YOU!" campaign. From June 2012 onwards photos of the athletes will be

plastered on 3,500 posters and billboards across Berlin. The campaign is a direct appeal to sports-minded Berliners and athletics fans in general to support the ISTAF by buying tickets and making the trip to the Olympic stadium on the day. The "Stand up for ISTAF" message will be central to the campaign.

### **Fringe sports event in Olympiapark**

The "Sports in the Olympiapark" event, hosted traditionally by the Landessportbund Berlin on the grassed area next to the stadium the day before the ISTAF, will again be part of proceedings and is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012. Up to 100,000 spectators are expected for this combined Berlin Sports Day and festival for the younger generation.

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## PRESS INFORMATION

11<sup>th</sup> July 2012

### **ISTAF to feature world's first 4x100m mixed relay. Two strong new partners in Messe IFA and Kaiser's.**

**Berlin – Thanks to generous backing from Spielbank Berlin, its principle shareholder Novomatic AG and the State of Berlin, the 71<sup>st</sup> Internationales Stadionfest will go ahead as planned. And now there is more good news from the world's oldest and most popular athletics meeting.**

Spectators can look forward to a world premiere in the form of the first ever 4x100m international mixed relay. Two German teams, each made up of two men and two women, will compete against mixed teams from countries around the world. German trainers Roland Stein and Thomas Kremer will be selecting the successful athletes from Helsinki. The German women took the gold medal with a time of 42.51 seconds while the German men came second behind the Netherlands with a time of 38.44.

Says Thomas Kremer, trainer of the winning women: "The Helsinki successes are a direct result of the relay project of the German Athletics Association. We will be sticking with this project for the world premiere of the mixed relay."

Four nations - Britain, Czech Republic, Switzerland and Poland - have committed to fielding mixed-relay teams for the ISTAF premiere. France is extremely interested; the USA and Jamaica have not yet responded. To provide a further incentive for countries to be represented in the line-up for ISTAF's mixed-relay premiere, performances in second-stream, individual 'national races' over 100m will be considered.

The idea for a mixed relay was developed by meeting director Gerhard Janetzky at last year's ISTAF. „Relays are a big hit with spectators, especially when the athletes are running in their national colours, so we're happy to be trying something different here. The German teams have given us some great performances and shown what is possible."





Managing Director Martin Seeber, too, has good news: "We've already sold 30,000 tickets for the 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The good turnout of the Germans in Euro 2012 has certainly given us a bonus in sales and we'll get another boost from the Olympics. I'm also delighted that we've been able to secure two new partners, Messe Berlin and Kaiser's, on top of the new chief sponsor, Spielbank Berlin / Novomatic AG."

### **Just 16 euros entry to ISTAF and IFA electronics fair**

The latest editions of two Berlin success stories are just around the corner. The *Internationales Stadionfest* is cooperating with IFA, the largest trade show for entertainment electronics and household appliances. IFA falls this year between 31<sup>st</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September; the ISTAF will be held in the Olympic stadium on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Aside from their collaboration on advertising, the partners are planning a combination ticket that is sure to be of interest to Berlin visitors - dual entry to both events for €16, a saving of €10 on the price of both tickets bought separately.

What else is in the pipeline? On the invitation of IFA the international ISTAF press conference will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the ICC and selected ISTAF athletes will be appearing in Hall 2.2 on the stage of media partner ARD to beat the drum for the athletics meeting one last time. The IFA will have a presence at the ISTAF and be selling its own tickets for last-minute electronics fans, at the advance ticketing price of €11 instead of €15.

IFA Director Jens Heithecker: „Sport and media go together well. Each benefits from the other. With the ISTAF and IFA we have two traditional Berlin events of international repute occurring at the same time. With the combo ticket spectators will have a chance to see the cream of the world's athletes and state-of-the-art entertainment electronics at a very family-friendly price and following hard on the heels of the Olympic Games."

### **ISTAF tickets now also available at Kaiser's supermarket**

The ISTAF management has also agreed a deal with Kaiser's Tengelmann GmbH. From 23<sup>rd</sup> July onwards tickets to the ISTAF will be on sale at the checkouts of the supermarket's 150 outlets in Berlin and Brandenburg. The specially priced tickets will cost €6 per seat in the upper tier instead of €9 whilst a family of four can buy a block ticket for the upper tier exclusively at Kaiser's for €19.90 instead of €25. The offer is being heavily promoted in the supermarkets. Kaiser's is also supporting the event by providing logistical support and also sustenance for helpers on the day.

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## PRESS INFORMATION

16<sup>th</sup> August 2012

# After eight track and field medals in London – triumphant Olympic athletes to compete at ISTAF

**Berlin – German athletics is alive and kicking! Twelve years after the last gold medals – for Heike Drechsler and Nils Schumann in Sydney – and four years after the slim pickings at Beijing, with a single paltry bronze medal awarded, the *Internationales Stadionfest Berlin* (ISTAF) has been quick to react to German successes in London. The line-up for the 71<sup>st</sup> ISTAF meeting has been modified to admit all German medallists from the Games!**

Local discus hero Robert Harting, winner of the first gold medal for Germany in a track-and-field discipline in twelve years, has been signed up for months. He hopes to throw a wild athletics party with his fans in his own backyard, Berlin's Olympic stadium. "We athletes have done eight times better than we did in Beijing in 2008. People should be reminded of that loud and clear and start celebrating. So anyone who's still without a ticket for the ISTAF should hang in there," says Harting.

In the run-up to the Olympic Games all German athletes with a place in the London squad were told that the disciplines and timetable for the oldest, most popular one-day athletics meeting in the world would not be finalised until after the Games. With Christina Obergföll and Linda Stahl taking silver and bronze respectively in the women's javelin and world champion Matthias de Zordo being eliminated in the early rounds, the decision in favour of the ladies was not a difficult one. The same was true in the pole vault, where there were two medals for Björn Otto (silver) and Raphael Holzdeppe (bronze), while the women failed to make the podium.

Berlin's Olympic stadium has a special place in Betty Heidler's heart and she will be heading back there on the back of her bronze medal in the hammer. So too will David Storl, who initiated the run of medals in London with his silver in the shot put. Lilli Schwarzkopf, silver medallist in the heptathlon, will be present as a guest of honour at ISTAF and may even line up for the 100m hurdles after all.

The eight triumphant Germans have also been recruited to boost ticket sales. By 15<sup>th</sup> August 38,000 tickets had been sold for the upcoming event on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

ISTAF CEO Martin Seeber: "The ISTAF approach of pitting the best Germans against the best of the rest has been showing itself to be a successful system since 1921. We had all the Germans signed up for ISTAF within three days of the end of the Games. Now our athletics manager is putting together the various international



starting line-ups. I'm pretty sure we're going to see some competitors coming up against the same athletes they were vying with in London, which means absolute top-notch performances for the spectators' once again."

Tickets are available in five price categories. The most inexpensive seats are in the upper tier and start at 9 euros. The best seats, in the lower section of seating and level with the finishing line, cost 39 euros. Category 4 tickets for spectators at either end of the stadium, lower tier, cost 14 euros, Category 3 tickets (back straight, lower tier) cost 19 euros and Category 2, level with the 100m starting blocks, cost 29 euros. With the ISTAF Family Ticket, four people can enjoy a riveting afternoon for only 25 euros. All tickets can be reserved by visiting [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or phoning 030/20 60 70 88 99.

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## PRESS INFORMATION

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012

### ISTAF honours its announcement on Olympic winners: Five London gold medallists already confirmed!

Berlin – Ten days after the closing ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games, preparations for the 71<sup>st</sup> *Internationales Stadionfest (ISTAF)* are in their final phase. And confirmation is already in that the crowds thronging to Berlin's Olympic stadium on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012 will be treated to the spectacle of at least five gold medallists from the London Olympics. Following the signing of all eight German medallists, this is the latest piece of good news from the world's oldest and largest athletics meeting.

The holders of gold, silver and bronze medals are pitted against each other in the women's hammer! Betty Heidler will again be matching her talents against gold medallist Tatyana Lysenko and runner-up Anita Włodarczyk of Poland. The Russian took first place in London with a throw of 78.18m, Włodarczyk securing silver with 77.60 metres. Heidler's bronze-winning throw of 77.12m was measured shorter at first and only after the measuring tape was brought in was the Berlin-born current world record holder acknowledged as being in the medals.

In the men's shot put David Storl will meet Polish gold medallist Tomasz Majewski and bronze medallist Reese Hoffa of the USA. Reigning world champion Storl, whose silver in the finals brought Germany its first track-and-field medal in London, only narrowly missed gold, hurling a personal best of 21.86m. Majewski, who triumphed in Beijing four years ago, pipped Storl with his third attempt of 21.89m, a paltry three centimetres further than the German.

Christina Obergföll and Linda Stahl, who won silver and bronze in the javelin, throwing 65.16m and 64.91m respectively, will once again 'spearhead' the German team and be competing against London winner and world record holder Barbara Spotakova of the Czech Republic, whose London throw of 69.55m was the best performance of the season so far.

Robert Harting, the first Olympic track-and-field supremo from Berlin since 1988, will again be up against the world's best discus throwers, in particular his nemesis Piotr Malachowski of Poland. Two other ISTAF probables are the Estonian Gerd Kanter, bronze medallist in London, and Virgilijus Alekna of Lithuania. Sixth-placed Martin Wierig of Magdeburg will also be competing, making it almost a certainty that five of the six best London discus throwers will attend.

Not that the best athletes being served up to the crowd in Berlin's Olympic stadium will be restricted to the throwing disciplines. The cream of runners and jumpers, too, will be competing at the ISTAF.



An athletics legend in the form of Olympic champion Felix Sanchez of the Dominican Republic will be in the line-up for the 400m hurdles. The world champion of 2001 and 2003 took gold in the 2004 and 2012 Games. In Berlin he will be challenged by Briton Rhys Williams, European champion at Helsinki, the Dresdener Georg Fleischhauer and local boy Varg Königsmark from the Nike Berlin athletics association.

The women's 800 metres will feature the London silver medallist Caster Semenya of South Africa and the Russian Ekaterina Poistogova, who took the bronze.

ISTAF Managing Director Martin Seeber: "We've always said we want to have all the German medallists and as many of the gold medallists from London as possible at the ISTAF, and it's looking very good at the moment. The Germans are all on board and we already have five of the golds lined up. We may get one or two more as well."

47,000 tickets have already been sold to the event scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012. The lower tier is all but booked out. Tickets for the upper tier are still available for as little as 9 euros. The ISTAF Family Ticket gives four people a great afternoon out for only 25 euros. All tickets can be reserved on [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or by phoning 030/20 60 70 88 99.

Free photographic material is available in the press section of [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de).

Please address any queries regarding this press release or ISTAF itself to:

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## PRESS RELEASE

31<sup>st</sup> August 2012

### **Over 54,000 spectators at the ISTAF in Berlin will see nine gold medallists from the London Olympics, and six European champions from Helsinki**

Berlin – This year's *Internationales Stadionfest* is once again set to be the world's largest one-day athletics meeting. From noon on Sunday 54,000 people will pour through the gates of the arena and revel at the spectacle of 187 of the planet's best athletes competing in a total of 15 official disciplines. Nine of London's Olympic winners (two of whom are from relay teams), four reigning world champions and six current European champions will be lining up in their respective events. And on the eve of the competition the women's discus will be contested in Wustermark/Elstal, the historic Olympic village of 1936.

Of the athletes attending the ISTAF, 27 women and 37 men have already been in the medals at international meetings. These include 9 gold medals, 7 silver medals and 6 bronze medals earned in London, 4 golds, 5 silvers and 5 bronzes taken at the World Championships in Daegu and 6 golds, 8 silvers and 4 bronzes won at the 2012 European Championships in Helsinki.

Meeting Director Gerhard Janetzky: „We've got another top-drawer field of athletes for the crowd to relish. Aside from the Olympic winners and all eight German medallists from London, the spectators will be treated to some up-and-coming athletes with a great future ahead of them. For the first time in quite a while ARD will be doing two hours of live TV coverage. Images will be beamed to 160 countries. These statistics, too, show that ISTAF and athletics in general are once more making great strides.”

ISTAF Managing Director Martin Seeber: „Thanks to the massive support of the Berlin Senate, television publicity and our sponsors, we've managed to muster a budget of 1.8 million euros. We couldn't have predicted that a year ago. The ISTAF brand is as robust as ever and is recognised worldwide. The interest from the general public is another testimony to that. We will be looking for 54,000 spectators, minimum, on Sunday. That will again make the ISTAF the world's biggest one-day meeting in terms of in-the-flesh spectator pulling power.”

52,000 admission tickets have already been sold for the event on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012. Tickets are also available on the day, on the door, from 9 euros. For 25 euros a family of four can pick up a group ticket. The box office opens at 10.30, stadium doors open at midday.



**The best athletes competing at the 71<sup>st</sup> Internationales Stadionfest, set out in chronological order:**

**Javelin (women), start 12.30**

**Christina Obergföll** and **Linda Stahl**, who won silver and bronze in the javelin in London, throwing 65.16m and 64.91m respectively, will once again be up against two-times Olympic victor and world record holder **Barbara Spotakova** of the Czech Republic, whose London throw of 69.55m was the best performance of the season so far. **Vera Rebryk**, the Ukrainian European champion at Helsinki, is also competing, as are the Germans **Katharina Molitor** and **Franziska Krebs**.

**Shot put (men), start 12.40**

In the men's shot put **David Storl** will meet Polish gold medallist **Tomasz Majewski** and bronze medallist **Reese Hoffa** of the USA. Reigning world champion Storl, whose silver in the finals brought Germany its first track-and-field medal in London, only narrowly missed gold, hurling the shot put 21.86m. Majewski, who triumphed in Beijing four years ago, pipped Storl with his third attempt of 21.89m, a paltry three centimetres further than the German.

**Hammer (women), start 14.15**

The holders of gold, silver and bronze medals are pitted against each other in the women's hammer! **Betty Heidler** will again be matching her talents against gold medallist **Tatyana Lysenko** and runner-up **Anita Wlodarczyk** of Poland. The Russian took first place in London with a throw of 78.18m, Wlodarczyk securing silver with 77.60 metres. Bolstering the German contingent will be the No. 2 in the national ranking, **Kathrin Klaas**.

**Pole vault (men), start 14.40**

They came, they soared, they conquered almost completely: **Björn Otto** (silver) and **Raphael Holzdeppe** (bronze) fell just short of Frenchman Renaud Lavillenie in the Olympic showdown. Both men cleared 5.91 metres and on Sunday will be pitted against competitors who have already jumped 6 metres or higher - Australian **Steve Hooker** (Olympic gold medallist 2008, world champion 2009, personal best: 6.06m) and the American **Brad Walker** (world champion in 2007, personal best: 6.04).

**Long jump (men), start 15.00**

European champion vs. Olympic victor! **Sebastian Bayer**, who jumped 8.10m in London, missing out on a medal by only two centimetres, will go head-to-head with gold medallist **Greg Rutherford** of Great Britain, who cleared 8.31 metres in front of his home crowd. With his jump of 8.34m, Bayer had sailed to his European-champion title only some weeks before.

**400 metres hurdles (men), start 15.05**

**Felix Sanchez** of the Dominican Republic proved to everyone he can make a comeback and beat the best in the world. The two-times Olympic gold medallist (2004, 2012) and world champion in 2003 at the 400m hurdles won in London with a time of 47.63 seconds. Today he will meet the 2012 European champion, the Briton **Rhys Williams** (personal best: 48.96 seconds), and a posse of strong German runners, all with good times under their belts - **Georg Fleischhauer** (48.72), **Silvio Schirrmeister** (49.21) and Berlin's local hero **Varg Königsmark** (49.54).



#### **4x100m international mixed relay, start 15.15**

The 4-by-100m international mixed relay is truly a world premier. Two German teams, each made up of two men and two women, will compete against mixed teams representing countries from around the world. Taking part will be relay teams from Jamaica, Great Britain, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Poland.

#### **110 metres hurdles (men), start 15.30**

He dominated the event in London and took a well-deserved gold medal: **Aries Merritt** of the USA broke his own personal best of 12.92 seconds in his field-beating dash and was a mere five hundredths of a second behind the world record set by the Cuban Dayron Robles four years ago. Today three Germans will be vying with the Olympic gold medallist - **Alexander John** (personal best: 13.35), who was one place off a bronze medal at the European Championships in Helsinki, **Matthias Bühler** (13.34) and **Erik Balnuweit** (13.43).

#### **Discus (men), start 15.40**

**Robert Harting**, the first Olympic track-and-field gold medallist from Berlin since Ulf Timmermann in 1988, will again be up against the world's best discus throwers, in particular his nemesis **Piotr Malachowski** of Poland and **Virgilijus Alekna** of Lithuania. Sixth-placed **Martin Wierig** of Magdeburg will also be competing and **Markus Münch** will be making up the German trio.

#### **800 metres (women), start 15.40**

Following the withdrawal of the 2009 world champion and Olympic silver medallist Caster Semenya of South Africa due to injury, **Pamela Jelimo** of Kenya is the clear favourite over this distance. With her 4<sup>th</sup> place in London, the Olympic winner in Beijing narrowly missed a place on the Olympic medal podium. Her best time of 1:54.01 is the most impressive in the line-up and the third quickest ever over this distance. At the ISTAF she will be up against the 7<sup>th</sup>-placed woman in London, **Francine Niyonsaba** of Burundi and last year's ISTAF winner, **Maggie Vessey** of the USA.

#### **1,500 metres (men), start 15.50**

An occasion for another local hero, **Carsten Schlangen**, to show what he's made of. Runner-up to the European champion in 2010 and a last-minute qualifier for London, he has since set a personal best of 3:33.64 - fast, but not fast enough to worry the African competition. **Augustine Choge**, the quickest Kenyan in the field, has already clocked under 3:30 with a time of 3:29.43. Other strong contenders are the Kenyans **Collins Chebol** (3:32.45) and **Bethwell Birgen** (3:30.00).

#### **100 metres hurdles (women), start 16.05**

The Olympic bronze medallist in 2008, **Priscilla Lopes-Schliep** (personal best 12.49 seconds) from Canada, will especially be looking to beat **Queen Harrison** (12.51) of the USA and **Shermaine Williams** (12.78) from Jamaica. Representing Germany will be **Cindy Roleder**, **Nadine Hildebrand** and **Lilli Schwarzkopf**, who took silver in the heptathlon in London.

#### **100 metres (women, final A), start 16.15**

The field is dominated by three women, all of who have run under 11 seconds - Jamaicans **Kerron Stewart** (10.75 seconds) and **Sherone Simpson** (10.82) and Trinidadian **Kelly-Ann Baptiste** (10.84). Harrying them will be the American **Alexandria Anderson** (11.01) and the third-ranked Jamaican **Aleen Bailey** (11.04).

### **100 metres (men, final A), start 16:25**

All eyes here will be on Jamaican **Michael Frater** (personal best: 9.88 seconds), who will be following up on his Olympic gold from London, having helped his colleagues Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake and Nesta Carter to their world record of 36.84 seconds. This is the first time that the 37-second barrier has been broken in the 4-by-100m. Two other single-figure 100-metre sprinters will be in Berlin - **Kim Collins** (9.98 seconds) from the Caribbean island state of St Kitts and Nevis and the American **Darvis Patton** (9.89). The German speed merchant **Lucas Jakubczyk** (10.20) from Berlin is not likely to be in the medals.

### **3,000 metres steeplechase (women), start 16.35**

A premier for the ISTAF: the women's 3,000m steeplechase has never before been a discipline at this Berlin fixture. A German will be at the front of the line-up. **Antje Möldner-Schmidt** from Potsdam took bronze over the distance at Helsinki and became 7<sup>th</sup> in the final of London. She will be up against **Milcah Chemos** of Kenya, who took fourth place in London.

### **800 metres (men), start 16.50**

The motley field is led by a group of young Africans. The Ethiopian **Mohamed Aman** is just 18 years old but has already beaten the world record holder David Rudisha once. In the final in London Aman ran a personal best of 1:43.20 to take sixth place; at the Daegu World Championships in 2011 he came eighth. Other dangerous contenders are the Briton **Michael Rimmer** (1:43.89) and Kenyans **Leonard Kosencha** (1:43.40) and **Edwin Kiplagat Melly** (1:44.32).

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September, from 14.30 onwards, the historic Olympic village of 1936 in Wustermark will host the women's discus event. Flying the flag for Germany will be **Nadine Müller**, **Julia Fischer** and **Shanice Craft**. They will be competing against **Aretha Thurmond** of the USA, **Natalia Semenova-Fokina** from Ukraine and the Russian, **Daria Pishchalnikova**.

Free photographic material is available in the press section of [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de).

Please address any queries regarding this press release or ISTAF itself to:

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## PRESS INFORMATION

14<sup>th</sup> November 2012

### Start of advance ticketing for 72<sup>nd</sup> ISTAF *Berlin* – EUR 49.00 for two premium-category tickets!

Berlin – Ticketing for the 2013 edition of the *Internationales Stadionfest Berlin* (ISTAF) begins on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 with a "Christmas Special" and a 25% early-booking discount on selected ticket categories. The oldest and most popular athletics meeting in the world will be held once again in Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Spectators can look forward to another world-class line-up of at least 200 athletes representing at least 16 disciplines. ISTAF Managing Director Martin Seeber: "The ISTAF comes a fortnight after the close of the World Championships in Moscow. Obviously we want to present all the German medallists from that competition and as many of the world champions as possible. But we'll also be riding the wave of 2012, which was a great year for athletics. The medals and titles collected by German athletes at the Helsinki European Championships and the London Olympics are also good for the ISTAF."

Tickets are available in five price categories. Non-discounted prices start at 9 euros for seats in the upper tier; the first block to go on sale will be for seats halfway down the home straight. Lower-tier seats in the eight blocks covering the two ends of the stadium cost 14 euros. Back-straight seats afford good views of all disciplines and prices in this area of the stadium start at 19 euros. In three sections near the starting blocks seats are priced at 29 euros and the best seats overlooking the finishing line can be had for 39 euros apiece.

**To mark the start of advance sales there will again be a "Christmas Special" for athletics fans: two tickets on a level with the finishing line cost not 78 but just 49 euros! Offer valid until New Year's Eve 2012.**

Until the end of February 2013 early bookers will receive a 25% discount on all tickets in price categories 3, 4 and 5. That means 6.75 instead of 9 euros for class 5 seats, 10.50 instead of 14 euros for class 4 and 14.25 instead of 19 euros for class 3 tickets. All offers are available on [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de), by calling the hotline on 030 / 20 60 88 99\* and from all CTS ticketing outlets.

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## PRESS RELEASE

28 May 2013

### New at the 72nd. ISTAF: DKMS debuts as charity partner and Paralympics victor challenges Olympic champions!

**Berlin – The Berlin International Stadium Festival (ISTAF) will be taking off for its 72nd. round on 1 September 2013, featuring a tried and tested concept, old and new sponsors, the charity partner DKMS, and an hour's "delay". The delay will be due to altered TV times: this time the ZDF will be airing its coverage between 4.30 and 6.00 p.m. live from the Berlin Olympic Stadium. In past years the programme ended at 5.00 p.m.**

During the five-hour event once again spectators at the Olympic Stadium and viewers at home will be able to see 200 of the best light athletes in the world. At least 16 field events are planned. As in the past, so this year too, the organisers have a clear intention: to respond to the results at the greatest sporting event of the year. Two weeks before the ISTF, the IAAF Light Athletics World Championship will reach its finish in Moscow. The aim once again is to showcase all the German medal winners, and as many world champions as possible, in Berlin.

So while most of the field events are not yet fixed, we shall certainly be seeing the German superstars from the London Olympics again. Olympic champion Robert Harting intends once more to defend his Berlin patch against all international competition in the discus event, and the world-class pole vaulters around Björn Otto (Silver in London) und Raphael Holzdeppe (Bronze) will likewise be pitting themselves against the best of their fellow performers in the world. David Storl, world champion and silver-medal shot-put winner in London, is expected to be present at what will probably be the last contest of his friend and mentor Ralf Bartels, as will many other world-class shot-putters.

With the engagement of Paralympics champion Sebastian Dietz, the ISTAF organisers have fulfilled a dream – and a promise – for the partially disabled discus thrower. Immediately after Dietz had won the gold medal for Germany in London, Meeting Director Gerhard Janetzky assured him a starting place at the ISTF. On 1 September he will actually be taking part on the field with the greatest stars of his sport. With Olympic champion Robert Harting to the fore, who in Moscow two weeks before the ISTF has set his sights on becoming world champion for three times in a row.



### **Most important sponsors: the Berlin Casino and the State of Berlin**

ISTAF has successfully gained new sponsors, in the shape of the Berlin Lottery and the retailer Möbel Kraft. Among other activities, this furniture company will be showcasing the Robert Harting fan block directly on the quoit. Likewise making their debut among ISTF supporters are the health insurer IKK Classic, which will be presenting the shot-put contest, and Laserline, partnering as the official printer. Martin Seeber, managing director of the ISTAF marketing company TPO Sportevents, says: "We are very grateful to all sponsors and partners, particularly to the Berlin Casino and the State of Berlin, represented by the Senator for Sport. Without the support of these two institutions, there would be no ISTAF. But other partners too, such as Nike, AOK, Volkswagen and the Berlin Fair & Exhibition Centre, all make the ISTAF what it is."

As last year, Germany's biggest and highest-earning casino will also be supporting the ISTAF in 2013. "Last year was the first time I was there and I was enormously impressed by the atmosphere and the sporting achievements", says Dr. Franz Wohlfahrt, chairman of the board of Nocomatic AG, majority shareholder in the casino. "That is why, even during the 2012 event, I agreed with the managing director of the casino, Günter Münstermann, that we should continue our collaboration in 2013. More than a quarter of a million Euros flow annually to sport out of the income from gaming – to the Füchse Berlin, the First FC Union, BR Volleys, CHAMPIONS Gala, high-jumper Patrick Hausding, to name but a few. "Promotion of sport, along with many other social causes which we support, forms a part of our social responsibility", says Münstermann. "I have been a friend of light athletics for many years and am particularly glad that Robert Harting, whom we have supported for years, will be there again. I wish the ISTAF 2003 may enjoy high-quality competitions, good weather, and a full stadium.

### **ISTAF & DKMS – Collaboration by record holders**

The ISTAF will be showcasing a new charity partner, in the shape of the German Bone Marrow Donors' Centre DKMS. This collaboration has also been brought about by the Berlin Casino, which is assigning its advertising space free of charge to the DKMS during the children's races in the warm-up programme. Under Section 14 of the Advertising Guidelines, gambling enterprises are prohibited from advertising in the stadium when children or young people are performing. So during the warm-up the DKMS logo will be seen in place of the Casino logo on all advertising displays and the athletes' starting numbers.

The German Bone Marrow Donors' Centre (DKMS) is looking forward to its collaboration, under its slogan "Higher, faster, further." The aim of this collaboration will be to draw the attention of interested persons to the subject of leukaemia and stem-cell donorship and to get them to join the DKMS in registration campaigns on the day of the ISTAF. For the world's biggest donor centre it is important to gain strongly supportive partners in the fight against leukaemia – a subject which affects everyone. Olympic champion Robert Harting had himself tested and typed today and thus is now one of 3.5 million registered donors.

### **ZDF to transmit live from 4.30 p.m., world-wide TV transmission from 4.00 p.m.**

As mentioned at the start, the ZDF will be transmitting live from the Berlin Olympic Stadium, beginning at 4.30 p.m. The international programme will begin half an hour earlier, broadcasting to 160 countries. The TV transmission will end at 6.00 p.m.

## **Tickets from EUR 9.00, family ticket for four persons to cost EUR 25.00**

This year, too, numerous joint ticketing ventures and attractive special offers have been designed to break the sound barrier for the biggest one-day meeting in the world – 50,00 plus X spectators. No comparable light-athletics event in the world has so many visitors. Martin Seeber from the marketing company TPO Sportevents says, "We have already sold 20 per cent more tickets than at the same time last year. That is making us cautiously optimistic than we can reach the 55,000 visitor mark. The successes gained by German athletes, the great atmosphere in the Olympic Stadium, a super programme for the whole family at affordable prices – that's what people want to see."

Advance sales for the 72nd. ISTAF have been underway since November 2012. As last year, there are five price levels, starting at EUR 9.00 for seats in the Upper Tier, and ending at EUR 39.00 for the best seats in the Lower Tier at the finishing line. In between, there are Price Level 4 for EUR 14.00 (Lower Tier Curve), Level 3 for EUR 19.00 (Lower Tier Back Straight), and Level 2 (at the 100 metre start) for EUR 29.00. The family or group ticket is particularly popular, offering four persons seats in the Upper Tier, and costing only EUR 25.00 – i.e. EUR 6.25 per person.

Customers of Deutsche Kreditbank (DKB) even have completely free entrance if they use their DKB Visa Card. They just need to show their credit card at the box office and will immediately receive a free ticket for the Upper Tier.

## **The "I WANT YOU" campaign 2013**

Olympic discus champion Robert Harting, an outstanding athlete and Sportsman of the Year 2012, will once again be the celebrity attraction in the ISTAF campaign 2013. First he will be the face on the "I WANT YOU" campaign, so successful last year, then he will be seen together with four Berlin light-athletics children and the claim "WE GOING TO BE THERE!" The children will be from the four biggest Berlin light-athletic clubs, SC Charlottenburg, Berliner SC, Olympischer and LG Nord (the first named are also the ISTAF's three founder and sponsor clubs).

The publicity will be showing in a total issue of 3,500 copies in the form of City Light placards and Metroboards in Berlin. The Berlin City Cleansing Department, young entrants' sponsor for the ITAF, will be supplying further advertising space on 120 of their garbage trucks. For this purpose a special motif has been developed together with Robert Harting and the children. It runs "ISTAF FOR ALL!" For the Berlin City Cleansing Department is making it possible for all Berlin children to visit the ISTAF for just EUR 3.00.

The aim of the ISTAF campaign is a direct call to Berliners interested in sport and fans of light athletics to support the ISTAF by purchasing entry tickets and coming to the Olympic Stadium. Here, too, "Working jointly for the ISTAF" is the thought in the spotlight.

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## PRESS INFORMATION

31<sup>th</sup> of July 2013

### **Berlin athletics meeting popular with athletes: Already 1,000 applications for the 72<sup>nd</sup> ISTAF!**

**Berlin - A good four weeks before the 72nd Berlin International Stadium Festival on the 1st of September 2013 and ten days before the IAAF World Championships in Moscow, the most famous and traditional German athletics meeting is heading for a new record. 36,000 tickets are sold already and give the organizers hope for more than 55,000 spectators at Berlin Olympic Stadium.**

Very impressive is the number of applications for the 200 starting places: More than 1,000 athletes have already inquired directly or via their managers. The Berlin International Stadium Festival takes place only 14 days after the end of the IAAF World Championships in Moscow. Therefore, many international athletes will be in Europe and do not want to miss the meeting in the most beautiful athletics stadium in the world.

This is playing into the organizers hands, Meeting Director Gerhard Janetzky said: "We are excited about the continued high appeal of our event. Sticking to our concept, we will be closely watching the highlight of the season, the IAAF World Championships and respond to the results there. Our aim is to present all German medalists and as many world champions as possible."

Only a few names have been confirmed so far, like the German stars Robert Harting (Discus Olympic Champion), Björn Otto (Pole vault Olympic silver medalist), David Storl (Shot put world champion) and Betty Heidler (hammer throw world record holder). With Aries Merritt, American Olympic champion and world record holder over 110 meters hurdles, a superstar is looking forward to competing at the ISTAF: "I would love to run again in Berlin. Last year, I set a new meeting record here and I actually have most of my fans in Germany."

ISTAF tickets are available in five price categories from 9 to 39 Euros at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de), the hotline 030/20 60 70 88 99 \* CTS and at all ticket agencies.







## PRESSEINFORMATION

14. August 2013

### ISTAF responds to the German athletes' successes in Moscow: Shot Put Women new in program!

**Berlin - A promise is a promise! The organizers of the 72nd International Stadium Festival announced before the IAAF World Championships 2013 that they will present all German medalist and as many world champions as possible at the ISTAF on the 1st of September 2013. After Christina Schwanitz's surprising silver medal on the 12th of August, the women's shot put will be added to the program on short-notice. Even world champion Valerie Adams from New Zealand has already confirmed her participation.**

Christina Schwanitz achieved a personal best in her last attempt with 20.41m and had only been defeated by the two-time Olympic medalist Adams. All five German medal winners will sure be competing at the ISTAF. The pole vaulters Raphael Holzdeppe (Gold) and Björn Otto (Bronze) had confirmed their participation in the long term as well as discus-giant Robert Harting (Gold). Decathlete Michael Schrader (Silver) will attend the ISTAF as a guest.

ISTAF Managing Director Martin Seeber, „The success story of the ISTAF consists of the same ingredients for over 90 years now: The best German athletes compete against the best in the world. Our audience wants to see high-class sports and top athletes in the Berlin Olympic Stadium. We can guarantee that again this year."

So far, 44,000 tickets have been sold for the 72nd International Stadium Festival 2013. As last year, there are five price levels, starting at EUR 9.00 for seats in the Upper Tier and ending at EUR 39.00 for the best seats in the Lower Tier at the finishing line. In between, there are Price Level 4 for EUR 14.00 (Lower Tier Curve), Level 3 for EUR 19.00 (Lower Tier Back Straight), and Level 2 (at the 100 meters start) for EUR 29.00.

Tickets are available at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de), the hotline 030/20 60 70 88 99 \* and at all CTS ticket agencies.



**Wenn Sie Fragen zu dieser Pressemitteilung oder zum ISTAF haben,  
Fotomaterial oder Logos benötigen, wenden Sie sich bitte an:**

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#### **Über das ISTAF:**

Das Internationale Stadionfest Berlin (ISTAF) ist das traditionsreichste und berühmteste deutsche Leichtathletik-Meeting und eine der beliebtesten und erfolgreichsten Sportgroßveranstaltungen Deutschlands. Am 3. Juli 1921 fand im Grunewaldstadion vor 20.000 Zuschauern erstmalig ein Stadionfest statt, als Veranstalter fanden sich damals die Berliner Sportvereine BSC, SCC und der Schwimm Club Poseidon zusammen. Das ISTAF wurde am 23. März 1937 geboren, als der Berliner Sport-Club (BSC), der Deutsche Sport-Club (DSC, später OSC) und der Sport-Club Charlottenburg (SCC) beschlossen, künftig internationale Sportfeste unter der Bezeichnung Internationales Stadionfest gemeinsam zu veranstalten. Am 1. August 1937 begann dann mit dem Schwung der vorangegangenen Olympischen Spiele von Berlin die glanzvolle Geschichte des ISTAF, bei dem in über 90 Jahren 15 Weltrekorde aufgestellt wurden. Am 1. September 2013 findet das 72. ISTAF statt.

Weitere Informationen zum ISTAF erhalten Sie unter [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Grand premiere on 1 March 2014 at the O2 World: ISTAF INDOOR with discus throwing and Robert Harting!**

**Berlin – A legend returns - and it does it in style! Saturday, 1st March 2014, will mark the first ISTAF indoor meeting since 1968: The world's top track and field athletes will be coming to Berlin for the big showdown, just one week before the World Indoor Championships in Poland.**

The first ISTAF INDOOR of this millennium uses all advantages of a modern multi function arena at the O2 World: lots of space, comfortable seating, super sound, light and laser. In addition, the tried and proven concept of presenting the best athletes of Germany and the world in seven exciting running, throwing and jumping disciplines! Among them superstars like pole vaulters Björn Otto and Raphael Holzdeppe or shot put world champion David Storl. The organisers are planning to stage the biggest Track and Field meet worldwide, with 10,000 spectators.

A sports highlight is the men's discus throw! In the only indoor event with this discipline, the spectators are protected by specially attached safety nets. Olympic and world champion Robert Harting: "This will turn out to be a sensational event. I am really looking forward to it and am very happy to support the organisers in this endeavour. "

Chief organiser Martin Seeber: " For me, a huge dream has come true with the ISTAF INDOOR. We have been planning for years and are almost there. The combination of traditional athletics with all the possibilities of a high tech-multi function arena guarantees a spectacular event. I am pleased above all about the fact that we will offer discus throw as the only indoor meet in the world."

During the years 1938 to 1968, there had already been five ISTAF indoor meets in the now demolished Deutschlandhalle. Up to 8,000 spectators had come to watch the best athletes of their time perform. More recently, there were the big Berlin jumping meetings during the 90ties in the Schöneberger Sporthalle, boasting grandiose athletic performance and a bombastic atmosphere!

Ticket sales for the premiere of the ISTAF INDOOR will start on 1 September 2013 on the occasion of the 72<sup>nd</sup> *Internationales Stadionfest* at the Berlin Olympic stadium.

Tickets for the ISTAF INDOOR, to be held on 1 March 2014, are available in five different price categories starting from 15.00, at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de), the Hotline: 030/20 60 70 88 99 and from all CTS ticket outlets.

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## INVITATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE

### 70th International Stadium Festival Berlin 2011

Berlin, 7 September 2011

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues,

The 70th International Stadium Festival ISTAF Berlin on 11 September 2011 at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin will present numerous world champions from Daegu and an absolutely top-class starting grid in 17 exciting competitive disciplines.

On this occasion, we cordially invite you to our traditional international Press Conference before the meet. Meet Director Gerhard Janetzky will report on the sporting highlights and the programme of the world's oldest and largest one-day meet. ISTAF Managing Director Martin Seeber will announce the final details of the preparations during the anniversary year.

Top national and international athletes such as the world champions Yohan Blake (100m, 4x100m) from Jamaica, David Storl (shot put, Germany) and runner-up world champion Martina Strutz (pole vault, Germany) will provide an outlook of their personal performance expectations and goals for the ISTAF Berlin.

The Press Conference will be held at the ISTAF Meet Hotel, HOTEL ELLINGTON, Senator Room, Nürnberger Straße 50-55, in 10789 Berlin.





## **PRESS CONFERENCE 70th INTERNATIONAL STADIUM FESTIVAL**

**When:** Friday, 9 September 2011, 2:00 PM  
**Where:** ISTAF Meet Hotel ELLINGTON  
Senator Room  
Nürnberger Straße 50-55  
10789 Berlin  
**With:** Yohan Blake, 2011 World Champion in the 100m and 4x100m  
Martina Strutz, 2011 Runner-Up World Champion in the pole vault  
David Storl, 2011 World Champion in the shot put  
Gerhard Janetzky, ISTAF Meet Director  
Martin Seeber, ISTAF Managing Director

Individual interviews with the participants will be possible following the Press Conference.

We hope you can attend the Press Conference on this date and request that you confirm your participation under the telephone number (030) 301 11 86-13 or by e-mail at [press@istaf.de](mailto:press@istaf.de).

Best wishes until Friday,

Claus Frömming  
Head of Communications

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Volkswagen Automobile Berlin





# VATTENFALL



## PRESS INFORMATION

Berlin, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011

### 48,500 Tickets sold; top athletes heading for Berlin. 11 world champions from Daegu gearing up for ISTAF!

Berlin – The athletics World Championships in Daegu are over, and with only a few days to go before the 70<sup>th</sup> *Internationales Stadionfest (ISTAF)* on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011, preparations for the world's largest and oldest athletics meeting are in their final stages. 48,500 tickets have already been sold, a figure that has already topped last year's gate of 46,512 and is creeping ever closer to the magic 50,000. Once again, Berliners will be treated to a jamboree featuring the cream of the world's athletes. 29 medal winners from Daegu have signalled their intention to compete. (5<sup>th</sup> September 2011).

In the holdalls of the athletes attending the ISTAF will be a total of 33 medals picked up at the World Championships - 11 gold, 11 silver and 11 bronze. Among the superstars will be two-fold **world champion Yohan Blake** of Jamaica, victor in the 100 meters and part of the winning 4x100m relay team. In the 100m dash over Berlin's speedy blue surface he will be up against his compatriot **Michael Frater**, another member of the record-busting 4x100 team, and **Kim Collins** (St Kitts and Nevis), who took bronze in the 100m.

The **world champions** competing at the ISTAF will include 19-year-old **Kirani James** of the Carribean Island of Grenada, winner of the 400 metres at Daegu. Jostling him in the Olympic stadium will be the fastest man over the distance this year, **Jermaine Gonzales** of Jamaica.

The line-up of women over 400m and 800m is no less glittering. In the 400 metres two of the runners from the winning US 4x400 relay team, **Sanya Richards-Ross** and **Francena McCorory** will be joined by twice bronze medallist **Anastasiya Kapachinskaya** (Russia). Over 800 metres, silver medallist **Caster Semenya** from South Africa (1:56.35) will once again pit her talents against third-placed **J.J. Busienei** of Kenya (1:57.42).

The anniversary ISTAF meeting will also mount a re-run of the high jump finals in Daegu: **world champion Jesse Williams** (USA, 2.35m) will again be vying with Daegu's runner up, the Russian **Aleksey Dmitrik**, and bronze medallist **Trevor Barry** (2.32m) of the Bahamas.



Volkswagen Automobile Berlin



Lining up against each other at the ISTAF will be the world's best throwers.

- The women's javelin event will be another tussle between Russian **world champion Maria Abakumova**, world record holder and Olympic gold medallist **Barbora Spotakova** (Czech Republic) and the German **Christina Obergföll**.
- **Shot-put world champion David Storl** is up against Daegu runner-up and furthest thrower this year **Dylan Armstrong** (Canada) and Olympic champion **Tomasz Majewski** (Poland).
- Local hero and **world champion Robert Harting** will want to hurl the discus further than silver medallist **Gerd Kanter** (Estonia) and his nemesis from Poland, **Piotr Malachowski**.
- Silver medallist in the hammer, **Betty Heidler**, will be hungry to set the record straight between her and ISTAF **world champion Tatyana Lysenko** (Russia). Other contenders include **Anita Wlodarczyk** of Poland and **Kathrin Klaas** from LG Eintracht Frankfurt.

In what is arguably the most dramatic discipline in athletics, the pole vault, Mecklenburg native **Martina Strutz** will be looking to build on her run of achievements. In Daegu she set a new German record of 4.80m, taking the silver medal. At the ISTAF she will be hoping to fend off challenges from the 3<sup>rd</sup>-placed vaulter in Daegu, **Svetlana Feofanova** (Russia), and the Polish contender **Monika Pyrek**.

ISTAF Managing Director Martin Seeber commented: "With our line-up of confirmed athletes we're undoubtedly one of the best meetings in the world. With 90 years under its belt, the ISTAF is already the oldest competition out there, and if we top the 50,000 spectators mark we'll be the largest."

The *Internationales Stadionfest* dates back to an event held in 1921 in Berlin's Grunewald Stadium. The meeting in its current form was first hosted in 1937. This year's edition of the event has already sold more advance tickets than were sold last year.

Tickets for the ISTAF, with prices starting at 6.50 euros, are still available via [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) (1-euro booking fee), from all CTS outlets or by calling the ticket hotline on 01803-20 60 70\*.

\*9 cents/min. from German landlines, max. 42 cents/min. from German mobile phones.

Free photographic material is available in the press section of [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de).

Please address any queries arising from this press release or ISTAF itself to:

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# VATTENFALL



## PRESS INFORMATION

Berlin, 7 June 2011

### 90 Years of the Berlin ISTAF – The Track and Field World Congratulates the Grande Dame

**Berlin – When a Grande Dame celebrates her 90th birthday, the well-wishers come from all over the world... The Berlin International Stadium Festival (ISTAF) turns 90 this year and is awaiting the world's best track and field athletes and at least 50,000 spectators at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on 11 September 2011.**

The world's oldest track and field meet has only been regularly held at Olympic Stadium since 1937, but already on 3 July 1921 there was a sporting event by this name at the former Grunewald Stadium at the same location. 20,000 spectators in the stands watched the first meet - a meet that was spectacular for its time and that could include the word "international" in its name thanks to the participation of a handful of Swedish athletes.

The first ISTAF was organised by the sport associations Berlin Sport Club, Charlottenburg Sport Club and the "Poseidon" Swimming Club. A swimming club? Yes! At that time there was a swimming pool in the stadium and thus a swimming race was indeed a discipline at the first ISTAF.

The 70th ISTAF will be just as spectacular as in those days – but without the swimming discipline. ZDF will broadcast it at least 60 minutes live on 11 September; it will be seen on TV worldwide either live or in excerpts in 126 countries, and the organisers expect no fewer than 50,000 visitors at Olympic Stadium. **Thus the ISTAF is not only the oldest, but also the largest one-day meet in the world!**

TOP Sportmarketing Berlin GmbH and their director Martin Seeber are responsible to ticket sales, as they were last year. At the end of 2010 the agency acquired the brand-name rights to the International Stadium Festival and is now the sole owner of the ISTAF.

The number of tickets sold so far already now lead one to hope for a record: 25,000 admission tickets were already sold in early June. Managing director Seeber: "We have made the prices family-friendly, just like last year; anyone should be able to afford tickets. One group ticket for four persons can be had for 19.90 Euros. In addition, there is a campaign going on now with the best seats at the finish line level. Two tickets there together cost 59 instead of 78 Euros."



Volkswagen Automobile Berlin



**How many of the world champions of Daegu 2011 will be there to congratulate in Berlin?** At least 220 of the best track and field athletes of our time will compete in Berlin just one week after the World Championships in Daegu. These will include as many world champions and medallists as possible. The 70th ISTAF will also be even more successful in terms of athletics than the 69th in 2010, when the Kenyan David Rudisha broke the 13-year-old former world record for the 800-metres and the Ethiopian Tariku Bekele ran the world's best time of the year in the 3000-metres. In addition, 46,512 spectators could celebrate five German victories on 22 August 2010.

Martin Seeber: *"We will directly deposit the additional earnings expected from additional sponsors and ticket revenues into the athletes' budget. Our aim is also to lead the way athletically in the worldwide comparison of the meets."* The overall budget of the event could already be increased from 1.6 to 1.8 million Euros compared to last year.

Three of the best German track and field athletes have announced that they will be there as the first well-wishers during the jubilee year: the current European champions Verena Sailer (100 metres) and Christian Reif (long jump), as well as the world champion discus-thrower and local hero Robert Harting. They have not only announced their starts on 11 September, but are also advertising together with all available means for the largest German track and field festival.

The 50,000-spectator mark will be reached with extensive advertising measures and ticket sales. Alongside poster campaigns, there are newspaper adverts, radio spots, TV spots, advertising on passenger television and with online banners. In addition, there almost 50 ticket cooperations with Berlin enterprises that order tickets for their clients and employees or offer them at reduced prices.

Moreover, there is a nationwide cooperation, for the first time, with 14 state sport associations and up to 40,000 additional members' associations. "We wrote to the association in Berlin and Brandenburg in 2010 and sold many tickets to a well-informed and enthusiastic sport public. This year we are writing to almost all the associations that are organised in a state sport association. In this way we receive especially great support from the associations and clubs," says Martin Seeber.

There will be even more of a birthday mood on 18 August 2011. The ISTAF will then congratulate another Berlin jubiliarian with an international, promotionally effective pole-vault meet at Breitscheidplatz: the 125-year-old Kurfürstendamm.

### **German Track and Field Association to Cooperate with the ISTAF**

The well-wishers also include the German Track and Field Association (DLV), that have supported the Grande Dame ISTAF during the jubilee year and will continue to do so in many ways in the future. The aim of the cooperation between the German association and Germany's largest meet is the furtherance of the key Olympic discipline of track and field, as well as mutual support in the organisation, marketing and execution of events. This also includes the candidacy for the 2018 European Track and Field Championships planned to be held three years prior to the 100th birthday of ISTAF in Berlin.

*Despite all the joy over the ISTAF jubilee this year, a sad anniversary will not be forgotten: the victims of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 will be commemorated during the ISTAF with one minute of silence.*

**If you require photo material for your reporting, please use the download area on [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) A selection of photos connected with the reporting on the ISTAF, free of charge, is at your disposal here. In case of inquiries regarding this press release or the ISTAF, please contact:**

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**About the ISTAF**

The Berlin International Stadium Festival (ISTAF) is the most famous and tradition-steeped German track and field meet and one of Germany's most beloved and successful major sporting events. A Stadium Festival took place for the first time on 3 July 1921 at Grunewald Stadium before 20,000 spectators. The Berlin sporting associations BSC, SCC and the Poseidon Swimming Club were then united as organisers for the first time.

The ISTAF in the form in which it is known today was born on 23 March 1937, when the Berlin Sport Club (BSC), the German Sport Club (DSC, later OSC) and the Charlottenburg Sport Club (SCC) resolved to organise international sport festivals designated as International Stadium Festival in the future together.

The brilliant history of the ISTAK began on 1 August 1937 with the impetus of the previous Berlin Olympic Games. Over two million visitors were counted at the stadium gates since 1937 and 14 world records were set. The 70th International Stadium Festival will take place on 11 September 2011.

You can find more information on the ISTAF under [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)



VATTENFALL



## PRESS RELEASE

August 23, 2010

### **69<sup>th</sup> ISTAF says 'Thank You!' 46,512 spectators witness 800m world record and a wealth of great sporting achievements**

Berlin - "Give the place another once-over, will you? Otherwise I'll have to do it all myself," said a smiling Robert Harting. And ever since the 69<sup>th</sup> *Internationales Stadionfest* on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2010 the words of the world champion discus thrower from the local Sport Club Charlottenburg should have some clout. Robert Harting is known for referring to the Olympic Stadium as his 'living room' and he was keen to leave it swept clean at the end of a spectacular athletics afternoon.

46,512 excited onlookers and one cavorting 'Berlino' mascot made up the largest crowd to pack the stands of any athletics meeting in 2010. Following on from the successful European Championships in Barcelona, when Germany took 16 medals and four championship titles, five Germans overcame their top-notch international colleagues in Berlin. Betty Heidler won the hammer-throwing competition, Christina Obergföll took the javelin event on her 29<sup>th</sup> birthday, Robert Harting hurled the discus furthest, Christian Reif won the long jump and Ariane Friedrich triumphed in the high jump.

Highlights included a world record by Kenyan David Rudisha, running 800 metres in 1:41.09, and Ethiopian Tariku Bekele's 3,000 metre time of 7:28.99. Rudisha shaved two hundredths of a second off the 13-year-old record held by Wilson Kipketer from Denmark. Then, only a week later, he clipped another eight hundredths off the time in Rieti, Italy, setting the world record at 1:41.01. Only a question of time before he becomes the first athlete to run under 1 minute 41 seconds.

From a sporting perspective the 69<sup>th</sup> ISTAF was the most successful of the last ten years. Meeting Director Gerhard Janetzky commented: "The decision not to enter for the new Diamond League was the correct one. We were able



to host the disciplines that we wanted, not submit to the prescriptions of a Swiss company.” The organisation of ISTAF 2011 is already in full swing. Janetzky: “The next ISTAF falls shortly after the World Championships in Daegu, South Korea. We’ll have to bump our budget up from 1.5 to 2 million euros then, as world champions come with a higher price tag than European champions.”

The 69<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Internationales Stadionfest* was also a monetary success. Says Managing Director Martin Seeber: “We can now do better than just break even. We couldn’t take that for granted before. We’d like to send out a big ‘thank you’ to our many sponsors and backers. Without the support of Vattenfall, beBerlin, Volkswagen, Spielbank Berlin and Berliner Pilsener the ISTAF would be a shadow of what it is now.”

The organisers are now hard at work securing extra funding for the 70<sup>th</sup> edition of the event in 2011. Time to celebrate another anniversary – ISTAF’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The little Grunewaldstadion hosted the very first ISTAF way back in 1921.

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### About ISTAF

The Berlin International Stadium Festival (*ISTAF*) is Germany’s oldest and best-known athletics meeting and one of the most popular and most successful sporting events in Germany. The first ever festival to be held in a stadium took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1921 in the Grunewaldstadion watched by 20.000 spectators. Co-organisers were three Berlin sports clubs, BSC, SCC and the Poseidon Swimming Club. ISTAF was founded on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1937, the date of the decision by three Berlin clubs - Berliner Sport-Club (BSC), Deutsche Sport-Club (DSC, later OSC) and Sport-Club Charlottenburg (SCC) - to host future international sport festivals jointly under the *Internationales Stadionfest* name. On 1<sup>st</sup> August 1937, buoyed by the Olympic Games in Berlin the previous year, the ISTAF began its illustrious career. The 69<sup>th</sup> ISTAF will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2010.

Further information on ISTAF are available on [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)





## PRESS RELEASE

August 20, 2010

### **ISTAF attracts as many spectators as no other athletics meeting. 75 German athletes face the world's sports elite: 14 Olympic medalists, 7 European Champions and 5 current World Champions.**

**Berlin - A year has passed since Berlin hosted the 2009 Athletics World Championships. But even nowadays public's enthusiasm for Bolt, Berlino and the stadium's blue track is still immeasurably high. Public's interest for athletics in Berlin and the 69. International Stadium Festival ISTAF on Sunday, August 22, currently surpasses all expectations.**

More than 47.000 spectators are expected to follow the 17 competitions of Germany's most famous and most prestigious athletics meeting live at the Berlin Olympic Stadium – so far no other athletics meeting has attracted that many spectators. The gates will open at 12am, the event itself will start at 1pm. German public broadcaster ARD will broadcast one hour live starting from 3.30pm, and showing all the major events of the day. Worldwide more than 60 million households will be able to watch some of the world's best athletes compete on the same track on which Usain Bolt set his world records.

"ISTAF is and will remain one of the world's most important athletics meetings", ISTAF-chief executive Martin Seeber said. "It's not only the public that is fascinated by it, but also the international athletes. They all love to come to Berlin. Reduced entry fees, the successful European Championships, and the perfect, the end of the outdoor season, provide best conditions to make this year's ISTAF once more a huge success. At the same time we still benefit from last year's world championships."

Every year Germany's best athletes compete against the world's sports elite at ISTAF. In 2010 75 German athletes face 150 internationals, including current European and World Champions as well as several Olympic medalists.

"40 athletes who will compete on Sunday have won 59 medals altogether", meeting director Gerhard Janetzky said. "That didn't happen many, many years ago but just recently: at the 2008 Olympics Games, the 2009 World Championships and the 2010 European Championships. Among them are two Olympic gold medalists, five World Champions and seven European champions."

16 athletes have won 26 silver medals at least on the three events and 11 athletes returned home 18 bronze altogether.

Furthermore it's ISTAF's pool of prestigious sponsors whose support is invaluable for the event's success. First to mention are Vattenfall Europe AG, Berlin's marketing campaign "be Berlin" and Volkswagen. Vattenfall, Berlin's major energy supplier will be the event's main sponsor in the next couple of years. "As a company that has developed strong ties with Berlin for years, we are looking forward to supporting an event with such a long tradition", Rainer Knauber, Vattenfall chief representative for Berlin and Germany Eastern states said. "Vattenfall has a long tradition to support cultural and social as well as sports events like the Berlin half-marathon and last year's World Championships. And we are very happy to add the support of the ISTAF meeting on top of that."

For the first time ISTAF is part of the World Challenge, a series of 14 prestigious IAAF-meetings. Events included are the Women's 100m, 400m, 800m, and 100m hurdles, as well as Women's high jump, javelin throw and hammer throw. Men will start in the 100m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 3000m, 110m hurdles as well as in the long jump, pole vault, discus throw and shot put. Please find below the events in chronological order as they will take place on Sunday.

#### **WOMEN'S HAMMER THROW**

Already on Saturday, August 21, the world's best athletes in women's hammer throw will compete for gold. 2007 World Champion and current European Champion **Betty Heidler** (GER) is expecting a close competition for the top spot on the podium against world record holder Anita Włodarczyk from Poland. Further strong medal contestants are **Kathrin Claas** (GER) who came 4<sup>th</sup> at the 2009 World Championships and the former world record holder **Tatjana Lysenko** from Russia.

#### **WOMEN'S JAVELIN THROW**

Germany's **Linda Stahl** who has just won gold at the 2010 Barcelona European Championships will have to perform once more at her best to keep one of her strongest rivals, German teammate **Christina Obergföll**, at bay. Stahl blasted a personal best 66.81m in Barcelona leaving Christina Obergföll (65.58m) and the Czech world record holder **Barbora Spotakova** (65,3m) with silver and bronze only.

#### **MEN'S SHOT PUT**

Germany's **Ralf Bartels** comes to Berlin to finally cancel his subscription for bronze at major sport events. He was the first German athlete to win a medal at last year's World Championships and now returns with just another bronze medal in his pockets – this time won at the 2010 European Championships in Barcelona. Bartels will face 2008 Olympic Champion and 2009 Vice-World Champion **Tomasz Majewski** (POL) as well as last year's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> placed **Reese Hoffa** (USA) and **Adam Nelson** (USA). A tough challenge for Bartels but he'll be out there to go for more than just bronze this time.

#### **WOMEN'S HIGH JUMP**

She's the idol of German athletics. Last year on June 14<sup>th</sup> **Ariane Friedrich** completely unexpected, broke Heike Henkel's almost historical record when she passed the bar at 2,06m. Only two months later she won bronze at the World Championships, a success she repeated three weeks ago at the European Championships in Barcelona.



At this year's ISTAF she will face a few of her toughest rivals. **Antoniette di Martina** (ITA, personal best: 2,03m), **Irina Gordeyeva** (RUS, 2,02m), **Vita Styopina** (UKR, 2,02m) have all jumped higher than 2m.

### **MEN'S POLE VAULT**

At the 2010 European Championships in Barcelona Germany's pole vault athletes **Malte Mohr** and **Raphael Holzdeppe** couldn't really live up to the expectations they had set themselves. This time in Berlin, they are facing an even bigger challenge. No one less than **Steven Hooker** (AUS), 2008 Olympic Champion and 2009 World Champion, is the hot favorite in this event. Both Germans have jumped the 5,80m but Hooker's personal best is an impressive 6,06 m. Despite a thigh injury Hooker won the 2009 World Championships with just one attempt, crossing the bar at 5,90m. Malte Mohr came 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **MEN'S LONG JUMP**

**Christian Reif** (GER) belongs to the best: with his impressive 8,47m jump at the 2010 European Championships that earned him gold Reif entered the stage of world class long jumpers. It was much more than the 8,30m he himself had expected beforehand. Now he has to prove that this performance was not just one lucky shot. Also at this year's ISTAF, **Sebastian Bayer** makes a new attempt to retrieve his former shape.

### **WOMEN'S 100M HURDLES**

2010 European Championships bronze medalist **Carolyn Nytra** (GER) is up for tough challenge in the Women's 100m hurdles as another hot podium favorite, 2008 World Indoor Champion **Lolo Jones** (USA), is also part of the starting line-up..

### **MEN'S DISCUS THROW**

The World Champion is back at his castle and he's ready to defend it. At the 2009 Berlin World Championships Germany's **Robert Harting** grabbed gold with his last attempt in a thrilling competition. Even though last year's silver medalist Piotr Malachowski (POL) will not compete at the ISTAF Harting's walk to a second Berlin gold is everything but an easy one. Hungary's **Zoltan Kovago** (PB 69,95m), has thrown the discus further than the 2009 World Champion ever has.

### **MEN'S 400M**

He was the man who stopped the British team from returning home with a 1-2-finish in the Men's 400m at the 2010 European Championships. Just a few meters before the finish line Belgium runner **Kevin Borlée** overtook **Michael Bingham** and **Martyn Rooney** (both GBR), clocking 45,08 seconds, crossing the line just 15 hundredths of a second in front of Bingham and Rooney (both 45,23s). „It's fantastic“, Borlée said after the race. „My brother and I made history today and I'm sorry that he's not on the podium with me.“ At the ISTAF Borlée will face Rooney again and it can be taken for granted that the British is up for a revenge.

### **WOMEN'S 800M**

South African runner **Caster Semenya** who had been banned from competing for eleven months returns to the place of one of her greatest victories. At the 2009 Berlin World Championships she won the Women's 800 metres in a time of 1:55,45min. Immediately afterwards questions about her gender arose and it was not until July 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 that Semenya was allowed to compete again.

**Lenka Masna** (CZE) who came 6<sup>th</sup> at the 2010 European Championships and **Elisa Cusma** from Italy are most likely to be her main rival's on the Olympic Stadium's famous blue track.

#### **MEN'S 800M**

Wilson Kipketer's world record in the Men's 800m has been up for grabs for quite a long time and this year's fastest runner in this event, Kenya's **David Rudisha**, is – according to experts – the one who will take it one day. Rudisha left the crowd stunning when he clocked 1:41,51min in Heusden-Zolder, Belgium. Neither legendary runner Sebastian Coe (GBR, 1980 and 1984 Olympic Champion in the 1500m event) nor Joaquim Cruz (BRA, 1984 Olympic Champion in the 800m event) had ever been that fast. Altogether, these four men are the only ones to have ever run the Men's 800m in less than 1:42min. And Rudisha is the only one still competing – let's wait and see how fast he'll be this time.

#### **WOMEN'S 400M**

It's nothing but great memories when **Debbie Dunn** (USA) returns to the Olympic Stadium this weekend. The US-athlete won gold with the 4x400m Women's relay at the 2009 World Championships together with Allyson Felix, Lashinda Demus, and Sanya Richards. Afterwards she kept her winning streak and came first in the Women's 400m at the 2010 Indoor World Championships in Doha. At the US-Trials in Des Moines she clocked 49,64s a world season's best. And the 1,69m tall and 58kg light athlete is still hungry for more: „Coming first at the ISTAF and running the 400m in less than 50s would add another highlight to my career.“

#### **WOMEN'S 100M**

It's **Verena Sailer** (GER) against the rest of the world. When the German athlete crossed the finish line at the 2010 Barcelona European Championships grabbing the gold medal with a personal best of 11,10s she could hardly believe what she had just achieved: „I dreamed about winning here and running the lap of honor“, she said. „But at the same time I was afraid of talking myself into something that I wouldn't be able to achieve. But I wanted to win!“ She will have to be fast once again as **Kelly Ann Baptiste** (TRI), **Sherone Simpson** (JAM), **Christina Arron** (FRA), and **Debbie Ferguson** (BAH) are among her rivals – all of them have to run the 100m in less than 11 seconds.

#### **MEN'S 100M**

The world's fastest men won't be in Berlin but this year's starting line-up is nevertheless a more than very impressive one. German National Champion **Alexander Kosenkow** will face 2008 Olympic Champion **Nesta Carter** (JAM) who won gold in the men's 4x100m relay. **Mark-Lewis France** (GBR) won gold four years earlier at the Athens Olympics with the British 4x100m relay team. Portugal's 2006 European Champion **Francis Obikwelu** is the 4<sup>th</sup> athlete to add to a world class line-up at this year's ISTAF.

#### **MEN'S 110M HURDLES**

A British athlete is once more in the top spot of the Men's 110m hurdles. At the 2010 European Championships **Andy Turner** (GBR) won gold, clocking 13,28 seconds. In the recent past it had been his fellow countryman Colin Jackson who dominated this event. In between 1990 and 2002 Jackson won gold at four European and two World Championships.

## MEN'S 3000M

For ten years now the ISTAF-record in the Men's 3000m has not been broken and still stands at 7:30,76min, set by Algeria's Ali Saidi-Sief in 2000. But this year US-runner **Bernard Lagat** comes to Berlin to beat it. His results so far are impressive. He won the 1500m and 5000m at the 2007 Osaka World Championships. Two years later, in Berlin, he won silver in the Men's 5000m and bronze in the Men's 1500m. He also grabbed a silver and a bronze medal at 2008 Olympic Games and won the Men's 3000m at the World Indoor Championships in Doha, Qatar. Various strong contestants and world's fastest pacemakers shall push Lagat to the record. This year's fastest athlete in this event, **Yusuf Biwott** from Kenya, and **Isaac Songok** from Kenya will race, too. Songok has already run 3000m in 7:28,72min – much faster than the ISTAF-record.

## MEN'S 1500M

This race is deemed to become a fast one. 2010 European Championships gold and silver medalist, **Arturo Casado** (ESP) and **Carsten Schlangen** (GER), will challenge Bahrain's current World Champion Yusuf Saad Kamel for gold. In Barcelona Casado beat Schlangen and clocked 3:42,74min. Kenyan-born Kamel can run even faster. He won gold at the 2009 World Championships in 3:35,93min.

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## About ISTAF

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Further information on ISTAF is available on [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de).





## INVITATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE

### 69. Internationales Stadionfest Berlin 2010

Berlin, August 18<sup>th</sup> 2010

Dear colleagues and friends,

the 69<sup>th</sup> International Stadionfest Berlin (ISTAF) will present a world-class starting field of 220 athletes in 17 disciplines. On this occasion, we would like to invite you to our official, international ISTAF Berlin press conference.

Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Director of the ISTAF Berlin, will inform about the competitions' highlights and this year's program. Managing Director Martin Seeber will talk about the last preparations for the event. South African 800-metres world champion Caster Semenya, Australians Olympic Gold medalist and world champion 2009 Steven Hooker (pole vault), two-times world champion from 2007 Bernard Lagat (1500 and 5000 m), European champion 2010 Linda Stahl (javelin throw) and European vice-champion 2010 Carsten Schlangen (1500 m) are invited to talk about their personal expectations and goals for their starts at the ISTAF 2010.

The press conference will take place in Room A, 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the Official Meeting Hotel, Hotel Estrel, Sonnenallee 225, 12057 Berlin.

**when:** Friday, August 20<sup>st</sup> 2010, 2.00 pm  
**where:** ISTAF-Meetinghotel Estrel, Saal A, Sonnenallee 225, 12057 Berlin  
**with:** Caster Semenya, world champion 2009, 800 m  
Steven Hooker, olympic champion 2008, world champion 2009, pole vault  
Bernard Lagat, two time world champion 2007, 1500 and 5000 m  
Linda Stahl, European champion 2010, javelin throw  
Carsten Schlangen, European vice-champion 2010, 1500 m  
Gerhard Janetzky, Meeting Director ISTAF  
Martin Seeber, Managing Director ISTAF



We offer the possibility for individual interviews with the participants subsequent to the press conference. Therefore please contact us under +49 30 30 111 86 23, fax +49 30 30 111 86 20 or email ([press@istaf.de](mailto:press@istaf.de)).

Best regards,

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## PRESS RELEASE

Date: July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010

### **800-Metre World Champion Caster Semenya accepts Start at ISTAF on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010**

**It will be the international stadium festival of world champions and European champions! When Germany's most historic and famous track and field meet takes place at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010 for the 69<sup>th</sup> time, absolute world-class athletes will be seen once again. Already three current world champions have promised to be at the starting line: after the Polish world-record holder in the hammer-throw Anita Włodarczyk and the Berlin discus-giant Robert Harting, the South African 800-Metre world champion Caster Semenya has confirmed that she will be starting.**

The South African, who was not allowed to start for eleven months after winning the track and field world championships in Berlin, will be returning to the big international stage again in Berlin. After her brilliant victory on the blue tartan track in 1:55.45, doubts as to Semenya's gender had arisen. Only since July 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 can she start with the women again.

Semenya: "I have now run at two meets in Finland and won them both. But I cannot be completely satisfied with my times. Still, after eleven really hard months in which I've been through a lot; I'm looking forward to being on the track once again. Now I have to see to it that I really run good races, so as to pick up the thread of my earlier achievements – maybe this time at the ISTAF. I'm already looking forward to the beautiful stadium and the Berlin public."

Presently, Caster Semenya is in preparation for her comeback on the big stage. She wants to run at two smaller meets in August in order to regain the toughness of competition. Her manager Jukka Härkönen says, "We have not given any acceptances except for Berlin and two weeks later in Milan. But the idea is that she should run one race each week. Starting in Berlin was Caster's expressed wish." She wants to run times of under two minutes at Olympic Stadium again. The Commonwealth Games in India in October will then be the highpoint of her season.



Other world-class acceptances for participation at the ISTAF are expected next week. Meet Director Gerhard Janetzky and athletes' manager Thomas Kremer will be engaging further athletes at the Track and Field European Championships in Barcelona (July 27<sup>th</sup> until August 1<sup>st</sup>). Janetzky: "We will definitely have 220 absolute and extended world-class athletes at the starting line."

Already on Thursday, Verena Sailer's acceptance was announced by the MTG Mannheim; she is the fastest German woman in the events above 100 metres. In the men's pole-vault, the new German champion Malte Mohr (LG Stadtwerke Munich) and the Junior World and European Champion Raphael Holzdeppe (LAZ Zweibrücken) will deliver an exciting contest.

**Queries arising from this press release and all questions relating to ISTAF, photo material and logos should be addressed to:**

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#### **About ISTAF**

The Berlin International Stadium Festival (*ISTAF*) is Germany's oldest and best-known athletics meeting and one of the most popular and most successful sporting events in Germany. The first ever festival to be held in a stadium took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1921 in the *Grunewaldstadion*, watched by 20,000 spectators. Co-organisers were three Berlin sports clubs, BSC, SCC and the Poseidon Swimming Club. ISTAF was founded on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1937, the date of the decision by three Berlin clubs - Berliner Sport-Club (BSC), Deutsche Sport-Club (DSC, later OSC) and Sport-Club Charlottenburg (SCC) - to host future international sport festivals jointly under the *Internationales Stadionfest* name. On 1<sup>st</sup> August 1937, buoyed by the Olympic Games in Berlin the previous year, the ISTAF began its illustrious career. The 69<sup>th</sup> ISTAF will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2010.

Further information on ISTAF is available on [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)







## Press release

# New automobile partner for the ISTAF-track and field stars drive Volkswagen

Berlin, July 8 2010

**Germany's greatest automobile manufacturer Volkswagen is the new sponsor and official automobile partner for the international track and field event ISTAF in Berlin.**

On August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010 220 of the world's best athletes will compete against each other in 16 events in Berlin's Olympic Stadium. The 69<sup>th</sup> edition of the ISTAF is part of the IAAF World Challenge, a series of 14 top-class track and field events. The competition will be high class and similar to the field from the last year's world championships. There will be several world champions from 2009, at least one of the three fastest 100 metres sprinters in the world and the European champions from Barcelona. Only three weeks before the ISTAF the best athletes from the continent will be determined in Barcelona.

Volkswagen and one of the resident bargainers, the Volkswagen Automobile Berlin GmbH, will provide a personal shuttle for the athletes, managers, coaches and VIPs at the ISTAF, between hotel, Berlin's airports and the Olympic Stadium. At the event itself the athletes will be presented in a Volkswagen Eos on the blue track in the arena. Information desks in the forefront of the Olympic Stadium will showcase the ecofriendly technologies of Volkswagen BlueMotion. In addition, the new family cars Touran and Sharan will be presented.

Thorsten Bradler, regional manager Volkswagen Pkw region east: "We are delighted to promote top-class sport in Berlin together with the Volkswagen Automobile Berlin GmbH and as cooperation partner of the ISTAF we will support the most traditional track and field event in Germany. We want to experience the track and field meeting together with our sports enthusiastic clients and are already excited about the various top athletes and emotional competitions."

Martin Seeber, Managing Director of the ISTAF: "We are very pleased that we have a strong partner with Volkswagen and a sponsor that is connected to Berlin's sport for a long time. Hopefully, this is the beginning of a long lasting cooperation

Tickets for the ISTAF can be purchased under [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de), the **Hotline 01803-20 60 70\*** or at every CTS booking offices.

**If you have any questions regarding this press release, the ISTAF or the involvement of Volkswagen, photos or logos, please contact:**

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#### **About ISTAF**

The International track and field meeting Berlin (ISTAF) is the most traditional and famous German athletic event and one of the most popular and successful sporting events in Germany. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 1921 the event took place for the first time in the "Grunewaldstadion" in front of 20.000 spectators organised by Berlin's sports clubs BSC, SCC and the "Schwimm Club Poseidon. The ISTAF was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 1937 when the Sport-Club (BSC), the German Sport-Club (DSC, später OSC) and the Sport-Club Charlottenburg (SCC) decided to organise international sport events with the designation "international track and field event- ISTAF" together. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1937 the prestigious history of the ISTAF began with the drive of the previous Olympic Games in Berlin. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2010 the 69<sup>th</sup> edition of the ISTAF will take place.

Further information regarding the ISTAF under [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)

**\*9 Cent per minute from the German landline, max. 42 cents per minute for calls from the German mobile landline.**



## PRESS INFORMATION

**New sponsors, new prizes and a competitor in the World Challenge**

# **ISTAF builds on positive vibe of World Athletics Championships 2009**

Berlin, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010

**It was a midsummer fairytale with the blue tartan track as star of the show - the 12<sup>th</sup> IAAF World Athletics Championships in Berlin in August 2009. Thousands of fans packed the stands as the agonies and ecstasies of the athletes played out below them in the great round of the Olympic stadium. And the crowning achievement of the competition: the new world records set by Jamaican superstar Usain Bolt over 100 and 200 metres. A year later and many of the stars of that World Championships are set to return to the fastest track in the world to take part in the 69<sup>th</sup> *Internationales Stadionfest* (ISTAF) on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2010.**

The momentum of the World Championships and a catalogue of new features are set to make a resounding success of this 69<sup>th</sup> edition of the largest and best known of all German athletics meetings. The new Chief Sponsor of the ISTAF is Vattenfall Europe AG, whose total commitment has been instrumental in ensuring that the meeting will take place. The new management team around Meeting Director Gerhard Janetzky was put together by TOP Sportmarketing GmbH. New ticket prices start at just 9 euros and are designed to attract families into the stands. And for the first time ever the ISTAF meeting will form part of the new World Challenge series of 14 top-notch IAAF athletics competitions.

Instrumental in the creation of the new structures has been the Berlin Senate, represented by Thomas Härtel, Secretary for the Interior and Sport. Says Härtel: "As a major centre for sports, Berlin has made a name for itself as a hoster of top-quality international sporting events and is now on a par with the best sporting cities of the world. Following on the heels of last year's highly regarded and wildly successful World Athletics Championships, this year's ISTAF is the perfect opportunity for both athletics as a whole and the city of Berlin in particular to build on what was achieved. The chance to witness sporting events live and choose from a wide range of sporting activities will be a feature of Berlin's sporting culture going forward."

## **The new Chief Sponsor: Vattenfall**

The ISTAF meeting has been made possible thanks to the support of Vattenfall Europe AG. For the next two years Berlin's largest energy supplier will be the Chief Sponsor of the event. "As a long-standing partner of the capital, we are delighted to be supporting an event that boasts such a long and proud tradition," stressed Rainer Knauber, Chief Representative of Vattenfall Europe for Berlin and Germany's new federal states. "Alongside our cultural and social commitment our involvement with ISTAF is a way of building on our links to other sports meetings that we have been supporting, events like the Berlin Half Marathon and the World Athletics Championships 2009."

The *be*Berlin campaign is backing ISTAF again this year. René Gurka, CEO of Berlin Partner GmbH says: "ISTAF *is* Berlin, which is why it's natural for our capital city campaign to be involved in this highlight of the Berlin sporting calendar."

In line with its strategy for sports sponsorship, the *DKB*, main backers of the event in 2009, ended its partnership with ISTAF after last year's climactic tournament. It is currently negotiating to tone down its commitment to sports sponsorship.

## **The new structures**

Organisers of the ISTAF are the Berlin Athletics Association (*BLV*), headed by its President, Gerhard Janetzky. Germany's best-known athletics meeting is being organised and marketed over the next three years by TOP Sportmarketing GmbH, agency for the Berlin Sports Union (*LSB*) and Berliner Olympiastützpunkt (*OSP*). Gerhard Janetzky stays on as Meeting Director and TOP Sportmarketing Managing Director Martin Seeber is in charge of the commercial side. Comments Seeber: "It goes without saying that we want to perpetuate the positive vibe of the World Championships and establish Berlin at the epicentre of German athletics."

## **Feats of excellence and grass-roots fun combined.**

For the first time ever, this year's ISTAF will follow on from a Festival of Berlin Sport, to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2010, the eve of the big meeting. Berlin sports clubs and associations will gather within the perimeter of the Olympiapark and set out their wares for local interested Berliners.

In the words of Wolf-Dieter Wolf, Vice President of the Berlin Sports Union, *LSB*: "The LSB Berlin is delighted to have managed to continue the tradition of the ISTAF without a break following the great success of the World Athletics Championships in Berlin last year. Without the generous support of business, in particular Vattenfall Europe AG and the Senate Department for the Interior and Sport, Berlin would have missed out on this great sporting event. I would also like to point out to all sports fans that the LSB is planning a Festival of Berlin Sport for the eve of the ISTAF. This sporting festival will be a great primer for the ISTAF and will provide an insight into the work done by clubs and associations."

As well as the ISTAF athletes who will be training in public parallel to the Festival of Berlin Sport, an official ISTAF competition is also scheduled for the eve of the tournament. This is likely to be the women's hammer-throwing event.

## **Line-up as strong as ever**

The ISTAF is a member of the World Challenge, a series of 14 meetings featuring the world's top athletes and offering prizes totalling \$200,000 (€147,000). Competitors in the new IAAF Diamond League event were not announced as TV rights had not yet been finalised and ISTAF financing was not in place by the time registrations for the event closed. Despite this, the line-up is set to be as impressive as in previous years. Competitors in a minimum of 16 disciplines will be signed up in the course of the 2010 outdoor season. Disciplines will include Olympic classics of track and field such as high jump, long jump, pole vault, hammer, javelin, discus, shot put and the 100m, 400m, 1,500m, 3,000m and 110 metre hurdles. There are also plans to restore the traditional ISTAF Mile.

"We have our wonderful stadium going for us and great memories of the athletes at last year's World Athletics Championships," says Managing Director Martin Seeber. "We're well placed between two Diamond League meetings - Zurich three days before and Brussels five days later - which means the big stars are on hand for Berlin." Not only that; the ISTAF comes three weeks after the European Athletics Championships in Barcelona (27<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August) and organisers are keen to attract as many European champions to Berlin as possible.

Local hero and popular darling Robert Harting is 99% certain to attend. The giant of the discus from SCC Charlottenburg won't be passing up the opportunity to return to the venue of his greatest triumph, his world-championship-winning throw of last year.

High jumper Ariane Friedrich (LG Eintracht Frankfurt), who, at last year's ISTAF, broke the German record set by Heike Henkel in 1991 by one centimetre, setting a new record of 2.06 metres, is also scheduled to take part. Friedrich also took bronze at the World Championships.

## **Tickets from €6.75 ... for early bookers**

Another new development for spectators concerns ticket prices. There are now three categories instead of four. Prices start at €9 (for Category 3 seats on the track bends) rising to €19 (Category 2, main stand and back straight) and €39 (Category 1, main stand and finish line). Ticketing is by Anschutz Entertainment Group Operations GmbH (O2 World), a Berlin Partner. Tickets are on sale now from [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de), by phone (**hotline: 01803-20 60 70\***) or from all CTS outlets. Early bookers buying tickets in the first four weeks will even receive a 25% discount.

**Queries arising from this press release and all questions relating to ISTAF, Vattenfall, photo material and logos should be addressed to:**

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### **About ISTAF**

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Further information on ISTAF is available on [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de)

### **About Vattenfall**

Vattenfall Europe is one of the leading suppliers of energy in Europe: the company uses low-cost methods to mine German lignite, produces electricity from coal, water power and nuclear energy and uses combined heat and power to generate environmentally friendly district heating. Vattenfall Europe also transports, distributes and sells electric current and provides its customers with innovative energy services. In line with its commitment to achieving sustained reductions in CO2 emissions, Vattenfall is active in the development and testing of CCS technology, has launched a comprehensive energy-efficiency initiative and invests heavily in the expansion of the wind power sector. Vattenfall is currently active in Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland and the UK. Vattenfall supplies approx. 6 million customers across Europe with energy and employs a staff of 32,000. Its parent company Vattenfall AB is 100% owned by the Swedish government.

Further information on Vattenfall is available from the company website [www.vattenfall.de](http://www.vattenfall.de)

**\*9 cents/min. by German landline; max 42 cents/min. from German cell phones.**

## **DKB-ISTAF presents “One-Day World Championship“ with High-Performance Entry Lists and Top-Class Competitions in the Jackpot Race.**

**Dramatic jackpot race of the ÅF Golden League to kick-off with the 68<sup>th</sup> edition of the Internationales Stadionfest at Berlin's Olympic Stadium / Top-class challenges with more than 280 athletes from around the world / Confirmed starts of Yelena Isinbayeva, Sanya Richards, Blanka Vlasic, Ariane Friedrich, Kenenisa Bekele, Andreas Thorkildsen, Tero Pitkämäki and Sebastian Bayer/ A total of 64 German top athletes signed on / 60.000 tickets sold / Sunday will present meeting with perfect weather conditions.**

*Berlin, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

Tomorrow's 68<sup>th</sup> edition of the Internationales Stadionfest DKB-ISTAF will present some of the meeting's strongest entry lists ever and a highly dramatic kick-off in the fight for the jackpot of the ÅF Golden League, filled with one million US-dollars in Gold. This time around, in the Berlin Athletics Championship year 2009 (August 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>), the by far largest German track-and-field meeting will become the outdoor season's first major international, high-class competition event. The traditional DKB-ISTAF – ranked fourth in 2008, based on international points for athletic performances – will host more than 280 athletes from around the world. It will be staged this coming Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 2009, starting at noon (main competitions to begin at 1 pm) at the historic Olympic Stadium of the German capital.

“In the year of the XIIth IAAF World Championships, we are particularly proud to present such an excellent entry list in a “One-Day World Championship” in order to give the Berlin audience a taste of the upcoming World Championships in the German capital”, said Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF at today's presentation of the final entry lists. “For us, it is important to create excitement for our sports by presenting a top-class meeting”, he said and added: “As international ambassadors of the German athletic community, we have a special responsibility, as we are also presenting German athletes in truly international competitions, thus showing the world that Germany is and will remain a professional and excellent host for outstanding track-and-field events”. The DKB-ISTAF will be broadcast in more than 150 countries; in Germany, the Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen, the meeting's national host broadcaster, will cover the meeting in a two-hour live program starting at 3.05 pm. In addition, Eurosport will cover the event from 6 to 7:30 pm.

### **International top track-and-field event to kick off the outdoor season**

This year, the DKB-ISTAF will present a total of 28 medalists of the Olympic Games in Beijing 2008, in addition to six current 2007 Outdoor World Champions and 7 Indoor European Champions of 2009 (a total of 18 medalists from Osaka and 17 medalists from Torino), and also two current world record holders.

As the opening meeting of the ÅF Golden League – the international premium competition series of the IAAF – the Berlin meeting has a special significance: Athletes who want a part of the jackpot have to be victorious in their respective disciplines in all six of the meetings and thus have to start competing in Berlin. If no athlete should succeed, the jackpot will be split in half, about US\$ 500.000,



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## Press Release

and will be shared among those athletes with five wins in their respective discipline. The ÄF Golden League will begin in Berlin and then continue in Oslo (July 3<sup>rd</sup>), Rome (July 10<sup>th</sup>), Paris (July 17<sup>th</sup>), Zurich (August 28<sup>th</sup>) and finally in Brussels (September 4<sup>th</sup>).

The official IAAF competition disciplines of the series in 2009 are the men's 100m, 400m, 5000m, 110m hurdles and javelin. The women will compete in the 100m, 400m, 100m hurdles, high jump and pole vault. As in every year, the DKB-ISTAF will stage seven additional promotion disciplines: For men, these are the 800m, 1500m, discus, and long jump; for women, it is the shot put. In addition, there will be international 4x100m relays for both men and women.

### DKB-ISTAF supports German athletes

"In addition, it is particularly important for us to present both German top athletes as well as young talent", Gerhard Janetzky continued, referring to the 64 German athletes in the entry lists – more than ever before. Among them are long jumper **Sebastian Bayer**, high jumper **Ariane Friedrich**, and Berlin local heroes discus thrower **Robert Harting** and 1500m runner **Carsten Schlangen**, as well as the country's fastest sprinters, to compete in the 4x100m relays. In addition, the Berlin meeting continues its cooperation of 19 years with the Meeting in Königs-Wusterhausen southeast of Berlin. Their winners of the women's and men's 100m sprints will receive a wild card for a start in the Olympic Stadium.

As in previous years, Germany's leading meeting will present a nicely filled stadium. One day before the DKB-ISTAF, about 60,000 Tickets have been sold. "This is brilliant," **Bettina Stark** said, the Chief Representative of the Deutsche Kreditbank AG (DKB). "We are looking forward to this coming Sunday and an audience of about 65,000," commented Gerhard Janetzky. "With forecasts of 22° C and light clouds, we are confident to have good to perfect weather conditions for our event."

The Deutsche Kreditbank is not only the title sponsor of the DKB-ISTAF and co-founder of the DKB-CUP, but is in many levels tightly related with the sport. The corporation works together with sport organizations and clubs, and serves as title sponsor of various events and sports sites and also assists many active athletes such as Franka Dietzsch (discus), Betty Heidler (hammer throw), Christina Obergföll and Steffi Nerius (both javelin throw), Danny Ecker (pole vault), and Petra Lammert (shot put). In addition, the DKB is the main sponsor of the track-and-field section of the SC Neubrandenburg. The company's headquarters resides in Berlin.

### The race for the ÄF Golden League jackpot kicks off in Berlin

The focus of the meeting, however, will be on the opening competitions in the race for the one-million-dollar jackpot of the ÄF Golden League: Only athletes starting in Berlin will be able to take part in the race, trying to secure their share of the gold. This year, the most promising contenders are the Russian pole vault queen **Yelena Isinbayeva** and the 400m runner **Sanya Richards** (USA), who already shared the jackpot in 2007. Furthermore, the Croatian high jumper **Blanca Vlasic** and Ethiopian 5,000m super runner **Kenenisa Bekele** as well as the two javelin throwers **Andreas Thorkildsen** (NOR) and **Tero Pitkämäki** (FIN) have a chance at the gold.

### Selected competition highlights and top rematch duels

A devoted Berlin fan, the American 400m-runner **Sanya Richards**, could win her share of the gold once again (after her shared jackpot win with Yelena Isinbayeva in 2007). After a disappointing season last year, the 2008 Olympic bronze medalist and Vice-World Champion of Helsinki (2005) will hopefully stage a strong comeback on the blue tracks of the Olympic Stadium Berlin. This Sunday, she will have to take on two other Olympic Games finalists, **Yulia Gushchina** (RUS) and **Amantle Montsho** (BOT), but also tough competition by, to name but one,



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## Press Release

Jamaican **Bobby-Gay Wilkins**: She already started the season with 50.91 seconds as her seasonal best and thus has positioned herself dangerously close to Sanya Richards' current seasonal best performance of 49.86 seconds.

Among the many top international stars the DKB-ISTAF has signed on, the face-off between high jump queen **Blanka Vlasic** (CRO) and the new Indoor European Champion, **Ariane Friedrich** (GER), may well be the rematch duel of the year. The German will not only try to confront Blanka Vlasic, but also try to lay claim on a World Championship medal for herself later this year. The winner of Torino (2.05m) and current number 1 in the high jump Indoor world ranking, will have to beat Blanka Vlasic, the current queen of high jump, reigning World Champion and 2008 Olympic Games silver medalist – just as she did last year. So far, Blanka Vlasic has proven herself with several recent 2 meter jumps (with an actual outdoor best performance of 2.05m at Doha) in top form. With other top athletes like **Elena Slesarenko** (RUS), **Ruth Beitia** (ESP), the Indoor Vice-European Champion, as well as veteran athlete **Amy Acuff** (USA) and 2 meter jumpers **Chaunté Howard** (USA) and **Viktoriya Klyugina** (RUS), the international high jump elite will be present in Berlin to compete and to possibly prod the champs to go even higher.

The face-off between these two stars at the DKB-ISTAF will have a very special significance: Last year, Ariane Friedrich snatched the ÅF Golden League jackpot away from the Croatian jackpot contender at the very last moment in the Memorial van Damme Meeting in Brussels with a 2 meter jump, taking away the complete, big jackpot from Vlasic – despite a strong Croatian who had won all other meetings of the series up until then. They faced off with each other again earlier this year, at the European Indoor Championships in Torino, where Friedrich beat Vlasic, then the most promising gold medalist contender, in a surprisingly easy competition. Vlasic, for the first time, had not crossed the 2 meter after a series of 42 meetings, and made due with just a 1.92m. With this win and her new Indoor personal best of 2.05m set in mid-February in Karlsruhe, where Ariane Friedrich also defeated Blanca Vlasic, the German established herself not only as one of the country's top athletes of international fame, but also became a strong contender for a medal in the World Championship in Berlin later this summer.

Similarly, the eyes of the international athletics community will most certainly also be fixated on pole vault queen **Yelena Isinbayeva** (RUS). The 27-year-old acting Indoor and Outdoor World Champion and 2008 Olympic Games gold medalist will certainly do everything to not only win another World Championships gold medal, but to also take home some of the gold of the ÅF Golden League jackpot – just as she did (together with Sanya Richards) in 2007. But the entry list for Berlin will not make it easy for her. Athletes include **Yulia Golubchikova** (RUS), the reigning Indoor European Champion and 4<sup>th</sup>-ranked of the Olympic Games, as well as **Fabiana Murer** (BRA), the bronze medalist of the Indoor World Championships 2008. Two other athletes, who have started the season with good performances of 4.60m and 4.61m, respectively, are **Aleksandra Kiryashova** (RUS) and **Anna Rogowska** (POL). Also among the top contenders in this field is German athlete **Silke Spiegelburg**, the Indoor European Vice-Champion and a 2008 Olympic Games finalist.

As for the men's events, 5,000m super hero **Kenenisa Bekele**, who celebrates his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday this Saturday, will be in the men's 5,000m event. The double 2008 Olympic gold medalist in the 5,000m and 10,000m events as well as current 3,000m Indoor World Champion will certainly deliver a stunning competition. Bekele had already fought hard to win his share of the "small" jackpot in 2006. This Sunday, he will face – among other runners – **Edwin Cheruiyot Soi** (KEN), the 2008 Olympic Games bronze medalist in the 5,000m, as well as **Micah Kogo** (KEN), the 2008 Olympic Games bronze medalist in the 10,000m.

As ever, among the men's technical events, the javelin throw will present a fascinating competition: The DKB-ISTAF has contracted both of the world's top javelin throwers – **Tero Pitkämäki** (FIN) and **Andreas Thorkildsen** (NOR), who



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Niederlassung Berlin



## Press Release

have repeatedly staged dramatic duels and rematches, the last one in 2007, when **Thorkildsen**, the Norwegian, took the jackpot away from over-confident **Pitkämäki**, the 2008 Olympic Games bronze medalist and reigning World Champion. This year, thanks to having Thorkildsen, the 2008 Olympic Games gold medalist and Vice-World Champion, back in Berlin as well, this fight could see an encore. Other top athletes completing the entry list are **Sergey Makarov** (RUS), **Ainars Kovalis** (LAT), **Vadims Vasilevskis** (LAT), as well as the continually strong Finnish javelin throwers **Teemu Wirkkala** and **Tero Järvenpää**, who will certainly add some tension to the event.

### DKB-ISTAF promotion disciplines to present top German athletes

German athletes will be presented at the DKB-ISTAF in promotion disciplines, some of which have been integrated into the program especially for some of them. Among these events are the 4x100 relays with the currently fastest-running German male and females sprinters. At the DKB-ISTAF, men will be running in two relay teams and compete against the national relay teams of South Africa, Poland, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands and the Czech national relay team. The women will have to compete in three different national teams, which will be confronted by the national relay teams of Great Britain, France, Poland, the Czech Republic and an internationally mixed, top relay team.

Among the top talent in the German relay teams are shooting star and acting German Indoor Champ (60m) **Stefan Schwab**, who made good on his WCh-norm (10.21 sec.) twice this past weekend in Regensburg, when winning both the heats and the final in 10.19 sec. and 20.20 sec., respectively. In addition, the 22-year-old also led the German sprint team to an excellent 38.34 seconds, the year's European best performance and thus is preparing for the World Championship in his home country with much anticipation – and joy, as he has only to go another 14<sup>th</sup> hundredth to beat the German 100m sprint national record.

Similarly, **Verena Sailer**, the 2009 European Indoor Championship bronze medalist, is looking forward to stunning competitions in front of a local audience. This past weekend, running with the German sprint team at the Regensburg Meeting Gala, the German champion and her team beat the WCh norm (43.55 sec.) with a performance of 43.43 seconds.

In the women's shot put, the entry list will be dominated by three Germans. Alongside the reigning Indoor World Champion 2009 and 5<sup>th</sup>-ranked of the World Championships in Osaka 2007, **Petra Lammert**, are **Nadine Kleinert**, World Championships bronze medalist in Osaka 2007, and currently number 4 on the world ranking list, as well as **Denise Hinrichs**, Indoor Vice-World Champion in 2009. These three athletes must face top international competitors. These include the bronze medalist of the Olympic Games 2008, **Nadezhda Ostapchuk** (BEL) and Bulgarian **Natalia Mikhnevich**, currently the world's number 2 and silver medalist of the Olympic Games 2008. The field will be completed with **Anca Heltne** (RUM) and **Cleopatra Borel-Brown** (TRI).

In the men's 1500m run, Berlin's local hero and Germany's 1500m champion **Carsten Schlangen** will have to hold his ground via-à-vis a mostly African field – including three 2008 Olympic Games finalists, but also fast Europeans such as the Indoor European Championship's bronze medalist, **Yoann Kowal** (FRA).

The men's technical promotion disciplines will see their highlight and special tension on the back straight of the stadium, where the men's long jump will be staged. The event's new superhero **Sebastian Bayer** will have to stand firm against some of the world's top long jumpers. The surprise winner of the 2009 Indoor European Championship in Torino has caused quite some excitement around the world by setting a new European record of 8.71 meters and currently may be one of the hottest German contenders for a World Championship medal in August. His top performance catapulted him on rank 2 behind Carl Lewis (8.79m) in the world's eternal top Indoor list. At the Olympic Stadium, the 22-year-



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## Press Release

old not only has to face Indoor Vice-Champion **Nils Winter**, but also top talent such as **Godfrey Khotso Mokoena** (RSA), the 2008 Olympic Games silver medalist, and the Olympic Games bronze medalist, Cuban **Ibrahim Camejo**. Two additional Olympic finalists, **Ndiss Kaba Badji** (SEN) and **Gable Garenamotse** (BOT), traditionally have shown strong performance (and nerves, for that matter) and might confront the young German in this exciting event.

In the men's discuss throw, Vice-World Champion **Robert Harting** will have to go up against the world's top, also trying to re-assert his aspiration for a medal in the World Championships later this year. The Berliner's toughest opponents are the three top finalists of the 2008 Olympic Games: These are Olympic gold medalist **Gerd Kanter** (EST), silver medalist **Piotr Malachowski** (POL) as well as bronze medalist **Virgilius Alekna** (LTU). In Beijing, Harting had to be content with a 4<sup>th</sup> rank; now he will try to take revenge in front of his home country's audience. This starting field will be joined by the **Frank Yennifer Casana**, 5<sup>th</sup>-ranked in the Olympics, as well as by athletes **Jarred Rome** (USA) and **Zoltan Kövago** (HUN) – both of which have already shown to be throwing close to the 70-meters mark. So far, Harting has shown himself in the outdoor season in a fairly strong condition. In mid-May, he delivered a 66.93m in Wiesbaden, which, nevertheless, was short of his personal best of 68.65m (June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Kaunas). Alekna, to the contrary, started the new outdoor season with only a 67.62m at the end of May, whereas Kanter's leadership with 70.84m (set in Californian Chule Vista at the end of April) still makes him number one in the 2009 world ranking.

**Tickets for the DKB-ISTAF can be obtained at all regular ticket agencies, in the Internet at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de), or by calling the CTS phone hotline at 01805-57006 (0,14 €/Min, mobile phone charges can differ). For the first time in international track-and-field, the meeting will stage a special "Fan Mixed Zone," where the audience can experience their stars directly on the blue track. (Availability of Fan Mixed Zone tickets is limited to price category 3, blocks L,M,N, O, P)**

### Further press information:

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# Race for Gold sees kick-off in Berlin: International top athletes competing at the ÅF Golden League's first meeting.

The Internationales Stadionfest will once again open the international track-and-field's premier event series, the ÅF Golden League.

*Berlin, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2009*

With the first meeting of the ÅF Golden League in Berlin tomorrow and the following meetings of the series to be held in Oslo (July 3rd), Rome (July 10th), Paris (July 17th), Zurich (August 28th), and Brussels (September 4th), the premiums series of international athletics once again promises stunning competitions revolving on the jackpot filled with US\$ one million US \$ in gold. **All athletes who want to fight for a share of the gold, have to start at the opening meeting in Berlin:** Only those athletes who have competed in all six meetings and have won in their respective discipline can hope for gold. If no athlete should win all six meetings, then all those contenders who have been successful in five meetings, will share half of the original jackpot, i.e. US\$ 500,000.

**The ten official IAAF event disciplines of the series are:**

**Men – 100m, 400m, 5,000m, 110m hurdles, javelin**

**Women – 100m, 400m, 100m hurdles, high jump, pole vault.**

Since 2008, the ÅF Golden League of the IAAF has been sponsored by a new title sponsor, the Swedish technology and services corporation ÅF. The company is operating in 15 countries and has 4,000 employees – including Swedish hurdle sprinter Susanna Kallur. Past jackpot winners have been „magic“ runner Hicham El Guerrouj, hurdles runner Felix Sanchez (DOM), the Swedish triple jump star Christian Olsson, the Caribbean 400m runner Tonique Darling-Williams (BAH) 2004, as well as three ladies all by themselves: In 2003, 800m runner Maria Mutola (MOZ), and in 2005 Russian triple jumper Tatyana Lebedeva, and, most currently, 800m runner Pamela Jelimo (KEN) in 2008. Since 1998, a total of 29 different athletes have won their shares of the jackpot, twelve men, including Hicham El Guerrouj with four wins, and 17 women:

### 1998

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Haile Gebrselassie (ETH)

Marion Jones (USA)

### 1999

Wilson Kipketer (DEN)

Gabriela Szabo (ROM)

### 2000

Gail Devers (USA)

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)



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## Press Release

Maurice Greene (USA)

Trine Hattestad (NOR)

Tatjana Kotowa (RUS)

### 2001

André Bucher (SUI)

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Allen Johnson (USA)

Violeta Szekely (ROM)

Olga Jegorowa (RUS)

### 2002

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Ana Guevara (MEX)

Marion Jones (USA)

Felix Sanchez (DOM)

### 2003

Maria Mutola (MOZ)

### 2004

Tonique Darling-Williams (BAH)

Christian Olsson (SWE)

### 2005

Tatyana Lebedeva (RUS)

### 2006 (double jackpot)

Kenenisa Bekele (ETH)

Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH)

Asafa Powell (JAM)

Sanya Richards (USA)

Irving Saladino (PAN)

Jeremy Wariner (USA)

### 2007

Sanya Richards (USA)

Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS)



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## Press Release

2008

Pamela Jelimo (KEN)



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# DKB-ISTAF to Present World-Class Discus Competition with Robert Harting and Shot Put with Petra Lammert.

Internationales Stadionfest presents Men's Discus Throw and Women's Shot Put as additional promotion competitions / Yelena Isinbayeva, Sanya Richards, Kenenisa Bekele, Andreas Thorkildsen, Tero Pitkämäki, Blanka Vlasic, Ariane Friedrich and Sebastian Bayer have signed been on / More than 55,000 tickets sold / Perfect weather conditions for Sunday.

*Berlin, June 8th 2009*

A week before the DKB-ISTAF will be staged this coming Sunday, June 14th 2009, the meeting today announced two additional promotion disciplines with signing on two top German athletes. "We are very excited to be able to present **Robert Harting** (25), one of Berlin's top athletes, in the men's discus throw, and to also have the DKB-athlete **Petra Lammert** (25) in the shot put," the meeting's Managing Partner **Gerhard Janetzky** said today at the presentation of the two athletes at Berlin's Olympia Park. "Both of these German top athletes will have to face some of the world's toughest competitors, though, but will certainly deliver thrilling matches in front of their home country's audience."

With the announcement of today's names for the entry list and in addition to already signed-on international athletes, the meeting – one of the most traditional track-and-field events in Europe – will stage a "one-day Championship" as a unique track-and-field highlight prior to the World Championships set to take place in Berlin August 15-23 later this year. The meeting will take place with a strong participation of German top talent, as shooting star **Sebastian Bayer** and high jumper queen **Ariane Friedrich** have also accepted to start in Berlin.

The track and field fans already honor the efforts of the host. "One week before the DKB-ISTAF, about 55.000 Tickets have been sold. This is brilliant," **Bettina Stark** said, the Chief Representative of the Deutsche Kreditbank AG (DKB). "We are looking forward to this coming Sunday and an audience of about 65.000," commented Gerhard Janetzky. "With forecasts of 22° C and light clouds, we are confident to have good to perfect weather conditions for our event."

The Deutsche Kreditbank is not only the title sponsor of the DKB-ISTAF and co-founder of the DKB-CUP, but is in many levels tightly related with the sport. The corporation works together with sport organizations and clubs, and also serves as title sponsor of various events and sports sites and also assists many active athletes such as **Franka Dietzsch** (discus), **Betty Heidler** (hammer throw), **Christina Obergföll** and **Steffi Nerius** (both javelin throw), **Danny Ecker** (pole vault), and **Petra Lammert** (shot put). In addition, the DKB is the main sponsor of the track-and-field of the section of the SC Neubrandenburg. The company's headquarters resides in Berlin.

Tickets for the DKB-ISTAF can be obtained at all regular ticket agencies, in the Internet at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de), or by calling the CTS phone hotline at



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## Press Release

01805-57006 (0,14 €/Min, mobile phone charges can differ). For the first time in international track-and-field, the meeting will stage a special "Fan Mixed Zone," where the audience can experience their stars directly on the blue track. (Availability of Fan Mixed Zone tickets is limited to price category 3, blocks L,M,N, O, P)

In the men's discuss throw, **Robert Harting** will have to go up against the world's top and try to win himself a medal. "I was particularly happy to integrate the discus throw and to invite Robert Harting to our meet – last year, he and his competitors delivered one of the meeting's strongest performances," said Gerhard Janetzky.

The Berliner's toughest opponents are the three top finalists of the 2008 Olympic Games, who have been contracted for the Berlin meeting today as well: These are Olympic gold medalist **Gerd Kanter** (EST), silver medalist **Piotr Malachowski** (POL) as well as bronze medalist **Virgilius Alekna** (LTU). In Beijing, Harting had to be content with a 4<sup>th</sup> rank; now he will try to take revenge in front of his home country's audience. This starting field will be joined by the **Frank Casana**, 5<sup>th</sup>-ranked in the Olympics, as well as by athletes **Ian Waltz** (USA), **Zoltan Kovago** (HUN), and **Mario Pestano** (ESP) – all of which have already shown to be throwing close to the 70-meters mark. Harting showed himself by all means in the outdoor season in a fairly strong condition. In mid-May, he delivered a 66,93m in Wiesbaden, which, nevertheless, was short of his personal best of 68,65m (June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Kaunas). Alekna, to the contrary, started the new outdoor season with only a 67,62m at the end of May, whereas Kanter's leadership with 70,84m (set in California's Chule Vista at the end of April) still makes him number one in the 2009 world ranking.

In the women's shot put, the entry list will be dominated by three Germans. Alongside the reigning Indoor World Champion 2009 and 5<sup>th</sup>-ranked of the World Championships in Osaka 2007, **Petra Lammert**, are **Nadine Kleinert**, World Championships bronze medalist in Osaka 2007, and currently number 4 on the world ranking list, as well as **Denise Hinrichs**, Indoor Vice-World Champion in 2009. These three athletes must face top international competitors. These include the bronze medalist from the Olympic Games 2008, Bulgarian **Nadezhda Ostapchuk**, and **Natalia Mikhnevich**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> world ranked and silver medalist of the Olympic Games 2008. The field will be completed with **Anca Heltne** (RUM) and **Cleopatra Borel-Brown** (TRI).

Among the many top international stars the DKB-ISTAF has signed on, are the high jumper Queen **Blanka Vlasic** (CRO) and the pole vault super star **Yelena Isinbayeva** (RUS). The 27-year-old current Indoor and Outdoor World Champion an 2008 Olympic gold medalist will certainly try everything to not only win another World Championship medal, but also to secure her share of the IAAF Golden League jackpot – just as she did in 2007. That year, she shared the gold with another devoted Berlin fan, 400m-runner **Sanya Richards** (USA). After a disappointing season in 2008, the 2008 Olympic bronze medalist and Vice-World Champion of Helsinki (2005) will hopefully stage a strong comeback on the blue tracks of the Olympic Stadium Berlin.

**Kenenisa Bekele**, the 5000m super runner, will be in the men's competition. He is the double 2008 Olympic gold medalist in 5,000 and 10,000m as well as the



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## Press Release

current Indoor World Champion in the 3000m; just a day after his birthday this coming Saturday, he certainly will deliver a strong performance. Bekele already had already enjoyed a "small" part of the jackpot in 2006, though.

Among the men's technical disciplines, the javelin throw will present a fascinating competition: The DKB-ISTAF has contracted both of the world's top javelin throwers – **Tero Pitkämäki** (FIN) and **Andreas Thorkildsen** (NOR), who have repeatedly provided dramatic duels, the last one in 2007, when **Thorkildsen**, the Norwegian, took the jackpot away from over-confident **Pitkämäki**. This year, thanks to having Thorkildsen, the 2008 Olympic Games gold medalist and Vice-World Champion, back, this fight could see an encore.

The official IAAF competition disciplines are the 100m, 40m, 5000m, 110m hurdles, as well as the javelin throw in the men's competitions. The women have the 100m, 400m, 5000m, 110m hurdles, as well as high jump and pole vault. As in every year, the DKB-ISTAF will provide seven additional promotion disciplines: For the men, these are the 800m, 1500m, discus throw, long jump; for women, it is going to be shot put. Last but not least, there will be two 4x100m relay races.

Athletes who want a part of the jackpot must win in their discipline in all six of the series' meetings. If no athlete succeeds, a smaller portion of the jackpot (500,000 US \$) will be split up among those athletes who accomplished five victories. The kick-off the IAAF Golden League will be held in Berlin, the following meetings will take in Oslo (July 3rd), Rome (July 10th), Paris (July 17), Zurich (August 28th) and finally ending in Brussels (September 4th).

**The DKB-ISTAF will open the gates at noon, and the main competitions will be starting around 1 pm. The meeting will also be broadcast live on Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF) at 3.05 pm.**

**Ticket sales and reservations are available by phone at the CTS-Hotline 01805-570006 or on the Internet at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de).**

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## Friedrich and Vlasic to Stage Dramatic Competition Duel in Berlin: World's New High Jump Queen to be Knighted at the DKB-ISTAF.

DKB-ISTAF meeting to present Blanka Vlasic and Ariane Friedrich in a high jump duel worthy of World Championships / Berlin meeting signs on international high jump elite for promising AF Golden League discipline.

*Berlin, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2009*

A week before the Internationales Stadionfest DKB-ISTAF on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the meeting has announced the starting field for one of most fascinating AF Golden League disciplines, the women's high jump. With the engagement of high jump shooting star **Andre Friedrich** (25) and her biggest competitor, 26-year-old high jump queen **Blanka Vlasic** (CRO), the meeting will certainly stage a competition worthy of World Championship levels. "Blanka will try to claim her double gold this year – a win in the AF Golden League and a gold medal at the World Championships in August in Berlin. Ariane Friedrich, however, will also declare her claims to a medal and will certainly try beat her competitor at the first start in the league, in order to once again take the jackpot away from the Croatian," said Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF.

In this high jump duel of the year, the new Indoor European Champion Ariane Friedrich will not only try to confront Blanka Vlasic, but also to lay claim on a medal for herself. The winner of Turin (2.05m) and current number 1 in the high jump Indoor world ranking, will have to beat Blank Vlasic, the current queen of high jump, current World Champion and 2008 Olympic Games silver medalist – just as she did last year. So far, Blanka Vlasic has proven herself with several recent 2 meter jumps (with an actual outdoor best performance of 2.05m at Doha) in top form. With other top athletes like **Elena Slesarenko** (RUS), **Ruth Beitia** (ESP), the Indoor Vice-World Champion, **Antonietta DiMartino** (ITA), third-placed in the World Championships in Osaka 2007, as well as veteran athlete **Amy Acuff** (USA) and 2 meter jumpers **Chaunté Howard** (2007) and **Viktoriya Klyugina** (RUS), the international high jump elite will be present in Berlin to compete and to possibly prod the champs to go even higher.

The confrontation of the stars at the DKB-ISTAF will have a very special significance: Last year, Ariane Friedrich snatched the AF Golden League jackpot away from the Croatian jackpot contender at the very last moment in the Memorial van Damme Meeting in Brussels with a 2 meter jump, taking away the complete, big jackpot from Vlasic – despite a strong Croatian who had won all other meetings of the series up until then. They faced off with each other again earlier



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## Press Release

this year, at the European Indoor Championships in Turin, where Friedrich beat Vlastic, then the most promising gold medalist contender, in a surprisingly easy competition. Vlastic, for the first time, had not crossed the 2 meter after a series of 42 meetings, and made due with just a 1.92m. With this win and her new Indoor personal best of 2,05m in the mid-February in Karlsruhe, where she also defeated Blanca Vlastic, Ariane Friedrich established herself not only as one of the top German athletes of international fame, but also became a strong contender for a medal at the World Championship in Berlin later this summer.

The ÅF Golden League's first meeting will present top athletes such as pole vault Queen **Yelena Isinbayeva**, 400m runner **Sanya Richards**, 5000m runner **Kenenisa Bekele**, the javelin throwers **Andreas Thorkildsen** and **Tero Pitkämäki**, and many others more, making the meeting a unique track-and-field event of a "one-day World Championship" prelude to the main event later this year.

The official IAAF competition disciplines are the 100m, 40m, 5000m, 110m hurdles, as well as the javelin throw in the men's competitions. The women have the 100m, 400m, 5000m, 110m hurdles, as well as high jump and pole vault. As in every year, the DKB-ISTAF will provide seven additional promotion disciplines: For the men, these are the 800m, 1500m, discus throw, long jump; for women, it is going to be shot put. Last but not least, there will be two 4x100m relay races.

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# Press Release

## PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE DKB-ISTAF\*

(as of May 31st 2008)

Races	Technical	Competition
	12:15	Intermediate Heats School Relay
	12:45	Men - Discus
	12:50	50m Supersprint Final Heats
	13:20	Women 100m (national)
	13:30	Women 400m (national)
		Men Pole Vault
	13:40	16 x 50m Final School Relay
	13:45	Ceremony School Relay
	13:50	Men 800m (Heat1)
	13:55	Ceremony School Relay 1
	14:00	Men 800m (Heat 2)
	14:10	4 x 100m School Relay EURO 2008
	14:15	Presentation DKB- ISTAF
	14:40	Women – 5000m
		Women – High Jump
	14:50	Men – Long Jump
	15:05	Men – 400m Hurdles
	15:10	Men - Javelin
	15:15	Men – 1500m
	15:30	Men – 110m Hurdles
	15:45	Women – 200m
	16:00	Women – 100m Hurdles
	16:10	Women – 800m
	16:20	Men - 100m
	16:30	Men – 400m
	16:40	Men – 5000m
	17:00	End DKB-ISTAF 2008

\* there might be changes



IAAF Golden League event



DKB-ISTAF promotional event



**DKB** Deutsche Kreditbank AG



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ENERGY

**Ω**  
**OMEGA**



## Press Release

### Premiere in Berlin: Presenting one of its best meetings ever, DKB-ISTAF opens season's race for gold for the first time.

Race for the jackpot of the ÅF Golden League is premiering at the DKB-ISTAF in Berlin on June 1st 2008 / International meeting presents world-class entry list with 36 WCh medalists, including eleven World Champions, and 41 German top athletes competing for their Olympic qualification / Ten IAAF and eight DKB-ISTAF disciplines / Tickets sales in excess of 65,000 / Sunday will see perfect weather conditions ideal for competitions.

*Berlin, May 31st 2008*

The 67th edition of the Internationales Stadionfest on June 1st 2008, will present one of the best and most powerful meetings in its history, while also premiering as the starting meeting for the ÅF Golden League and the race for the biggest prize in track-and-field, the jackpot filled with one Million US \$ in gold. The formidable entry lists of the Sunday meeting present a total of 220 athletes from around the world, with 23 medalists of the IAAF World Championship in Osaka 2007 and 14 medalists from the IAAF Indoor World Championship at Valencia 2008, including a total of eleven World Champions, as well as 41 German top athletes, making the DKB-ISTAF this year's first large-scale highlight in the season's competitions calendar.

Those athletes competing for the jackpot of the ÅF Golden League have to start in Berlin, as only those athletes who have won their discipline in all six meetings, may get their share of gold at all. In the Olympic year 2008 (Beijing, August 8th to 24th), many athletes will also competing each other for the first time in the new outdoor season. In addition, many German athletes will seize the opportunity to meet their qualifying norms of the German athletics federation DLV for their start in the Olympic Games in Beijing.

„As an international meeting in Germany, we have kept our promise and have signed-on as many medalists and World Champions both from Valencia and Osaka for our meet“, says DKB-ISTAF Managing Partner Gerhard Janetzky. „Our entry lists show that the international top class of athletes is ready to compete in Berlin, in order to compete for the first time in the new outdoor season and to position themselves for Beijing. Finally, we are also expecting a stunning first fight for this year's jackpot.“

The Internationales Stadionfest will open at noon with the traditional students' relay races; ticket booths will already be open as early as 10 am. The international main program will start at 1 pm. The DKB-ISTAF also offers an entertaining stadium program for the whole family and will present a fun and entertaining athletics event for everybody. The meeting will be broadcast live in Germany by the public national television ARD between 2:30 and 4:30 pm. In addition, TV companies around the world will broadcast the meeting in more than 150 countries. In total, a global audience of 70 million viewers is expected.

The meeting will most likely be blessed with perfect weather conditions: Based on up-to-date weather forecast, Sunday temperatures will hover between 25 and 29 ° C, a light cloud ceiling and a weak, Eastsoutheast wind will guarantee perfect conditions for the competitions.

#### **Germany's largest meeting a total success: More than 65,000 tickets sold**

After a highly successful 2007 meeting, the DKB-ISTAF once again managed to turn out a huge crowd: As of today, a total of more than 65,000 tickets have been sold; the Olympic Stadium (which has a total capacity of 72,000 for track-and-field events) will almost be sold out, thus presenting an atmosphere worthy of the XII. IAAF World Championship to be held here in 2009. Ticket categories V and VI are completely sold out, remaining tickets can be bought in categories I to IV, starting at 29,- € Günther Troppmann, CEO of the Deutsche Kreditbank AG, the meeting's title sponsor,



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## Press Release

comments: „We are looking forward to the competitions with much anticipation, and we are very happy that our commitment as title sponsor has contributed significantly to the success of the DKB-ISTAF. Once again, we are making it possible for 30,000 guests from all of Germany, to enjoy an appealing travel arrangement to Berlin, in order to experience the fight for titles and records in the legendary atmosphere of Berlin's Olympic Stadium live.“

### Race for the jackpot with international stars

The focus of the Berlin meeting is the opening of the race for the ÅF Golden League jackpot in ten official IAAF event disciplines. Athletes who want to secure their share of one million US \$ in gold have to compete in all meeting cities of the series (Oslo, June 6th; Rome, July 11th; Paris, July 18th; Zurich, August 29th, and Brussels, September 5th) – thus they have to start in Berlin. This year, athletes compete in these IAAF event disciplines: The men's 100m, 400m, 1500m and 400m hurdles, long jump and javelin; women will be starting over 200m, 800m, 100m hurdles and high jump. „In all of our entry lists for IAAF events, we have signed-on at least one star who has to try to dominate and win in highly competitive fields,“ says Gerhard Janetzky. „We are looking forward to stunning and dramatic competitions: It will be decided today, in Berlin, who may win the season's race for gold.“ Some of the strongest hopefuls and possible jackpot contenders are hurdle sprinter **Susanna Kallur** (SWE), high jump star **Blanka Vlasic** (CRO), 800m athlete **Janeth Jepkosgei** (KEN), the American 400m runner **Jeremy Wariner**, the two javelin throwers **Andreas Thorkildsen** (NOR) und **Tero Pikämäki** (FIN), as well as long jumper **Irving Saladino** (PAN).

### German athletes in eight DKB-ISTAF meeting events

In addition, the meeting will stage its very own, eight promotion events, which will present both international athletes, but also showcase a strong presence of German top athletes. Men will be competing in 800m, 5000m, 110m hurdles, discus and pole vault, women will be starting over 100m, 400m and 5000m. Stars include the discus thrower and Berlin top athlete **Robert Harting**, the shooting star of Germany's high jumper scene, **Ariane Friedrich**, up-and-coming hurdle sprinter **Caroline Nytra**, 5000m runner **Sabrina Mockenhaupt**, sprinter **Tobias Unger**, the Berlin-based 1500m athlete **Carsten Schlangen**, as well as hurdle sprinter **Thomas Blaschek**. Many German athletes, including Thomas Blaschek, Caroline Nytra and some German pole vaulters, have announced to crack their respective qualifying norms of the German Athletics Federation DLV for their start at the Olympic Games in Berlin.

### Event highlights from 18 disciplines

In the meeting's men **100m sprint**, some of today's fastest sprinters will hit the track. Star of this event is indoor Vice-World Champion **Kim Collins** from the tiny Caribbean islands of St. Kitts & Nevis. The 100m World Champion of 2003 will certainly show his regained strength here and position himself strongly for Beijing. At the Indoor World Championship in Valencia, in early March, the Caribbean star took home silver (6,54 sec.), even though he could have finished much stronger. Additional suspense is added to the race by **Derrick Atkins** (BAH): Atkins, the 2007 Osaka WCh Silver medalist (9,91 sec.) has announced to crack the DKB-ISTAF meeting record of 9,86 sec., currently owned by Maurice Greene (2000) and Asafa Powell (2006). If Derrick Atkins should succeed, he will be awarded an additional 20,000 US \$. The 24-year-old started this year's outdoor season in late April, when he finished with a formidable 10,07 sec. in the US (Berkely). The entry list is completed by three other, currently quite fast-running athletes, **Churandy Martina** (AHO); with a time of 10 sec., he is currently Number 3 on the world's top list and will have to defend himself just as **Marlon Devonish** and **Michael Frater** (JAM). Martina (24) is a strong young talent from the Dutch Antilles, and has shown very good performances in past years, such as during the WCh in Osaka 2007, when he came in 5th, closely followed by Marlon Devonish, the Indoor World Champion over 60m (Birmingham, 2003). German sprint talent **Tobias Unger** will certainly show a top performance in this entry list; fully rested



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## Press Release

and in top form after a DLV training camp in Portugal, he will compete in his first outdoor race this season.

In the men's **400m race**, international super star **Jeremy Wariner** (USA) might be the first athlete out on the hunt for the gold – he knows how to get the jackpot, as he had taken home his share of gold two years ago. Ever since his gold medal in the 2004 Olympic Games, the American seems to be unstoppable; with a time of 43,45 seconds, he is currently the third-fastest 400m runner of all times – and he has been undefeated for nine races now. But two of his contenders and fellow countrymen seem not to be overly impressed: Both **Angelo Taylor** and **LaShawn Merritt** have announced to attack the champ. Merritt can be certain to have Wariner taken by surprise already, as the 21-year-old is currently ranked number one on the world's top list (44,34 seconds). For the first time, Wariner might be in for a tough fight in order to win. The entry list will be completed by, among others, a fast European, **Johan Wissmann** (SWE), the two Caribbean stars **Chris Brown** (BAH) and **Ricardo Chambers** (JAM), as well as German athlete **Florian Seitz**.

The men's **800m race** is likely to be dominated by South African **Mbulaeni Mulaudzi**, the Indoor WCh Valencia 2008 silver medalist. However, he will have to run in a rather strong field of Kenyan runners.

The men's **1500m race** will see many African athletes as well: Kenyan **Daniel Kipchirchir Komen** got his second silver medal in Valencia and will enjoy his 2008 outdoor premiere in Berlin. Two serious competitors are the world's number one ranked 3000m athlete, **Augustine Choge** (KEN), and **Shadrack Korir** (WCh bronze 2007) from Kenya, who both will certainly try to dominate the race as well. **Adbelaati Iguidir** (MAR) may just be 21 years old, but after two medals at the Junior World Championships he already might have his mind set to becoming a second Hicham El Guerrouj one day. Last but not least, Berlin 1500m athlete **Carsten Schlangen**, who enjoyed his DKB-ISTAF premiere in 2007, will be competing as well. Just a couple of days ago, Schlangen managed to run a new 1000m world's best (2:17:44 min) in Königs-Wusterhausen, thus presenting the meeting with a new meet record and the 2008 national lead time.

Equally impressive is the entry list for the men's **5000m**, the meeting's longest distance: Nine of the 20 athletes competing have already cracked the magic 13-minutes-boundary. The focus, however, will be on **Tariku Bekele** (ETH), the Indoor World Champion over 3000m, who has to re-affirm his position in the face of some very fast Kenyans. Among these is **Edwin Soi** (KEN), a cross running specialist with a 5000m PB of 12:52,40 minutes (2006) and 3000m Indoor WCh fourth-ranked (7:49.96 min.); he certainly would like to take up a re-match in Berlin, as his distance to Bekele was a little more than just a second. Another contender for a win in Berlin is **Longosiwa Thomas Pkemei** (KEN), who mastered the distance at the 2007 IAAF Grand Prix Meeting in Brussels with a grand PB of 12:51,95 minutes, securing himself rank 5 on the world's top list. Among the Kenyan entries is also 10,000m WCh bronze medalist of 2005 **Moses Mosop** (KEN), who has succeeded with a PB of 12:54,46 minutes in 2006. Last year's season ended with a 13:07,89 minutes for him. Finally, **Bernard Kipyego** (KEN) is joining the field as yet another cross running specialist (2007 bronze Cross WCh), his 2007 outdoor season ended with a 13:13,40 minutes.

The Ethiopian contenders are two runners, who should certainly not be underestimated. One of the toughest runners of them all, as mentioned above, is **Tariku Bekele** (ETH) – the younger brother of Keninisa Bekele, who ran the 5000m in 2006 in an amazing 12:53,81 minutes (PB). And just on this past weekend, Keninisa ran the new world lead of 12:58, 94 minutes in Hengelo; naturally, his "little brother" would love to beat the older one at the DKB-ISTAF, and even takes the stakes higher by also attacking the meeting record set by Haile Gebrselassie with 12:53,19 minutes in 1995. Should Tariku succeed, he would receive another award of 10,000 US \$. The WCh 2007 number five and currently number 8 on the world's top list (13:01,60 min) is



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Niederlassung Berlin



## Press Release

also the current 3000m Indoor World Champion (7:48,23 min.) and obviously in top form. The fast race in Berlin is also supported by his countryman **Abreham Cherkos Feleke** (ETH), a 5000m specialist (PB 12:54,19 min. in 2006), who finished on the eighth rank in Osaka last year, but who then turned out a success in Valencia, winning bronze with a result of 7:49,96 minutes. The four Ethiopians will be joined by **Terefe Zwedie Maregu** (ETH) and the up-and-coming youngster **Ayele Abshiro** (ETH). Last but not least, the list would not be complete without **Moses Kipsiro** (UGA), who ranked as number three on the 2007 world's top list (12:50,72 min. PB). Finally, **James Kwalia** (QAT), the number 9 of the Indoor WCh (5000m PB 12:54,58 min), who finished the 3000m in May in Doha (Qatar) in just 7:50,76 minutes, should not be underestimated either.

One of the DKB-ISTAF most popular events, the **110m hurdles sprint** will be staged as a meeting promotion discipline, certainly presenting a speedy race. The speed is set by Cuban **Dayron Robles**: The Indoor WCh silver medalist of 2006 (Moscow) won the IAAF World Athletics Final in Stuttgart in 2007 with a stunning 12,92 seconds – his personal best. Another international top contender might be right behind him: One of the strongest athletes in the race is American **David Oliver**, who finished fourth in the 2007 WCh in Osaka and turned out the Indoor World Champion in Valencia. He began the season in May in Doha (Qatar) with a PB of 12,95 seconds and will certainly deliver a highly explosive race against Robles: One shouldn't forget that 26-year-old Oliver was only the eleventh athlete ever to crack the 13-seconds-frontier, missing the world record by just a seven hundredth!

For the Berlin audience, however, another athlete will be in the spotlight: Germany's top hurdle sprinter **Thomas Blaschek**. The European Vice-Champion of 2006 and fifth-ranked of this year's Indoor World Championship in Valencia delivered the best result of the German team and might be up to crack the German Athletics' Federation's qualifying norm for the Olympic Games. The entry list is completed, among others, by the 27-year-old US Champion of 2003, **Ryan Wilson**, whose PB in 2007 was set at 13,02 seconds. In May this year, he started the season with a solid 13,28 seconds in Fort-de-France (Martinique).

The **400m hurdles race** presents US hurdle sprinter and WCh bronze medalist 2007 (400m) and „Golden Boy“ of the American 4x400 relay team, **Angelo Taylor**, who would like to present his competitors with two strong races, both in the 400m run and the 400m hurdles. Two usually quite strong Europeans will nevertheless try to dominate the race: Since 2001, **Marek Plawgo** (POL) and **Periklís Iakovakis** (GRE) have run times around 48 seconds. Plawgo, the 27-year-old Polish national champion, as well as the national 400m hurdles record holder and European Championship's silver medalist (2006; 48:71 sec.), took home a bronze medalist in Osaka 2007 (48,12 sec.). But Periklís Iakovakis, too, will certainly attack his competitors; the 29-year-old Greek Champion (also holding the Greek record of 47,82 sec.) looks back on a stunning 400m hurdles career: In 2003, at the World Championship in Paris, he finished third (48,18 sec.) and later became the 2006 European Champion – ahead of Plawgo (48,71 sec.). Finally, in Osaka, he managed to finish on rank six (49,25 sec.). This year's 400m hurdle race would not be complete without American top hurdler **James Carter** (USA), ranked number 4 in Osaka (48,40 sec.) – a dangerous contender for the trio of Taylor-Plawgo-Iakovakis.

One of the DKB-ISTAF's most powerful competitions will be men's **long jump** – thanks to one top athlete from South America, 25-year-old **Irving Saladino** (PAN). Since the Indoor World Championship in 2006 (Moscow), where he won a silver medal with 8,29 meters, the career of this jumper has been going up and beyond. His latest strike on stardom has been a 8,73 m jump in Hengelo just a week ago! His breakthrough to stardom, however, was in 2007 in Osaka, where he won the World Championship with an amazing 8,57 meters (his PB). Saladino had already tried to crack the jackpot two years ago, but in the end only won five meetings of the Golden League, nevertheless securing a share of the „small“ jackpot. One of his major



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Niederlassung Berlin



## Press Release

opponents this Sunday is the Olympic gold medalist of 2004 and WCh-bronze medalist of Osaka 2007, **Dwight Phillips**: The 31-year-old is right high up there on the world's top list and jumped 8,24 meters just in this past April. Another big name on the entry list is 28-year-old **Miguel Pate** (USA), who jumped 8,18 m in Baton Rouge and who could regain his former strength from 2007, when he became Vice national champion of the US (8,24 m). Good as ever for a surprise is Jamaican **James Beckford**, the 33-year-old of the WCh in Osaka 2007 made it to the sixth rank (8,17 m) there. In addition, South African long jump hope and newcomer **Godfrey Khotso Mokoena** (RSA), who presented his colleagues with a surprise 8,08 meters in Valencia, could be in for yet another surprise hit.

The classic, almost legendary fight between the world's two top **javelin throwers** will be continued in Berlin, between Norwegian **Andreas Thorkildsen** and **Tero Pitkämäki** from Finland. For both men, this is a fight for gold, though – in the ÄF Golden League and in Beijing. The duel between the two will gain a special momentum, as Pitkämäki and Thorkildsen not only fought for WCh gold in Osaka (in the end, the Norwegian had to take home silver), but also for the jackpot of the Golden League: Pitkämäki was in for a win of the series, as he decided both Oslo and Paris for him, moving closer to winning the jackpot. But Thorkildsen triumphed in Rome and Zurich – and even though Pitkämäki was able to take his turn in Brussels and Rome, he had lost his share of the jackpot, as he only had four wins in total.

A surprise for both of them could be a rather strong **Vadims Vasilevskis**: Last summer, he set a new national record in Estonian Tallinn (90,73 meters) and thus ended the season as the world's third-ranked javelin thrower.

A world-class **discus competition** will certainly be presented by Berlin star and WCh silver medalist of 2007 **Robert Harting**. The 24-year-old has to affirm himself in a field with three medalists from Osaka and will try to position himself for Beijing. With a total of 36 throws farther than 67 meters, the DKB-ISTAF – along with the meeting in Lithuanian Kaunas, the world's leading discus meeting. The formidable entry list for this Sunday will certainly strengthen this position. And the DKB-ISTAF competition will certainly generate results above 67 meters. Among the contenders are **Virgilius Alekna** (LTV), the 2004 Olympic gold medalist and World Champ of 2005, who will certainly make clear his aspiration for gold in Beijing. Last year, in Osaka, he had to settle for a fourth rank, though, so for 2008, his ambitions might be much stronger than anticipated. He will certainly pick up on his re-matches with **Gerd Kanter** (EST) for the top rank in this year's world's top list – both are just about 63 centimeters apart (Kanter: 71,88m / Alekna: 71.25m), so a head-to-head duel can be expected for Berlin. Naturally, Alekna still has to settle an old issue: His Estonian competitor took the WCh gold medal in Osaka.

The surprise winner of the IAAF Grand Prix Meeting in Hengelo, **Ehsan Hadadi** (IRI), has also been signed-on for Berlin. Competing in Hengelo, he had delegated both Alekna and Kanter on ranks 2 and 3 (with a result of 68,52 meters). In addition, the Dutch contender **Rutger Smith**, WCh bronze medalist in Osaka, might be trying to dominate the fight vis-à-vis the two Scandinavians. Finally, another German, **Michael Möllenbeck**, is taking part as well; he is still missing out on a second qualifying throw for his ticket to Beijing, so he might be cracking the 64,50 meters on Sunday. The discus entry list is completed by some other international top athletes, such as **Piotr Malechowski** (POL), **Mario Pestano** (ESP), as well as **Frantz Kruger** (FIN), and **Omar Ahmed El Ghazaly** (EGY).

A particularly strong German presence is traditionally found in the **men's pole vault event**. With six outstanding athletes competing on Sunday, this year is no exception, led by the trio of Otto-Ecker-Lobinger. 30-year-old **Björn Otto**, (WCh 2007 ranked fifth), who finished the 2007 season with a PB of 5,90 meters has started this year with 5,70 meters. Similar heights are currently reached by the Indoor European Champion of 2007, **Danny Ecker**, who mastered a 5,87 meters last year (currently,



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Niederlassung Berlin



## Press Release

he stands at 5,70 m). The 2007 WCh eighth-ranked **Tim Lobinger**, ended 2007 with 5,83 meters; as a member of the "six meter jumpers' club", he started out in 2008 with a mere 5,70 meters (indoor: 5,81 m) after he had finished eighth in Osaka and leaving the 2007 season with at 5,83 meter. **Alexander Straub**, **Richard Spiegelburg** and **Fabian Schulze** complete the field. Lobinger, Ecker and Spiegelburg already have their ticket to Beijing, but the rest of the group still has to fight for it. Their main competitor is going to be the current WCh silver medalist **Romain Mesnil** (FRA), who finished his 2007 outdoor season in Osaka at 5,96 meters (indoor result 2008 so far: 5,70). The 30-year-old is constantly jumping heights around 5,80 m and more outdoors, and for ten years now, he has proven to have quite a solid routine in competing on these levels. A Russian athlete, **Evgeniy Lukanenko**, the current Indoor World Champion, will also take part in the competition.

### Highlights of Women's Competitions

The **women's 200m sprint**, one of the ten official IAAF Golden League events, promises to stage a fast-paced race on a top-world level, including Belgian **Kim Gevaert**, the double European Champion over 100 meters (11,06 sec.) and 200 meters (22,68 sec.) of 2006. The current national record holder thus far has a SB of 11,05 sec. for the 100 meters and has shown a very good strength. Her main competitor is going to be **Muriel Hurtis** (FRA), the 2003 WCh bronze medalist, who is setting her stage for Beijing already. Both European women will be chased by two Caribbean sprint ladies, **Kerron Stewart** (JAM) and **Sherone Simson**. Kerron Stewart, in particular, will hunt the Europeans, as the current third-fastest 200m sprinter (22,35 sec.) might be out to strike for a win in this race. Sherone Simpson, the 2006 world's fastest sprinter, had to bail out of competitions due to injuries, but after a strong 100m race performance in Doha (Qatar) in the beginning of this outdoor season, she might celebrate her final comeback in Berlin.

The women's **800m race** presents yet another possible jackpot contender, **Janeth Jepkosgei** (KEN): She seems to have locked in on the jackpot, that is – and she does have a realistic chance of winning her share. The 2007 World Champion will premier in this outdoor season in Berlin; and one of her toughest competitors to beat is Australian **Tamsyn Lewis** (29), who surprised by winning gold at the Indoor WCh in Valencia. **Kenia Sinclair** (JAM) has always shown considerable strength and could celebrate a comeback in Berlin; **Svetlana Klyuka** (RUS) and Indoor WCh silver medalist **Tetyana Petlyuk** (UKR) will complete the entry list.

The women's **5000m race** will be closely watched by the German audience, as local hero **Sabrina Mockenhaupt**, has to affirm herself against a rather strong entry list of Kenyan runners – possibly a pre-olympic event.

Three women from Jamaica, two US athletes, two from Europe and one Australian are on the entry list for the women's **100m hurdles sprint**: This is certainly promising a fast-paced competition in one of the ten official IAAF Golden League disciplines, showcasing some of the world's top hurdlers. For Swedish star **Susanne Kallur**, one of the most likely jackpot contenders, the meeting could turn out to be the medal form test for the Olympic Games. In 2007, she had already dominated the Berlin with a fast 12,49 seconds (PB) and already started 2008 quite strongly with a new world record of 7,68 seconds in the 60m hurdles race (24. Karlsruhe Indoor Meeting). However, one month later, she had to leave out Valencia due to an injury and had to watch her competitors taking home medals.

The dominance of a Susanne Kallur will certainly be challenged by the current number 2 and WCh bronze medalist of 2007 (12,50 sec., PB), **Delloreen Ennis-London** (JAM). She, too, has high hopes for a medal in Beijing, as her seasonal debut 2008 showed in Fort-de-France (Martinique), where she finished with a solid 12,54 seconds. Another athlete in top form is **Brigitte Foster-Hylton** (JAM): The 2004 Olympic gold medalist and WCh bronze medalist of 2005 started with a strong



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Niederlassung Berlin



## Press Release

12,56 sec. into the Olympic season and is currently number 3 on the world's top list. Last but not least, **Lolo Jones** (USA) also showed very good results and a surprise win of the Indoor WCh in Valencia (7,80 sec.). The currently number 6th-ranked athlete made her outdoor seasonal debut in Doha (Qatar) with 12,65 seconds. Followed by **Kellie Wells** (USA), the number 7, the shooting star delivered a surprise, but powerful performance in May in Baie Mahault (Guadeloupe) and Ponce (Puerto Rico) with a convincing 12,71 seconds. Equally important is **Vonette Dixon** (JAM), ranked among the top twenty (12,75 sec.) and number seven in the finish of the WCh 2007 (PB: 12,64 sec.).

In addition, there is one German athlete to look out for – **Caroline Nytra**, who will try to crack the German qualifying norm for the Olympic Games. The 23-year-old athlete from Hamburg and national German Champion 2007 just barely missed the required norm a week ago in Rehlingen, when finished with 12,93 sec. Another European contender is Spanish hurdler **Josephine Onyia**, the current number 4 on the world's top list, who has just managed to improve her PB to 12,64 in her hometown Valencia this past May. The start list is rounded off by the national Australian champion **Sally McLellan**, currently with a PB of 12,82 sec. which she delivered in Osaka.

In the women's **high jump**, Croatian **Blanka Vlasic** might deliver a performance worthy of Olympic Games. The 25-year-old started this outdoor season with a strong 2,03 meters in early May in Doha, only four centimeters short of her PB of 2007. The Indoor World Champ of 2008 and World Champion of 2007 even might go straightforward to 2,06 or even 2,10m in Berlin – just the way she did it last year. The number one of the world's top list will be faced by some of the world's top athletes, though, giving her a taste of the Olympic Games: The lead might be taken by the Indoor WCh bronze medalist **Vita Palamar** (UKR), who already jumped a 2,01 meters this season, or by **Nicole Forrester** (CAN), with a PB of „only“ 1,97 meters, but nevertheless holding on to one of the top ranks on the world list. Some other quite strong athletes competing on Sunday are **Marina Aitova** (KAZ) und **Tatyana Kivimiyagi** (RUS), the latter might pose a serious threat to Blanka (1,98 m PB for the Russian). Swedish athletes **Emma Green** and Italian **Antonietta Di Martino** will complete the entry list, which also has newcomer and German talent **Ariane Friedrich**, who has been competing at the DKB-ISTAF in two last years.

### Partnership with Stadionfest Königs-Wusterhausen continues

The long-standing partnership with the Stadionfest in Königs-Wusterhausen (a city southeast of Berlin), one of the most traditional track-and-field events in Germany, will be continued: The winners of several disciplines, men's discus and 110m hurdles, as well as women's 800m and high jump, will be admitted on Wildcards to the DKB-ISTAF Berlin on Sunday, thus giving young German talents the opportunity to compete on an international level.

**Tickets für the DKB-ISTAF can be purchased at all ticket outlets or by phone at 030/4430 4430 and online at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de).**

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## Press Release

### Top athletes start their races for gold at the first ÅF Golden League meeting station: The Olympic Stadium Berlin.

For the first time, the Internationales Stadionfest on June 1st 2008 opens international track-and-field's premier event series, the ÅF Golden League.

*Berlin, May 31st 2008*

With the first meeting of the ÅF Golden League in Berlin on June 1st 2008 and the following meetings of the series in Oslo (June 6th), Rome (July 11th), Paris (July 18th), Zurich (August 29th), and Brussels (September 5th), the premiums series of international athletics once again promises stunning competitions revolving on the jackpot filled with one million US \$ in gold. **All athletes who want to fight for a share of the gold, have to start at the opening meeting in Berlin:** Only those athletes who have competed in all six meetings and have won in their respective discipline can hope for gold. If no athlete should win all six meetings, then all those contenders who have been successful in five meetings, will share half of the original jackpot, i.e. 500,000 US \$..

The ten official IAAF event disciplines of the series are men's 100m, 400m, 1500m, 400m hurdles, as well as long jump and javelin. Women will start in 200m, 800m, 100m hurdles spring and high jump.

There are some top athletes who are more likely to win five or even six meetings; in some cases, these contenders have already proven their strength in the two last years, when they had been out for the gold as well:

**Susanna Kallur (SWE):** For Swedish star **Susanne Kallur** the meeting could turn out to be the medal form test for the Olympic Games. In 2007, she had already dominated the Berlin with a fast 12,49 seconds (PB) and already started 2008 quite strongly with a new world record of 7,68 seconds in the 60m hurdles race (24. Karlsruhe Indoor Meeting). However, one month later, she had to leave out Valencia due to an injury and had to watch her competitors taking home medals. On Sunday, she will face a tough competition from the current top list's number 2 and 3, Delloreen Ennis-London und Brigitte Foster-Hylton. In 2007, by the way, Kallur didn't win all of the six meeting, but only managed to gain strength in the second part of the series, finishing with three wins – too few to get a share of the gold.

**Blanka Vlasic (CRO):** The Croatian might deliver a performance worthy of Olympic Games. The 25-year-old started this outdoor season with a strong 2,03 meters in early May in Doha, only four centimeters short of her PB of 2007. The Indoor World Champ of 2008 and World Champion of 2007 even might go straightforward to 2,06 or even 2,10m in Berlin – just the way she did it last year. The number one of the world's top list will be faces by some of the world's top athletes, though, giving her a taste of the Olympic Games:

**Jeremy Wariner (USA):** Two years ago, the 24-year-older „phantom“ 400m racer from Texas was able to secure his share of gold, winning a total of six meetings – he simply ran considerably faster than all of his competitors. This year, too, see the current number 2 on the world's top list as a highly realistic contender; being an Olympic gold medalist (2004) and World Champion (Osaka 2007), he has proven more than once, that he doesn't have to be afraid of any real rival – that is, probably of LaShawn Merritt (USA), the current number 1 on the world's top list.

**Irving Saladino (PAN):** The 25-year-old World Champion had tried to bust the jackpot two years ago; in the end, he managed to win five meets of the Golden League, thus receiving a share of 500,000 US \$. This year, he will certainly try, to win the whole



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Niederlassung Berlin





# Press Release

series and to start the season with re-affirming his medal aspirations for Beijing. Small wonder, that is, as if he competes as strongly as in Hengelo a week ago (jumping a 8,73 m there, his new PB), he might be up for the task.

**Andreas Thorkildsen (NOR) and Tero Pitkämäki (FIN):** The classic, almost legendary fight between the world's two top javelin throwers will be continued in Berlin, between Norwegian Andreas Thorkildsen and Tero Pitkämäki from Finland. For both men, this is a fight for gold, though – in the ÅF Golden League and in Beijing. The duel between the two will gain a special momentum, as Pitkämäki and Thorkildsen not only fought for WCh gold in Osaka (in the end, the Norwegian had to take home silver), but also for the jackpot of the Golden League: Pitkämäki was in for a win of the series, as he decided both Oslo and Paris for him, moving closer to winning the jackpot. But Thorkildsen triumphed in Rome and Zurich – and even though Pitkämäki was able to take his turn in Brussels and Rome, he had lost his share of the jackpot, as he only had four wins in total.

In 2008, the ÅF Golden League of the IAAF will be sponsored by a new title sponsor, the Swedish technology and services corporation ÅF. The company is operating in 15 countries and has 4,000 employees – including Swedish hurdle sprinter and olympic hopeful Susanna Kallur.

Past jackpot winners have been „magic“ runner Hicham El Guerrouj, hurdles runner Felix Sanchez (DOM), the Swedish triple jump star Christian Olsson, the Caribbean 400m runner Tonique Darling-Williams (BAH) 2004, as well as two ladies all by themselves: In 2003, 800m runner Maria Mutola (MOZ), and in 2005 Russian triple jumper Tatjana Lebedeva. In 2007, American 400m runner Sanya Richards and the Russian pole vault star Yelena Isinbayeva shared the gold. Since 1998, a total of 28 different athletes have won their shares of the jackpot, twelve men, including Hicham El Guerrouj with four wins, and 16 women:

## 1998

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Haile Gebrselassie (ETH)  
Marion Jones (USA)

## 1999

Wilson Kipketer (DEN)  
Gabriela Szabo (ROM)

## 2000

Gail Devers (USA)  
Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Maurice Greene (USA)  
Trine Hattestad (NOR)  
Tatjana Kotowa (RUS)

## 2001

André Bucher (SUI)  
Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Allen Johnson (USA)  
Violeta Szekely (ROM)  
Olga Jegorowa (RUS)

## 2002

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Ana Guevara (MEX)  
Marion Jones (USA)  
Felix Sanchez (DOM)



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# Press Release

2003

Maria Mutola (MOZ)

2004

Tonique Darling-Williams (BAH)

Christian Olsson (SWE)

2005

Tatjana Lebedeva (RUS)

2006 (Doppeljackpot)

Kenenisa Bekele (ETH)

Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH)

Asafa Powell (JAM)

Sanya Richards (USA)

Irving Saladino (PAN)

Jeremy Wariner (USA)

2007

Sanya Richards (USA)

Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS)



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## DKB-ISTAF, The World's One-Day Meeting with the Largest Audience, Presents Stunning Finale in the Race for the IAAF Golden League Jackpot 2007.

DKB-ISTAF once again final meeting of the IAAF Golden League, showing the dramatic finale of the race for the premium's series jackpot /13 World Champions and 23 WCh medallists signed-on for the meeting in Berlin's Olympic Stadium / Celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> jubilee anniversary, the Berlin meeting welcomes 70,000 fans in a sold-out Olympic Stadium / Olympic Stadium also presents former track-and-field top stars from seven decades .

*Berlin, September, 15<sup>th</sup> 2007*

Two stunning competitions for the grand finale in the race for the IAAF Golden Jackpot and its one million US \$ in gold, thrilling head-to-head fights and rematches between World Champions from Osaka and international top athletes, track-and-field stars representing seven decades of ISTAF history, and a sold-out stadium celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> jubilee anniversary of the DKB-ISTAF with a total of 70,000 fans: This year's Internationales Stadionfest, the 67<sup>th</sup> edition of DKB-ISTAF, will present a world-class athletics event in Berlin's Olympic Stadium. In total, 220 athletes representing 41 countries will compete in 18 disciplines, including 13 new World Champions of the World Championships in Osaka and another 22 World Championship silver- and bronze medallists. In addition, there will be athletes with nine relays' gold and seven other relay medals earned in Osaka. Additional international and German top athletes (including one world record holder, four European record holder and five Olympic gold medallists 2004) will complete the meeting's entry list, considered to be one of the strongest in the history of the traditional, leading German meeting, starting fields that the German audience can only enjoy on these levels at the DKB-ISTAF. Among the athletes will also be 22 German athletes, including eleven German National Champions such as Steffi Nerius, Christina Obergföll, Danny Ecker, Silke Spiegelburg, Thomas Blaschek, and Carsten Schlangen, who are given the rare opportunity in Germany, to compete against the international elite of their respective disciplines. But the premier highlight will be the race for the one million US \$ gold jackpot: After five of the total of six IAAF Golden League Meetings in Oslo, Paris, Rome, Zurich, and Brussels (which took place just this past Friday), only two athletes are still in the race for the jackpot: 400m runner **Sanya Richards** (USA) and pole vault jumper **Yelena Isinbayeva** (RUS). Additional highlights of the competitions are promised by the announcements of various athletes to break a world, national or meeting record at the meeting. With weather forecasts predicting amiable temperatures between 18 and 21 degrees Celsius (65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit), smooth winds and cloudy skies, conditions for the competitions should be picture-perfect.

"At the occasion of its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the DKB-ISTAF offers head-to-head-fights and rematches involving World Champions and World Championship medallists on a world-class level in all disciplines," announced Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of DKB-ISTAF/LVG GmbH, today in Berlin, at the presentation of the final entry lists. "Naturally, the highlight will be the stunning decision about the IAAF Golden League jackpot: Today, in Berlin, we will have the grand finale with the female athletes duo striking to succeed. We have also put together an outstanding entry list of athletes that is more than adequately representing Berlin as the host city for the World Championships 2009. Being the by far largest German meeting and the world's one-day-meeting with the largest stadium audience, we will present Berlin as host city 2009 to the stadium and TV audiences around the world. We show how to inspire people for track-and-field and to fill one Europe's largest stadiums. The images of our competitions on and around the unique blue track of the Olympic Stadium will travel around the world."



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With record sales of 70,000 tickets, the Olympic Stadium (which has 4000 seats less at track-end-field events compared to the total capacity of 74,000 for soccer games, due to technical reasons), has been sold-out. In its 70<sup>th</sup> jubilee anniversary year, the meeting has thus set a new record in audience numbers only topped by the first meeting on August 1<sup>st</sup> 1937, when a crowd of 85,000 showed up in a (back then much larger) Olympic Stadium. The 2007 audience record also means a record for the six meetings of the IAAF Golden League and raises the hopes for a successful 2009 World Championship in Berlin.

The DKB-ISTAF will open its gates at 12 p.m., starting with the traditional relays competed by students from Berlin and Brandenburg, as well as the final of 50m "Germany's next super sprinter". Main competitions will be starting at 1 p.m. The DKB-ISTAF will be broadcast live in German TV by ZDF between 4 and 5 p.m., as well as by Germany's leading pay-tv channel Premiere. The meeting will be broadcast in 180 countries around the world.

### Happy Birthday: The DKB-ISTAF "Club 70"

This year, the DKB-ISTAF celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> jubilee anniversary – the first Stadionfest took place on August, 1<sup>st</sup> 1937, at a historic site, the back newly inaugurated Berlin Olympic Stadium. At the occasion of the meeting's anniversary (making it one of the oldest in world), the organizers invited all former athletes to Berlin. Among the 350 former athletes, who have confirmed their visits to Berlin, are long-time favorites with the Berlin audience, such as legendary pole vaulter and Senior IAAF Vice-President **Sergey Bubka** and many more. For the Stadionfest, it is a particular pleasure to welcome the oldest living athlete who competed at the Stadionfest, 93-year-old **Erika Rahn-Kaun**, (also bronze medalist women's high jump, Olympic Games, Berlin 1936) as well as **Elfriede Borchardt** (born Biess) (75m-winner, Stadionfest 1939). Other guests of honor include legendary **Rosemarie Ackermann** (the first woman ever to tackle high jump's magic 2 meters mark, Stadionfest 1977), 400m hurdle star **Edwin Moses**, long jump ladies **Heide Ecker-Rosendahl** and **Heike Drechsler**, and many more, who are looking forward to revisiting „their“ Olympic Stadium and be re-united with the enthusiastic Berlin audience.

### Men's blind relay team to compete against women's relay team of WCh 2007

A special highlight in the pre-program will be a head-to-head race: The German national blind men's relay team will be competing against the German national 4x100m women's relay team of the final 4x100 competition of the World Championships in Osaka. Both teams usually show similar results hovering around 44 sec. The audience can expect a stunning performance: "We present this particular competition to showcase the increasing approach between 'handicapped' and 'regular' athletics", said Gerhard Janetzky. The German women's relay team with Katja Wakan, Cathleen Tschirch, Johanna Kedzierski and Verena Sailer came in seventh at Osaka (43,51 sec.)

### Women duo fights for IAAF Golden League Jackpot

At this stage, only two athletes, **Sanya Richards** (USA) and **Yelena Isinbayeva** (RUS), remain in the hunt for complete jackpot. World record holder Yelena Isinbayeva, who has won the World Championships for her second time in a row, proving her outstanding shape, could defend her share with some difficulties at the last meetings in Zurich and then Brussels just this past Friday. 400m runner Sanya Richards, who already busted the jackpot last year and evolved as one of the most popular athletes with the Berlin audience, has focused on the IAAF Golden League this year, compensating for her failed qualification for the World Championships. In all five meetings, Richards has dominated her discipline. At the Brussels meeting last night, she even managed to finish with a new world season's best with a time of 49,29 sec.

If neither Richards nor Isinbayeva is able to tackle the jackpot, the only remaining athlete eligible for the "small" jackpot of 500,000 US \$ is high jumper **Blanka Vlasic** (CRO). However, to remain in the race she has to win in her discipline at the DKB-ISTAF, too. In 2007, athletes are competing in ten official IAAF Golden League disciplines: Men will be starting over 100m, 1500m, as well as 110m hurdles, triple



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jump and javelin. Women compete over 100m, 400m, 100m hurdles, as well as high jump and pole vault. In addition, there will be eight DKB-ISTAF promotion events: Men's 200m, 400m, 400 hurdles and pole vault; and women's 200m, 1500m, as well as 5000m and javelin.

### Overview: Highlights in 18 disciplines

The highlights of this year's ten IAAF Golden League and the eight promotion DKB-ISTAF disciplines promise an outstanding meeting, as an overview of the entry lists and some highlights show.

In the **men's 100m sprint**, European Champion and European record holder, **Francis Obikwelu** (POR), has to stand up to a strong international field, presenting him with the opportunity to show his strength, which he could not do at the World Championships, where he was disqualified for a false start in the heats. His strongest rival is likely to be American shooting star **Leroy Dixon**, who defeated Asafa Powell in the final leg of the 4x100m relay in Osaka, securing gold for his team. Other top athletes in the race will be **Marc Burns** (TRI), who has a PB of 9,96 sec., British 4x100m relay bronze medallist **Marlon Devonish** and 22-two-year-old **Wallace Spearmon** (USA), who also competed in his nations 4x100 relay team in Osaka.

In the **men's 200m**, acting German 100m National Champion **Alexander Kosenko** has to assert himself against a formidable international starter field, including **Rodney Martin** (USA), **Marvin Anderson** (JAM), as well as **Joshua J. Johnson** (USA), whose PB is at 9,95 sec (2002).

With German new talent **Bastian Swillims** in the starter field, one of the strongest European athletes of his generation, the **400m** highlights a prominent German athlete. But pride of place, of course, goes to American 400m runner, acting World Champ **Jeremy Wariner**, who could take home his share of the IAAF Golden League jackpot last year and who is now determined to attack the world record set by his trainer, legendary Michael Johnson. Wariner's seasonal best currently stands at 43.45 sec., only 27<sup>th</sup> hundredth less than the world record of double-record holder (200m/400m) Johnson (1999, Seville, Spain). Thanks to the participation of the two fastest Europeans, **Johann Wissmann** (SWE) and **Leslie Djhone** (FRA) the 400m race will also be a competition between the "old" continent and the American front-runner – finally, it will also be a classic rematch situation for Osaka, where the two Europeans finished 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Not to be underestimated in this race is **Angelo Taylor** (USA), bronze medallist of the World Championships, and Canadian **Tyler Christopher**, who will complete this outstanding entry list including a total of five World Championship finalists for the Berlin meeting.

In the men's **1500m race**, US-star **Bernard Lagat** has announced to break his own US record, he had set in Rieti in 2005 (3:29:40). Lagat who was able to prove his outstanding strength in Osaka (he was the first athlete to win gold in both 1500m and 5000m), has to compete with **Craig Mottrom** (AUS), WCh bronze medallist of 2005, and 800m runner **Mbulaene Mulaudzi** (RSA) who will now start at 1500m for the first time. In the past years, Mottrom often showed his capability to surprise his rivals, i.e. during the spectacular head-to-head-fight at the World Cup in Athens in 2006 where Mottrom defeated Kenenisa Bekele in a spectacular 5000m race. Another decisive part could be played by WCh-third placed **Shedrack Kibet Korir** (KEN). With **Carsten Schlangen**, the German National Champion and newcomer yet another German athlete has to prove his strengths in an international field of starters.

One of the traditionally most popular DKB-ISTAF competitions, the 110m hurdles sprint, promises to be equally exciting: With WCh bronze medallist **Daivide Payne** (USA), "Gentleman" hurdler and veteran top athlete, 36-year-old **Allen Johnson** (USA), who just celebrated a surprisingly strong comeback at the Zurich meeting with his SB of 13,23 sec., **Anwar Moore** (USA), an WCH finalists **Maurice Wignall** (JAM) and **Serhiy Demydyuk** (UKR) this sprint promises to be a fast-paced run. One other athlete, German **Thomas Blaschek**, will look ahead to this competition with anticipation, as he lost his race in the heats already and now can at enjoy a kind of smaller version of a WCh finale.



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In the **400m hurdles**, three top athletes will fight for the first ranks: Olympic gold medallist and Vice-World Champion **Felix Sanchez** (DOM), who, by the way, took home his share of gold in the 2002 race for the IAAF Golden League jackpot, will be competing for the first time in Berlin's revamped Olympic Stadium. Two of his main contenders in the race will be WCh bronze medallist **Marek Plawgo** (POL) and **James Carter** (USA), who missed the first three ranks in Osaka despite setting a new seasonal best for himself.

Men's **pole vault** event has been added as seventh promotion DKB-ISTAF discipline, bringing together the world's top athletes of high-flyers, literally speaking: With 26-year-old World Champion **Brad Walker** (USA) and Australian **Steve Hooker**, who surprisingly had left Osaka empty-handed, and the WCh third-placed **Danny Ecker** (GER), three outstanding talents will be joined in a breathtaking competition. Other German top pole vaulters include **Tim Lobinger**, **Björn Otto**, and newcomer, 23-year-old **Alexander Straub**. Lobinger, Walker and 39-year-old **Jeff Hartwig** (USA), probably the world's senior pole vaulter, are all members of the proud 6 meters club.

**Triple jump** can be rated as a top class event, even without Christian Olsson. The Internationales Stadionfest shows a competition between the three medallists of Osaka: Portuguese **Nelson Evora**, Brazilian **Jadel Greógrío**, (celebrating his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday) and US-American **Walter Davis**. The entry list will be completed by other finalists of the World Championships, such as **Aarik Wilson** (USA), **David Giralt** (CUB), **Alexander Martinez** (SUI), and **Aleksandr Petrenko** (RUS). Thus, the audience will witness a fascinating competition dominated by powerful head-to-head-fights and rematches.

A highly dramatic rematch is also expected in men's **javelin**. **Tero Pitkämäki** (FIN) who had been a contender for the "small" jackpot until the IAAF Golden League Meeting in Zurich nine days ago, was defeated there by his archrival and Vice-World Champion **Andreas Thorkildsen** (NOR). Also part of the fight was WCh bronze medallist **Breaux Greer** (USA): In Osaka and, more recently, in Zurich, the trio showed a turbulent competition. Additional suspense is promised by the participation of another five WCh finalists: **Aleksandr Ivanov** (RUS), **Igor Janik** (POL), **Tero Järvenpää** (FIN), **Guillermo Martinez** (CUB), and **Magnus Arvidsson** (SWE).

#### Highlights of DKB-ISTAF women's disciplines

Women's competitions became particular important due to the fact that the only two athletes remaining in the jackpot are female: **Sanya Richards** (400m) and **Yelena Isinbayeva** (pole vault).

In the **women's 100m sprint** Americans **Mikele Barber** and WCh relay gold medallist **Torri Edwards** will fight with French sprinter and European record holder Christine Arron. **Chandra Sturup** (BAH) and the WCh bronze medallist **Carmelita Jeter**, will be two other strong athletes who are likely trying to dominate the race. Of particular interest is the fight between Edwards, who had finished in Osaka surprisingly weak on the 4<sup>th</sup> rank, and Jeter: Both had less than a hundredth second between them!

Women's 200m race will show 100m World Champ 2005. **Lauryn Williams** (USA), who also took home a 4x100 gold medal for her country, and the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-ranked of the World Championships: Aleen Bailey (JAM), **LaShauntea Moore** (USA) and **Cydonie Mothersill** (CAY). A surprise could be the performance of **Muriel Hurtis-Houairi** (FRA) who currently has a seasonal best of 22,38 sec.

In Berlin's **400m race**, American **Sanya Richards** will compete with the entire world class that her discipline currently provides, especially with her archrival and new World Champion **Christine Ohuruogu** (GBR). As Sanya Richards missed her qualification for the World Championships, both athletes went head-to-head only once this season, at the IAAF Golden League meeting in Zurich. In Brussels, Richards turned out to be over stronger, delivering a new world lead (49,29 sec.). But



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Sanya Richards is forced to once again defend her share of the one million US \$ gold jackpot – in Berlin, she is going to be up against the 400m world elite. It certainly is going to be a tough race for her, as Vice-World Champion **Nicole Sanders** (GBR) and WCh bronze medallist **Novlene Williams** (JAM) will go after her. This powerful starting field will be completed by 400m hurdle World Champion **Jana Rawlinson** (AUS).

The women's **800m race**, too, promises to offer a top-level competition featuring the world's best runners. The DKB-ISTAF presents all athletes starting in the WCh final: World Champion **Janeth Jepkosgei** (KEN) doesn't only want to defend her top position in the world, but also wants to establish a new meeting record. The Kenyan runner who superiorly dominated the race of Zurich is certainly able to scratch at the current meeting record of 1:56:56 (Ana Fidelia Quirot, CUB, August, 21th 1987). Moreover, WCh silver medallist **Hasna Benhassi** (MAR), as well as WCh bronze medallist **Mayte Martínez** (ESP) will enforce a very fast race. Particular suspense might come from Vice-World Champion **Yelena Soboleva** (1500m) who will start in a 800m race for the first time. She already announced to go head to head with Jepkosgei.

The women's 5000 event will present quite an interesting entry list of athletes, including frontrunner **Vivian Cheruiyot** (KEN), who finished second in Osaka. However, she has to keep an eye on three other WCh finalists, **Meselech Melkamu** (QAT), ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in Osaka, and **Jennifer Rhines** (USA), ranked 7<sup>th</sup> at the WCh, and, last but not least, Italian **Silvia Weissteiner**, who just came in 12<sup>th</sup> in Osaka, but nevertheless managed to run her personal best in Japan.

American **100m hurdle sprinter Michelle Perry**, ranked number one in the world, who was able to defend her title as World Champion in Osaka with a time of 12.46 sec., will now go once again head-to-head with her toughest rivals, Canadian **Perdita Felicien** (12.49 sec.) and **Delloreen Ennis-London** (12.50) from Jamaica, whom she was able to delegate to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranks, respectively. The current world's number 2, **Virginia Powell** (USA), could turn out to be another threat, given her time of 12.45 sec. However, she came in only on the fifth rank, but now might try to finish among the first three and attack Michelle Perry directly. In addition to these four athletes, the only European hurdles sprint star and European Champion of Gothenburg 2006, **Susanna Kallur** (SWE), who already has started several times at the DKB-ISTAF, as well as **Lolo Jones** (USA), **Vonette Dixon** (JAM) and Canadian **Angela Whyte**, will be on the entry list of this race. In the competition of the Berlin meet, Perry might go for Kallur, whose wins have bumped the American frontrunner from the race for the "small" jackpot, first in Zurich, and then again in Brussels.

In **high jump**, super star **Blanka Vlasic** (CRO) will try to tackle the world record by raising the bar to 2,10 metres. If she fails at breaking the world record, she could still succeed in winning a new meeting record, which was set by South African high jumper Hestrie Cloete four years ago with 2,05 metres. Should Vlasic's attempt at the world record turn out to be successful, she would add another record to the total of 15 world records set at the Internationales Stadionfest and write some history in the host city of the XIIth. IAAF World Championships 2009 in Berlin – a city which has also seen legendary Rosemarie Ackermann jumping the magic 2 metres mark at the 1977 edition of Internationales Stadionfest as the first woman in the world.

The women's high jump world record currently stands at 2,09 metres (1987, set by Bulgarian Stefka Kostadinova). The chances for a world record do look quite promising. In the past months, Blanka Vlasic has already tip-toed around the 2,10 metres. In May, she tried to set a new world record by having the bar raised to 2,10 metres – but did not manage to pull it off in her three attempts. In four subsequent meetings and the World Championship - Madrid, Thessaloniki, Osaka, the IAAF Golden League Meetings Zurich and Brussels, she always had the bar set to 2,10 metres.

All she actually needs, are another three centimetres, because her personal best currently stands at 2,07 metres (August 7th 2007, Stockholm), and in Osaka, she took home gold with a height of 2,05 metres. The big jump could happen in Berlin,



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## Press Release

as the meeting has also signed-on a formidable entry list of athletes who will certainly go after the Croatian. Her top contenders will be 2004 Olympic gold medallist **Yelena Slesarenko** (RUS), who can be proud of a personal best of 2,06 metres, and the third-placed of the WCh, **Anna Chicherova** (RUS), also showing a respectable personal best of 2,04 metres. Two other athletes in the fight will be **Yekaterina Savchenko** (RUS), who set her personal best of 2,00 metres just recently, during the World Championships in Osaka (where she finished fifth) and **Ruth Beitia** (ESP) (WhC 6th.) – both should not be underestimated. In addition, these athletes will be competing at the DKB-ISTAF: **Vita Palamar** (UKR), **Marina Aitova** (KAZ), **Melanie Skotnik** (FRA), **Emma Green** (SWE), who came in seventh in Osaka (both with 1,94 metres), **Amy Acuff** (USA), **Nicole Forrester** (CAN), as well as German Champion **Ariane Friedrich** (GER).

In women's **javelin throw**, the Berlin audience will witness the fight of a trio that already shared the medal ranks in Osaka: **Barbora Spotaková** (CZE), **Christina Obergföll** (GER) and **Steffi Nerius** (GER). Both German top athletes will show extraordinary effort to overtrump the Czech athlete. The starter field also includes the German young talent **Linda Stahl** who showed a surprisingly good result in the WCh final of Osaka, where she ended up in the eighth rank – a considerable achievement for the U23 European Champion.

In the **women's pole vault**, **Yelena Isinbayeva** who is still remaining in the race for the jackpot, has to face a tough competition. At the IAAF Golden League Meeting in Zurich, she needed to pull together all of her strength to finish first with 4.80m. For a moment, it seemed as if her fellow Russian **Svetlana Feofanova**, World Champion 2003 and WCh bronze medallist 2007, would crush her chances to win the jackpot: Feofanova immediately made it to 4.75 while Isinbayeva needed two additional attempts and also showed weaknesses at the level of 4.80. In Brussels, too, the Russian tackled the competition only with a lot of luck, as both she and Feofanova finished with 4,80m – the Russian golden girl could claim the victory only because her contender had more failed attempts.

In Berlin, top athletes such as WCh silver medallist **Katerina Badurová** (CZE), as well as WCh finalists **Monika Pyrek** (POL), **Vanessa Boslak** (FRA), **Fabiana Murer** (BRA), **Yulia Golubchikova** (RUS) and German Champion **Silke Spiegelburg** will complete the starter field.

### Fascinating rematches expected at DKB-CUP-Final 2007

Headlined "My day in the Olympic Village", the finale of the DKB-CUP 2007 will take place at the previous day of the DKB-ISTAF, at September 15<sup>th</sup> at 11.00 a.m. in Berlin's Olympic Village. Javelin's Vice World Champion **Christina Obergföll** competes with her permanent rival and WCh bronze medallist **Steffi Nerius**; Germany's current javelin's leader **Peter Sack** meets the European Champion of the previous year Ralf Bartels. If both athletes, Obergföll and Sack, win their duel, the jackpot of 50.000 Euro will be shared. By contrast, if both athletes lose the competition, long jumper **Bianca Kappler** has the chance to secure a share of the "small" jackpot of 30.000 Euro, provided that she is able to win her discipline.

### Cooperation with Stadionfest Königs-Wusterhausen

As in previous years, this year's winners of the Stadionfest Königs-Wusterhausen will have the opportunity to compete at the DKB-ISTAF. The cooperation is based on a long tradition and will be continued in 2007 with the winners of women's 1000m (athletes with results of at least 2.40 – athletes will start in the DKB-ISTAF 800 m race), women's javelin (qualifying result of 61 m), and men's pole vault (minimum result of 5,70 m) competing in the Berlin meeting.



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## Top Athletes Competing at the 67th Edition of the DKB-ISTAF Berlin

### XI. IAAF World Championships, Osaka, Japan:

#### Gold medallists:

Jeremy Wariner (USA)	Men 400m
Bernard Lagat (USA)	Men 1500m
Bernard Lagat (USA)	Men 5000m
Brad Walker (USA)	Men Pole Vault
Évora Nelson (POR)	Men Triple Jump
Tero Pitkämäki (FIN)	Men Javelin
Christine Ohuruogu (GBR)	Women 400m
Janeth Jepkosgei (KEN)	Women 800m
Michelle Perry (USA)	Women 100m Hurdles
Jana Rawlinson (AUS)	Women 400m Hurdles
Blanka Vlasic (CRO)	Women High Jump
Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS)	Women Pole Vault
Barbora Spotáková (CZE)	Women Javelin
Wallace Spearmon (USA)	Men (4x100m)
Leroy Dixon (USA)	Men (4x100m)
Jeremy Wariner (USA)	Men (4x400m)
Darold Williamson (USA)	Men (4x400m)
Angelo Taylor (USA)	Men (4x400m)
Torri Edwards (USA)	Women (4x100m)
Laurn Williams (USA)	Women (4x100m)
Mikele Barber (USA)	Women (4x100m)
Sanya Richards (USA)	Women (4x400m)

#### Silver medallists:

Felix Sanchez (DOM)	Men 400m Hurdles
Jadel Gregorió (BRA)	Men Triple Jump
Andreas Thorkildsen (NOR)	Men Javelin
Nicola Sanders (GBR)	Women 400m
Yelena Soboleva (RUS)	Women 1500m
Vivan Cheruiyot (KEN)	Women 5000m
Perdita Felicien (CAN)	Women 100m Hurdles
Anna Chicherova (RUS)	Women High Jump
Katerina Badurová (CZE)	Women Pole Vault
Christina Obergföll (GER)	Women Javelin
Marvin Anderson (JAM)	Men (4x100m)
Marvin Anderson (JAM)	Women (4x100m)
Sheri-Ann Brooks (JAM)	Women (4x100m)
Novlene Williams (JAM)	Women (4x400m)

#### Bronze medallists:

Wallace Spearmon (USA)	Men 200m
Angelo Taylor (USA)	Men 400m
Shedrack Kibet Korir (KEN)	Men 1500m
David Payne (USA)	Men 110m Hurdles
Marek Plawgo (POL)	Men 400m Hurdles
Walter Davis (USA)	Men Triple Jump
Danny Ecker (GER)	Men Pole Vault
Carmelita Jeter (USA)	Women 100m
Novlene Williams (JAM)	Women 400m
Mayte Martinez (ESP)	Women 800m
Delloreen Ennis-London (JAM)	Women 100m Hurdles
Svetlana Feofanova (RUS)	Women Pole Vault
Steffi Nerius (GER)	Women Javelin



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Marlon Devonish (GBR)  
Mark Lewis-Francis (GBR)  
Christine Ohuruogu (GBR)

Men (4x100m)  
Men (4x100m)  
Women (4x400m)

### 2006 Europe Championship medallists

#### Gold medallists:

Francis Obikwelu (POR)  
Francis Obikwelu (POR)  
Andreas Thorkildsen (NOR)  
Susanna Kallur (SWE)  
Yelena Isinbaeva (RUS)  
Steffi Nerius (GER)

Men 100m  
Men 200m  
Men Javelin  
Women 100m Hurdles  
Women Pole Vault  
Women Javelin

#### Silver medallists:

Thomas Blaschek (GER)  
Marek Plawgo (POL)  
Tim Lobinger (GER)  
Tero Pitkämäki (FIN)  
Svetlana Klyuka (RUS)  
Monika Pyrek (POL)  
Barbora Spotáková (CZE)

Men 110m Hurdles  
Men 400m Hurdles  
Men Pole Vault  
Men Javelin  
Women 800m  
Women Pole Vault  
Women Javelin

#### Bronze medallists:

Marlon Devonish (GBR)  
Leslie Djhone (FRA)

Men 200m  
Men 400m

### 2004 Olympic Gold Medallists

Jeremy Wariner (USA)  
Felix Sanchez (DOM)  
Andreas Thorkildsen (NOR)  
Yelena Slesarenko (RUS)  
Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS)

Men 400m  
Men 400m Hurdles  
Men Javelin Throw  
Women High Jump  
Women Pole Vault

### Acting World Record Holders

Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS)

Women Pole Vault

### Europe Record Holders

Francis Obikwelu (POR)  
Christine Arron (FRA)  
Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS)  
Christina Obergföll (GER)

Men 100m  
Women 100m  
Women Pole Vault  
Women Javelin

### German Champions

Alexander Kosenkow (GER)  
Daniel Schnelting (GER)  
Bastian Swillims (GER)  
Carsten Schlangen (GER)  
Thomas Blaschek (GER)  
Danny Ecker (GER)  
Verena Sailer (GER)  
Cathleen Tschirch (GER)  
Ariane Friedrich (GER)  
Silke Spiegelburg (GER)  
Christina Obergföll (GER)

Men 100m  
Men 200m  
Men 400m  
Men 1500m  
Men 110m Hurdles  
Men Pole Vault  
Women 100m  
Women 200m  
Women High Jump  
Women Pole Vault  
Women Javelin



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## Duo of Female Athletes Heads for IAAF Golden League Jackpot Filled with One Million US-Dollars in Gold.

**Athletics' premium series starts its final stage / DKB-ISTAF Berlin to once again present finale of the IAAF Golden League at historic Olympiastadion Berlin, September 16<sup>th</sup> 2007.**

After five meetings of the IAAF Golden League in Oslo (June, 15<sup>th</sup>), Paris (July, 6<sup>th</sup>), Rome (July, 13<sup>th</sup>), Zurich (Sept., 7<sup>th</sup>), and Brussels (Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>), there are only two female athletes remaining in the hunt for the premium series' jackpot, 400m runner Sanya Richards (USA) and pole-vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS): The duo still holds all chances to fight for the jackpot, filled with one Million US-Dollar in gold.

But in the past few days, the two remaining jackpot candidates have shown quite different performances while trying to secure their share of the gold, a hunt that has entered its final stage this week. 400m runner Sanya Richards has presented herself in a successful comeback at the IAAF Golden League Meeting in Zurich. In her powerful run, she dominated the race right away from the starting block all the way through to the finishing line, remaining far ahead of her contenders. Surprisingly, she beat her own current world lead (set in Paris at 49.52) to 49.36 – and took the race even further this past Friday in Brussels, when she delivered another powerful blow by setting a new world lead (49.26 sec.) These performances more than showed her determination to overcome her failure to qualify for 400m run at the World Championships, but at the same time helping to devote herself to the race for the jackpot. The American has already won her share of the IAAF Golden League jackpot in 2006, also establishing herself as a favourite with the Berlin audience. A possible win of this year's gold could be a more than appropriate compensation for a 400m medal in Osaka, or so it seems.

By contrast, Russian superstar Yelena Isinbayeva, who has just won second World Championship gold in Osaka, appears to enter the second phase of the jackpot hunt with mixed results. This past Friday, at the IAAF Golden League meeting in Zurich, she almost lost her chance to remain in the jackpot at all. After a failed first attempt at 4.75m, she first failed again at 4.80m. It was only in her last jump that Isinbayeva apparently pulled together all her famous concentration in a close competition and finally won (4.80m). In Brussels, the Russian golden girl one again tackled the 4,80m without real technical worries – and came home with victory, but her contender also finished with 4,80m, but had more failed attempts.

If these two athletes also remain victorious in their respective disciplines in the final meeting of the IAAF Golden League, Berlin, they have the opportunity to crack the jackpot, filled with one million US-Dollars. It will be only distributed to all athletes who have won in their disciplines in all of the series' six meetings. If no athlete, in this case, neither Richards nor Isinbayeva, will remain undefeated, those jackpot contenders who have won five out of the six meetings in their discipline, can share half of the jackpot, 500,000 US \$.

After the first five meetings, this "small" jackpot is still available to Isinbayeva, Richards and also high jumper **Blanca Vlasic** (CRO). For the Croatian, winning this money means to stay ahead in their discipline at the DKB-ISTAF – otherwise she has lost her chance to go home with a share of the "small" jackpot at all.

In 2007, athletes are competing in ten official IAAF disciplines: Men are starting in 100m, 1500m, and 110m hurdles, as well as triple jump and javelin. Women are competing in 100m, 400m, and 100m hurdles, as well as high jump and pole vault. In addition, there are eight DKB-ISTAF promotion competitions: 200m, 400m, 400m hurdle and pole vault for men, and 200m, 1500m, 5000m, as well as javelin for women.

Since 1998, there have been 22 different athletes winning their shares of the jackpot: Eleven men, among them the Moroccan running star Hicham El Guerrouj four times, and eleven women (i.e. Marion Jones two times). In 2003, a single athlete could take home the full million (800m runner Maria Mutola, MOZ) for the first time – a success that was



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repeated two years later by Russian jumper Tatyana Lebedeva: An amount still marking the highest prize money ever disbursed in the history of track and field.

These are the past IAAF Golden League winners:

### 1998

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Haile Gebrselassie (ETH)  
Marion Jones (USA)

### 1999

Wilson Kipketer (DEN)  
Gabriela Szabo (ROM)

### 2000

Gail Devers (USA)  
Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Maurice Greene (USA)  
Trine Hattestad (NOR)  
Tatyana Kotova (RUS)

### 2001

André Bucher (SUI)  
Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Allen Johnson (USA)  
Violeta Szekely (ROM)  
Olga Jegorova (RUS)

### 2002

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Ana Guevara (MEX)  
Marion Jones (USA)  
Felix Sanchez (DOM)

### 2003

Maria Mutola (MOZ)

### 2004

Tonique Darling-Williams (BAH)  
Christian Olsson (SWE)

### 2005

Tatyana Lebedeva (RUS)

### 2006 (Double jackpots)

Kenenisa Bekele (ETH)  
Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH)  
Asafa Powell (JAM)  
Sanya Richards (USA)  
Irving Saladino (PAN)  
Jeremy Wariner (USA)



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## IAAF Golden League Winners 2007

Men	Oslo (15.06.)	Paris (06.07.)	Rome (13.07.)	Zurich (07.09.)	Brussels (14.09.)	Berlin (16.09.)
100m	<b>Powell, Astafa (JAM) 9.94</b>	Atkins, Derrick (BAH) 10.00	Powell, Astafa (JAM) 9.90	Obikwelu Francis (POR) 10.17	Powell, Astafa (JAM) 9.84	
110m hurdle	<b>Moore, Awar (USA) 13.26</b>	Robles Dayron (CUB) 13.13	Moore, Awar (USA) 13.26	Robles Dayron (CUB) 13.15	Robles Dayron (CUB) 13.21	
1500m	<b>Kipruto Brimin, Kiprop (KEN) 3:36.27</b>	Webb Alan (USA) 3:30.54	Kaouch Adil (MAR) 3:30.77	Baala Mehdi (FRA) 3:38.62	Komen Daniel Kipchirchir (KEN) 3:32.67	
triple jump	<b>Idowu, Phillips (GBR) 17.35</b>	Olsson, Christian (SWE) 17.56	Olsson, Christian (SWE) 17.56	Davis, Walter (USA) 17.20	Davis, Walter (USA) 17.27	
javelin	<b>Pitkämäki, Tero (FIN) 88.78</b>	<b>Pitkämäki, Tero (FIN) 89.70</b>	Thorkild- sen, Andreas (NOR) 88.36	Thorkildsen, Andreas (NOR) 89.51	Pitkämäki, Tero (FIN) 87,30	
Women	Oslo (15.06.)	Paris (06.07.)	Rome (13.07.)	Zurich (07.09.)	Brussels (14.09.)	Berlin (16.09.)
100m	<b>Durst, Stephanie (USA) 11.22</b>	Edwards, Torri (USA) 11.17	Edwards, Torri (USA) 11.03	Arron, Christine (FRA) 11.17	Campbell, Veronica (JAM) 11.11	
400m	<b>Richards, Sanya (USA) 50.26</b>	<b>Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.52</b>	<b>Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.77</b>	<b>Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.36</b>	<b>Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.29</b>	
100m hurdles	<b>Perry, Michelle (USA) 12.70</b>	<b>Perry, Michelle (USA) 12.56</b>	<b>Perry, Michelle (USA) 12.44</b>	Kallur, Susanna (SWE) 12.66	Kallur, Susanna (SWE) 12.52	
high jump	<b>Slesarenko, Yelena (RUS) 2.02</b>	Vlasic, Blanka (CRO) 2.02	Vlasic, Blanka (CRO) 2.02	Vlasic, Blanka (CRO) 2.04	Vlasic, Blanka (CRO) 2.03	
pole vault	<b>Isinbayeva, Yelena (RUS) 4.85</b>	<b>Isinbayeva, Yelena (RUS) 4.91</b>	<b>Isinbayeva, Yelena (RUS) 4.90</b>	<b>Isinbayeva, Yelena (RUS) 4.80</b>	<b>Isinbayeva, Yelena (RUS) 4.80</b>	



**DKB** Deutsche Kreditbank AG



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## Price Money-Structure of the DKB-ISTAF 2007

Rank	IAAF Golden League "Premium Event"	IAAF Golden League "Classic Event"	DKB-ISTAF Promo tional Events
1	16.000 US \$	8.000 US \$	4.000 US \$
2	12.000 US \$	6.000 US \$	3.000 US \$
3	9.000 US \$	4.500 US \$	2.250 US \$
4	6.000 US \$	3.000 US \$	1.500 US \$
5	4.000 US \$	2.000 US \$	1.000 US \$
6	3.000 US \$	1.000 US \$	800 US \$
7	2.000 US \$	800 US \$	600 US \$
8	1.000 US \$	600 US \$	500 US \$

Premium Events: Men: 100m, 1,500m, 110m hurdles / Women: 400m, high jump

Classic Events: Men: Triple jump, javelin throw / Women: 100m, 100m hurdles, high jump, pole vault

DKB-ISTAF Promotional Events: Men: 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles, high jump, pole vault / Men: 200m, 1500m, 5000m, javelin throw

DKB-ISTAF Special Events: National German men's blind 4x100m relay team vs. national German WhC final women's 4 x 100m relay team

### Bonus for Records

World Record	50 000 US \$
Meeting record (DKB-ISTAF-Record)	10 000 US \$



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## The History of the DKB-ISTAF Berlin

In its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the DKB-ISTAF, one of the most important and traditional athletic meetings in the world, looks back on a long and proud history. The first DKB-ISTAF already took place on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1921 with an audience of 20,000 at the Grunewaldstadion/Deutsches-Stadion. The BSC, SCC and the Swim Club Poseidon were the organizers at that time. On March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1937 the Berlin Sport-Club (BSC), the German Sport-Club (DSC, OSC later on) and the Sport-Club Charlottenburg (SCC) decided to organize future international sport festivals using the title "International Stadium Festival" to avoid possible time scheduling complications.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> 1937, after the Olympic Games, a new era of the ISTAF began with two world records and one European record in front of 85,000 spectators. Since that meeting, 66 more took place, a few of them in the Deutschlandhalle. The meeting then practically took place each year. Outages occurred due to the Second World War and the post-war years in 1940-1948. Later on, after the reconvening, the ISTAF only dropped out in 1950 and 1951, and due to the assault on the Israelis in Munich, in 1972 and 1973. With the introduction of the IAAF Grand Prix in 1985, the meeting became one of the constantly qualification sport festivals and even the venue of the IAAF Mobil Grand Prix Finales in 1988. The Berlin meeting also played an integral part the introduction and establishment of the GOLDEN Four Series from 1993 to 1997 with the former partner UFA (1990-1997). Berlin has been the venue of the GOLDEN Four Finales for four times.

From 1998 to 2002 and once again in 2004-2007, the DKB-ISTAF served as final meeting within the framework of the newly introduced and present IAAF Golden League by the World Association IAAF, a series of the six best meetings of the world.

In 2004, with an audience of more than 62,000, DKB-ISTAF celebrated its comeback to the traditional venue, the revamped, historic Olympic Stadium of Berlin, the five-star-Arena for the DKB-ISTAF. With the XII. IAAF Athletics World Championship to be staged in Berlin in 2009, the DKB-ISTAF now serves as a "dress rehearsal" for the world's third-biggest international sports events. In 2005, the Meeting repeated its impressive audience number with slightly more than 60,000 spectators and thus has been established as one of the most important sport events in Germany. Finally, by setting a new record audience number in 2007 with a sold-out stadium of 70,000, the meeting raises the hopes for a successful and exciting World Championship 2009 in the German capital.



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### 15 World Records have been set at the DKB-ISTAF Meetings:

WR No.1 (1.8.1937): Women 100m: 11,6 Stanisława Walasiewicz (POL)

WR No.2 (1.8.1937): Women 80m Hurdles: 11,6 Barbara Burke (RSA)

WR No. 3 (1939): Men 3,000m: 8:24,4 Miklós Szabó (HUN),

*inoofficial Indoor World Record*

WR No.4 (30.7.1939): Women Long Jump: 6,12m Christl Schulz (GER) –

*Old record: Kin'ue Hitom (JPN 5,98m (Osaka, 20.05.1928)*

WR No.5 (4.7.1970): 3,000m Hurdles: 8:21,98 Kerry O'Brien (AUS)

WR No.6 (22.8.1975): Men 100m: 9,9 Steve Williams (USA)

WR No.7 (22.8.1975): 110m Hurdles: 13,0 Guy Drut (FRA)

WR No.8 and 9 (26.8.1977): Women High Jump: 1,97 / 2,00 m

Rosemarie Ackermann (GDR)

WR No. 10 (18.8.1978): Women 1,000m : 2:32,0 Ulrike Bruns (GDR)

WR No.11 (18.8.1978): Women 400m Hurdles: 55,44 Krystyna Kacperczyk(POL)

WR No.12 (23.8.1985): Men 1,500m: 3:29,46 Said Aouita (MAR)

WR Nr.13 (18.8.1989): Men 10,000m: 27:08,23 Arturo Barrios (MEX)

WR Nr.14 (17.8.1990): Women 1,000m: 2:30,67 Christine Wachtel (GDR)

WR Nr. 15 (7.9.1999): Men 2,000m: 4:44,79 Hicham EL Guerrouj (MAR)

The first 2 meter high jump of a female athlete by Rosemarie Ackermann (GDR), was a historic event happening at the Berlin meeting. Among the European records set at the meeting, the 7,90 m jump of Ludwig „Luz“ Long (Leipzig) at the first meeting (1937) was a major breakthrough.



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# **TIMETABLE DKB-ISTAF \* (Stand: 15. 09. 2007)**

Time	Technical	Discipline
11:45		Intermediate 50m Super sprint heats
12:00		Opening of Stadium
12:10		March in Teldafax Walk for Life
12:15		Intermediate School Relay heats 16x50m
	12:45	Women Javelin
	12:55	Men Pole Vault
1:00		Women Final heats Super sprint
1:35		Men Final heats Super sprint
1:45		Final heats 50m "Super sprint"
1:50		Winners' Ceremony Super Sprinter
1:55		4x100m Women/Men (blind)
2:00		Winners' Ceremony School Relay
2:05		March of the German Airforce music corps
2:08		Welcome Address
2:12		Ignition Olympic Flame
2:23		National hymne
	2:30	Women Pole Vault
	2:30	Women 200m
	2:35	Women High Jump
	2:40	Women 5000m
	2:45	Men Triple Jump
	3:00	Men Javelin
	3:05	Men 400m Hurdles
	3:08	Winners' Ceremony Women 400m
	3:15	Men 200m
	3:25	Women 800m
	3:40	Men 110m Hurdles
	3:50	Men 100m
	3:55	Charity Winners' Ceremony Pole Vault
	4:05	Women 100m Hurdles
	4:15	Men 400m
	4:25	100m Women
	4:35	400m Women
	4:45	1500m Men
	4:50	IAAF Golden League Jackpot
5:00		End of the 66. DKB-ISTAF Berlin 2007
i		
CET		
IAAF Golden League event		
DKB- ISTAF popmotion event		



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# World Champion Blanka Vlasic to Attack World Record in Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

**Blanka Vlasic (CRO) will attack both the world and meeting records at the upcoming DKB-ISTAF meet Berlin and will try to crack 2,10 metres / Top athlete could win 10,000 US \$ for meeting and 50,000 US \$ for world record / Many athletes from WhC finals sign-on for Berlin meeting / Legenday high jumper Rosemarie Ackermann to watch attempt at new world record as guest of honor in Berlin's historic Olympic Stadium.**

*Berlin, September 14th 2007*

The super star of international high jump, **Blanka Vlasic** (CRO), has been signed-on for the DKB-ISTAF this coming Sunday and will try to tackle the world record in womens' high jump by raising the bar to 2,10 metres. If she fails at breaking the world record, she could still succeed in winning a new meeting record, which was set by South African high jumper Hestrie Cloete four years ago with 2,05 metres. Should Vlasic's attempt at the world record turn out to be successful, she would add another record to the total of 15 world records set at the Internationales Stadionfest and write some history in the host city of the XIth. IAAF World Championships 2009 in Berlin – a city which has also seen legendary Rosemarie Ackermann jumping the magic 2 metres mark at the 1977 edition of Internationales Stadionfest as the first woman in the world.

The women's high jump world record currently stands at 2,09 metres (1987, set by Bulgarian Stefka Kostadinova.) "This season, Blanka Vlasic has presented herself in a top condition and has also shown a self-confident performance at the Golden League meeting in Zurich", said Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF, commenting on her commitment to Berlin. "Her outstanding strength, the likely good weather conditions for competitions, and the enthusiastic Berlin audience certainly offer the right framework for her success in the Olympiastadion this coming Sunday", Janetzky said. "We are extremely happy about this attempt at the world record, as Rosemarie Ackermann will be watching the younger athlete, I believe, this competition might have some of the most emotional moments of this year's meeting in store for us."

The chances for a world record do look quite promising. In the past months, Blanka Vlasic has already tip-toed around the 2,10 metres. In May, she tried to set a new world record by having the bar raised to 2,10 metres – but did not manage to pull it off in her three attempts. In three subsequent meetings and the World Championship - Madrid, Thessaloniki, Osaka, and, just a week ago, at the IAAF Golden League Meeting Zurich, she always had the bar set to 2,10 metres.

All she actually needs, are another three centimetres, because her personal best currently stands at 2,07 metres (August 7th 2007, Stockholm), and in Osaka, she took home gold with a height of 2,05 metres. The big jump could happen in Berlin, as the meeting has also signed-on a formidable entry list of athletes who will certainly go after the Croatian. Her top contenders will be 2004 Olympic gold medallist **Yelena Slesarenko** (RUS), who can be proud of a personal best of 2,06 metres, and the third-placed of the WCh, **Anna Chicherova** (RUS), also showing a respectable personal best of 2,04 metres. Two other athletes in the fight will be **Yekaterina Savchenko** (RUS), who set her personal best of 2,00 metres just



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recently, during the World Championships in Osaka (where she finished fifth) and **Ruth Beitia** (ESP) (WhC 6th.) – both should not be underestimated. In addition, these athletes will be competing at the DKB-ISTAF: **Vita Palamar** (UKR), **Marina Aitova** (KAZ), **Melanie Skotnik** (FRA), **Emma Green** (SWE), who came in seventh in Osaka (both with 1,94 metres), **Amy Acuff** (USA), **Nicole Forrester** (CAN), as well as German Champion **Ariane Friedrich** (GER).

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the DKB-ISTAF, sold-out with an audience of 70,000 at the Olympic Stadium Berlin, will present 220 athletes from 41 countries, who will compete in 18 disciplines. Athletes include 13 World Champions and an additional 26 Wch silver and bronze medalists of the 2007 World Championships in Osaka. In addition, athletes with a total of eight relays gold and ten other relay medals of the World Championships have been signed on. Other international top athletes and leading German stars complete the meeting's entry list, which ranks among the best and strongest in the long history of the DKB-ISTAF, Germany's oldest meeting. The dramatic highlight of the meeting will be the fight for the one million US \$ gold jackpot of the IAAF Golden League: Two athletes are still in the race after the four meetings in Oslo, Paris, Rome, and Zurich, 400m runner **Sanya Richards** (USA) and Russian pole vault star **Yelena Isinbayeva**, who will both have to fight hard to secure their shares of the gold.

Information about the DKB-ISTAF are available online at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de). The Stadionfest will be opening at noon with the traditional students' relays from schools in Berlin and Brandenburg, as well as the finale of the 50m sprint of the „Germany's Top Sprinter“ campaign. Main competitions will begin at 1 pm. The DKB-ISTAF will be broadcast live by national public German television (Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen, ZDF) and by the country's leading pay-TV channel Premiere. The meeting will be broadcast in 180 countries around the world.

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### **“Baton of Generations” Changes Hands from Former Top Athletes to Young, New Talents.**

**Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, presents German legendary athlete Willi Wülbeck with first anniversary medal “70 years Internationales Stadionfest” / Olympiastadion Berlin welcomes top former athletes from seven decades to its “Club 70” / U18 World Champion Julia Fischer receives symbolic baton of generations / Meeting stages conference „Learning to win – elite sports schools “**

*Berlin, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

Stunning finale competitions for one million US \$ in gold, highly dramatic re-matches and head-to-head challenges between the new World Champions from Osaka and international top athletes in the Olympic Stadium, which has been sold with 70,000 tickets: The DKB-ISTAF is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary with world-class program and is expressing its appreciation for all former athlete participants from seven decades.

The Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, and Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF, today presented the first anniversary memorial medal „70 years of Internationales Stadionfest“ to the German living legend **Willi Wülbeck**. The athlete, who also figured prominently in the Olympic Games of 1976, received this special honor as the first of 350 former athletes from seven decades of the Stadionfest's history who will all be presented with the medal on the occasion of its 70th anniversary. Wülbeck was presented with his medal today in a ceremony at the Berlin City Hall acting as representative of all athletes. In the 1970s and 1980s, Willi Wülbeck was one of the world's top 800m runners, his greatest success being the gold medal at the 1983 World Championship in Helsinki. The ten-time German Champion still holds the German records for 800m (1:43,65 min.) and 1,000 m (2:14,53 min).

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Internationales Stadionfest – the first meeting was staged on August 1st, 1937, at the newly built Olympic Stadium Berlin. For its anniversary, the meeting, one of the oldest in the world, has invited all former participating athletes to Berlin, the host city of the XII. IAAF World Championships 2009. „We are glad to welcome some of the world's most famous athletes in our anniversary year to Berlin“, the Governing Mayor Klaus Wowereit said during the ceremony. „Their historic performances are an incentive for the World Championships to be staged in two years in Berlin, which will show a new generation of young top track-and-field athletes.“

Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF, welcomes the former athlete as the first athlete of honor to the meeting: „Willi Wülbeck has given us many unforgettable moments at the Stadionfest. For many young talents getting ready for 2009, he is a role model. With our DKB-ISTAF Junior team, we actively support the advancement of young



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German track-and-field athletes and also endorse German top athletes by always offering a wild card entry in our international competitions.“

Among the former athletes, who have confirmed their visit to Berlin, are long-time favorites with the Berlin audience, such as legendary pole vaulter **Sergey Bubka** and many more. For the Stadionfest, it is a particular pleasure to welcome the oldest living athlete who competed at the Stadionfest, 93-year-old **Elfriede Rahn-Kaun**, (also bronze medalist women's high jump, Olympic Games, Berlin 1936) as well as **Erika Biess** (75m-winner, Stadionfest 1939). Other guests of honor include legendary **Rosemarie Ackermann** (the first woman ever to tackle high jump's magic 2 metres mark, Stadionfest 1977), 400m hurdle star **Edwin Moses**, long jump ladies **Heide Ecker-Rosendahl** and **Heike Drechsler**, and many more, who are looking forward to revisiting „their“ Olympic Stadium and be re-united with the enthusiastic Berlin audience.

One young athlete, who is supported by the structures and institutions for the advancement of elite athletes, is **Julia Fischer**, the current U18-World Champion (discus) and member of the DKB-ISTAF Junior Team. The Berlin-born, highly talented Fischer is attending a Berlin elite school, the Coubertin Gymnasium in the district of Prenzlauer Berg, and trains with the SCC Berlin, one of Berlin's leading sports associations. At the U18-World Championship in Ostrava, the seventeen-year-old could increase her former personal best to 51,39 metres. Today, she received a symbolic „Baton of Generations“ from the Governing Mayor and Willi Wülbeck on behalf of the DKB-ISTAF Junior Team, a group of talented young athletes supported by the Berlin IAAF Golden League meet.

The DKB ISTAF is actively supporting the advancement of young top talents in Berlin and offers the opportunity to start in the meeting's international competitions and to compete against some of the world's best. This year, the meeting will stage the symposium, organized by the DKB-ISTAF and the ICSSPE (International Council of Sports Science and Physical Education), successfully running for the third year. This year, the conference is headlined „Learning to win – elite sports' schools“ and focuses on the challenges of combining a qualified education and top sports.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the DKB-ISTAF, sold-out with an audience of 70,000 at the Olympic Stadium Berlin, will present 220 athletes from 41 countries, competing in 18 disciplines. Athletes include 13 World Champions and an additional 26 WCh silver and bronze medalists of the 2007 World Championships in Osaka. In addition, athletes with a total of eight relays gold and ten other relay medals of the World Championships have been signed on. Other international top athletes and leading German stars complete the meeting's entry list, which ranks among the best and strongest in the long history of the DKB-ISTAF, Germany's oldest meeting. The dramatic highlight of the meeting will be the fight for the one million US \$ gold jackpot of the IAAF Golden League: Two athletes are still in the race after the four meetings in Oslo, Paris, Rome, and Zurich, 400m runner **Sanya Richards** (USA) and Russian pole vault star **Yelena Isinbayeva**, who will both have to fight hard to secure their shares of the gold.



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# DKB-ISTAF Presents World-Class Competitions in a Sold-Out Olympiastadion Berlin.



**World Championship 2009 host city Berlin is setting the stage for the DKB-ISTAF, the sold-out Olympiastadion Berlin and a record audience of 70.00 / Internationales Stadionfest rated as one-day meeting with the world's largest audience / Success due to strong support by meeting's title sponsor Deutsche Kreditbank AG.**

*Berlin, September 13th 2007*

Higher, faster, and farther: This classic German quip for track-and-field also applies to this year's ticket sales for the 2007 edition of the DKB-ISTAF, to be staged this coming Sunday in the Olympiastadion Berlin. Celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the largest and longest-standing German athletics meeting will be completely sold out to full capacity, welcoming an audience of 70,000: Since the founding the meeting in 1937, when the Stadionfest had an audience of some 83,000 (back then, the Olympiastadion had a larger capacity), this figure is a new record high in spectator numbers, establishing the DKB-ISTAF as year's one-day-meeting with the world's largest audience.

Those without a ticket can hope to get tickets not returned or picked up at the ticket booths on the DKB-ISTAF day (ticket counters open at 10 am) at the Olympiastadion Berlin. The competitions will be starting at noon, main competitions at 1 pm.

„With this success and by presenting top athletics competitions in a thrilling stadium atmosphere on levels worthy of World Championship, the DKB-ISTAF is continuing its proud tradition“, said Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF Berlin. „This success is mostly due thanks to our incredibly strong commitment of our title sponsor, the Deutsche Kreditbank AG, which has supported us decisively in our 2007 ticket sales campaign. That's why we, as meeting organizers, would like to express our deep appreciation to the board and all employees, who have helped us.“

The Olympiastadion Berlin, an exciting combination of a 2004 high-tech modernization and a historic core, has a total capacity of 74,000 for soccer games, and holds an audience of 70,000 maximum during track-and-field events (due to technical installations and removal of stands for the mixed-zone and the sprint starting area, for example). The ticket sales campaign for the DKB-ISTAF started with a special „Early Bird Ticket“ this past spring with great success. Thanks to the strong support provided by the DKB, large ticket contingents could be sold outside the larger Berlin-Brandenburg capital area for the first time.

„This year, the DKB-ISTAF welcomes athletics fans from all over Germany“, explained Günther Troppmann, CEO of the Deutsche Kreditbank AG, „more than 40 per cent of all visitors will witness the competitions on and around the blue track for the first time. Looking



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ahead to the World Championship 2009, which will function as an economic and image-building factor both for Germany and its capital, this success is of great significance."

In total, the DKB-ISTAF will present 220 athletes from 41 countries, who will compete in 18 disciplines. Athletes include 13 World Champions and an additional 26 World silver and bronze medalists of the 2007 World Championships in Osaka. In addition, athletes with a total of eight relays gold and ten other relay medals of the World Championships have been signed on. Other international top athletes and leading German stars complete the meeting's entry list, which ranks among the best and strongest in the long history of the DKB-ISTAF, Germany's oldest meeting. The dramatic highlight of the meeting will be the fight for the one million US \$ gold jackpot of the IAAF Golden League: Two athletes are still in the race after the four meetings in Oslo, Paris, Rome, and Zurich, 400m runner **Sanya Richards** (USA) and Russian pole vault star **Yelena Isinbayeva**, who will both have to fight hard to secure their shares of the gold.

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**DKB** Deutsche  
Kreditbank AG



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## Press Release

### These Boys want to Fly a Higher Game: World Champ Brad Walker to Compete against Germany's Top Pole Vaulters.

**For the men's pole vault event, DKB-ISTAF Berlin has signed-on international and German top athletes for upcoming meeting in Olympiastadion / New World Champion Brad Walker (USA) to compete against German pole vault stars / Stunning re-matches expected.**

*Berlin, September 12th, 2007*

These pole vaulters want to fly a higher game: The new World Champion **Brad Walker** (USA), whose start has been officially been announced today by the DKB-ISTAF Berlin, will have to fight hard to stay ahead of his contenders in the men's pole event at the final IAAF Golden League Meeting, this DKB-ISTAF, to be staged this upcoming Sunday. The Berlin meeting today presented a very strong entry list, with many athletes who will try to defeat the champ: Walker looks back on a close victory in Osaka, which might predicate stunning re-matches and head-to-head fights with his top contenders. Brad Walker, whose gold-winning final result of 5,86 metres relegated **Danny Ecker** (GER) to third rank, respectively, certainly will have to face a tough competition not just with this German, but also others, whose disciplines enjoys a particularly high popularity in the country. Among them will be **Björn Otto**, another favorite of the Berlin audience, who traditionally enjoys the Stadionfest pole vault events. Two other stars to be present in Berlin's stadium will be Australian **Steven Hooker** (AUS), who had finished ninth in Osaka, as well as American **Jeff Hartwig**.

At the World Championships, Danny Ecker, the 2007 European Indoor Champion, only missed gold by five centimetres – even though his highest jump in the competition (5,81 metres) marked his seasonal best. In fact, all of the ranks three to eight came in very close in general: Danny Ecker (GER), **Igor Pavlov** (RUS), **Björn Otto** (GER), **Yevgeniy Lukyanenko** (RUS), **Aleksandr Averbukh** (ISR) und **Tim Lobinger** (GER) all managed to crack the 5,81 metres – and now have all been signed on for the Berlin meeting. But if the German athletes manage to show some of their top personal performances in Berlin, they might actually hunt Walker and put a lot of pressure on him in the competition: Danny Ecker's personal best (outdoor) is currently at 5,93 metres, Björn Otto's personal best (indoor) is known to be 5,90 metres.

Danny Ecker showed his formidable strength today at a show pole vault event in front of one of Berlin's most prominent landmarks, the war-torn ruin of the famous Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in the heart of the Western downtown, where he competed alongside top German youth talents – some of which he had already met as aspiring, seven-year-old fans in 2000, when he had jumped at the same location. Despite winds and the usual challenges of a mobile pole vault construction, Ecker managed to jump as high as 5,70 metres – much to the enjoyment of hundreds of on-lookers.

In addition, other contracted pole-vaulters of other nations should not be underestimated as well. The WCh fourth-ranked **Igor Pavlov** (RUS) showed great performances in Osaka and even surpassed his personal best of 5,80 metres by one centimeter. Another Russian,



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**Yevgeniy Lukyanenko** (RUS), managed to re-confirm his personal best of 5,81 metres in the WCh finals as well.

Last but not least, pole vaulters will certainly try to give their best, as legendary *über*-pole vaulter and living legend Sergey Bubka (UKR), IAAF Vice-President, will be visiting Berlin and the DKB-ISTAF at the occasion of the meeting's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. His world records still stands tall and undefeated at 6,14 m; he now will return for the first time to the renovated Olympic Stadium, which has seen so many of his great ISTAF moments and successes.

In total, the DKB-ISTAF, staged in a sold-out stadium with an audience of 70,000 this coming Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, will present 220 athletes from 41 countries, who will compete in 18 disciplines. Athletes include 13 World Champions and an additional 26 WCh silver and bronze medalists of the 2007 World Championships in Osaka. In addition, athletes with a total of eight relays gold and ten other relay medals of the World Championships have been signed on. Other international top athletes and leading German stars complete the meeting's entry list, which ranks among the best and strongest in the long history of the DKB-ISTAF, Germany's oldest meeting. The dramatic highlight of the meeting will be the fight for the one million US \$ gold jackpot of the IAAF Golden League: Two athletes are still in the race after the four meetings in Oslo, Paris, Rome, and Zurich, 400m runner **Sanya Richards** (USA) and Russian pole vault star **Yelena Isinbayeva**, who will both have to fight hard to secure their shares of the gold.

Information about the DKB-ISTAF are available online at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de). The Stadionfest will be opening at noon with the traditional students' relays from schools in Berlin and Brandenburg, as well as the finale of the 50m sprint of the „Germany's Top Sprinter“ campaign. Main competitions will begin at 1 pm. The DKB-ISTAF will be broadcast live by national public German television (Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen, ZDF) and by the country's leading pay-TV channel Premiere. The meeting will be broadcast in 180 countries around the world.

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## Women's Sprint Power on Berlin's Blue Track: DKB-ISTAF Signs on Sprinters of World Championship Finals for 100m and 200m Meeting Races.

IAAF Golden League Meeting DKB-ISTAF Berlin signs World Championship bronze medallist **Carmelita Jeter**, European Champion **Christine Arron** and Torri Edwards for the 100m sprint in Berlin/ 200m- sprint with Vize-World champion **Lauryn Williams** and **Muriel Hurtis-Houairi** well-staffed as a revenge for the WC.



*Berlin, September 11th 2007*

International women's sprint power, exciting head-to-heads fights and revenges over 100m and 200m between the world's fastest female athletes from the finals of the World Championship will be one of many highlights at this year's DKB-ISTAF in the Olympiastadion Berlin. As the IAAF Golden League Meeting announced today, the meeting, celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, did not only sign on 100m WCh bronze medallist **Carmelita Jeter** (USA) and last year's IAAF Golden League jackpot winner **Torri Edwards** (USA), but also European Champion **Christine Arron** (FRA), one of Europe's great athletes. Also present will be **Chandra Sturup** (BAH), who was in the race for the jackpot four years ago. Particular excitement is sure to be brought to bear by the World Championship's third-placed Jeter, fourth-placed Edwards and sixth-placed Arron. The world's number 2 ranked Torri Edwards (10.90 sec) will keep an eye on Christine Arron in particular: Just this past Friday, at the IAAF Golden League Meeting Zurich, the French was victorious over Edwards, challenging with a triumph (11.17 sec) and crushing the American's last chance for winning the "small" jackpot of 500.000 US\$.

Other athletes signed on by the Berlin meet are looking forward to meeting again as well: **Mikele Barber** (USA) and **Sheri-Ann Brooks** (JAM) both competed in the WCh 4x100m relay when the US beat Jamaica by a margin. The starter field will be completed by U23-European Champion **Verena Sailer**, who started for the German 4x100m relay at the World Championship.

The DKB-ISTAF 200m sprint will have a prominent line-up as well: Vice-World Champion (over 100m) **Lauryn Williams** (USA), bronze medallist **Susanthika Jayasinghe** (SRI) as well as the World Championship finalists **Stewart Kerron** (Jam), **LaShauntea Moore** (USA), **Cydonie Mothersill** (CAY) and **Muriel Hurtis-Houairi** (FRA) have all been contracted by the Berlin meet. Lauryn Williams in particular, who turned out to be a real favourite among the Berlin audience two years ago, and the World Championship's third-placed are certainly ready to compete for the first rank. German athlete **Cathleen**



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## Press release

**Tschirch**, who started in Osaka with the German 4x100m relay team, will be competing in Berlin, too. "Both sprint disciplines offer a top-class starter field on a World Championship level, offering dramatic duels between the favourites," says Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Director of the Berlin meet, "what is also exciting, is the head-to-head confrontation of top American and European track athletes, many of these sprinters want to settle some open scores from Osaka."

This year's DKB-ISTAF Berlin will present a top class athletics event this coming Sunday in the Olympiastadion Berlin. 220 athletes from 41 countries will compete in 18 disciplines, including 13 new World Champions of the WCh Osaka and another 26 WCh silver and bronze medallists. In addition, there will be athletes with eight relays' gold and ten other relay medals of the World Championship. Further international and German top athletes will complete the starter field that can be considered as one of the strongest in the history of the traditional, leading German meeting. Particularly stunning competitions will be held in the race for the 1 million US \$ gold jackpot. After four of the total of six IAAF Golden League meetings in Oslo, Paris, Rome and Zurich, two athletes are still in the race for the jackpot: 400m runner **Sanya Richards** (USA) and Russian pole vault jumper **Yelena Isinbayeva**. Additional highlights of this year's meet will be the attempts of various athletes at breaking national and meeting records.

In 2007, athletes will compete in ten official IAAF Golden League disciplines: Men will be starting over 100m, 1500m as well as 110m hurdles, triple jump and javelin. Women compete over 100m, 400m, 100m hurdles as well as high jump and pole vault. In addition, there will be eight DKB-ISTAF disciplines: Men's 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles and pole vault, and women's 200m, 1500m as well as 5000m and javelin.

The last thousand tickets are available in some limited price categories only online at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de) or via phone at Gegenbauer TicketSERVICE 030/ 4430 4430. The DKB-ISTAF will open its gates at 12 p.m., starting with the traditional competitions of students' relay races from Berlin and Brandenburg and the finale of the 50m sprints of "Germany's next super sprinter". Main competitions will be starting at 1 p.m. The DKB-ISTAF will be broadcast live in German TV by ZDF between 4 and 5 p.m. as well as by Germany's leading pay-tv channel Premiere. The meeting is broadcast in 180 countries around the world.

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## World's One-Day Meeting with Largest Audience, DKB-ISTAF, Presents International World-Class Athletics.

Only 1000 tickets left on sale for DKB-ISTAF / Stunning competitions focusing on race for the IAAF Golden League jackpot / 13 World Champions and 13 WCh medallists signed-on for the meeting in Berlin's Olympic Stadium / Olympic Stadium welcomes former track-and-field top stars of seven decades to its "Club 70" / Solid weekend of athletics ahead with IAAF Golden League Meeting Brussels, DKB-Cup in the historic Olympic Village Berlin and the DKB-ISTAF.

*Berlin, September, 10<sup>th</sup> 2007*

A stunning grand finale in the race for the IAAF Golden Jackpot and its one million US \$ in gold, thrilling head-to-head fights and rematches between World Champions from Osaka and international top athletes, track-and-field stars representing seven decades of ISTAF history, and a possibly sold-out stadium celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the DKB-ISTAF: This year's Internationales Stadionfest, the DKB-ISTAF, will present a world-class athletics event this coming Sunday in Berlin's Olympic Stadium. In total, 220 athletes representing 41 countries will compete in 18 disciplines, including 13 new World Champions of the World Championships in Osaka and another 26 WCh silver- and bronze medallists. In addition, there will be athletes with eight relays' gold and ten other relay medals earned in Osaka. Additional international and German top athletes will complete the meeting's entry list, considered to be one of the strongest in the history of the traditional, leading German meeting, starting fields that the German audience can only enjoy on these levels at the DKB-ISTAF. The premier highlight will be the race for the one million US \$ gold jackpot. After four of the total of six IAAF Golden League Meetings in Oslo, Paris, Rome and Zurich, two athletes are still in the race for the jackpot: 400m runner **Sanya Richards** and pole vault jumper **Yelena Isinbayeva**. Additional highlights of the competitions are promised by the announcements of various athletes to break a national or meeting record at the meeting.

"At the occasion of its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the DKB-ISTAF offers head-to-head-fights and rematches on a world-class level in all disciplines," announced Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of DKB-ISTAF/LVG GmbH, today in Berlin. "We are not only showing the suspenseful, final decision in the race for the IAAF Golden League Jackpot, but also an outstanding entry list of athletes that is more than adequately representing Berlin as the host city for the World Championships 2009. Being the by far largest German meeting and the world's meeting with the largest stadium audience, we will present Berlin as WCh city 2009 to the stadium and TV audiences around the world." With record sales of 69,000 tickets, the Olympic Sta-



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## Press Release

dium that has a maximum capacity of 70,000 for track and field events (due to technical reasons), is almost sold-out: The remaining thousand tickets will be sold in the upcoming week. Bettina Stark, General Representative of the title sponsor Deutsche Kreditbank AG (DKB), added: "Athletics did not lose its capability to elate people. The travel package offer we sold outside the region was in high demand. 30.000 spectators will be travelling to Berlin in a total of 790 coaches, among them sports associations, voluntary medical services, universities, as well as many families."

The last thousand tickets are available in some limited categories at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de) or via phone at Gegenbauer-Ticketservice 030/44304430. The DKB-ISTAF will open its gates at 12 p.m., starting with the traditional relays competed by students from Berlin and Brandenburg, as well as the final of 50m "Germany's next super sprinter". Main competitions will be starting at 1 p.m. The DKB-ISTAF will be broadcast live in German TV by ZDF between 4 and 5 p.m., as well as by Germany's leading pay-tv channel Premiere. The meeting will be broadcast in 180 countries around the world.

### Happy Birthday: The DKB-ISTAF "Club 70"

This year, the DKB-ISTAF celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary – the first Stadionfest took place on August, 1<sup>st</sup> 1937, at a historic site, the back newly inaugurated Berlin Olympic Stadium. At the occasion of the meeting's anniversary (making it one of the oldest in world), the organizers invited all former athletes to Berlin. Among the 350 former athletes, who have confirmed their visits to Berlin, are long-time favorites with the Berlin audience, such as legendary pole vaulter **Sergey Bubka** and many more. For the Stadionfest, it is a particular pleasure to welcome the oldest living athlete who competed at the Stadionfest, 93-year-old **Elfriede Rahn-Kaun**, (also bronze medalist women's high jump, Olympic Games, Berlin 1936) as well as **Erika Biess** (75m-winner, Stadionfest 1939). Other guests of honor include legendary **Rosemarie Ackermann** (the first woman ever to tackle high jump's magic 2 meters mark, Stadionfest 1977), 400m hurdle star **Edwin Moses**, long jump ladies **Heide Ecker-Rosendahl** and **Heike Drechsler**, and many more, who are looking forward to revisiting „their“ Olympic Stadium and be re-united with the enthusiastic Berlin audience.

### Men's blind relay team to compete against women's relay team of WCh 2007

A special highlight in the pre-program will be a head-to-head race: The German national blind men's relay team will be competing against the German national 4x100m women's relay team of the final 4x100 competition of the World Championships in Osaka. Both teams usually show similar results hovering around 44 sec. The audience can expect a stunning performance: "We present this particular com-



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## Press Release

petition to showcase the increasing approach between ‘handicapped’ and ‘regular’ athletics”, said Gerhard Janetzky. The German women’s relay team with Katja Wakan, Cathleen Tschirch, Johanna Kedzerski and Verena Sailer came in seventh at Osaka (43,51 sec.)

### Women duo fights for IAAF Golden League Jackpot

At this stage, only two athletes, **Sanya Richards** (USA) and **Yelena Isinbayeva** (RUS), remain in the hunt for complete jackpot. World record holder Yelena Isinbayeva, who has won the World Championships for her second time in a row, proving her outstanding shape, could defend her share with some difficulties at the last meeting in Zurich this past Friday. 400m runner Sanya Richards, who already busted the jackpot last year and evolved as one of the most popular athletes with the Berlin on the way, has focused on the IAAF Golden League this year, compensating for her failed WCh qualification. In all four meetings, Richards has dominated her discipline.

If neither Richards nor Isinbayeva is able to tackle the jackpot, hurdle sprinter **Michelle Perry** (USA) and high jumper **Blanka Vlasic** (CRO) still have the chance of securing their share of the “small” jackpot with 500.000 US \$. However, to be eligible, both have to win their competitions at the Memorial van Damme Meeting in Brussels next Friday, as well as at the DKB-ISTAF two days later. In 2007, athletes will compete in ten official IAAF Golden League disciplines: Men will be starting over 100m, 1500m, as well as 110m hurdles, triple jump and javelin. Women compete over 100m, 400m, 100m hurdles, as well as high jump and pole vault. In addition, there will be eight DKB-ISTAF disciplines: Men’s 200m, 400m, 400 hurdles and pole vault; and women’s 200m, 1500m, as well as 5000m and javelin.

### Overview: Highlights in 18 disciplines

The highlights of this year’s ten IAAF Golden League and the eight promotional DKB-ISTAF disciplines promise an outstanding meeting (due to the close sequence of the meetings in Brussels and Berlin, the final entry list will be published later than usual).

In the **men’s 100m sprint**, European Champion **Francis Obikwelu** (POR) has to stand up to a strong international field, presenting him with the opportunity to show his strength, which he could not do at the World Championships, when he was disqualified for a false start in the heats. His strongest rival is likely to be American shooting star **Leroy Dixon**, who defeated Asafa Powell in the final leg of the 4x100m relay in Osaka, securing gold for his team.



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In the **men's 200m**, Indoor European Champion and German multi-Champion **Tobias Unger** has to assert himself against a formidable international starter field, including **Rodney Martin** (USA), **Marvin Anderson** (JAM), as well as **Chris Williams** (JAM).

With German new talent **Bastian Swillims** in the starter field, one of the strongest international athletes of the young generation, the **400m race** highlights a prominent German athlete. In the next days, the meeting organizers will sign-on additional top athletes for this race.

In the men's **1500m race**, US-star **Bernard Lagat** has announced to break his own US record, he had set in Rieti in 2005 (3:29:40). Lagat who was able to prove his outstanding strength in Osaka (he was the first athlete to win gold in both 1500m and 5000m), has to compete with **Craig Mottrom** (AUS), WCh bronze medallist of 2005, and 800m runner **Mbulaene Mulaudzi** (RSA) who will now start at 1500m for the first time. In the past years, Mottrom often showed his capability to surprise his rivals, i.e. during the spectacular head-to-head-fight at the World Cup in Athens in 2006 where Mottrom defeated Kenenisa Bekele in a spectacular 5000m race.

**Triple jump** can be rated as a top class event, even without Christian Olsson. The Internationales Stadionfest shows a competition between the three medallists of Osaka: Portuguese **Nelson Evora**, Brazilian **Jadel Greógrio**, and US-American **Walter Davis**. The entry list will be completed by other finalists of the World Championships, such as **Aarik Wilson** (USA), **Philipp Idowu** (GBR), **David Giralt** (CUB), **Alexander Martinez** (SUI), and **Aleksandr Petrenko** (RUS). Thus, the audience will witness a fascinating competition dominated by powerful head-to-head-fights and rematches.

A highly dramatic rematch is also expected in men's **javelin**. **Tero Pitkämäki** (FIN) who had been a contender for the "small" jackpot until Friday, was defeated at the IAAF Golden League Meeting in Zurich by his archrival and Vice-World Champion **Andreas Thorkildsen** (NOR). Also part of the fight was WCh bronze medallist **Breaux Greer** (USA): In Osaka and, more recently, in Zurich, the trio showed a turbulent competition. Additional suspense is promised by the participation of another six WCh finalists: **Vadim Vasilevskis** (LAT), **Aleksandr Ivanov** (RUS), **Igor Janik** (POL), **Tero Järvenmpää** (FIN), **Guillermo Martinez** (CUB), and **Magnus Arvidsson** (SWE).

**Men's pole vault** was included in the DKB-ISTAF program as the meeting's seventh promotion discipline. WCh bronze medallist **Danny Ecker** is only one of the popular starters in this field. Additional German and international names will be announced in the next days.



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## Press Release

Women's competitions became particularly important due to the fact that the only two athletes remaining in the jackpot are female: Sanya Richards (400m) and Yelena Isinbayeva (pole vault). In Berlin, American **Sanya Richards** will compete with the entire world class that her discipline currently provides, especially with her archrival and new World Champion **Christine Ohuruogu** (GBR). As Sanya Richards missed her qualification for the World Championships, both athletes went head-to-head only once this season, at the IAAF Golden League meeting in Zurich. Sanya Richards is forced to once again defend her share of the one million US \$ gold jackpot – in Berlin, she is going to be up against the 400m world elite. It certainly is going to be a tough race for her, as Vice-World Champion **Nicole Sanders** (GBR) and WCh bronze medallist **Novlene Williams** (JAM) will go after her. This powerful starting field will be completed by 400m hurdle World Champion **Jana Rawlinson** (AUS).

The women's **800m race**, too, promises to offer a top-level competition featuring the world's best runners. The DKB-ISTAF presents all athletes starting in the WCh final: World Champion **Janeth Jepkosgei** (KEN) doesn't only want to defend her top position in the world, but also wants to establish a new meeting record. The Kenyan runner who superiorly dominated the race of Zurich is certainly able to scratch at the current meeting record of 1:56:56 (Ana Fidelia Quirot, CUB, August, 21st 1987). Moreover, WCh silver medallist **Hasna Benhassi** (MAR), as well as WCh bronze medallist **Mayte Martínez** (ESP) will enforce a very fast race. Particular suspense might come from Vice-World Champion **Yelena Soboleva** (1500m) who will start in a 800m race for the first time. She already announced to go head-to-head with Jepkosgei.

American **100m hurdle sprinter Michelle Perry**, ranked number one in the world, who was able to defend her title as World Champion in Osaka with a time of 12.46 sec., will now go once again head-to-head with her toughest rivals, Canadian **Perdita Felicien** (12.49 sec.) and **Delloreen Ennis-London** (12.50) from Jamaica, whom she was able to delegate to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranks, respectively. The current world's number 2, **Virginia Powell** (USA), could turn out to be another threat, given her time of 12.45 sec. However, she came in only on the fifth rank, but now might try to finish among the first three and attack Michelle Perry directly. In addition to these four athletes, the only European hurdles sprint star and European Champion of Gothenburg 2006, **Susanna Kallur** (SWE), who already has started several times at the DKB-ISTAF, as well as **Lolo Jones** (USA), **Vonette Dixon** (JAM) and Canadian **Angela Whyte**, will be on the entry list of this race. In the competition of the Berlin meet, Perry will be under a great deal of pressure, as she is still a contender for the "small" contender, after she had been forced out of the fight for the "big" one in Zurich.

In women's **javelin** competition, the Berlin audience will witness the fight of a trio that already shared the medal ranks in Osaka: **Barbora Spotáková** (CZE), **Chris-**



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**tina Obergföll** (GER) and **Steffi Nerius** (GER). Both German top athletes will show extraordinary effort to overtrump the Czech athlete. The starter field also includes the German young talent **Linda Stahl** who showed a surprisingly good result in the WCh final of Osaka, where she end up in the eight rank – a considerable achievement for the U23 European Champion.

In the **women's pole vault**, **Yelena Isinbayeva** who is still remaining in the race for the jackpot, has to face a tough competition. At the IAAF Golden League Meeting in Zurich, she need to pull together all of her strength to finish first with a made 4.80m. For a moment, it seemed as if her fellow Russian **Svetlana Feofanova**, World Champion 2003 and WCh bronze medallist 2007, would crush her chances to win the jackpot: Feofanova immediately made it to 4.75 while Isinbayeva needed two additional attempts and also showed weaknesses at the level of 4.80. In Berlin, top athletes such as WCh silver medallist **Katerina Badurova** (CZE), as well as WCh finalists **Vanessa Boslak** (FRA), **Fabiana Murer** (BRA), **Yulia Golubchikova** (RUS) and German Champion **Silke Spiegelburg** will complete the starter field.

### Fascinating rematches expected at DKB-CUP-Final 2007

Headlined "My day in the Olympic Village", the finale of the DKB-CUP 2007 will take place at the previous day of the DKB-ISTAF, at September 15<sup>th</sup> at 11.00 a.m. in Berlin's Olympic Village. Javelin's Vice World Champion **Christina Obergföll** competes with her permanent rival and WCh bronze medallist **Steffi Nerius**; Germany's current javelin's leader **Peter Sack** meets the European Champion of the previous year Ralf Bartels. If both athletes, Obergföll and Sack, win their duel, the jackpot of 50.000 Euro will be shared. By contrast, if both athletes loose the competition, long jumper **Bianca Kappler** has the chance to secure a share of the "small" jackpot of 30.000 Euro, provided that she is able to win her discipline.

### Cooperation with Stadionfest Königs-Wusterhausen

As in previous years, this year's winners of the Stadionfest Königs-Wusterhausen will have the opportunity to compete at the DKB-ISTAF. The cooperation is based on a long tradition and will be continued in 2007 with the winners of women's 1000m (athletes with results of at least 2.40 – athletes will start in the DKB-ISTAF 800 m race), women's javelin (qualifying result of 61 m), and men's pole vault (minimum result of 5,70 m) competing in the Berlin meeting.

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## TIME SCHEDULE

### 66. Internationales Stadionfest, September, 16th 2007

10:45	intermediate 50m super sprint heats
12:15	intermediate school relay heats 16x50m
12:30	Men' pole vault
12:35	Women' javelin
1:00	Final heats 50m super sprint
1:45	Final heats school relay 16x50m
1:50	Winners' ceremony super sprinter
1:55	Women 4x100 + men (blind)
2:00	Winners' ceremony school relays 16x50
2:05	Presentation DKB-ISTAF
2:30	Men 400m
	Women pole vault
2:35	Women high jump
2:40	Women 5000m
2:45	Men triple jump
3:05	Men 400m hurdle
3:10	Men javelin
3:15	Women 800m
3:30	Men 110m hurdle
3:40	Women 200m
3:50	Men 200m
4:05	Women 100m hurdle
4:15	Men 1500m
4:25	Women 100m
4:35	Women 400m
4:45	Men 100m
4:50	IAAF Golden League ceremony/jackpot's ceremony
5:00	End of the DKB-ISTAF 2007



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*(as of September 10<sup>th</sup> 2007, the meeting reserves the right to all possible changes).*



## Press Release

### Duo of Female Athletes Heads for IAAF Golden League Jackpot of One Million US-Dollars.

**Athletic's premium series starts its final stage / DKB-ISTAF Berlin to once again present finale of the IAAF Golden League at historic Olympiastadion Berlin, September 16<sup>th</sup> 2007.**

*Berlin, September, 10<sup>th</sup> 2007*

After the first four meetings of the IAAF Golden League in Oslo (June, 15<sup>th</sup>), Paris (July, 6<sup>th</sup>), Rome (July, 13<sup>th</sup>), and Zurich (Sept., 7<sup>th</sup>), there are only two female athletes remaining in the hunt for the premium series' jackpot, 400m runner **Sanya Richards** (USA) and pole-vaulter **Yelena Isinbayeva** (RUS): The duo still holds all chances to fight for the jackpot, filled with one Million US-Dollar in gold.

But in the past few days, the two remaining jackpot candidates have shown quite different performances while trying to secure their share of the gold, a hunt that has entered its final stage this week. 400m runner Sanya Richards has presented herself in a successful comeback at the IAAF Golden League Meeting in Zurich. In her powerful run, she dominated the race right away from the starting block all the way through to the finishing line, remaining far ahead of her contenders. Surprisingly, she beat her own current world lead (set in Paris at 49.52) to 49.36. This performance more than showed her determination to overcome her failure to qualify for 400m run at the World Championships, but also helping to devote herself to the race for the jackpot. The American has already won her share of the IAAF Golden League jackpot in 2006, also establishing herself as a favourite of the Berlin audience. A possible win of this year's gold could be a more than appropriate compensation for a 400m medal in Osaka, or so it seems.

By contrast, Russian superstar "Yssy" Yelena Isinbayeva, who has just won second World Championship gold in Osaka, appears to enter the second phase of the jackpot hunt with mixed results. This past Friday, at the IAAF Golden League meeting in Zurich, she almost lost her chance to remain in the jackpot at all. After a failed first attempt at 4.75m, she first failed again at 4.80m. It was only in her last jump that Isinbayeva apparently pulled together all her famous concentration in a close competition and finally won (4.80m).

If these two athletes also remain victorious in their respective disciplines at the upcoming Memorial van Damme meeting in Brussels, they have the opportunity to crack the jackpot at the DKB-ISTAF in Berlin on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The jackpot is filled with one million US-Dollars and will be only distributed to all athletes who have won in their disciplines in all of the series' six meetings. If no athlete, in this



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## Press Release

case, neither Richards nor Isinbayeva, will remain undefeated, those jackpot contenders who have won five out of the six meetings in their discipline, can share half of the jackpot, 500,000 US \$.

After the first four meetings, this “small” jackpot is still available for hurdle sprinter **Michelle Perry** (USA) and the high jumper **Blanca Vlasic** (CRO). But winning this money means to stay ahead in their disciplines in this Friday’s Memorial van Damme Meeting in Brussels, as well as the DKB-ISTAF two days later.

In 2007, athletes are competing in ten official IAAF disciplines: Men are starting in 100m, 1500m, and 110m hurdles, as well as triple jump and javelin. Women are competing in 100m, 400m, and 100m hurdles, as well as high jump and pole vault. In addition, there are eight DKB-ISTAF promotion competitions: 200m, 400m, 400m hurdle and pole vault for men, and 200m, 1500m, 5000m, as well as javelin for women.

Since 1998, there have been 22 different athletes winning their shares of the jackpot: Eleven men, among them the Moroccan running star Hicham El Guerrouj four times, and eleven women (i.e. Marion Jones two times). In 2003, a single athlete could take home the full million (800m runner Maria Mutola, MOZ) for the first time – a success that was repeated two years later by Russian jumper Tatyana Lebedeva: An amount still marking the highest prize money ever disbursed in the history of track and field.

These are the past IAAF Golden League winners:

### 1998

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Haile Gebrselassie (ETH)  
Marion Jones (USA)

### 1999

Wilson Kipketer (DEN)  
Gabriela Szabo (ROM)

### 2000

Gail Devers (USA)  
Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Maurice Greene (USA)  
Trine Hattestad (NOR)  
Tatyana Kotova (RUS)

### 2001

André Bucher (SUI)  
Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Allen Johnson (USA)  
Violeta Szekely (ROM)  
Olga Jegorova (RUS)

### 2002

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)  
Ana Guevara (MEX)  
Marion Jones (USA)  
Felix Sanchez (DOM)

### 2003

Maria Mutola (MOZ)



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2004

Tonique Darling-Williams (BAH)  
Christian Olsson (SWE)

2005

Tatyana Lebedeva (RUS)

2006 (Double jackpots)

Kenenisa Bekele (ETH)  
Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH)  
Asafa Powell (JAM)  
Sanya Richards (USA)  
Irving Saladino (PAN)  
Jeremy Wariner (USA)

**IAAF Golden League winners 2007**



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Men	Oslo (15.06.)	Paris (06.07.)	Rome (13.07.)	Zurich (07.09.)	Brussels (14.09.)	Berlin (16.09.)
100m	Powell, Astafa (JAM) 9.94	Atkins, Derrick (BAH) 10.00	Powell, Astafa (JAM) 9.90	Obikwelu Francis (POR) 10.17		
110m hurdle	Moore, Awar (USA) 13.26	Robles Dayron (CUB) 13.13	Moore, Awar (USA) 13.26	Robles Dayron (CUB) 13.15		
1500m	Kipruto Brimin, Kiprop (KEN) 3:36.27	Webb Alan (USA) 3:30.54	Kaouch Adil (MAR) 3:30.77	Baala Mehdi (FRA) 3:38.62		
triple jump	Idowu, Phillips (GBR) 17.35	Olsson, Christian (SWE) 17.56	Olsson, Christian (SWE) 17.56	Davis, Walter (USA) 17.20		
javelin	Pitkämäki, Tero (FIN) 88.78	Pitkämäki, Tero (FIN) 89.70	Thorkildsen, Andreas (NOR) 88.36	Thorkildsen, Andreas (NOR) 89.51		
Women	Oslo (15.06.)	Paris (06.07.)	Rome (13.07.)	Zurich (07.09.)	Brussels (14.09.)	Berlin (16.09.)
100m	Durst, Stephanie (USA) 11.22	Edwards, Torri (USA) 11.17	Edwards, Torri (USA) 11.03	Arron, Christine (FRA) 11.17		
400m	Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.52	Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.52	Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.77	Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.36		
100m hurdles	Perry, Michelle (USA) 12.70	Perry, Michelle (USA) 12.56	Perry, Michelle (USA) 12.44	Kallur, Susanna (SWE) 12.66		
high jump	Slesarenko, Yelena (RUS) 2.02	Vlasic, Blanka (CRO) 2.02	Vlasic, Blanka (CRO) 2.02	Vlasic, Blanka (CRO) 2.04		
pole vault	Isinbayeva, Yelena (RUS) 4.85	Isinbayeva, Yelena (RUS) 4.91	Isinbayeva, Yelena (RUS) 4.90	Isinbayeva, Yelena (RUS) 4.80		



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### In the Duel of the Year, Sanya Richards Fights for the First Time against the 400m World Class.

**Jackpot race in on in the womens' 400m / Berlin meeting presents the duel of the year with the three WM-finalists and the 400m hurdles-world champion / Hunt for the IAAF Golden League jackpot starts tomorrow with world class meeting in Zurich in the second phase.**

*Berlin, September 6<sup>th</sup> 2007*

At this year's DKB-ISTAF, the Berlin audience will witness one of the athletes' duels of the year, a head-to-head fight of 400m-star **Sanya Richards** (USA) against the whole world class of her discipline, especially her archrival and new World Champion, **Christine Ohurugougu** (GBR). Both athletes have not started against each other so far, because Sanya Richards missed her qualification for the World Championship. "We are presenting a competition that didn't take place in Osaka, because Sanya Richards was missing. We thus show, for the first time this season, the head-to-head fight between the two best 400m-runners of the world: This is one of the biggest competition stories of the season," said Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF, today in Berlin.

Sanya Richards has to defend her part of the one million US \$ gold jackpot – also against the athletes of the 400m world class: Because a victory in Berlin will due to the commitment of world champ **Christine Ohurugougu** (GBR), vice world champion **Nicole Sanders** (GBR) like the WCh-bronze medal holder **Novlene Williams** (JAM) not fall easily. „We have also engaged the 400m hurdles world champion, the Australian **Jana Rawlinson**, who will run over the 400m flat", says Gerhard Janetzky.

The cancelled duel between world ranking first Sanya Richards and the number 2 and 5 of the world ranking, Christine Ohurugougu and Novlene Williams, in Osaka promises particular tension: Sanya Richards had prevailed herself at the IAAF Golden League Meeting Paris i.e. against her rival Williams in 49,52 sec., a time which would have given her the opportunity of beating both in Osaka, too. At the IAAF Golden League Meeting she had triumphed over Williams, but it will be only in Berlin that Sonya Richards will have to go face to face with the top class of her discipline. Sanya Richards only qualified for the WCh in Osaka over 200m, winning silver (22.70 sec.) and also bringing home – in the 4x400m relay – a world leading record time (3:18.55) and gold for the US.

The IAAF Golden League's second phase starts with tomorrow's world-class meeting in Zurich IAAF Golden League and the Memorial van Damme Meeting in Brussels on September 14th. „We watch tomorrow's performance of Sanya Richards in Zurich with great excitement," said Gerhard Janetzky, „even if she loses, she can still fight for the small jackpot of 500.000 US



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## Press Release

Dollar. Sanya is looking forward to Berlin, where she could already get a part of the jackpot last year, she was particularly taken with the blue track and the fantastic Berlin audience."

The jackpot race still has a trio of three female athletes fighting for the one million US \$ gold jackpot of the IAAF Golden League that will stage its grand finale on September 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the 66th edition of the DKB-ISTAF at the Olympiastadion Berlin: **Sanya Richards** (USA), **Michelle Perry** (USA) and **Yelena Isinbayeva** (RUS).

In addition to the female trio, five other athletes still have the chance for the „small jackpot“ of 500,000 US \$, if none of the female athletes doesn't crack the complete million jackpot. Among those are the currently fastest man in the world and 2006 jackpot winner, **Asafa Powell**, hurdle sprinter **Awar Moore** (USA), javelin thrower **Tero Pitkämäki** (FIN), 100m sprinter **Torri Edwards** (USA) und high jumper **Blanka Vlasic**.

In 2007, the athletes compete in ten official IAAF Golden League disciplines: Men will start over 100m, 1500m as well as 110m hurdles, in triple jump and javelin throw. Women compete over 100m, 400m, 100m hurdles, in high jump and pole vault. In addition, there will be eight DKB-ISTAF promotion disciplines, i.e. for men 200m, 400m and 400m hurdles and women's 200m, 1500m as well as 5000m.

Tickets for the very well sold Olympiastadion Berlin (with some 60,000 seats already sold) are still available under [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or by telephone at the Gegenbauer Ticketsservice 030/4430 4430.

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### DKB-ISTAF Enters Hot Phase of the Race for Gold with Women's Power in Hurdles' Sprint: Michelle Perry Takes on World Championship's top athletes.

DKB-ISTAF brings the complete WC-finalists of the women's 100m hurdles to the Olympic Stadium of Berlin/ the chase for the IAAF's Golden League jackpot starts with the hot phase on Friday in Zurich



*Berlin, September 5th 2007*

The final, hot phase of the race for the IAAF Golden League jackpot starts this Friday with the Weltklasse meeting in Zurich and additional sign-on of athletes for the DKB-ISTAF on September 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the Olympiastadion in Berlin. "We are bringing the spirit and feeling of Osaka to the future World Championship host city Berlin", promises Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF Berlin. "We present the complete women's 100m hurdles WCh-finale's athletes, showing a top class competition with highly dramatic duel and revenge situations with the top sprinter being incredibly close in their times and results."

American **Michelle Perry**, ranked number one in the world, who was able to defend her title as World Champion in Osaka with a time of 12.46 sec. will now go once again head-to-head with her toughest rivals, Canadian **Perdita Felicien** (12.49 sec) and **Delloreen Ennis-London** (12.50) from Jamaica whom she was able to delegate to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rank. The current world's number 2, **Virginia Powell** (USA), could turn out to be another threat with her time of 12.45 sec. However, she came in only on the fifth rank, but now will try to finish among the first three and attack Michelle Perry directly. "The athletes of the WCh finale are today's top hurdles sprinters, the audience is about to watch the finale again – but maybe with a different outcome than in Osaka," Gerhard Janetzky continues. "The trio chases Michelle Perry since the beginning of the season: Michelle Perry could tie on and perhaps exceed her season's best of 12.44 sec on the fast track of Berlin. Her three rivals will try to cross to small distance to her lead." In addition to these four athletes, the only European hurdles sprint star and European Champion of Gothenburg 2006, **Susanna Kallur** (SWE), who already has started several times at the DKB-ISTAF, as well as **Lolo Jones** (USA), **Vonette Dixon** (JAM) and Canadian **Angela Whyte**, will be among this discipline's race.

At the competition in Berlin, Perry will be under a lot of pressure, as she is still a jackpot contender and competes for her share of the million in gold: Prior to her appearance in Berlin, she has to defend the jackpot first in Zurich than in Brussels on September 14<sup>th</sup>. If she loses one of the meetings her share of the complete jackpot will be lost, but she stays in the competition for the "small" jackpot of 500,000 US \$. After a eight week break the premium series of the international track starts again this Friday: After the meetings of Zurich (Sept. 7th)

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## Press release

and Brussels (Sept. 14th), exciting duels of the new World Champions will determine the race about the jackpot on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

At this point, the three athletes **Sanya Richards** (USA), **Michelle Perry** (USA) and **Yelena Isinbayeva** (RUS) still have the chance to win the complete jackpot. The most promising contender is World Record holder Yelena Isinbayeva who won the title as World Champion for the second time in a row, thus proving her outstanding shape. 400m runner Sanya Richards, who was able to win her share of last year's jackpot and evolved as one of the Berlin audience's darlings, focuses on the IAAF Golden League, compensating for the missed WCh qualification.

In addition to the female trio, five other athletes still have the chance for the „small jackpot“ of 500,000 US \$, if none of the female athletes doesn't crack the complete million jackpot. Among those are the currently fastest man in the world and 2006 jackpot winner, **Asafa Powell**, hurdle sprinter **Awar Moore** (USA), javelin thrower **Tero Pitkämäki** (FIN), 100m sprinter **Torri Edwards** (USA) und high jumper **Blanka Vlasic**.

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## Press Release



### With great strides towards the IAAF Golden League Finale in Berlin: The World's Top Triple Jump Athletes in the Olympic Stadium Berlin.

**Three athletes are still fighting for the jackpot of 1 million US\$ / More than 60,000 tickets sold / Four additional disciplines announced / All athletes of former meetings invited to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Berlin's DKB-ISTAF**

*Berlin, 8th of August 2007*

With the upcoming athletics World Championship in Osaka (August 25<sup>th</sup> to September 3rd), the final phase for signing on athletes for the 66<sup>th</sup> edition of the DKB-ISTAF has just begun. The DKB-ISTAF will be the final station of the IAAF Golden League on Sunday, September 16th. Following the motto "Go for Gold", it will be one of the season's highlights, with the world's top athletes, the by then newly crowned world champions and the elite of German track athletes meeting. "We will sign on top athletes from all over the world for Berlin within the next weeks. Many stars, who have come to appreciate the meeting, the Olympic Stadium, the city of Berlin and its audience in the past two years, are ready to come back and compete" said Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF, today in Berlin. "In addition, we will be contracting as many as medallists of Osaka as possible to offer exciting competitions with options for duels and revenges."

With the invitation of former World Champion **Charles Friede**, the DKB-ISTAF announced today another possible attendance of one of Germany's top athletes. Apart from the title of World Champion and Indoor World Champion in 1999, his participation in the Olympic Games of 2000 and 2004, the silver medal at the European Championships 2002 as well as the 13 titles as German Champion rank highest amongst his successes. Just recently, the 35-year-old was awarded the prestigious Rudolf-Harbig-Prize 2007 for honorable athletes. Due of an injury, he missed the qualification for Osaka at this year's German Championship. The meeting in the Olympic Stadium is therefore offering an opportunity for him to compete with the world's best athletes. In the triple jump pit he might meet the World Championship favoured **Christian Olsson** (SWE), who (with 17,56m) is currently ranked number 4<sup>th</sup> in the World Ranking. The IAAF Golden League jackpot winner of 2004 belongs to the seven athletes who were signed for the whole IAAF Golden League and has won the meetings of Paris and Rome, two of the three meetings so far. Hence he is still in the race for the "small" jackpot.



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## Press Release

In addition to Olsson, Berlin's audience can look forward to the current super star of the international track athletics scene, the 100m-sprinter **Asafa Powell** (JAM), high jumper **Tia Hellebaut** (BEL) and **Kajsa Bergqvist** (SWE), Russian pole vaulter **Yelena Isinbayeva** and javelin thrower **Andreas Thorkildsen** (NOR) as well as the 400m-runner **Sanya Richards** (USA). Just like Asafa Powell, the American was able to ensure her share of last year's jackpot.

### Germany's top track athletes enlisted / Four additional disciplines

The 220 top athletes will be competing at this year's DKB-ISTAF in ten official IAAF-disciplines: Men are taking on over 100m, 400m, 110m hurdles, triple jump and javelin throw. The women are to compete over 100m, 400m, 100m hurdles, high jump as well as pole vault. In addition to these disciplines, the meeting has already publicized additional disciplines, the men's 200m and 400m, and today released another four disciplines: Men's 400m hurdles and the women's 200m, 1500m and 5000m, underlining the international character of the meeting and guaranteeing a top-class line up.

"We now offer 16 disciplines, two more will be following shortly", explains Gerhard Janetzky. "The 18 disciplines in total are chosen to offer international athletes the chance of highly focussed duels and exciting revenges and give the top German athletes the option of an unique, international meeting situation after the World Championships."

As of today, athletes signed on for this year's meeting are the 200m-sprinter and Indoor European Champion of 2005 **Tobias Unger** as well as the 400m shooting star and Vice-European Champion **Bastian Swillims**. Further engagements of German athletes will be published within the next weeks.

### Exciting second half of the IAAF Golden League

The race for the jackpot of the international track athletics' premium league, the IAAF Golden League, will enter the second half after the WC in Osaka and will be very exciting. Because the meeting in the Memorial van Damme Stadium in Brussels on the Friday before the DKB-ISTAF will bring the decision about who will be still in for the Gold: At this stage, three women, **Sanya Richards** (USA), **Michelle Perry** (USA) and **Yelena Isinbaeva** (RUS), still have the chance to win the complete jackpot of one million US \$. However, they have to finish the remaining meetings of Zurich (Sep 7<sup>th</sup>) and Brussels (Sep 14<sup>th</sup>) and, of course, Berlin, as number ones. The complete jackpot will only be distributed if an athlete is successful in his/her discipline in all the meetings. If no one is about to accomplish the task, those who have won five of the meeting series have the chance to win their share of half of the



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jackpot- 500.000 US\$. Reasonable chance have currently **Asafa Powell** (JAM), hurdles sprinter **Awar Moore** (USA), triple jumper **Christian Olsson** (SWE), javelin thrower **Tero Pikämäki** (FIN), 100m sprinter **Torri Edwards** (USA) and the Croatian high jumper **Blanka Vlasic**.

### 70 years of DKB-ISTAF with top stars of 7 decades

For its 70th anniversary – the first Stadionfest was held on the 1st of August 1937 – the most tradition-steeped international track athletics meeting not only presents active athletes from all around the world. The meet celebrates with all the athletes, whom with their athletic accomplishments, their records, triumphs or defeats have delighted the Berlin audience and therefore have made the Stadionfest to one of the world's leading meetings. "We invite all former participants of the past meetings to celebrate the anniversary in the Olympic Stadium," announced Gerhard Janetzky. Amongst the numerous acceptances are very prominent names such as the seven times winner of the meeting and legendary pole vault star **Sergej Bubka**.

In its anniversary, year the 66th Internationales Stadionfest DKB-ISTAF is determined to welcome 70.000 spectators, thus breaking the audience record of IAAF Golden League meetings. "Today, 60.000 tickets are already sold, we are on our way to reach the goal," says Gerhard Janetzky, "due to the dedication of our main sponsor the Deutsche Kreditbank (DKB) this year's tickets have been placed nationwide, the attraction of the leading German meeting has increased enormously. Up to 40 percent of the audience will be here for the first time. They are travelling to Berlin to see high class track athletics live," says Janetzky. "This will be the foundation for the World Championship in Berlin in 2009. We show how to win people for our sports through dedication, a good program and attractive offers," Janetzky goes on.

The upper stand is already sold out, whereas in the lower stands no tickets of the price categories IV and V are left. The last good tickets in the price category III can be purchased in the course of a special World-Championship ticket offer between August 16<sup>th</sup> and September 2nd. During this offer, two tickets of the category III for 30 € are sold to the price of one. The price categories I and II (70 € and 40€, respectively) are excluded from this offer.

Updated information can be found under [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de). For the advance sale of tickets call 030/44304430 or via internet ([www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de) or [www.gegenbauer-ticketservice.de](http://www.gegenbauer-ticketservice.de))

The DKB-ISTAF starts traditionally with the students' relay of the schools of Berlin and the finale of the nationwide campaign "Deutschland sucht den Supersprinter". The meeting starts with a supporting program for the whole family at 12pm, the competition starts at 1pm. The DKB-ISTAF will be broadcast live by German television ZDF as well as by the pay-tv channel Premiere. In addition, the DKB-ISTAF obtains



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## Press Release

additional excitement by holding the DKB-CUP-finale in the historic Olympic Village on the previous day, 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

### Top-class ICSSPE-symposium to promote young athletes

On the day before the DKB-ISTAF, the meeting, in cooperation with the ICSSPE (International Council of Sports Science and Physical Education), stages for the third time a symposium. True to the motto "Learning to Win- schools of sports" the promotion of young athletes will be discussed. More than hundred national and international scientists, professional athletes as well as representatives of sports, politics and administration will meet and discuss experiences and standpoints about different models of elite schools in different countries. Particularly the question of how qualifying education and serious sport can be combined to promote young athletes will be focussed.

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# Finale in Berlin: An Outstanding Starting Field, Gripping Duels and Rematches, and a Stunning Hunt for the 2006 Jackpot.

**Six athletes remain in the dramatic fight for the IAAF Golden League jackpot / A total of 30 medalists of the European Championship 2006, including 14 European Champions, to compete at the IAAF Golden League's final meeting / 45 German athletes signed on / Seven DKB-ISTAF promotional events / Ticket sales hit 47,000 tickets / Stadionfest to be staged under ideal weather conditions.**

*Berlin, September 1st 2006*

In its special anniversary year, the 65<sup>th</sup> Internationales Stadionfest will proudly offer the possibly most dramatic fight for the IAAF Golden League Jackpot ever and an equally outstanding starting field, presenting one of this season's top international track-and-field meetings to the audience at the Olympic Stadium Berlin and an estimated 60 million TV viewers around the world. A total of 220 top athletes from around the world have confirmed their starts at Germany's biggest and most traditional athletics meeting this coming Sunday, September 3rd: 30 medalists of the Athletics European Championship in Gothenburg, including 14 gold medalists, are expected to compete in Berlin. The European elite will go face to face with 45 German athletes, among them 16 national Champions -, but more importantly, it will also feature the international top class, including seven acting World Champions, six 4002 Olympic gold medalists, four acting World Record Holders and many 2006 World Lead athletes. "This IAAF Golden League finale will present many of the world's top athletes in each of the 18 disciplines", said Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF Berlin/LVG GmbH, today in Berlin during the presentation of the final starting lists. "At the end of this season, the European Champions will have the opportunity to compete against many of the world's top athletes, and those who were defeated in Gothenburg, will have a chance for stunning rematches and duels, going head-to-head with their competitors. Last but not least, German athletes will be able to show their strengths, testing their ground once more in one of the world's most important international meetings."

This year, the DKB-ISTAF will open its gates at 10 am already, starting with the traditional students' relays of Berlin public schools. The IAAF Golden League meeting then begins with an entertainment program for the family at 11 am, the main competitions will be following at noon. The DKB-ISTAF will be broadcast live by German national television (ARD, 12:50 pm to 1:50 pm), Berlin's public broadcast corporation RBB will show the meeting in its television program from 1:51 to 3 pm, and national pay-TV station Premiere will broadcast two hours of the DKB-ISTAF later. In addition, there will be detailed news reports on Germany's two leading sports programs on ARD and ZDF on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. With a maximum temperature of 24° C and a partially cloudy sky, the weather seems to be set for ideal competitions conditions. Ticket sales for this year's meeting are hovering around 47,000 tickets, equaling sales numbers of 2005. "Therefore, we are quite confident to reach our goal of 50,000 to 60,000 fans in the stadium", says Gerhard Janetzky.

At the 65<sup>th</sup> edition of the DKB-ISTAF Berlin, the world's top athletes are competing in eleven official IAAF disciplines: Men are starting at 100m, 400m, 1500m and 5,000m. In addition, they will also compete in the technical disciplines of long jump and javelin. Women will be starting in 100m, 400m, 5,000m, 100m hurdles and high



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jump. Seven additional DKB-ISTAF promotional events will also be presented: men's 800m, 3,000m, 100m hurdles, shot put and pole vault and women's javelin and discus. Just as in 1998-2002 and 2004-2005, the DKB-ISTAF serves as final meeting of the IAAF Golden League, the premium series of international athletics, where athletes fight for a Jackpot of one million US-Dollars in gold.

Up-to-date information on the meeting and ticket sales can be found online at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de). Tickets can be purchased via the phone hotline 030/4430 4430 or online at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de) or [www.velomax.de](http://www.velomax.de).

### Six athletes are still fighting for their share of the IAAF Golden League Jackpot

The Berlin finale promises to stage a gripping fight for the golden Jackpot as six remaining athletes are still fighting for their share of the gold. If all of these six should succeed at the DKB-ISTAF this Sunday, the IAAF Golden League will enjoy the highest number of jackpot winners ever in its eight-year history: These six athletes are Jamaican sprinter **Asafa Powell** (100m), US-athletes **Jeremy Wariner** (400m) and **Sanya Richards** (400m) as well as Ethiopian 5,000m runner **Tirunesh Dibaba** managed to take home a victory in their respective disciplines at each of the five IAAF Golden League Meetings this year – they have already secured their share of 500,000 US \$, but they will nevertheless try to get their slice of the second 500,000 US \$ in gold. After four wins, the long jumper **Irving Saladino** (PAN) and 5,000m runner **Kenenisa Bekele** (ETH) still have the chance to win their share of 500,000 US \$ in gold. The winning system of this year's jackpot, filled with a total of one million US dollars in gold, has been re-structured: Athletes who have won in their discipline at five of the six meetings (Paris, Rome, Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin) will take home or share 500,000 US \$; and athletes who, in addition, were capable of winning the sixth meeting, will win or share another 500,000 US \$. Once again, the DKB-ISTAF serves as final meeting of the series, the two parts of the jackpot will once again be settled in Berlin. The hunt for the gold will reach its dramatic finale in Berlin, as the meeting presents the six contenders with a great number of each discipline's competing top stars.

### Highlights: Duels and Rematches in 18 Disciplines

A special highlight of the competitions promises the **men's 100m sprint**: The acting 100m World Record Holder and jackpot contender, 23-year-old **Asafa Powell** (JAM) will be running against Portuguese sprinter **Francis Obikwelu**, the new 100m and 200m European Champion and current European Record Holder of the 100m sprint. In addition, Asafa Powell has announced to try to break his own World Record of 9,77 sec. on Berlin's fast blue track, thus finally winning his second share of the gold. Obikwelu will be trying to make up for his two defeats suffered from Powell at the IAAF Golden League Meetings in Rome and Zurich – and the Portuguese, could, in fact, pose a serious risk to the frontrunner. Another dangerous contender is American **Tyson Gay** (24) who achieved the season's second-fastest time in Zurich (9,84 sec.) – coming in second behind Powell. The World Record Holder has also to look out for US-athletes **Leonard Scott** (26) and **Jason Smoots** (26), as Scott finished fourth both in Paris and Rome. In the meetings at Zurich and Brussels, he made it to rank 3, finishing the sprint in just under ten seconds. With his success at Rieti this past Sunday, so Smoots definitely proved that he needs to be taken quite seriously! French athlete **Ronald Pognon** (23), the Indoors European Record Holder (60m) also ran 9,99 sec. in 2005 and is another athlete to take into account. German national Champion **Ronny Ostwald** (32) wants to prove his class in front of a home audience, and Slovenic sprinter **Matic Osovnikar** (26), bronze medalists of the European Championship and the fifth European in this field, as well as Nigerian **Olusoji Fasuba** (22), the acting African Champion, are completing the 100m sprint event's starting list.



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In the **400m** race, Jackpot contender **Jeremy Wariner** (USA) definitely is the frontrunner: The Olympic gold medalist, World Champion and 2006 World Lead athlete – he achieved the eight fastest results this year – nevertheless has to keep an eye on American competitor **LaShawn Merritt** (20), who almost managed to beat Wariner in Zurich. **Andrew Rock** (24), too, this year's third-fastest over 400m, would like to prevent Wariner from winning a second share of the jackpot. The list of starters has a fourth American sprinter, **Derrick Brew** (29). European Champion **Marc Raquil** (29) from France can be considered the European frontrunner in this fast-paced event. Finally, the German National Champion has been added to the list, 22-year-old **Kamghe Gaba**, voted as the month's most popular athlete by the country's leading track-and-field Website, [www.leichtathletik.de](http://www.leichtathletik.de), has earned his start at DKB-ISTAF thanks to outstanding performances this year. The 26-year-old African Champion **Gary Kikaya** will be completing the starting list.

Another highlight will be the **800m race**: 26-year-old European Champion **Bram Som** (NED) will have to go head-to-head with the 2006 World Lead athlete **Mbulaeni Mulaudzi** (25) – this South African who took home a 800m race win in Berlin last year, managed to beat this season's record time with a result of 1:43.09 minutes this past Sunday at Rieti! Latvian athlete and ECH fourth ranked **Dimitrijs Milkevics** (24) and the two Kenyans **Yussuf Kamel** (23) and **William Yiamпой** (32) are also quite capable of closing in on the frontrunner, Mulaudzi.

The **1,500m** race presents yet another World Record Holder (3,000m steeple chase), **Saif Saaeed Shaheen**, who has remained undefeated in this discipline since 2002. During this time, he has won the World Championships of 2003 and 2005. Spanish competitor **Juan Carlos Higuero** ranks among the top ten of the world's top list and is considered to be one of the outstanding opponents to Shaheen. Berlin athlete **Carsten Schlangen** (25), the current German National Champion, will have the opportunity to present himself in this world-class race to the German audience.

The 29-year-old surprise 10,000m European Champion **Jan Fitschen** (29) will enjoy his very own, special moment at the meeting, as a **3,000m** run was added to the program to celebrate his stunning success. He will certainly try to recapture his Gothenburg moment of victory in Berlin, but the meeting will confront the champion with a stiff competition. Add to that another ECH Champion, Spanish competitor **Jesùs Espana** (28), and Fitschen faces an interesting challenge. Fitschen, the multiple German Champion over the 5,000m and 10,000m, celebrated his PB in Gothenburg (28:10.04 min) – only his second international title after his victory at the Indoor Europe Cup in 2006 (3,000m). Given his 5,000m win in Gothenburg, the Spanish athlete should also be taken into account. Two Germans competing in this list are 3,000m steeple chase German National Champion **Steffen Uliczka** and **Lars Haferkamp**.

The **men's 5,000m** will present multiple World Champion, Olympic gold medalist, and double World Record Holder (5,000m and 10,000m) from Ethiopia, **Kenenisa Bekele** (24) – one of the most astonishing athletes of all times and the top long-distance runner. Bekele, who has won all but the first IAAF Golden League meetings this year, now faces his last chance to take home a slice of the gold jackpot – he just has to win the run in Berlin. He is one of five Ethiopians in the starting list and is well capable of breaking the DKB-ISTAF meeting record from 2005 (12:53.19 min.). His toughest opponents are the 19-year-old U20 World Champion **Tariku Bekele** as well as **Abreham Feleke** (16), who are among this year's fastest athletes over this distance. In addition, there are ten Kenyan starters, led by **Jonas Cheruiyot** (22) and **Boniface Songok** (25). 34-year-old **Bernard Lagat** (USA), the event's winner at the 2005 DKB-ISTAF, has shown in the past that he quite capable of crushing Bekele's hopes for the golden Jackpot.

In the **110m hurdles sprint**, the audience can expect a stunning rematch fight with three athletes fighting hard for a win: Living hurdle sprint legend **Allen Johnson** (the three-time World Champion and 1996 Olympic Games gold medalist), the



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European Champion from Latvia, **Stanislavs Olijars** (27) and the ECH silver medalist and German National Champion **Thomas Blaschek** (25). To veteran hurdle sprinter Johnson, the two latter athletes are representing a new generation of hurdle sprinters, who are now trying to beat Johnson.

Naturally, Olijars will be the top contender for the win in the event in Berlin: The European Champion will try to take revenge on Johnson and will most certainly mobilize all his energy reserves to beat the American. Thomas Blaschek, too, would like to win in Berlin, as he came close to his first meeting victory last year, when he finished second. A strong competitor from Overseas is young Cuban athlete **Dayron Robles** (19), who showed his class when he finished second after Johnson at the IAAF Golden League Meeting Zurich. His PB of 13,04 sec. which he achieved this July at Lausanne, is this year's fourth fastest time over the 110m hurdles. His last win was on August 20<sup>th</sup> in Monaco. 21-year-old **Aries Merritt** (USA) will also have a very special motivation to take home a win, as he came in only third at the meeting in Zurich and second at the Monaco Herculis, respectively. With a PB of 13,12 sec., he is this year's fifth fastest hurdle sprinter (his time ranks as number 10). The Berlin start of Jamaican athlete **Maurice Wignall** (30) is almost beginning to look like a tradition now, as he will be competing at the DKB-ISTAF for the third time. In 2004, he had finished second behind Johnson, and fourth last year. In addition to another US-athlete, **Robby Hughes** (28), two German athletes, **David Oliver** (24) and **Jens Werrmann** (21), will also hit the blue track. Werrmann is a surprise shooting star, who came in sixth at the 110m hurdle finals at the European Championships this year – an amazing performance considering that he had not meet the qualifying norms of the German team prior to his start.

Another jackpot contender is **Irving Saladino** (23) from Panama, competing in the **long jump** event, hoping to secure his share of 500,000 US \$. With the exception of the Golden League Meeting in Paris, he has won all others – in Paris, it was the current World Leader, Ghana athlete **Ignisious Gaisah** who crushed Saladino's hopes for the full million in gold by a mere 2 centimeters. In Rome, on the other hand, Saladino triumphed by 2 centimeters over the African. This stunning rematch story will most likely continue in Berlin – with Saladino facing a lot of pressure to win. The number 2 of the 2006 top list, 25-year-old **Mohamed Al-Khuwalidi** (KSA), and ECH third-ranked **Oleksiy Lukashevych** (29) from Ukraine are also in for the fight to win. Finally, the list is completed by German National Champion **Sebastian Bayer** (20).

The meeting's promotional disciplines once again showcase one of the meeting's most popular events, the **men's pole vault**. American 2004 Olympic medalist **Timothy Mack** (33) will take on the top three athletes of the European Championships and the new generation of world-leading American and Australian athletes as well: In addition to the frontrunner and ECH gold medalist, Israeli **Aleksandr Averbukh** (31), German top athletes **Tim Lobinger** (33) and 29-year-old Frenchman **Romain Mesnil**, the two silver medalists of the European Championships will try to deliver a powerful rematch. German Champion **Lars Börgeling** (27), as well as **Richard Spiegelburg** (29), **Danny Ecker** (29) and **Fabian Schulze** (22) will fight against the world's three leading top athletes. US-star athlete **Brad Walker** (25) and the two Australians **Paul Burgess** (27) and **Steven Hooker** (24) have all been signed on for the DKB-ISTAF as well. The event promises to be particularly close, as Walker, Burgess and Lobinger have all cracked the 6 metres barrier in the past. Lobinger is celebrating his birthday on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and has announced to attack the world record once more – just as at the 2005 DKB-ISTAF.

The **men's shot put** offers a special déjà-vu situation for 30-year-old **Andrei Mikhnevich** (BEL) and **Ruther Smith** (NED), who were relegated to second and fourth ranks at the European Championships by the gold medalist, German athlete **Ralf Bartels** (28) – a tough rematch situation for both of them as Mikhnevich will try to prevent Bartels, certainly the frontrunner, from celebrating yet another success. American **Reese Hoffa** (28) will be confronting these top Europeans with Overseas



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power, backed up by a SB of 21,96 – definitely the toughest athlete in this event. Among the other top athletes in the starting field is German athlete **Andy Dittmar** (32).

The **men's javelin** event certainly qualifies as another world-class competition: Norwegian **Andreas Thorkildsen** (24), the 2004 Olympic gold medalists and also European Champion, and Finish athlete **Tero Pitkämäki** (23), ECH silver medalist, have already delivered a series of stunning duels and rematches at the preceding IAAF Golden League meetings. The World Lead athlete Thorkildsen was able to dominate the meetings in Oslo, Rome, and Brussels, while the World Lead athlete No. 2, Pitkämäki, took home victories in Paris and Zurich. The 2005 World Champion, Estonian **Andrus Värnik** (28), will go head-to-head with these two outstanding Europeans for a win in Berlin. Last but not least, 24-year-old Latvian **Vadims Vasilevskis**, with just one meter behind the current Number 3 on the World Lead list, will try to attack as well German athletes **Peter Esenwein** (38) and **Stefan Wenk** (born in '81) are the two local contenders in this world-class list.

## Highlights in Women's Competitions

At the women's **100m sprint**, Belgian double-European Champion **Kim Gevaert** (28) will have to face the world's lead (10,82 sec) and winner of the IAAF Golden Meeting at Brussels, **Sherone Simpson** (22) from Jamaica. Facing a world-class starting list, Simpson, however, will have to mobilize all her reserves in order to beat her competitors, despite her wins in Rome, Zurich, and Brussels. Gevaert, in turn, might not only focus on Simpson, but also (as this past Friday, when Gevaert had started over 200m and had defeated her), 30-year-old **Debbie Ferguson** (BAH). This year, Ferguson had also won the 100m sprint at Oslo – and her past performances show that she is quite capable of running faster than eleven seconds (10,91 sec). With American **Torri Edwards** (29) and the Russian **Yuliya Gushchina** (23) two other athletes are expecting to be able to win this event. Finally, 21-year-old German **Verena Sailer** (LAC Quelle Fürth/München/Würzburg) adds a local touch to this list of starters.

Another dramatic highlight will be the women's **100m hurdles**, which will present some of the world's leading hurdle sprinters: ECH Silver medalist **Kirsten Bolm** (31) will face the international top class, including US-athlete **Joanna Hayes** (2004 Olympic gold medalist) and the 2003 World Champion, Canadian athlete **Perdita Felicien** (25). The winner of the Golden League meet in Oslo, **Brigitte Foster-Hylton** (31) from the Bahamas, and the Number 2 athlete on the World's top list, American **Danu Cherry** (28), will most likely show strong performances.

The IAAF Golden League event of women's **400m** presents another jackpot contender: The current number one athlete on the world's ranking list, American **Sanya Richards** (21), will have to work hard to secure her second jackpot share against European Champion, 22-year-old **Vanya Stambolova** (BUL), who closed in on her dramatically both in Paris and Zurich. Fast Jamaican runner **Novlene Williams** (24) was also fairly close behind Richards at the meetings in Rome and Zurich. Both might aim at delivering the first defeat to Richards this year. Finally, German National Champion **Claudia Hoffmann** (23) will complete the starting list.

The second female athlete in the fight for a share of the IAAF Golden League Jackpot is an Ethiopian: **Tirunesh Dibaba** (20) is the frontrunner of not only the Ethiopian runners over the **5.000m** distance but the event in general. Her toughest opponent is also from her home country, 22-year-old **Meseret Defar**, who succeeded in beating Dibaba's World Record on June 3rd 2006 at the New York Reebok Grand Prix – the 2004 Olympic gold medalist and 2005 WCH silver medallist came in with a time of 14:24.53 minutes, just six seconds faster than the current jackpot contender Dibaba! Almost equally strong are a number of Kenya athletes, first and foremost **Ines Chenonge** (24), and **Isabella Ochichi** (26), who have all succeeded with top results this year. Popular German athlete **Sabrina Mockenhaupt** (25) wants to show a formidable personal performance in this very fast-paced run.



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At the eleventh IAAF Golden League event, the women's **high jump**, the acting World Champion and World Lead athlete, Swedish superstar **Kajsa Bergqvist** (29), will try to take home her first IAAF Golden League meeting win. She will be needing all her strength as she is up against a stiff competition: European Champion **Tia Hellebaut** (28) from Brussels, the winner of the August 28<sup>th</sup> Golden League meeting in her home town, and 31-year-old American **Amy Acuff** are two other top athletes who are ready to take on her competitor. In her last victories over Bergqvist, Hellebaut defeated the popular Swedish both in Gothenburg and in Brussels. Just as in Gothenburg, Hellebaut had also defeated Bulgarian **Venelina Veneva** (32) as well as World Champion Bergqvist. Croatian **Blanca Vlasic** (22), who left the ECH without any medal this year, nevertheless succeeded in the Oslo and Rome meetings and now attempts to get her third Golden League win. The only German athlete in this club of international top stars is **Julia Hartmann** (20), the German National Champion – trying to deliver her best result in a direct performance test with the top four World Lead athletes.

Finally, the women's **javelin** event will present top European and German athletes: **Steffi Nerius** (34) once again has to take on her European competitors whom she defeated in Gothenburg. Czech athlete **Barbora Spotakova** (25) and Spanish javelin thrower **Mercedes Chilla** (26), the silver and bronze medalists, respectively, of this year's European Championships, will confront European Champion Steffi Nerius. ECH silver medalist **Christina Obergföll**, currently the World Lead athlete, might deliver yet another stunning performance in her home country.

Yet another opportunity for taking on a rematch, is presenting itself to usually unrivaled discus queen and European Championship silver medalist **Franka Dietzsch** (38), who will have to compete against the surprise European Champion, Russian athlete **Darya Pishchalnikova**, who is 17 years younger than Dietzsch – a fascinating duel between two different generations of athletes. Facing the audience in her home country, the German will most certainly try to present her competitor with a tough fight. The European Championship bronze medalist, 34-year-old Romanian athlete **Nicoleta Grasu**, is another top athlete trying to stop Dietzsch from bringing home a victory at the Olympic Stadium. Due to her 2006 World Lead performance of 65,44m, **Vera Pospíšilová-Cechlová** (27) in particular, but also Polish athlete **Wioletta Potepa** (25) can foster solid hopes for a win, too. 25-year-old **Jana Tucholke** is another German in this top-class starting list.

### Continued Cooperation with the Stadionfest at Königs-Wusterhausen and the start of a new track-and-field series, the DKB-Cup.

The DKB-ISTAF continues its traditional partnership with one of Germany's leading regional track-and-field meetings, the 13th Stadionfest Königs-Wusterhausen, which is staged southeast of Berlin. The meeting takes place on September 1<sup>st</sup>, and the winners of the men's 400m, 110m hurdles, long jump, and javelin, as well as the women's 100m sprint and high jump will get a wild card to start at DKB-ISTAF (if they meet the IAAF Golden League qualifying standards). A new series of four German meetings, the DKB-Cup, will also be presented at the Olympic Stadium. The finale of the DKB-Cup will take place one day prior the DKB-ISTAF, on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 am at the historic Olympic Village a few miles west of Berlin.

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## Press Release

# Berlin is the final meeting of the TDK Golden League.

**Final of the hunt for the Jackpot of the IAAF Golden League / Six athletes are still fighting for their share of the Jackpot.**

*Berlin, September 1<sup>st</sup> 2006*

The final countdown for winning the 2006 IAAF Golden League Jackpot filled with one million US-Dollars in gold has reached its last few days – a fascinating finale after a long and exciting season. The series was officially launched with the exciting competitions at the Prelude-Meeting Exxon Mobil Bislett Games, on June 2nd in Oslo. With the first meeting of the IAAF Golden League, the premium series of track-and-field events, at Oslo, the hunt for the Jackpot was launched: Athletes compete at eleven official IAAF disciplines, guaranteeing stunning competitions during the whole season and captivating audiences around the world to the final and often dramatic fight for the jackpot of the IAAF Golden League.

Six top athletes are still fighting for the IAAF Golden Jackpot, the world's premium track-and-field series: Jamaican sprinter **Asafa Powell** (100m), US-athletes **Jeremy Wariner** (400m) and **Sanya Richards** (400m) as well as Ethiopian 5,000m runner **Tirunesh Dibaba** managed to take home a victory in their respective disciplines at each of the five IAAF Golden League Meetings this year – they have already secured their share of 500,000 US \$, but they will nevertheless try to get their slice of the second 500,000 US \$ in gold. After four wins, the long jumper **Irving Saladino** (PAN) and 5,000m runner **Kenenisa Bekele** (ETH) still have the chance to win 500,000 US \$ in gold. "Thanks to this double jackpot, the competitions are becoming more dramatic for the audience. If Saladino and Bekele are winning in Berlin, too, we will be having a total of six jackpot winners, more than ever before in the history of the IAAF Golden League", says Gerhard Janetzky, „for the Berlin audience, this promises: More thrill, more top athletes in Berlin and two parallel jackpot fights“.

The winning system of this year's jackpot, filled with a total of one million US dollars in gold, has been re-structured: Athletes who have won in their discipline at five of the six meetings (Paris, Rome, Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin) will take home or share 500,000 US \$; and athletes who, in addition, were capable of winning the sixth meeting, will win or share another 500,000 US \$. Once again, the DKB-ISTAF serves as final meeting of the series, the two parts of the jackpot will once again be decided about in Berlin.



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Among the Jackpot winners in the past years were Moroccan runner Hicham El Guerrouj, hurdle sprinter Felix Sanchez (DOM) as well as, for the first time in the history of the TDK Golden League, an athlete, who could take home the Jackpot all for herself: 800m-runner Maria Mutola (MOZ) who won the jackpot in 2003. In 2004, 400m-runner Tonique Darling-Williams from the Bahamas shared the jackpot with Swedish triple jump athlete Christian Olsson. Last year, triple jump star Tatyana Lebedeva (RUS) won the one million US \$ for herself.

### 1998

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Haile Gebrselassie (ETH)

Marion Jones (USA)

### 1999

Wilson Kipketer (DEN)

Gabriela Szabo (ROM)

### 2000

Gail Devers (USA)

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Maurice Greene (USA)

Trine Hattestad (NOR)

Tatjana Kotowa (RUS)

### 2001

André Bucher (SUI)

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Allen Johnson (USA)

Violeta Szekely (ROM)

Olga Jegorowa (RUS)

### 2002

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Ana Guevara (MEX)

Marion Jones (USA)

Felix Sanchez (DOM)



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2003

Maria Mutola (MOZ)

2004

Tonique Darling-Williams (BAH)

Christian Olsson (SWE)

2005

Tatyana Lebedeva (RUS)



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# Press Release



## IAAF Golden League Winners 2006

Men's	Oslo	Paris	Rome	Zurich	Brussels	Berlin
Disciplin	(02.06.)	(07.07.)	(14.07.)	(18.08.)	(25.08.)	(03.09.)

100m	Powell, Asafa (JAM) 9.98	Powell, Asafa (JAM) 9.85	Powell, Asafa (JAM) 9.85	Powell, Asafa (JAM) 9.77	Powell, Asafa (JAM) 9.99	
400m	Wariner, Jeremy (USA) 44.31	Wariner, Jeremy (USA) 43.91	Wariner, Jeremy (USA) 43.62	Wariner, Jeremy (USA) 44.20	Wariner, Jeremy (USA) 44.29	
1500m	Kipruto Brimin, Kiprop (KEN) 3 :36.53	Heshko, Ivan (UKR) 3 :31.08	Kipchirchir, Daniel Komen (KEN) 3 :29.02	Kiprono, Choge Augustine (KEN) 3:32.72	Baala, Mehdi (FRA) 3:32.01	
5000m	Songok, Isaac (KEN) 12:55.79	Bekele, Kenenisa (ETH) 12:51.32	Bekele, Kenenisa (ETH) 12:51.44	Bekele, Kenenisa (ETH) 12:48.25	Bekele, Kenenisa (ETH) 12:48.09	
Long Jump	Saladino, Irving (PAN) 8.53	Gaisah, Ignisious (GAH) 8.31	Saladino, Irving (PAN) 8.45	Saladino, Irving (PAN) 8.36	Saladino, Irving (PAN) 8.31	
Javelin	Thorkildsen, Andreas (NOR) 91.59	Pitkämäki, Tero (FIN) 89.04	Thorkildsen, Andreas (NOR) 90.34	Pitkämäki, Tero (FIN) 88.27	Thorkildsen, Andreas (NOR) 86.97	

Women's	Oslo	Paris	Rome	Zurich	Brussels	Berlin
Disciplin	(02.06.)	(07.07.)	(14.07.)	(18.08.)	(25.08.)	(03.09.)

100m	Ferguson, Debbie (BAH) 11.22	Jones, Marion (USA) 10.92	Simpson, Sherone (JAM) 10.87	Simpson, Sherone (JAM) 11.09	Simpson, Sherone (JAM) 10.95	
100m Hurdles	Foster-Hylton, Brigitte (JAM) 12.70	Kallur, Susanna (SWE) 12.61	Kallur, Susanna (SWE) 12.52	Perry, Michelle (USA) 12.65	Perry, Michelle (USA) 12.55	
400m	Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.82	Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.73	Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.31	Richards, Sanya (USA) 50.18	Richards, Sanya (USA) 50.02	
5000m	Dibaba, Tirunesh (ETH) 14:30.40	Dibaba, Tirunesh (ETH) 14:54.24	Dibaba, Tirunesh (ETH) 14:52.37	Dibaba, Tirunesh (ETH) 14:45.73	Dibaba, Tirunesh (ETH) 14:30.63	
High Jump	Vlasic, Blanka (CRO) 1.98	Slesarenko, Melena (RUS) 2.00	Vlasic, Blanka (CRO) 2.00	Venelina, Veneva (BUL) 2.04	Hellebaut, Tia (BEL) 1.98	

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## Press Release



### Price Money-Structure of the DKB-ISTAF 2006

Rang	IAAF Golden League "Premium Event"	IAAF Golden League "Classic Event"	DKB-ISTAF Promotional Events
1	16.000 US \$	8.000 US \$	4.000 US \$
2	12.000 US \$	6.000 US \$	3.000 US \$
3	9.000 US \$	4.500 US \$	2.250 US \$
4	6.000 US \$	3.000 US \$	1.500 US \$
5	4.000 US \$	2.000 US \$	1.000 US \$
6	3.000 US \$	1.000 US \$	800 US \$
7	2.000 US \$	800 US \$	600 US \$
8	1.000 US \$	600 US \$	500 US \$

Premium Events: Women: 100m, 5,000m / Men: 100m, 400m, 1.500m, 5,000m

Classic Events: Women: 100m Hurdles, 400m, High Jump / Men: Long Jump, Javelin

DKB-ISTAF Promotional Events: Women: Javelin, Discus / Men: 110m Hurdles, 800m, Shot Put, Pole Vault

DKB-ISTAF Special Events: Women: 100m B-Run, 400m U20 / Men: 800m B-Run, 3,000m

#### Bonus for Records

World Record	50 000 US \$
Meeting record (DKB-ISTAF-Record)	3 000 US \$



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## TIMETABLE DKB-ISTAF \* (as of 01. 09. 2006)

Time	Technik	Competition
09:30		Intermediate 50m Super sprint heats
10:55		Intermediate School Relay heats 16 x 50m
11:30		Final heats 50m "Super sprint"
 11:55		Women Javelin
 12:00		Men Shot Put
12:20		Women 100m-B (national)
 12:20		Men Pole Vault
12:25		BECEL „Germany-Walk“
	12:35	Athlete presentation DKB-ISTAF 2006
	12:45	Winners' Ceremony Super Sprinter
 12:45		Women High Jump
 12:55		Men 110m Hurdle
 13:05		Women 100m
 13:10		Men 5.000m
 13:30		Men Long Jump
 13:35		Women 100m Hurdle
 13:40		Men Javelin
 13:45		Men 400m
 13:55		Men 1.500m
 14:10		Women 5.000m
 14:35		Men 100m
 14:45		Women 400m
	14:50	IAAF Golden League Ceremony
 15:00		Women Discus
15:05		Women 400m – U20
15:15		Finals: School Relay 16 x 50m
	15:20	Ceremony Women 400m - U20
15:25		Men 800m B-run
	15:30	Ceremony School Relays
15:35		Charity for Kenya - Javelin Target Throw
 15:45		Men 800m
	15:50	Winners' Ceremony DKB-ISTAF 2006
 15:55		Men 3.000m
16:05		End of the 65. Internationales Stadionfest 2006

\* Times are given in local time CET



IAAF Golden League Disziplin



DKB-ISTAF Zusatzdisziplin



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## Press Release

# Finale in Berlin: An Outstanding Starting Field, Gripping Duels and Rematches, and a Stunning Hunt for the 2006 Jackpot.

**Six athletes remain in the dramatic fight for the IAAF Golden League jackpot / A total of 30 medalists of the European Championship 2006, including 14 European Champions, to compete at the IAAF Golden League's final meeting / 45 German athletes signed on / Seven DKB-ISTAF promotional events / Ticket sales hit 47,000 tickets / Stadionfest to be staged under ideal weather conditions.**

*Berlin, September 1st 2006*

In its special anniversary year, the 65<sup>th</sup> Internationales Stadionfest will proudly offer the possibly most dramatic fight for the IAAF Golden League Jackpot ever and an equally outstanding starting field, presenting one of this season's top international track-and-field meetings to the audience at the Olympic Stadium Berlin and an estimated 60 million TV viewers around the world. A total of 220 top athletes from around the world have confirmed their starts at Germany's biggest and most traditional athletics meeting this coming Sunday, September 3rd: 30 medalists of the Athletics European Championship in Gothenburg, including 14 gold medalists, are expected to compete in Berlin. The European elite will go face to face with 45 German athletes, among them 16 national Champions -, but more importantly, it will also feature the international top class, including seven acting World Champions, six 4002 Olympic gold medalists, four acting World Record Holders and many 2006 World Lead athletes. "This IAAF Golden League finale will present many of the world's top athletes in each of the 18 disciplines", said Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF Berlin/LVG GmbH, today in Berlin during the presentation of the final starting lists. "At the end of this season, the European Champions will have the opportunity to compete against many of the world's top athletes, and those who were defeated in Gothenburg, will have a chance for stunning rematches and duels, going head-to-head with their competitors. Last but not least, German athletes will be able to show their strengths, testing their ground once more in one of the world's most important international meetings."

This year, the DKB-ISTAF will open its gates at 10 am already, starting with the traditional students' relays of Berlin public schools. The IAAF Golden League meeting then begins with an entertainment program for the family at 11 am, the main competitions will be following at noon. The DKB-ISTAF will be broadcast live by German national television (ARD, 12:50 pm to 1:50 pm), Berlin's public broadcast corporation RBB will show the meeting in its television program from 1:51 to 3 pm, and national pay-TV station Premiere will broadcast two hours of the DKB-ISTAF later. In addition, there will be detailed news reports on Germany's two leading sports programs on ARD and ZDF on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. With a maximum temperature of 24° C and a partially cloudy sky, the weather seems to be set for ideal competitions conditions. Ticket sales for this year's meeting are hovering around 47,000 tickets, equaling sales numbers of 2005. "Therefore, we are quite confident to reach our goal of 50,000 to 60,000 fans in the stadium", says Gerhard Janetzky.

At the 65<sup>th</sup> edition of the DKB-ISTAF Berlin, the world's top athletes are competing in eleven official IAAF disciplines: Men are starting at 100m, 400m, 1500m and 5,000m. In addition, they will also compete in the technical disciplines of long jump and javelin. Women will be starting in 100m, 400m, 5,000m, 100m hurdles and high



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jump. Seven additional DKB-ISTAF promotional events will also be presented: men's 800m, 3,000m, 100m hurdles, shot put and pole vault and women's javelin and discus. Just as in 1998-2002 and 2004-2005, the DKB-ISTAF serves as final meeting of the IAAF Golden League, the premium series of international athletics, where athletes fight for a Jackpot of one million US-Dollars in gold.

Up-to-date information on the meeting and ticket sales can be found online at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de). Tickets can be purchased via the phone hotline 030/4430 4430 or online at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de) or [www.velomax.de](http://www.velomax.de).

## Six athletes are still fighting for their share of the IAAF Golden League Jackpot

The Berlin finale promises to stage a gripping fight for the golden Jackpot as six remaining athletes are still fighting for their share of the gold. If all of these six should succeed at the DKB-ISTAF this Sunday, the IAAF Golden League will enjoy the highest number of jackpot winners ever in its eight-year history: These six athletes are Jamaican sprinter **Asafa Powell** (100m), US-athletes **Jeremy Wariner** (400m) and **Sanya Richards** (400m) as well as Ethiopian 5,000m runner **Tirunesh Dibaba** managed to take home a victory in their respective disciplines at each of the five IAAF Golden League Meetings this year – they have already secured their share of 500,000 US \$, but they will nevertheless try to get their slice of the second 500,000 US \$ in gold. After four wins, the long jumper **Irving Saladino** (PAN) and 5,000m runner **Kenenisa Bekele** (ETH) still have the chance to win their share of 500,000 US \$ in gold. The winning system of this year's jackpot, filled with a total of one million US dollars in gold, has been re-structured: Athletes who have won in their discipline at five of the six meetings (Paris, Rome, Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin) will take home or share 500,000 US \$; and athletes who, in addition, were capable of winning the sixth meeting, will win or share another 500,000 US \$. Once again, the DKB-ISTAF serves as final meeting of the series, the two parts of the jackpot will once again be settled in Berlin. The hunt for the gold will reach its dramatic finale in Berlin, as the meeting presents the six contenders with a great number of each discipline's competing top stars.

## Highlights: Duels and Rematches in 18 Disciplines

A special highlight of the competitions promises the **men's 100m sprint**: The acting 100m World Record Holder and jackpot contender, 23-year-old **Asafa Powell** (JAM) will be running against Portuguese sprinter **Francis Obikwelu**, the new 100m and 200m European Champion and current European Record Holder of the 100m sprint. In addition, Asafa Powell has announced to try to break his own World Record of 9,77 sec. on Berlin's fast blue track, thus finally winning his second share of the gold. Obikwelu will be trying to make up for his two defeats suffered from Powell at the IAAF Golden League Meetings in Rome and Zurich – and the Portuguese, could, in fact, pose a serious risk to the frontrunner. Another dangerous contender is American **Tyson Gay** (24) who achieved the season's second-fastest time in Zurich (9,84 sec.) – coming in second behind Powell. The World Record Holder has also to look out for US-athletes **Leonard Scott** (26) and **Jason Smoots** (26), as Scott finished fourth both in Paris and Rome. In the meetings at Zurich and Brussels, he made it to rank 3, finishing the sprint in just under ten seconds. With his success at Rieti this past Sunday, so Smoots definitely proved that he needs to be taken quite seriously! French athlete **Ronald Pognon** (23), the Indoors European Record Holder (60m) also ran 9,99 sec. in 2005 and is another athlete to take into account. German national Champion **Ronny Ostwald** (32) wants to prove his class in front of a home audience, and Slovenic sprinter **Matic Osovnikar** (26), bronze medalists of the European Championship and the fifth European in this field, as well as Nigerian **Olusoji Fasuba** (22), the acting African Champion, are completing the 100m sprint event's starting list.



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In the **400m** race, Jackpot contender **Jeremy Wariner** (USA) definitely is the frontrunner: The Olympic gold medalist, World Champion and 2006 World Lead athlete – he achieved the eight fastest results this year – nevertheless has to keep an eye on American competitor **LaShawn Merritt** (20), who almost managed to beat Wariner in Zurich. **Andrew Rock** (24), too, this year's third-fastest over 400m, would like to prevent Wariner from winning a second share of the jackpot. The list of starters has a fourth American sprinter, **Derrick Brew** (29). European Champion **Marc Raquil** (29) from France can be considered the European frontrunner in this fast-paced event. Finally, the German National Champion has been added to the list, 22-year-old **Kamghe Gaba**, voted as the month's most popular athlete by the country's leading track-and-field Website, [www.leichtathletik.de](http://www.leichtathletik.de), has earned his start at DKB-ISTAF thanks to outstanding performances this year. The 26-year-old African Champion **Gary Kikaya** will be completing the starting list.

Another highlight will be the **800m race**: 26-year-old European Champion **Bram Som** (NED) will have to go head-to-head with the 2006 World Lead athlete **Mbulaeni Mulaudzi** (25) – this South African who took home a 800m race win in Berlin last year, managed to beat this season's record time with a result of 1:43.09 minutes this past Sunday at Rieti! Latvian athlete and ECH fourth ranked **Dimitrijs Milkevics** (24) and the two Kenyans **Yussuf Kamel** (23) and **William Yiampany** (32) are also quite capable of closing in on the frontrunner, Mulaudzi.

The **1,500m** race presents yet another World Record Holder (3,000m steeple chase), **Saif Saaeed Shaheen**, who has remained undefeated in this discipline since 2002. During this time, he has won the World Championships of 2003 and 2005. Spanish competitor **Juan Carlos Higuero** ranks among the top ten of the world's top list and is considered to be one of the outstanding opponents to Shaheen. Berlin athlete **Carsten Schlangen** (25), the current German National Champion, will have the opportunity to present himself in this world-class race to the German audience.

The 29-year-old surprise 10,000m European Champion **Jan Fitschen** (29) will enjoy his very own, special moment at the meeting, as a **3,000m** run was added to the program to celebrate his stunning success. He will certainly try to recapture his Gothenburg moment of victory in Berlin, but the meeting will confront the champion with a stiff competition. Add to that another ECH Champion, Spanish competitor **Jesùs Espana** (28), and Fitschen faces an interesting challenge. Fitschen, the multiple German Champion over the 5,000m and 10,000m, celebrated his PB in Gothenburg (28:10.04 min) – only his second international title after his victory at the Indoor Europe Cup in 2006 (3,000m). Given his 5,000m win in Gothenburg, the Spanish athlete should also be taken into account. Two Germans competing in this list are 3,000m steeple chase German National Champion **Steffen Uliczka** and **Lars Haferkamp**.

The **men's 5,000m** will present multiple World Champion, Olympic gold medalist, and double World Record Holder (5,000m and 10,000m) from Ethiopia, **Kenenisa Bekele** (24) – one of the most astonishing athletes of all times and the top long-distance runner. Bekele, who has won all but the first IAAF Golden League meetings this year, now faces his last chance to take home a slice of the gold jackpot – he just has to win the run in Berlin. He is one of five Ethiopians in the starting list and is well capable of breaking the DKB-ISTAF meeting record from 2005 (12:53.19 min.). His toughest opponents are the 19-year-old U20 World Champion **Tariku Bekele** as well as **Abreham Feleke** (16), who are among this year's fastest athletes over this distance. In addition, there are ten Kenyan starters, led by **Jonas Cheruiyot** (22) and **Boniface Songok** (25). 34-year-old **Bernard Lagat** (USA), the event's winner at the 2005 DKB-ISTAF, has shown in the past that he quite capable of crushing Bekele's hopes for the golden Jackpot.

In the **110m hurdles sprint**, the audience can expect a stunning rematch fight with three athletes fighting hard for a win: Living hurdle sprint legend **Allen Johnson** (the three-time World Champion and 1996 Olympic Games gold medalist), the



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European Champion from Latvia, **Stanislavs Olijars** (27) and the ECH silver medalist and German National Champion **Thomas Blaschek** (25). To veteran hurdle sprinter Johnson, the two latter athletes are representing a new generation of hurdle sprinters, who are now trying to beat Johnson.

Naturally, Olijars will be the top contender for the win in the event in Berlin: The European Champion will try to take revenge on Johnson and will most certainly mobilize all his energy reserves to beat the American. Thomas Blaschek, too, would like to win in Berlin, as he came close to his first meeting victory last year, when he finished second. A strong competitor from Overseas is young Cuban athlete **Dayron Robles** (19), who showed his class when he finished second after Johnson at the IAAF Golden League Meeting Zurich. His PB of 13,04 sec. which he achieved this July at Lausanne, is this year's fourth fastest time over the 110m hurdles. His last win was on August 20<sup>th</sup> in Monaco. 21-year-old **Aries Merritt** (USA) will also have a very special motivation to take home a win, as he came in only third at the meeting in Zurich and second at the Monaco Herculis, respectively. With a PB of 13,12 sec., he is this year's fifth fastest hurdle sprinter (his time ranks as number 10). The Berlin start of Jamaican athlete **Maurice Wignall** (30) is almost beginning to look like a tradition now, as he will be competing at the DKB-ISTAF for the third time. In 2004, he had finished second behind Johnson, and fourth last year. In addition to another US-athlete, **Robby Hughes** (28), two German athletes, **David Oliver** (24) and **Jens Wermann** (21), will also hit the blue track. Wermann is a surprise shooting star, who came in sixth at the 110m hurdle finals at the European Championships this year – an amazing performance considering that he had not meet the qualifying norms of the German team prior to his start.

Another jackpot contender is **Irving Saladino** (23) from Panama, competing in the **long jump** event, hoping to secure his share of 500,000 US \$. With the exception of the Golden League Meeting in Paris, he has won all others – in Paris, it was the current World Leader, Ghana athlete **Ignisious Gaisah** who crushed Saladino's hopes for the full million in gold by a mere 2 centimeters. In Rome, on the other hand, Saladino triumphed by 2 centimeters over the African. This stunning rematch story will most likely continue in Berlin – with Saladino facing a lot of pressure to win. The number 2 of the 2006 top list, 25-year-old **Mohamed Al-Khuwalidi** (KSA), and ECH third-ranked **Oleksiy Lukashevych** (29) from Ukraine are also in for the fight to win. Finally, the list is completed by German National Champion **Sebastian Bayer** (20).

The meeting's promotional disciplines once again showcase one of the meeting's most popular events, the **men's pole vault**. American 2004 Olympic medalist **Timothy Mack** (33) will take on the top three athletes of the European Championships and the new generation of world-leading American and Australian athletes as well: In addition to the frontrunner and ECH gold medalist, Israeli **Aleksandr Averbukh** (31), German top athletes **Tim Lobinger** (33) and 29-year-old Frenchman **Romain Mesnil**, the two silver medalists of the European Championships will try to deliver a powerful rematch. German Champion **Lars Börgeling** (27), as well as **Richard Spiegelburg** (29), **Danny Ecker** (29) and **Fabian Schulze** (22) will fight against the world's three leading top athletes. US-star athlete **Brad Walker** (25) and the two Australians **Paul Burgess** (27) and **Steven Hooker** (24) have all been signed on for the DKB-ISTAF as well. The event promises to be particularly close, as Walker, Burgess and Lobinger have all cracked the 6 metres barrier in the past. Lobinger is celebrating his birthday on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and has announced to attack the world record once more – just as at the 2005 DKB-ISTAF.

The **men's shot put** offers a special déjà-vu situation for 30-year-old **Andrei Mikhnevich** (BEL) and **Ruther Smith** (NED), who were relegated to second and fourth ranks at the European Championships by the gold medalist, German athlete **Ralf Bartels** (28) – a tough rematch situation for both of them as Mikhnevich will try to prevent Bartels, certainly the frontrunner, from celebrating yet another success. American **Reese Hoffa** (28) will be confronting these top Europeans with Overseas



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power, backed up by a SB of 21,96 – definitely the toughest athlete in this event. Among the other top athletes in the starting field is German athlete **Andy Dittmar** (32).

The **men's javelin** event certainly qualifies as another world-class competition: Norwegian **Andreas Thorkildsen** (24), the 2004 Olympic gold medalists and also European Champion, and Finish athlete **Tero Pitkämäki** (23), ECH silver medalist, have already delivered a series of stunning duels and rematches at the preceding IAAF Golden League meetings. The World Lead athlete Thorkildsen was able to dominate the meetings in Oslo, Rome, and Brussels, while the World Lead athlete No. 2, Pitkämäki, took home victories in Paris and Zurich. The 2005 World Champion, Estonian **Andrus Värnik** (28), will go head-to-head with these two outstanding Europeans for a win in Berlin. Last but not least, 24-year-old Latvian **Vadims Vasilevskis**, with just one meter behind the current Number 3 on the World Lead list, will try to attack as well German athletes **Peter Esenwein** (38) and **Stefan Wenk** (born in '81) are the two local contenders in this world-class list.

## Highlights in Women's Competitions

At the women's **100m sprint**, Belgian double-European Champion **Kim Gevaert** (28) will have to face the world's lead (10,82 sec) and winner of the IAAF Golden Meeting at Brussels, **Sherone Simpson** (22) from Jamaica. Facing a world-class starting list, Simpson, however, will have to mobilize all her reserves in order to beat her competitors, despite her wins in Rome, Zurich, and Brussels. Gevaert, in turn, might not only focus on Simpson, but also (as this past Friday, when Gevaert had started over 200m and had defeated her), 30-year-old **Debbie Ferguson** (BAH). This year, Ferguson had also won the 100m sprint at Oslo – and her past performances show that she is quite capable of running faster than eleven seconds (10,91 sec). With American **Torri Edwards** (29) and the Russian **Yuliya Gushchina** (23) two other athletes are expecting to be able to win this event. Finally, 21-year-old German **Verena Sailer** (LAC Quelle Fürth/München/Würzburg) adds a local touch to this list of starters.

Another dramatic highlight will be the women's **100m hurdles**, which will present some of the world's leading hurdle sprinters: ECH Silver medalist **Kirsten Bolm** (31) will face the international top class, including US-athlete **Joanna Hayes** (2004 Olympic gold medalist) and the 2003 World Champion, Canadian athlete **Perdita Felicien** (25). The winner of the Golden League meet in Oslo, **Brigitte Foster-Hylton** (31) from the Bahamas, and the Number 2 athlete on the World's top list, American **Danu Cherry** (28), will most likely show strong performances.

The IAAF Golden League event of women's **400m** presents another jackpot contender: The current number one athlete on the world's ranking list, American **Sanya Richards** (21), will have to work hard to secure her second jackpot share against European Champion, 22-year-old **Vanya Stambolova** (BUL), who closed in on her dramatically both in Paris and Zurich. Fast Jamaican runner **Novlene Williams** (24) was also fairly close behind Richards at the meetings in Rome and Zurich. Both might aim at delivering the first defeat to Richards this year. Finally, German National Champion **Claudia Hoffmann** (23) will complete the starting list.

The second female athlete in the fight for a share of the IAAF Golden League Jackpot is an Ethiopian: **Tirunesh Dibaba** (20) is the frontrunner of not only the Ethiopian runners over the **5.000m** distance but the event in general. Her toughest opponent is also from her home country, 22-year-old **Meseret Defar**, who succeeded in beating Dibaba's World Record on June 3rd 2006 at the New York Reebok Grand Prix – the 2004 Olympic gold medalist and 2005 WCH silver medallist came in with a time of 14:24.53 minutes, just six seconds faster than the current jackpot contender Dibaba! Almost equally strong are a number of Kenya athletes, first and foremost **Ines Chenonge** (24), and **Isabella Ochichi** (26), who have all succeeded with top results this year. Popular German athlete **Sabrina Mockenhaupt** (25) wants to show a formidable personal performance in this very fast-paced run.



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At the eleventh IAAF Golden League event, the women's **high jump**, the acting World Champion and World Lead athlete, Swedish superstar **Kajsa Bergqvist** (29), will try to take home her first IAAF Golden League meeting win. She will be needing all her strength as she is up against a stiff competition: European Champion **Tia Hellebaut** (28) from Brussels, the winner of the August 28<sup>th</sup> Golden League meeting in her home town, and 31-year-old American **Amy Acuff** are two other top athletes who are ready to take on her competitor. In her last victories over Bergqvist, Hellebaut defeated the popular Swedish both in Gothenburg and in Brussels. Just as in Gothenburg, Hellebaut had also defeated Bulgarian **Venelina Veneva** (32) as well as World Champion Bergqvist. Croatian **Blanca Vlasic** (22), who left the ECH without any medal this year, nevertheless succeeded in the Oslo and Rome meetings and now attempts to get her third Golden League win. The only German athlete in this club of international top stars is **Julia Hartmann** (20), the German National Champion – trying to deliver her best result in a direct performance test with the top four World Lead athletes.

Finally, the women's **javelin** event will present top European and German athletes: **Steffi Nerius** (34) once again has to take on her European competitors whom she defeated in Gothenburg. Czech athlete **Barbora Spotakova** (25) and Spanish javelin thrower **Mercedes Chilla** (26), the silver and bronze medalists, respectively, of this year's European Championships, will confront European Champion Steffi Nerius. ECH silver medalist **Christina Obergföll**, currently the World Lead athlete, might deliver yet another stunning performance in her home country.

Yet another opportunity for taking on a rematch, is presenting itself to usually unrivaled discus queen and European Championship silver medalist **Franka Dietzsch** (38), who will have to compete against the surprise European Champion, Russian athlete **Darya Pishchalnikova**, who is 17 years younger than Dietzsch – a fascinating duel between two different generations of athletes. Facing the audience in her home country, the German will most certainly try to present her competitor with a tough fight. The European Championship bronze medalist, 34-year-old Romanian athlete **Nicoleta Grasu**, is another top athlete trying to stop Dietzsch from bringing home a victory at the Olympic Stadium. Due to her 2006 World Lead performance of 65,44m, **Vera Pospíšilová-Cechlová** (27) in particular, but also Polish athlete **Wioletta Potepa** (25) can foster solid hopes for a win, too. 25-year-old **Jana Tucholke** is another German in this top-class starting list.

### Continued Cooperation with the Stadionfest at Königs-Wusterhausen and the start of a new track-and-field series, the DKB-Cup.

The DKB-ISTAF continues its traditional partnership with one of Germany's leading regional track-and-field meetings, the 13th Stadionfest Königs-Wusterhausen, which is staged southeast of Berlin. The meeting takes place on September 1<sup>st</sup>, and the winners of the men's 400m, 110m hurdles, long jump, and javelin, as well as the women's 100m sprint and high jump will get a wild card to start at DKB-ISTAF (if they meet the IAAF Golden League qualifying standards). A new series of four German meeting, the DKB-Cup, will also be presented at the Olympic Stadium. The finale of the DKB-Cup will take place one day prior the DKB-ISTAF, on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 am at the historic Olympic Village a few miles west of Berlin.

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## FACT SHEET

### Top athletes at the 65. DKB-ISTAF Berlin 2006

(as of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2006)

#### 2005 World Champions

Jeremy Wariner (USA)	Men 400m
Saif Saaeed Shaheen (QAT)	Men 3.000m Steeple Chase
Kenensia Bekele (ETH)	Men 10.000m
Andrus Värnik (EST)	Men Javelin
Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH)	Women 5.000m
Kajsa Bergqvist (SWE)	Women High Jump
Franka Dietzsch (GER)	Women Discus

#### 2004 Olympic Gold Medalists

Jeremy Wariner (USA)	Men 400m
Kenenisa Bekele (ETH)	Men 10.000m
Timothy Mack (USA)	Men Pole Vault
Andreas Thorkildsen (NOR)	Men Javelin
Joanna Hayes (USA)	Women 100m Hurdles
Meseret Defar (ETH)	Women 5,000m

#### Acting World Record Holders

Asafa Powell (JAM)	Men 100m
Saif Saaeed Shaheen (QAT)	Men 3,000m Steeple Chase
Kenenisa Bekele (ETH)	Men 5,000m and 10,000m
Meseret Defar (ETH)	Women 5,000m

#### 2006 European Championship medalists

##### Gold medalists:

Fancis Obikwelu (POR)	Men 100m and 200m
Stanislavs Olijars (LAT)	Men 110m Hurdles
Marc Raquil (FRA)	Men 400m



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Bram Som (NED)  
Jesus Espana (ESP)  
Jan Fitschen (GER)  
Aleksandr Averbukh (ISR)  
Ralf Bartels (GER)  
Andreas Thorkildsen (NOR)  
Kim Gevaert (BEL)  
Vanya Stambolova (BUL)  
Tia Hellebaut (BEL)  
Steffi Nerius (GER)  
Darya Pishchalnikova (RUS)

Men 800m  
Men 5,000m  
Men 10,000m  
Men Pole Vault  
Men Shot Put  
Men Javelin  
Women 100m and 200m  
Women 400m  
High Jump  
Women Javelin  
Women Discus

## Silver medalists:

Thomas Blaschek (GER)  
Tim Lobinger (GER)  
Romain Mesnil (FRA)  
Andrei Mikhnevich (BLR)  
Pero Pitkämäki (FIN)  
Kirsten Bolm (GER)  
Suzanne Wigene (NOR)  
Venelina Veneva (BUL)  
Barbora Spotakova (CZE)  
Franka Dietzsch (GER)

Men 110m Hurdles  
Men Pole Vault  
Men Pole Vault  
Men Shot Put  
Men Javelin  
Women 100m Hurdles  
Women 10.000m  
Women High Jump  
Women Javelin Throw  
Women Discus

## Bronze medalists:

Matic Osovnikar (SLO)  
Juan Carlos Higuero (ESP)  
Oleksiy Lukashevych (UKR)  
Kajsa Bergqvist (SWE)  
Mercedes Chilla (ESP)  
Nicoleta Grasu (ROM)

Men 100m  
Men 1.500m  
Men Long Jump  
High Jump  
Women Javelin  
Women Discus



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# Berlin is the final meeting of the TDK Golden League.

**Final of the hunt for the Jackpot of the IAAF Golden League / Six athletes are still fighting for their share of the Jackpot.**

*Berlin, September 1<sup>st</sup> 2006*

The final countdown for winning the 2006 IAAF Golden League Jackpot filled with one million US-Dollars in gold has reached its last few days – a fascinating finale after a long and exciting season. The series was officially launched with the exciting competitions at the Prelude-Meeting Exxon Mobil Bislett Games, on June 2nd in Oslo. With the first meeting of the IAAF Golden League, the premium series of track-and-field events, at Oslo, the hunt for the Jackpot was launched: Athletes compete at eleven official IAAF disciplines, guaranteeing stunning competitions during the whole season and captivating audiences around the world to the final and often dramatic fight for the jackpot of the IAAF Golden League.

Six top athletes are still fighting for the IAAF Golden Jackpot, the world's premium track-and-field series: Jamaican sprinter **Asafa Powell** (100m), US-athletes **Jeremy Wariner** (400m) and **Sanya Richards** (400m) as well as Ethiopian 5,000m runner **Tirunesh Dibaba** managed to take home a victory in their respective disciplines at each of the five IAAF Golden League Meetings this year – they have already secured their share of 500,000 US \$, but they will nevertheless try to get their slice of the second 500,000 US \$ in gold. After four wins, the long jumper **Irving Saladino** (PAN) and 5,000m runner **Kenenisa Bekele** (ETH) still have the chance to win 500,000 US \$ in gold. "Thanks to this double jackpot, the competitions are becoming more dramatic for the audience. If Saladino and Bekele are winning in Berlin, too, we will be having a total of six jackpot winners, more than ever before in the history of the IAAF Golden League", says Gerhard Janetzky, „for the Berlin audience, this promises: More thrill, more top athletes in Berlin and two parallel jackpot fights“.

The winning system of this year's jackpot, filled with a total of one million US dollars in gold, has been re-structured: Athletes who have won in their discipline at five of the six meetings (Paris, Rome, Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin) will take home or share 500,000 US \$; and athletes who, in addition, were capable of winning the sixth meeting, will win or share another 500,000 US \$. Once again, the DKB-ISTAF serves as final meeting of the series, the two parts of the jackpot will once again be decided about in Berlin.



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## Press Release

Among the Jackpot winners in the past years were Moroccan runner Hicham El Guerrouj, hurdle sprinter Felix Sanchez (DOM) as well as, for the first time in the history of the TDK Golden League, an athlete, who could take home the Jackpot all for herself: 800m-runner Maria Mutola (MOZ) who won the jackpot in 2003. In 2004, 400m-runner Tonique Darling-Williams from the Bahamas shared the jackpot with Swedish triple jump athlete Christian Olsson. Last year, triple jump star Tatyana Lebedeva (RUS) won the one million US \$ for herself.

### 1998

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Haile Gebrselassie (ETH)

Marion Jones (USA)

### 1999

Wilson Kipketer (DEN)

Gabriela Szabo (ROM)

### 2000

Gail Devers (USA)

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Maurice Greene (USA)

Trine Hattestad (NOR)

Tatjana Kotowa (RUS)

### 2001

André Bucher (SUI)

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Allen Johnson (USA)

Violeta Szekely (ROM)

Olga Jegorowa (RUS)

### 2002

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Ana Guevara (MEX)

Marion Jones (USA)

Felix Sanchez (DOM)



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# Press Release

2003

Maria Mutola (MOZ)

2004

Tonique Darling-Williams (BAH)

Christian Olsson (SWE)

2005

Tatyana Lebedeva (RUS)



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# Press Release



## IAAF Golden League Winners 2006

Men's	Oslo	Paris	Rome	Zurich	Brussels	Berlin
Disciplin	(02.06.)	(07.07.)	(14.07.)	(18.08.)	(25.08.)	(03.09.)

100m	Powell, Asafa (JAM) 9.98	Powell, Asafa (JAM) 9.85	Powell, Asafa (JAM) 9.85	Powell, Asafa (JAM) 9.77	Powell, Asafa (JAM) 9.99	
400m	Wariner, Jeremy (USA) 44.31	Wariner, Jeremy (USA) 43.91	Wariner, Jeremy (USA) 43.62	Wariner, Jeremy (USA) 44.20	Wariner, Jeremy (USA) 44.29	
1500m	Kipruto Brimin, Kiprop (KEN) 3 :36.53	Heshko, Ivan (UKR) 3 :31.08	Kipchirchir, Daniel Komen (KEN) 3 :29.02	Kiprono, Choge Augustine (KEN) 3:32.72	Baala, Mehdi (FRA) 3:32.01	
5000m	Songok, Isaac (KEN) 12:55.79	Bekele, Kenenisa (ETH) 12:51.32	Bekele, Kenenisa (ETH) 12:51.44	Bekele, Kenenisa (ETH) 12:48.25	Bekele, Kenenisa (ETH) 12:48.09	
Long Jump	Saladino, Irving (PAN) 8.53	Gaisah, Ignisious (GAH) 8.31	Saladino, Irving (PAN) 8.45	Saladino, Irving (PAN) 8.36	Saladino, Irving (PAN) 8.31	
Javelin	Thorkildsen, Andreas (NOR) 91.59	Pitkämäki, Tero (FIN) 89.04	Thorkildsen, Andreas (NOR) 90.34	Pitkämäki, Tero (FIN) 88.27	Thorkildsen, Andreas (NOR) 86.97	

Women's	Oslo	Paris	Rome	Zurich	Brussels	Berlin
Disciplin	(02.06.)	(07.07.)	(14.07.)	(18.08.)	(25.08.)	(03.09.)

100m	Ferguson, Debbie (BAH) 11.22	Jones, Marion (USA) 10.92	Simpson, Sherone (JAM) 10.87	Simpson, Sherone (JAM) 11.09	Simpson, Sherone (JAM) 10.95	
100m Hurdles	Foster-Hylton, Brigitte (JAM) 12.70	Kallur, Susanna (SWE) 12.61	Kallur, Susanna (SWE) 12.52	Perry, Michelle (USA) 12.65	Perry, Michelle (USA) 12.55	
400m	Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.82	Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.73	Richards, Sanya (USA) 49.31	Richards, Sanya (USA) 50.18	Richards, Sanya (USA) 50.02	
5000m	Dibaba, Tirunesh (ETH) 14:30.40	Dibaba, Tirunesh (ETH) 14:54.24	Dibaba, Tirunesh (ETH) 14:52.37	Dibaba, Tirunesh (ETH) 14:45.73	Dibaba, Tirunesh (ETH) 14:30.63	
High Jump	Vlasic, Blanka (CRO) 1.98	Slesarenko, Melena (RUS) 2.00	Vlasic, Blanka (CRO) 2.00	Venelina, Veneva (BUL) 2.04	Hellebaut, Tia (FIN) 1.98	

**DKB** Deutsche Kreditbank AG



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## Press Release



### Price Money-Structure of the DKB-ISTAF 2006

Rang	IAAF Golden League "Premium Event"	IAAF Golden League "Classic Event"	DKB-ISTAF Promotional Events
1	16.000 US \$	8.000 US \$	4.000 US \$
2	12.000 US \$	6.000 US \$	3.000 US \$
3	9.000 US \$	4.500 US \$	2.250 US \$
4	6.000 US \$	3.000 US \$	1.500 US \$
5	4.000 US \$	2.000 US \$	1.000 US \$
6	3.000 US \$	1.000 US \$	800 US \$
7	2.000 US \$	800 US \$	600 US \$
8	1.000 US \$	600 US \$	500 US \$

Premium Events: Women: 100m, 5,000m / Men: 100m, 400m, 1.500m, 5,000m

Classic Events: Women: 100m Hurdles, 400m, High Jump / Men: Long Jump, Javelin

DKB-ISTAF Promotional Events: Women: Javelin, Discus / Men: 110m Hurdles, 800m, Shot Put, Pole Vault

DKB-ISTAF Special Events: Women: 100m B-Run, 400m U20 / Men: 800m B-Run, 3,000m

#### Bonus for Records

World Record	50 000 US \$
Meeting record (DKB-ISTAF-Record)	3 000 US \$



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## Press Release



### The history of the DKB-ISTAF Berlin

In its anniversary year, the DKB-ISTAF, one of the most important and traditional athletic meetings in the world, looks back on a long and proud history. The first DKB-ISTAF already took place on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1921 with an audience of 20,000 at the Grunewaldstadion/Deutsches-Stadion. The BSC, SCC and the Swim Club Poseidon were the organizers at that time. On March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1937 the Berlin Sport-Club (BSC), the German Sport-Club (DSC, OSC later on) and the Sport-Club Charlottenburg (SCC) decided to organize future international sport festivals using the title "International Stadium Festival" to avoid possible time scheduling complications. On August 1<sup>st</sup> 1937, after the Olympic Games, a new era of the ISTAF began with two world records and one European record in front of 85,000 spectators. Since that meeting, 57 more took place, a few of them in the Deutschlandhalle. The meeting then practically took place each year. Outages occurred due to the Second World War and the post-war years in 1940-1948. Later on, after the reconvening, the ISTAF only dropped out in 1950 and 1951, and due to the assault on the Israelis in Munich, in 1972 and 1973. With the introduction of the IAAF Grand Prix in 1985, the meeting became one of the constantly qualification sport festivals and even the venue of the IAAF Mobil Grand Prix Finales in 1988. The Berlin meeting also played an integral part the introduction and establishment of the GOLDEN Four Series from 1993 to 1997 with the former partner UFA (1990-1997). Berlin has been the venue of the GOLDEN Four Finales for four times. From 1998 to 2002 and once again in 2004-2005, the DKB-ISTAF became the final destination within the framework of the newly introduced and present IAAF Golden League by the World Association IAAF, a series of the six best meetings of the world. In 2004, with an audience of more than 62.000, DKB-ISTAF celebrated its comeback to the traditional venue, the revamped, historic Olympic Stadium of Berlin, the Five-Star-Arena for the DKB-ISTAF. With the XII. IAAF Athletics World Championship to be staged in Berlin in 2009, the ISTAF now serves as a "dress rehearsal" for the world's third-biggest international sports events. In 2005, the Meeting repeated its impressive audience number with slightly more than 60.000 spectators and thus has been established as one of the most important sport events in Germany.



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# Press Release



## 14 World Records have been set at the DKB-ISTAF Meetings:

WR Nr.1 (1.8.1937): Women 100m: 11,6 Stanisława Walasiewicz (POL)

WR Nr.2 (1.8.1937): Women 80m Hurdles : 11,6 Barbara Burke (RSA)

WR Nr.3 (30.7.1939): Women Long Jump: 6,12m Christl Schulz (GER) –

Old record: Kin'ue Hitom (JPN 5,98m (Osaka, 20.05.1928)

WR Nr.4 (4.7.1970): 3,000m Hurdles: 8:22,0 Kerry O'Brien (AUS)

WR Nr.5 (22.8.1975): Men 100m: 9,9 Steve Williams (USA)

WR Nr.6 (22.8.1975): 110m Hurdles: 13,0 Guy Drut (FRA)

WR Nr.7 and 8 (26.8.1977): Women High Jump: 1,97 / 2,00 m Rosemarie Ackermann (GDR)

WR Nr.9 (18.8.1978): Women 1,000m : 2:32,0 Ulrike Bruns (GDR)

WR Nr.10 (18.8.1978): Women 400m Hurdles: 55,44 Krystyna Kacperczyk(POL)

WR Nr.11 (23.8.1985): Men 1,500m: 3:29,46 Said Aouita (MAR)

WR Nr.12 (18.8.1989): Men 10,000m: 27:08,23 Arturo Barrios (MEX)

WR Nr.13 (17.8.1990): Women 1,000m: 2:30,67 Christine Wachtel (GDR)

WR Nr. 14 (7.9.1999): Men 2,000m: 4:44,79 Hicham EL Guerrouj (MAR)

The first 2 meter high jump of a female athlete by Rosemarie Ackermann (GDR), was a historic event happening at the Berlin meeting. Among the European records set at the meeting, the 7,90 m jump of Ludwig „Luz“ Long (Leipzig) at the first meeting (1937) was a major breakthrough.



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## Press Release

*DKB-ISTAF Highlights: Top Ten Competition No. 7*

# Double World Champion to face World Record Holder: The Year's Top Running Duel.

**Double World Champion Rashid Ramzi will be competing in the 1,500m run against 3,000m steeple chase World Champion and World Record Holder Saif Saaeed Shatheen.**

*Berlin, August 29th 2006*

This coming Sunday, at the 65th DKB-ISTAF, the audience at Berlin's Olympic Stadium will be watching one of the top running duels of this season: As announced by the IAAF Golden League Meeting today in Berlin, the both of the world's leading medium-distance runners will be competing in the 1,500m run: This coming Sunday, September 3rd, 26-year-old double World Champion **Rashid Ramzi** (BRN) and top athlete **Saif Saaeed Shaheen** (QAT), two years his junior, will be facing each other on the stadium's famous blue track. Both athletes are ranked among the best in the world in this distance. "We believe that this promises to be an extremely thrilling and fast run", said Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of DKB-ISTAF/LVG GmbH in Berlin in Berlin, after both athletes had been officially signed on by the Berlin meet. "Both athletes even succeed in regularly beating the strong runners from Kenya". Ramzi, in particular, wants to leave his mark on "his" distance and to triumph over his strong competitor from Qatar.

**Rashid Ramzi** (BRN) is the acting 800m and 1,500m World Champion and the first athlete since 1964 who managed to reach this goal on the medium-range distance – an even more stunning story of success, as this is only his second season as a professional athlete. He had already started at the DKB-ISTAF Berlin last year, finishing fourth on the 1,500m distance. This year, at his only performance during the IAAF Golden League, he managed to finish second at the meeting in Rome.

**Saif Saaeed Shaheen**, the current World Record Holder of the 3,000m steeple chase, has remained undefeated on this distance since 2002. Since then, he has also won the World Championships of 2003 and 2005. He has also proven himself extremely successful at this year's IAAF Golden League meetings: At the meeting in Rome, he came home second on the 5,000m, and, at the meeting in Zurich, he even tried to improve his world record of the 3,000m steeple chase, which, however, did not materialize for him. He nevertheless won the race with a time of 7:56.54 minutes, almost 20 seconds faster than the second-ranked athlete. In the past week, at the meeting in Brussels, he once again showed his top class on this distance and easily managed to win again.

Up-to-date information and details about ticket sales for this year's DKB-ISTAF can be found online at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de). Tickets are also available via the phone hotline 030/4430 4430 or online at [www.dkb-istaf.de](http://www.dkb-istaf.de) or [www.gegenbauerticketsservice.de](http://www.gegenbauerticketsservice.de).

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## Press Release

*DKB-ISTAF Highlights:  
Top Ten Competition No. 4*

# Powell to set another world record at DKB-ISTAF Berlin.

**The year's top duel to take place in Berlin: The world's fastest sprinter will be competing against Double-European Champion Francis Obikwelu / Asafa Powell prepared to set world record on Berlin's blue track.**

*Berlin, August 22nd 2006*

An attempt at setting a new world record will be staged at this year's DKB-ISTAF Berlin: the world's fastest running man, 100m sprinter **Asafa Powell** from Jamaica, will be trying to set yet another world record on the blue running track of Berlin's Olympic Stadium, delivering a stunning top sprint duel against Double European Champion **Francis Obikwelu** from Portugal. As the IAAF Golden League meeting DKB-ISTAF Berlin, the final meeting station of the world's premium track-and-field series, officially announced in Berlin today, the two top athletes will be competing against each other on Sunday, September 3rd 2006. This top event promises to become this season's sprint highlight, as Asafa Powell is still fighting for his share of the new IAAF Golden League double jackpot – until today, he has remained undefeated in his discipline at all the previous meetings (Oslo, Paris, Rome, Zurich): If he manages to take home a victory in Berlin, he will be returning with up to one million US dollars in gold. Francis Obikwelu, on the other hand, will be trying hard to make up for his two defeats at the IAAF Golden League meetings at Rome and Zurich, where he lost against the Jamaican. Obikwelu, the double European Champion (100m and 200m) of this year's European Championship at Goeteborg/Sweden and European 100m record holder, is, in fact, a strong competition for Asafa Powell: „Powell will be trying to secure his share of the jackpot by running yet another world record or to at least by repeating his standing world record of 9,77 sec.“, says Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the DKB-ISTAF/LVG GmbH. “We think that the firm running track at Berlin's Olympic Stadium and favorable winds will offer perfect conditions for him. Francis Obikwelu, whose personal best is currently at 9,86 sec., will be going right after him. In addition, we are trying to assemble a strong starting field in order to offer these two a fast environment.”



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## Press Release

With a time of 9,77 seconds, Asafa Powell is currently the world's fastest sprinter – a performance he has managed to show three times this year, lastly at the IAAF Golden League Meeting at Zurich this past Friday. Prior to this triumph, Powell had also mastered the three IAAF Golden League meetings at Oslo, Paris, and Rome. But despite these successes, Powell has still not managed to win an international title: At the World Championship in Paris 2003, he was disqualified, and at the 2004 Olympic Summer Games in Athens, the athlete came in as fifth. He had to cancel his start at the World Championship 2005 due to an injury. For Powell, his start at the DKB-ISTAF Berlin is his second time. In 2004, he had been competing here, winning the 200m sprint.

Francis Obikwelu, however, took home the Olympic Silver medal in 2004 (with the European 100m sprint record of 9,86 sec.). With a result of 9,99 sec. at this year's European Championship, he is the only European athlete this year, who has run the 100m sprint faster than ten seconds. Obikwelu is no stranger to the DKB-ISTAF Berlin: In 2000, when he was still running for Nigeria, he finished eighth in the 100m sprint. One year later, he won the 100m sprint with a time of just 9,98 sec., the third-fastest time ever run at the DKB-ISTAF.

After the IAAF Golden League Meeting in Oslo, Paris, Rome, and Zurich, six athletes currently remain in the fight for the new IAAF double jackpot: The 100m sprinter **Asafa Powell** (JAM), US-athlete **Jermey Wariner** (400m), the 5000m runner **Kenebisa Bekele** (ETH), the long jumper **Irving Saladino** (PAN), US-runner **Sanya Richards** (400m), and the Ethiopian 5000m runner **Tirunesh Dibaba**.

Tickets sales for the event continue on a high level: Only small sections in seat categories I, III, and IV are still available, ticket categories II and V are sold out already. Tickets start as low as eight Euros. Up-to-date information on the meeting and ticket sales are available online at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de). Tickets can be purchased by phone by calling 030/4430 4430 or online at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or [www.gegenbauerticketservice.de](http://www.gegenbauerticketservice.de).

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*DKB-ISTAF Highlights:  
Top Ten Competition No. 3*



# Dramatic Duel Competition at 100m Hurdles Sprint: Olympic Gold Medallist Joanna Hayes faces Europe's Best.

**US star athlete Joanna Hayes confirms her start at DKB-ISTAF / Olympic gold medallist faces top hurdle sprinters from Europe / Former jackpot contender Susanna Kallur is hoping for a revenge against silver medallists Kirsten Bolm and Derval O'Rourke as well as 2003 World Champion Perdita Felicien.**

*Berlin, 21st August 2006*

The women's 100m hurdles sprint at this year's DKB-ISTAF on September 3rd at the Olympic Stadium Berlin evolves as one of the meeting's toughest and probably most dramatic competitions. As the DKB-ISTAF announced today, top athletes have officially been confirmed for their starts in this IAAF Golden league disciplines, guaranteeing a perfect world-class list of starters: 2004 Olympic gold medallist **Joanna Hayes** (USA) will be competing against European Champion **Susanna Kallur** (SWE), both women are certainly hoping for a win. In addition, German athlete **Kirsten Bolm** has been signed on, she will be determined to win in her home country, just as her fellow silver medalist **Derval O'Rourke** (IRL) as well as the 2003 World Champion **Perdita Felicien** (CAN) will both try to dominate the sprint on the blue track of the Olympic Stadium.

"The starting list for the women's 100m hurdle sprint has athletes, who have been winners at Olympic Games, World and European Championships", says Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Director of DKB-ISTAF/LVG GmbH in Berlin today. "This sprint will present Bolm and Kallur with an opportunity to flex their muscles against top athletes Joanna Hayes, thus emphasizing their fantastic form this year, if they should succeed in beating Hayes, but also Felicien: I believe that this hurdles' sprint will turn out to be one of the season's highlights!" Susanna Kallur, in particular, might be trying to make up for her loss in the hunt for the IAAF Golden League jackpot this past Friday in Zurich by demonstrating her strength – she would leave a strong mark by delivering a fast and swift sprint against her competitors.

A taste of the coming Berlin duel could be seen at the IAAF Golden League Meet Weltklasse Zurich this Friday, when all four of them – Kallur, Bolm, O'Rourke and Hayes – were racing against each other. With two wins standing, Susanna Kallur had been one of the jackpot contenders, but then finished fifth only behind Bolm – the end of her hopes for the gold! Derval O'Rourke finished seventh, and Joanna Hayes, unfortunately, fell at the eighth hurdle after a very favorable start, and never reached the finishing line. Hayes



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## Press Release

nevertheless has proven her improving form one week ago at Tallinn, where she delivered a time of 12,96 sec (SB) against a tough competition.

**Joanna Hayes** (USA), whose PB is at 12,37 sec, achieved at her Olympic golden run in 2004, now returns to the Olympic Stadium's blue track in Berlin: At her DKB-ISTAF start 2004, she had won the sprint with 12,46 sec, leaving behind Susanna Kallur (4<sup>th</sup> rank, 12,73 sec.), among others.

The 2006 Indoor World Champion in the 60m hurdles sprint, Irish athlete **Derval O'Rourke**, finishing at the same time as Kirsten Bolm, had won the European Championship's silver medal. Her 12,72 sec. had indicated a superb condition, also establishing a new personal best. While her DKB-ISTAF start is a premiere, fellow athlete **Perdita Felicien** (CAN) will have her second performance at the Olympic Stadion Berlin: In 2005, she had finished fourth behind Kirsten Bolm but had also defeated Susanna Kallur. In the 2006 world's top list, the 2003 World Champion is currently ranked with 12,64 sec. just a hundredth ahead of Kirsten Bolm.

After the completion of the IAAF Golden League Meetings at Oslo, Paris, Rome and Zurich, six athletes are still fighting for their share of the new IAAF double jackpot: 100m sprinter **Asafa Powell** (JAM), American 400m runner **Jeremy Wariner**, 5000m runner **Kenebisa Bekele** (ETH), long jumper **Irving Saladino** (PAN), US-athlete **Sanya Richards** (400m) and Ethiopian 5000m runner **Tirunesh Dibaba**.

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### *DKB ISTAF Highlights: Second Top Ten Duel*

## **Will Tim Lobinger be able to beat world-class competitors in Berlin?**

**Top pole vaulters signed on for the DKB ISTAF meeting in Berlin:  
Tim Lobinger up against strong competition / US star Brad Walker and  
Australians Paul Burgess and Steven Hooker to participate**

*Berlin, August 17<sup>th</sup> 2006*

The DKB-ISTAF announced today that more top athletes from Germany, the USA and Australia have been signed on to compete in the men's pole vault. New European Vice-Champion **Tim Lobinger** will not only meet up against his German competitors such as **Lars Börgeling**, **Fabian Schulze**, **Richard Spiegelburg** and **Danny Ecker** at the IAAF Golden League Meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, but will also have to pit his strength against top vaulters from the US and Australia – **Brad Walker** (USA), number one in this year's world's best list, as well as numbers two and three **Paul Burgess** and **Steven Hooker**. "Brad Walker and the two Australians belong to the world top vaulting elite and will certainly pose a tough challenge for the German athletes, especially since both Walker and Burgess have, as Lobinger, already broken the six metres barrier," said Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Director of DKB-ISTAF/LVG GmbH today in Berlin. "The pole vault was one of the absolute highlights at last year's meeting, one of the reasons being Lobinger's staggering attempt at the 6.15 metres," continued Janetzsky. "The two young Australian stars will put the pressure on Lobinger, currently number four in this year's world top list, and the pole vault will be one of the meeting's most dramatic contests." Excitement also awaits the appearances of Fabian Schulze and Danny Ecker, both of whom failed to secure nominations for Gothenburg despite good performances during the season and who now wish to show the audience their potential. Börgeling and Spiegelburg were already booked a month ago for the Berlin meeting.

Tim Lobinger's strongest rivals are from the United States and Australia. **Brad Walker**, the 2005 World Championship silver medallist, made the six metres for the first time in Jockrim on July 19<sup>th</sup>. **Paul Burgess** (5.92m), was the only athlete to overcome the six metres in 2005 and **Steven Hooker** (5.91m) also achieved heights this season which Lobinger (5.90m) barely missed. Germany has so far been a successful venue for Walker as well as Burgess. The latter topped 5.92m at the Bauhaus DLV Junior Gala in Mannheim. He also won at the IAAF Golden League Meeting in Rome ahead of Steven Hooker with 5.82m in the absence of a German field. Just two weeks previously, Lobinger was able to leave his



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## Press Release

Australian rival behind as he vaulted 5.80m at the Super Grand Prix Tsiklitria in Athens. Burgess achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 5.75m while Hooker did not reach the finals. Fabian Schulze also participated in the meeting and was placed sixth with 5.60m.

While Steven Hooker starts this year in Berlin for the first time, Burgess was placed 6<sup>th</sup> in 2004 behind Danny Ecker. Brad Walker started last year for the first time in Berlin.

Ticket sales for this year's DKB ISTAF Berlin are in full swing. Price category II is already sold out while only a few tickets remain in category I. **The 'Summer Special' is available until August 20<sup>th</sup> with two tickets for the price of one in the price categories III and IV.**

Information on ticket sales can be found on the Internet at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de). Tickets can be ordered through the phone hotline +49 30 4430 4430 or on the Internet ([www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or [www.gegenbauerticketsservice.de](http://www.gegenbauerticketsservice.de)).

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## Sensational European 10,000 metres champion to start in Berlin

**Gold medallist Jan Fitschen to take part in the DKB ISTAF meeting / 3,000 m race added to the programme as an extra sixth discipline for the European racing king**

*Berlin, 10 August 2006*

The German surprise winner of the 10,000 metres at the European Championships in Gothenburg is to start at the 65<sup>th</sup> International Stadium meeting in Berlin on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. As announced by the DKB-ISTAF today, Jan Fitschen (Wattenscheid 01 Athletics Club), who won the second gold medal for Germany last Tuesday, will start in the 3,000 m race which has been especially incorporated in the athletics meeting for him. "I'm really looking forward to my first start at the DKB-ISTAF in Berlin and the unique stadium atmosphere," said Fitschen this morning. In order to be in best form he has decided not to participate in the IAAF Golden League Meetings in Zurich and Brussels. "We were really happy for Jan and were really with him, especially for his really strong finish", said Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Director of DKB-ISTAF / LVG GmbH in Berlin today. "We have taken the 3,000 m race into our programme especially for him so that we can present the new European long-distance king to our Berlin audience." Fitschen follows Ralf Bartels (shot put) as the second German 2006 European Championships gold medallist to participate in the Golden League meeting in Berlin.

**Jan Fitschen** celebrated his second international success last Thursday having previously won the 2006 European Indoors Cup (3,000 m). The multiple German master over 5,000 m and 10,000 m won in Gothenburg with his best personal performance to date (28:10.94 minutes) ahead of defending champion José Manuel Martínez and Juan Carlos De la Ossa (both from Spain) with a surprisingly strong final spurt.

The men's 3,000 m race is the sixth additional discipline at this year's DKB-ISTAF meeting. Along with the eleven IAAF Golden League contests, the men's programme includes the 800 m, shot put and pole vault while the women's disciplines include javelin and discus throwing.

Information on ticket sales can be found on the Internet at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de). Tickets can be ordered through the phone hotline +49304430 4430 or on the Internet ([www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or [www.gegenbauerticketservice.de](http://www.gegenbauerticketservice.de)).

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Press release

**Summer Special:  
Book your bargain DKB ISTAF  
tickets now.**

**The Summer Special is available up until August 20<sup>th</sup> 2006, offering  
two tickets for the price of one / Over 24,000 tickets already sold /  
Only some tickets left in selected price categories.**

*Berlin, 03 August 2006*

Top German and international athletics as well as the stars of the European Championships in Gothenburg (6<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> August) can be seen live and close up at the 65<sup>th</sup> DKB ISTAF International Stadium Meeting in the Olympic Stadium in Berlin on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ticket sales are in full swing and last year's figures have already been reached with 24,000 tickets already sold. Only a few residue tickets are still available for price categories I and II. This year's Summer Special running until August 20<sup>th</sup> offers the best seats in categories III and IV with savings of 50 per cent with two tickets for the price of one. Furthermore, for the first time, a cheap ticket category with seats for €8.00 in the lower ring is also on offer.

Top athletes from all over the world will battle it out at the 65<sup>th</sup> DKB ISTAF International Stadium Meeting in the Olympic stadium in Berlin on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> for the famous IAAF Golden League jackpot, the premium class of international athletics. The award of the double jackpot of one million US dollars in gold has been newly regulated this year: Athletes who have won in their individual disciplines at five of the six meetings (Paris, Rome, Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin) will share 500,000 dollars while those who win at the sixth meeting will share the remainder. The double jackpot will this year be presented once again at the final meeting of the series, the DKB ISTAF Berlin. Information on ticket sales can be found on the Internet at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de). Tickets can be ordered through the phone hotline +49 30 243 199 20 | Fax +49 30 243 199 27 E-mail: [press@istaf.de](mailto:press@istaf.de) | [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or [www.gegenbauerticketsservice.de](http://www.gegenbauerticketsservice.de)).

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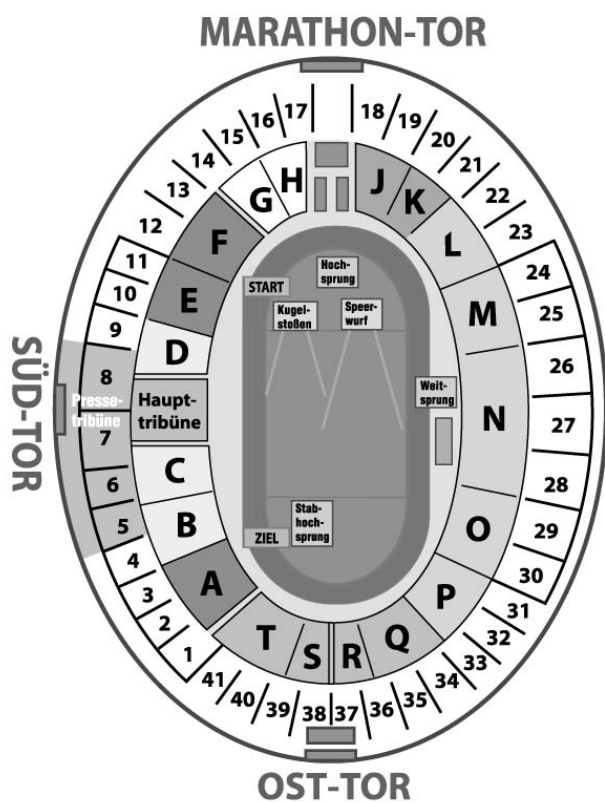
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## Press release



Stadium map: DKB ISTAF ticket categories and seating:



**DKB** Deutsche Kreditbank AG



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**Ω**  
OMEGA

PK I	Blöcke B, C, D	69 Euro
PK II	Blöcke A, E, F	39 Euro
PK III	Blöcke L, M, N, O, P Sommer Spezial bis zum 20. August.	29 Euro (= 2 Tickets)
PK IV	Blöcke Q, R, S, T Sommer Spezial bis zum 20. August.	15 Euro (= 2 Tickets)
PK V	Blöcke J, K	8 Euro



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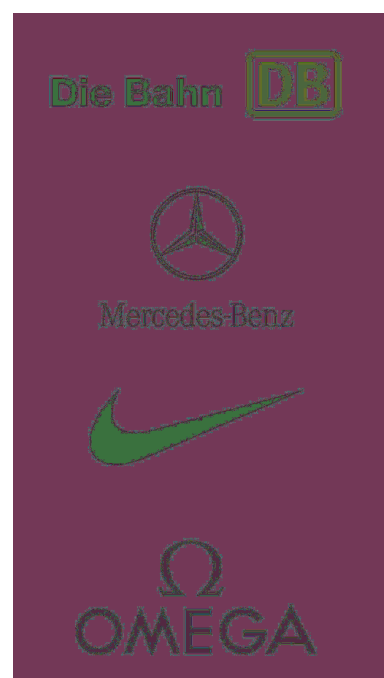
# French Top Sprinter Couple signed on for the ISTAF Berlin.

**French 100m Grande-Dame Christine Arron signed on for TDK Golden League's final meeting / Fastest European 100m Sprinter Ronald Pognon starts for ISTAF.**

*Berlin, September 1st 2005*

As ISTAF announced in Berlin today, two more international world top athletes have been signed on, one for the women's and one for the men's prestigious 100m sprints. At the 64th Internationales Stadionfest this coming Sunday, the two French top sprinters **Christine Arron** (31) and **Ronald Pognon** (22) will be starting at the new Olympic Stadium in Berlin. "This late commitment of both Christine Arron and Ronald Pognon turns our 100m sprint starting fields into an even better, top-class competition. The Berlin audience can look forward to even more exciting sprints now", says Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of ISTAF.

Christine Arron, the IAAF world ranked number one, was a top favourite, dominating the heats at the X. IAAF Athletics World Championship in Helsinki, but had to settle for the bronze medal in the finals (under difficult and rainy conditions). She also had been the fastest 200m sprinter during the half-finals, but again had to settle for bronze, despite setting her new personal best of the season. Arron was competing against Tatyana Lebedeva in the fight for TDK Golden League Jackpot for quite a while. She won the first three meetings in Paris, Rome and Oslo, but lost her chance to win one million US-dollars in Gold after coming fourth at the Weltklasse Meeting in Zurich three weeks ago. At the meeting in Brussels last Friday, the French sprint star hit back and had her fourth win in the fifth run of the TDK Golden League. Arron will give everything in Berlin to prove to her strong competition, World Champion Lauryn Williams (USA) and the



# Press Release



world's lead 100m of the season, Chandra Sturup (BAH), that she is still the fastest sprinter among them.

Pogonon, the fastest European of this year and surprise winner of the French 4x100m relay won with a result of 9,99 sec. at the Lausanne Athletissima. This is the fastest time a European has run this year. It is also a new 2005 personal best for the French Indoors Champion of 60m. He has shown his top form once before this season last Friday at the TDK Golden League Meeting in Brussels, when he came in second, leaving behind four competitors: Dwight Thomas (JAM), Francis Obikwelu (POR), Aziz Zakari (GHA), and Marc Burns (TRI), whom he will meet again in Berlin. At the X. IAAF Athletics World Championship in Helsinki, Pogonon surprised by securing the gold medal at the French 4x100m relay. At the European Indoors Championship in Madrid he had finished third: With a time of 6,46 sec., Pogonon holds the 2005 SB at 60m.

For more and updated information, visit our Website at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or order tickets at the 24-hour ticket hotline 030/4430 4430 ([www.velomax.de](http://www.velomax.de)).

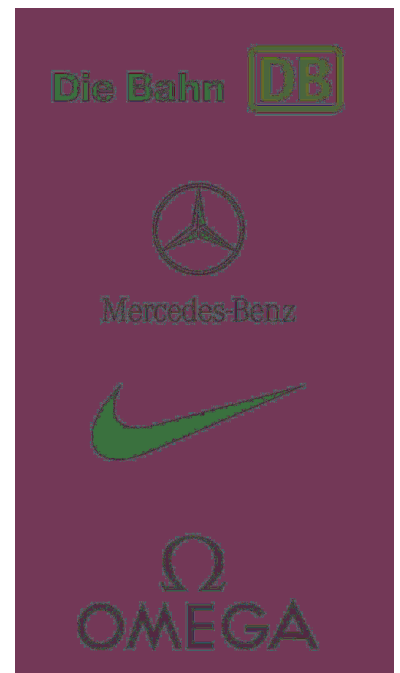
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# ISTAF men's pole vault athletes will attack 2005 world's lead performance.

**World Champion Rens Blom signed on for ISTAF / Olympics Winner Timothy Mack also going to compete / Brad Walker wants to achieve 2005 world's lead performance / Seven German ISTAF starters in Berlin / Top Five of the World Championship at ISTAF.**

*Berlin, August 31st 2005*

At this year's ISTAF, the men's pole vault will present an exciting competition highlight: The 64th Internationales Stadionfest today announced that some of the world's top pole vault athletes want to strike for the current world lead performance of six meters. The chances are quite promising, as ISTAF has signed on some of the best with the Dutch World Champion of the X. UIAAF World Championships at Helsinki, Rens Blom, facing the world's top. Next to the World Champion, Vice-World Champion Brad Walker(USA), WC third-ranked Pavel Gerasimov (RUS) and his compatriot and WC fourth-ranked Igor Pavlov will all be competing at the new Berlin Olympic Stadium on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Brad Walker won the IAAF Grand Prix Rieti 2005 last Sunday with a final result of 5,96m. Tim Lobinger and Nick Hysong (USA), WC fifth-ranked, and the German top athletes like Lars Börgeling, Danny Ecker, Björn Otto, Richard Spiegelburg, Fabian Schulze and decathlete Andre Niklaus from Berlin, will give everything to present a German winner to the audience in Berlin. Another athlete will be the Olympic winner Timothy Mack. "These athletes will be trying to strike for a new world lead performance, thus we will raise the bar to 6,01m. Given the good weather conditions and a start-list like ours and the top form of Brad Walker, a success like this is feasible."

The IAAF world ranked number one and Olympics silver medallist, Brad Walker, delivered a result of 5,90m this year at the Sheffield Norwich Union British Grand Prix and at the Eugene Prefontaine Classic – and he is in excellent form as he proved again last Sunday. The current world lead result is at 6,00m and could be surpassed in Berlin. Tim Lobinger, German Champion of 2003-2005, has jumped twice in his career higher than 6.00m, still defending the German record.



## Press Release



In the starting field of this year's ISTAF are six athletes, who all have shown higher results than Rens Blom's winning height of Helsinki 5,80m which earned him the gold medal. Among them are German athletes Tim Lobinger (SB 5,82m) and Björn Otto who won the Universiade at Izmir with 5,80m. Danny Ecker, Lars Börgeling and Richard Spiegelburg, in particular, are keen to prevent the success of Blom. The three Germans train at the same gym in Leverkusen as Blom. The audience is celebrating a reunion with old acquaintances in Berlin: Timothy Mack, the winner of last year's ISTAF, will try to repeat his success. After making his seventh ISTAF start since 1997, Tim Lobinger would like to finally celebrate a victory. His best ISTAF performance so far was third rank in 1998, 2002 and 2004. More successful was Danny Ecker who finished second twice (1998 and 2000) at his five ISTAF starts.

### **ISTAF to be staged with an entertainment program on a Sunday**

Following the success of the two past Sunday dates, the ISTAF 2005 will once again be staged on a Sunday afternoon. The ISTAF 2005 will start with this entertainment programme at noon, followed by the sports pre-programme including the traditional students' relay competitions and the finals of „Germany's Super Sprinter Search“. The official competitions of the main programme will be starting at 1 pm with men's pole vault. The host broadcaster ZDF, Germany's national television company, will be broadcasting the ISTAF live between 3:30 and 5 pm. Additional and current information available online at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de).

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## The World Champions are here: ISTAF Berlin presents eleven World Champions from the X. Athletic World Championships in Helsinki.

ISTAF Berlin has signed on 43 medallists from the X. Athletics World Championships for the TDK Golden League's final meeting on September 4th 2005 in the Berlin's new Olympic Stadium.

*Berlin, August 26th 2005*

"The World Champions are here"- with this promise, ISTAF had started into the 2005 athletic season. The organizers of the 64th Internationales Stadionfest Berlin aimed at signing on as many medallists and World Champions from the X. Athletics World Championship in Helsinki as possible. "We now fulfil this promise, as we have already recruited eleven World Champions to compete at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin. The Berlin audience can look forward to a smaller version of World Championships staged on and around the distinct blue running track of the city's new stadium", said Gerhard Janetzky, ISTAF Managing Partner today.

World Champion **Lauryl Williams** starts at 100m: With her current personal best (PB) of 10.88 sec. she ran on August 19<sup>th</sup> at the TDK Golden League Weltklasse meeting in Zurich, Williams is currently the IAAF World Ranking number three. This result fully proved that she is still in a physical top form. Prior to her success in Helsinki, the 21-year-old new sprint star from the US had already demonstrated at this year's TDK Golden League Meetings in Paris and Oslo, that her 2004 Olympics silver medal was more than earned.

At the 800m run, **Zulia Calatayud** is this season's measure of quality. Despite the fact that her SB was two seconds behind the world's current top time, she still accomplished various victories. Apart from the World Championship, she also won at the Lausanne Athletissima, at the Meeting de Madrid as well as at the Weltklasse Zurich meeting. At the TDK Golden League Meeting in Paris she finished second.

At the triple jump in Helsinki, the Jamaican **Trecia Smith** outperformed the 2005 world's top result set by Tatjana Lebedeva. Thanks to her second places at the TDK Golden League Meetings in Rome, Oslo and Zurich and her third place at the Lausanne Athletissima, Smith, the winner of the Jamaican National Championships, is currently IAAF World Ranking number two behind Jackpot contender Lebedeva.



# Press Release



who she has to face in Berlin and who undoubtedly will deliver a tough fight over her share of the jackpot.

No female athlete was capable of beating the successes of shot put athlete **Nadezdha Ostapchuk** from Belarus this year. Not surprisingly, she outperformed her competition in Helsinki. And thanks to her excellent achievements this year, the current European Indoors Champion went to IAAF World Ranking number one.

With her personal SB and this year's second best result in women's discus, **Franka Dietzsch** made her decisive throw at the World Championship in Helsinki, securing her second World Champion title after 1999. A German champion won at the Firenze SPAR European Cup as well as at the Athens Super Grand Prix Tsiklitiria before.

**Rashid Ramzi** made history at the World Championship in Helsinki. The IAAF World Ranking number one athlete in 1500m won both the 1500m and the 800m races. Ramzi has shown a constantly improving form this year. In all the disciplines he competed at in 2005, he achieved personal best times. At his first start at a TDK Golden League meeting (Rome) 2005 he won the 1500m race, while losing it to Daniel Kipchirchir Komen of Kenya at the meet in Brussels.

The Vice-World Champion of 1999, **Benjamin Limo**, secured the precious gold medal in Helsinki for Kenya on the last day of competitions. With his victory at the World Championships, the IAAF World Ranking number five celebrated the biggest success of his career so far.

French superstar **Ladji Doucouré** dominated the 110m hurdle sprint despite a world-class starting list. He left behind World Record Holder Xiang Liu, like various times this season, in Helsinki as well. Among the 2005 successes of this year's fastest hurdle sprinter are his wins at the TDK Golden League Meetings in Paris and Oslo.

The high jump surprise of this season was **Yuriy Krymarenko** from Ukraine. After his third position at the U-23-European championship, he won the world champion title in Helsinki. The champion of his country, the Ukraine, improved his best





# Press Release



achievements continuously since 2002 and jumped this year with 2.33m to world's top class.

The first positioned **Andrus Värnik** upstaged the Finnish javelin athletes by winning in Helsinki with a throw that was just a little behind his seasonal best. With his victory, he also secured his country's first IAAF World Championship gold medal. The IAAF World ranking number four had already won at the TDK Golden League Meeting in Rome. The "flying Dutchman" **Rens Blom**, who has trained with various German top pole vault athletes, surprised at the World Championship by winning his country's first WC gold medal ever. Despite difficult conditions, with a result of 5.80m, he stayed just a little behind his personal best and the Dutch record. At the TDK Golden League-Meeting in Paris he had finished second.

For more, updated information visit our website at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or order tickets at the 24-hour ticket hotline 030/4430 4430 or online at [www.velomax.de](http://www.velomax.de).

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# Double World Champion starts at 800m at 64<sup>th</sup> ISTAF Berlin.

**800m and 1500m World Champion Rashid Ramzi (BRN) starts in Berlin / Germany's fastest 800m runner, René Herms, and World's top-ranked Mbulaeni Mulaudzi signed on for the final TDK Golden League meeting.**

*Berlin, August 25th 2005*

The ISTAF Berlin today announced the commitment of three more international top athletes: Rashid Ramzi (25), the 2005 World Champion at 800m and 1500m; René Herms (23), the German Champion of five years standing, as well as world's top ranked 800m runner, Mbulaeni Mulaudzi (24) of South Africa, will compete at the 64. Internationales Stadionfest on September 4<sup>th</sup> at the Olympic Stadium Berlin. The men's 800m race, one of the twelve official IAAF disciplines of the TDK Golden League, promises to be a real competition highlight. Rashid Ramzi secured gold at the 800m with his personal best (PB) of 1:44:24 at the X. IAAF World Championship in Helsinki. He is also the first athlete to win gold at the 800m as well as at the 1500m at World Championships. Mbulaeni Mulaudzi was considered to be one of the most promising medal contenders, but dropped out in the heats, nevertheless still defending his position as the world's top-ranked 800m runner. René Herms failed in the WC heats as well. "The signing-on of these top athletes will certainly make for an exciting and absorbing 800m race", said Gerhard Janetzky, ISTAF Managing Partner, today in Berlin, „we are very pleased to have the World Champion, the acting German Champion and the world's top ranked 800m runner all together in one stunning race on the blue tracks of the new Olympic Stadium Berlin. “

For Ramzi, his start in Berlin will be a premiere. At the TDK Golden League Meeting in Rome, his only start at a meeting of the world's top athletic competition series, he won straight away, even though he competed at 1500m.

Herms and Mulaudzi already met in 2005 once, at the first TDK Golden League Meeting in Paris, the Gaz de France Paris Saint-Denis on July 1st 2005. Back then, the South African was faster than René Herms by a second. At the ISTAF Berlin 2003, Herms was at a disadvantage and went to position nine while Mulaudzi went to the third. At the ISTAF 2004 as well as 2001 Mulaudzi was absent and the German got on position eight.

The Moroccan Rashid Ramzi who now starts for Bahrain secured in only his second season as a professional athlete, the World Champion titles at 800m and 1500m and got Bahrain its first World Championship medals ever. But his start at the 800m was actually not planned, as he was only supposed to run the 800m if he won the 1500m. But after he had achieved a PB in the



# Press Release



heats, Ramzi increased his efforts once more and won ahead of Yuriy Borzakovskiy(RUS) and William Yiampany from Kenya. Ramzi trained until July 2005 only in his original discipline 1500m. But after a surprising victory in Lausanne, the 800m run, too, was integrated into his training. Among his other successes at the 800m are the wins of the Asian Indoors Championships, as well as the second position at the 2005 Indoors World Championships in Budapest. He also ran to victory at the TDK Golden League Meeting in Rome in a new 2005 world's top time of 3:30.00 at the 1500m.

Mulaudzi began with athletics in 1996 and finished sixth in 2001 at the World Championships in Edmonton at 800 m. In 2003, he received the bronze medal at the World Championship in Paris, before winning silver at the Olympic Games in Athens. In addition, he won the Indoors World Championship in 2004. His PB was set at the TDK Golden League Meeting in Brussels 2003, when he ran the 800m in only 1:42.89. Other achievements of his many successes include winning the TDK Golden League Meetings 2003 at Oslo, Rome and Zurich. In Paris and Brussels, however, he only came in second. At the ISTAF Berlin, he finished third. Nevertheless, the meetings of the TDK Golden League seems to bode well with Mbulaeni Mulaudzi. Next to the two second positions at the prelude in Paris and Rome, he won the race in Oslo in 2005.

Hermes (Team LG Asics Pirna) changed 1997 from Handball to athletics. The achievements he can offer are remarkable. Already in 2001 he cleared up all national 800m titles. He was German junior hall-champion, German junior-champion, German junior European champion and German Champion. His winning streak at the national Indoors and Outdoors Championships has not stopped until today. In 2002, he kicked the 2000 Olympics gold medallist Nils Schumann from first to second position. Following his victory at the U23-Junior European Championship in 2003, René Hermes only came in on the 12<sup>th</sup> position at the 2003 World Championships in Paris and was beaten in the heats of the 2004 Olympics by Mbulaeni Mulaudzi and others. Hermes accomplished his PB three weeks before the Olympics last year at the Team Challenge meeting in Munich, where he ran the 800m in 1:44.14 min. With a result like this, he would have won the gold medal in Athens. At the meeting in Cuxhaven in July 2005, Hermes ran his SB of 1:44.71 min.

For further details, please visit our website [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de), pre-sale for tickets available at the 24 hour hotline 030/4430 4430 or in the internet ([www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) oder [www.velomax.de](http://www.velomax.de)).

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## ISTAF Berlin: Maurice Greene to start at 100m sprint.

**ISTAF's 100m-sprint with three athletes faster than 10 seconds / Vice-World Champion Michael Frater and Olympics silver medallist Francis Obikwelu will also compete in Berlin.**

*Berlin, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2005*

The 64th Internationales Stadionfest will present a world-class starting field in the 100m men sprint discipline on 4<sup>th</sup> September in the new Olympic Stadium Berlin. As ISTAF announced today, Maurice Greene (USA), former world record holder, three-time World Champion and multiple Olympic gold medallist and, most recently, bronze medallist at the Olympic Games at Athens 2004, will be competing with Vice-World Champion Michael Frater (USA) as well as with Francis Obikwelu (POR), the Olympic silver medallist, who is currently fourth on the world rankings and also European record holder, in the men's 100m sprint on the new blue track in the Olympic Stadium Berlin. Other athletes, such as Aziz Zakari (GHA), IAAF World Ranked number third, Mark Burns (TRI) and Darrel Brown (TRI) who already sprinted 9.99 sec. or less this year, will join them. „We are able to offer the audience a fast 100m sprint, since three athletes have run faster than 10 seconds in their present careers“, explains Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of ISTAF, “and with Maurice Greene in the competition, we have a serious top athlete who tries to regain his former level of strength. Finally, the new track in the Olympic Stadium Berlin by now has a pretty hard surface, allowing for fast running times if Berlin's weather conditions remain as favourable as they are now.”

Maurice Greene, who established a 100m world record in 1999 with 9.79 sec., wants to prove by the end of the season that he still belongs to the world's best. Greene, who could not qualify at the US-Trials due to an injury, did not participate at the X. IAAF World Championships in Helsinki. In his return from a long break, he ranked 8<sup>th</sup> at the TDK Golden League-Meeting Weltklasse Zurich last Friday. For Maurice Green, the ISTAF Berlin is definitely an event with many opportunities, as he has proven in the past with his previous successes at ISTAF. Among his three ISTAF 100m starts, Maurice Greene won in 1998 and snatched the meeting record with 9,86 sec. from Frank Fredericks (NAM) in 2000. Two years later, in 2002, he finished 6<sup>th</sup> in a stunning race.

22-year-old Michael Frater, who, to the surprise of many observers, came in second in Helsinki, secured the silver medal for him ahead of Kim Collins by a decision based the finishing line photo. Frater had already defeated his competitors, among them Collins, at the Meeting de Madrid in 2005. In June 2005, he secured his personal best of 10.03 sec. at the Athens Super Grand Prix Tsiklitiria.



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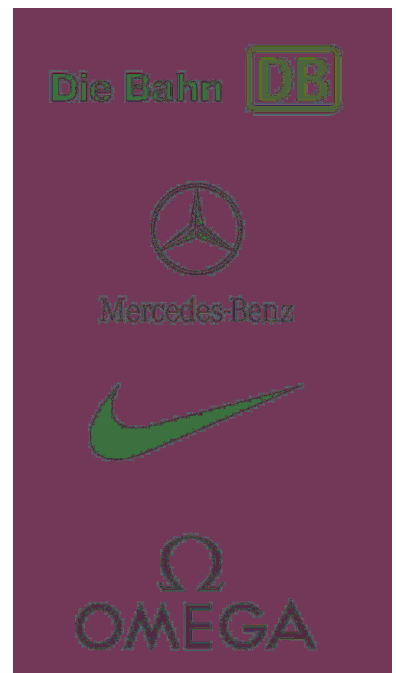


Aziz Zakari (GHA) achieved his personal best of 9,99 seconds at the Meeting in Athens as well. He ranked second place before Frater and behind Asafa Powell (JAM), who established with 9.77 seconds a new world record within that sprint.

Until today, Zakari has won at four Meetings of the TDK Golden League. He secured the victory in Paris and Oslo, but had to put up with second place in Rome. But he and Obikwelu and tied for third place in Zurich last Friday. At his two past performances in Berlin, Zakari ranked second place behind Obikwelu in 2001. In 2000, he had to put up with the sixth place.

Francis Obikwelu could rely on decent weather conditions in Athens to establish this year's personal best of 10.04 sec. by ranking fourth place. The Nigerian who starts for Portugal since 2002 established his personal best with 9.86 sec and also won the silver medal in the Olympic Games. He ranked second behind Zakari at the TDK Golden League-Meeting in Paris. Obikwelu has already started twice in Berlin, at that time he was still running for Nigeria. After an eighth place in 2000, he won with 9.98 sec in 2001, the third fastest time ever recorded at a 100m sprint in Berlin.

22-year-old Marc Burns, who established his personal best with 9.96 sec. at the National Championship in Port-of-Spain this year, ranked second behind Zakari in Oslo. In Helsinki he ranked seventh. In Trinidad & Tobago, the 100m sprint is clearly dominated by the young sprinters. Accordingly, Darrel Brown, only 20 years old, ranked second behind Burns in a personal best of 9.99 sec.



## **45.000 tickets already sold – top ring stand has been opened**

The ticket sale for ISTAF is so far a clear success with already 45.000 tickets sold. At that moment the top ring balcony of the Olympia Stadium Berlin has opened and tickets for the top are already available for eight € (PK VI) at all pre-sale ticket counter nearby. Moreover you can buy with the "2 for 1 Special" two tickets (PK VI) for the price of one until 30<sup>th</sup> August. **The most favourable tickets (PK IV) for the lower stands are now only available at all S-Bahn sales ticket counters.**

For further details, please visit our website [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) , pre-sale for tickets available at the 24 hour hotline 030/4430 4430 or in the internet ([www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) oder [www.velomax.de](http://www.velomax.de)).

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# Women Triple Jump at the ISTAF with Tatyana Lebedeva and World Champions.

**ISTAF signs on all WC medallists of women's triple jump /  
The duel not seen in Helsinki might take place in Berlin / A  
Russian fighting for her share of the TDK Golden League  
Jackpot at the ISTAF.**

*Berlin, August 16th 2005*

The ISTAF Berlin today announced the commitment of yet another World Champion of the X. IAAF World Championship in Helsinki: The 29-year-old Trecia Smith from Jamaica will be challenging Russian star Tatyana Lebedeva (also 29 years old) who is still fighting for her share of the TDK Golden League Jackpot at the ISTAF on September 4<sup>th</sup> in the Olympic Stadium Berlin. In addition, the surprise silver medallist Yargelis Savigne (20) from Cuba and the Russian bronze medallist Anna Pyatykh (24), as well as Yamilé Aldama (SUD) on the fourth position and Hrysopiýi Devetzì (GRE) on the fifth position will be competing at the ISTAF triple jump. "The audience will see a high-class triple jump competitions", promises ISTAF Managing Partner Gerhard Janetzky, "we will present the duel of the world's 2005 best athletes that you did not see in Helsinki due to Tatyana Lebedeva's injury. Savigne and Pyatykh are also not to underestimate. Lebedeva will have to fight hard to stand up against the top five of the World Championships, considering that all of these athletes already have seen tough and exciting duels with each other throughout this season." The competitions can turn out to be particularly dramatic for Tatyana Lebedeva, as the Russian has to beat all competitors, to be able to make it to the final meeting of the TDK Golden League for claiming her share of the jackpot.

Smith did win in Helsinki in the absence of Lebedeva with a result of 15.11m well ahead of Savigne, who achieved her personal record of 14.82m, and as well ahead of Pyatykh with 14.78m: With result like this, Trecia Smith out-performed Lebedeva and made it to the IAAF World Ranking event number one in women's triple jump. The season's best performance so far was delivered by 33-year-old Yamilé Aldama with 14.72m. The 28-year-old Hrysopiýi Devetzì from Greece did not reach her personal best (14.72) and had to settle for the fifth position.





# Press Release



Smith and Lebedeva have started at all 2005 TDK Golden League Meetings. Until today, Lebedeva triumphed in every single meet and even set a new World season's lead in Paris with 15.11m, also securing her chance of winning a share of the Jackpot. Smith improved her performances from a position four at the Gaz de France Paris to a second position in Rome and in Oslo. While Savigne has not attended any of the TDK Golden League Meetings this year, Pyathahky came in second at the meet in Paris after Lebedeva and finished fifth in Rome. At the meeting in Lausanne on the July 5<sup>th</sup>, Lebedeva finished once again, if by margins only, ahead of her competitors Pyathky and Smith. Aldama and Yamilé went on to positions four and five. Yamilé came in third at the TDK Golden League meetings in Paris and Oslo. In Rome she was on the fourth position behind Devetzi.

The 29-year-old Russian Tatyana Lebedeva achieved her personal best in 2004 with 15.34m. She can also look back on the World Championship titles of 2001 and 2003 as well as to 2004 Olympics bronze medal and 2000 Olympics silver medal. Lebedeva is the acting Indoors World Champion in triple jump as well as in long jump. In long jump her biggest success was the 2004 Olympics gold medal.

Trecia Smith celebrated her win of the World Championship, the biggest success of her career in triple jump. To that date, her biggest achievements had been the third position at the 17th Commonwealth Games and the fourth position at the 2004 Olympics.

20-year-old Yargelis Savigne is the surprise silver medallist of Helsinki. In her first big-time performance, she convinced with a second rank in triple jump and the fourth position in long jump.

The Russian Triple Jump Champion Anna Pyatykh and triple winner of the SPAR European Cup narrowly missed her personal best of 14.88m (Lausanne), at Helsinki. She had finished eighth at the 2004 Olympics and achieved her PB at international competitions with the win of the bronze medal after two fourth positions at the VII. IAAF 2005 Indoors World Championships in Budapest.

The Cuban athlete Aldama now starting for Sudan is the 1999 World Championships silver medallist and 2004 African Champion but ultimately disappointed when finishing fifth at the 2004 Olympics and fourth at the Olympics in Sydney. Hrysopiýi Devetzi from Greece who won Silver at the 2004 Olympics, was second at the SPAR European Cup 2005 behind Anna Pyatykh, and won bronze at the 2005 Indoors World Championships.

At the ISTAF 2005, the world's top athletes compete in twelve different disciplines: The men are starting at 100m, 800m, 1500, 3000m/5000m, as well as the 110m hurdle sprint. In addition, there are the technical disciplines of high jump and javelin.



# Press Release

The women compete at 100m, 800m, 3000m/5000m, 400m hurdle as well as triple jump. In addition to these official IAAF TDK Golden League disciplines, ISTAF will present the men's 200m, the men's pole vault and shot put as well as the women's discus and other disciplines, whose selection will be made based on the results in the TDK Golden League Meetings and the World Championship in Helsinki. Just as in 1998-2002 and 2004, the ISTAF once again serves as the final meeting station of the TDK Golden League, the premium series of international athletics, where athletes fight over the Jackpot of one million US-Dollar in gold. The 2005 TDK Golden League started with the exciting Gaz de France Meeting in Paris on July 1st, where the hunt for the Jackpot begun. At present, only two athletes still in the race for the gold. Next to Tatyana Lebedeva, French top sprinter Christine Arron is also still fighting for her share of the TDK Golden League jackpot.

The ISTAF starts at noon with an entertainment program for the whole family as well as a athletic pre-program in the stadium including students' relay race and the finals of the "Germany searches for the super sprinter". The official tournament starts at 2 pm. The German national TV broadcast company ZDF will be broadcasting the ISTAF meeting live between 3:30 and 5:00 pm.

For more updated information you can visit our website at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or order tickets at the 24-hour ticket hotline 030/4430 4430 [www.velomax.de](http://www.velomax.de)).

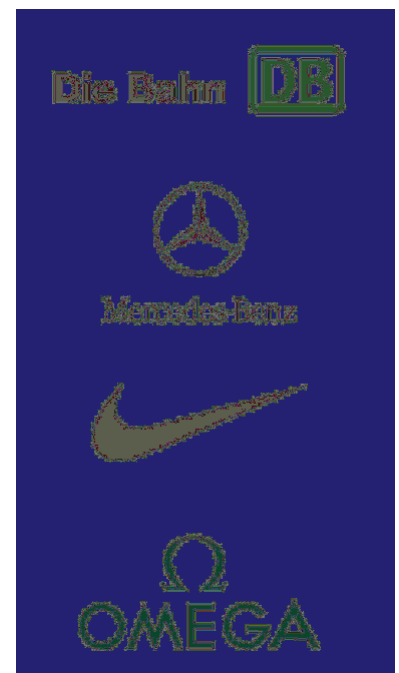
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## Discus-World Champion competes at ISTAF Berlin.

**ISTAF commits Franka Dietzsch, Gold Medallist Discus. / ISTAF supports young German athletes and also signs on the U23-European Champion Discus, Sabine Rumpf.**

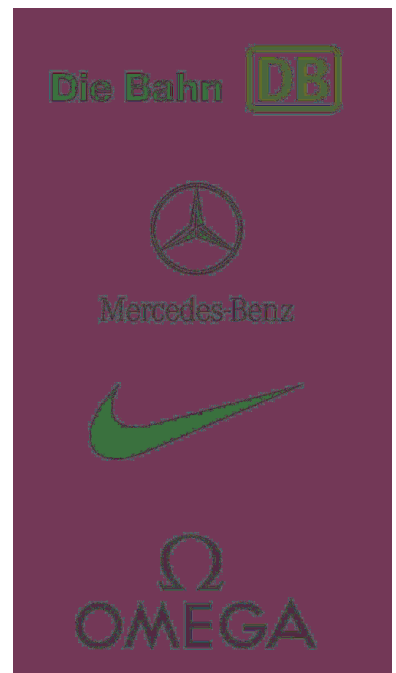
*Berlin, August 12th, 2005*

ISTAF Berlin today announced that the first German World Champion of the X. IAAF Athletic-World Championship at Helsinki was signed on for ISTAF. The 37-year-old Franke Dietzsch from Neubrandenburg can be seen on September 4th at the Olympic Stadium Berlin. Gerhard Janetzky, ISTAF Managing Partner, explained: "With the engagement of the World Champion of a few hours standing, we again keep our promise to get as many World Champions and medallists from Helsinki to perform in Berlin. We are looking forward to a high-class competition with Franka Dietzsch, who will face up the international competitors only three weeks after the Athletics World Championship." The women's discus was added to the competitions program as fourth ISTAF discipline. Other ISTAF disciplines are the men's pole vault, men's shotput and men's 200m.

Franka Dietzsch secured her second World Championship Gold medal in discus since 1999 on Thursday evening in Helsinki at her 8<sup>th</sup> World Championship attendance. For the German Athletics Association DLV this was the first World Championship medal since 2001. Dietzsch outperformed Olympic gold medallist Natalya Sadova from Russia and this year's world's best discus athlete, Vera Pospilova-Chechlova (CZE), with her SB of 66, 06 metres. Franka Dietzsch won the last women's discus throw at the ISTAF 1999 with 66.60 m. "We are also looking forward to this competition, because we have signed up the German European Champion from the U23 European Championships, Sabine Rumpf ", says Gerhard Janetzky, ISTAF Managing Partner, "we give yet another young German talent the opportunity to compete with international athletes at the ISTAF." Sabine Rumpf won the U23 European Championship in Erfurt three weeks ago with 60,75 m.

### **Two more athletes are fighting for the TDK Golden League Jackpot**

At ISTAF 2005, the world best athletes perform in twelve different disciplines : The men are starting at 100m, 800m, 1500, 3000m/5000m, as well as the 110m hurdle sprint. In addition, there are the technical disciplines of high jump and javelin. The women compete at the disciplines of 100m, 800m, 3000m/5000m, 400m hurdle as well as triple jump. In



# Press Release



addition to these twelve official IAAF disciplines, ISTAF will present the men's 200m sprint, the men's pole vault and shotput as well as women's discus and other disciplines, whose selection will depend on the performances during the TDK Golden League Meetings and the World Championship in Helsinki. As in 1998-2002 and in 2004, ISTAF is the final meeting of the TDK Golden League, the premium series of international athletics, where athletes fight for a Jackpot filled with one Million US-Dollars in gold. The series started with the exciting Gaz de France Meeting in Paris on July 1st, where the hunt for the Jackpot was launched. At present, two athletes still fight for their share of gold: French hurdle sprinter and WC bronze medallist Christine Arron, and triple jumper Tatjana Lebedeva (RUS).

**RBB 88,8 Summer Special until the 20<sup>th</sup> of August: "We give you 20 €": At the purchase of two tickets in the prize category III you will save over a third of the original prize!**

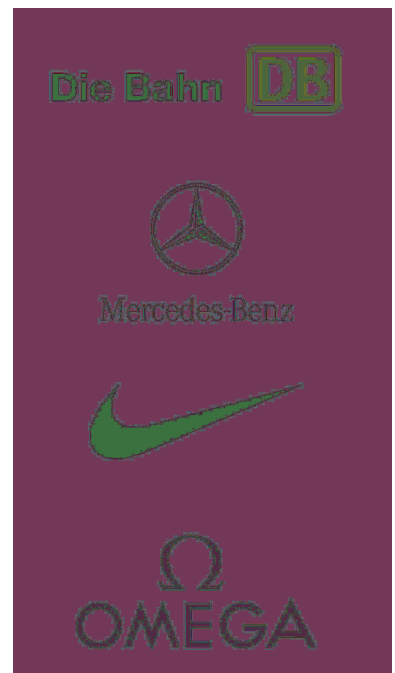
The booking of tickets for this years ISTAF Berlin goes on at a high speed: With the slogan "We give you 20 €" it is possible to buy two tickets from the prize category III for 38€ i.e. a third of the original prize. This offer in cooperation with iRBB 88,8 is temporary and runs until the 20th of August. The ISTAF like in the last two years, takes place on a Sunday afternoon and starts with an attractive and sport orientated supporting program for the children and the young and offers great entertainment for the whole family – with training parlours for children, leisure facilities for adults to market stalls and a manifold choice of foods all around the stadium. The ISTAF starts at noon with a colourful entertainment program for the whole family as well as pre-competition programmes such as the traditional students' relays and the finals of the "Germany searches for the super sprinter" national sports campaign. Official IAAF competitions will be starting at 2 pm. The German national television, ZDF, broadcasts the ISTAF live between 3:30 pm and 5 pm.

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## The World Champions are here: Ralf Bartels starts at ISTAF Berlin.

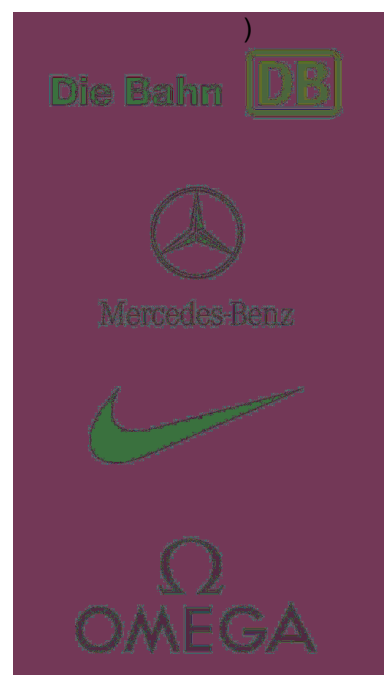
**ISTAF Berlin recruits German bronze medallist Ralf Bartels / shot putting as third ISTAF discipline.**

*Berlin, August 9th 2005*

The ISTAF Berlin today announced the first recruitment of a German medallist of the X. IAAF Athletic World Championship in Helsinki: the German shot putter Ralf Bartels (27), who won the bronze medal last weekend, will start at the 64th Internationales Stadionfest on September 4<sup>th</sup> 2005 in the new Olympic Stadium Berlin. „With this first commitment of a freshly selected medallist, we keep our promise to get as many World Champions and medallist from Helsinki to Berlin. We are especially proud to be able to commit as the first athletic star from Helsinki a successful German athlete“, Gerhard Janetzky, ISTAF Managing Director explained in Berlin today, „men's shot put will be our third promotional ISTAF discipline“. Ralf Bartels (SC Neu-Brandenburg) received the first German medal right away on the first day of competitions at the X. IAAF World Championships with 20.99m. Gold went to US top athlete Adam Nelson (21.73m), and silver went to Rutger Smith (21.29m) from the Netherlands.

### **Two more female athletes in the run for the TDK Golden League Jackpot**

At ISTAF 2005 the world best athletes perform in twelve different disciplines : The men are starting at 100m, 800m, 1500, 3000m/5000m, as well as the 110m hurdle sprint. On the side there are also the technical disciplines of high jump and javelin. The women compete at the disciplines of 100m, 800m, 3000m/5000m, 400m hurdle as well as triple jump. Apart from that the ISTAF will present the men 200m, the men pole vault and shotput and the women discus throw and other disciplines, the assortment will be orientated on the achievements of the TDK Golden League Meetings and the world championship in Helsinki. As in 1998-2002 and 2004, the ISTAF serves as the final meeting station of the TDK Golden League, international athletics' premium series, where athletes fight for a jackpot filled with one million US-Dollars in gold: The series started with the exciting Gaz de France Meeting in Paris on July 1<sup>st</sup>., when the hunt for the Jackpot begun. At present, only two athletes still fight for their share of gold: The French hurdle jumper and World Championship's bronze medallist Christine Arron and triple jumper Tatjana Lebedeva (RUS).



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**RBB 88,8 Summer Special until the August 20th:**

**„We give you 20 €‘: With the purchase of two tickets in price category III, you save over a third of the original price!**

The booking of tickets for this years ISTAF Berlin goes on high speed: Under the motto of ‚We give you 20 €‘ it is possible to buy two tickets from the prise category III for 38€ i.e. a third of the original prise. This offer in cooperation with RBB 88,8 is temporary and runs until the 20th of August. The ISTAF like in the last two years, takes place on a Sunday afternoon and starts with an attractive and sport orientated supporting program for the children and the young and offers great entertainment for the whole family – with training parlours for children, leisure facilities for adults to market stalls and a manifold choice of foods all around the stadium. The ISTAF starts at noon with an entertaining, sport-oriented pre-program for the whole family as well as the traditional students’ relay races and the finals of the “Germany’s Search for the Super Sprinter”. The official tournament starts at 2 pm. The ZDF broadcasts the ISTAF live between 3:30 and 5 pm.

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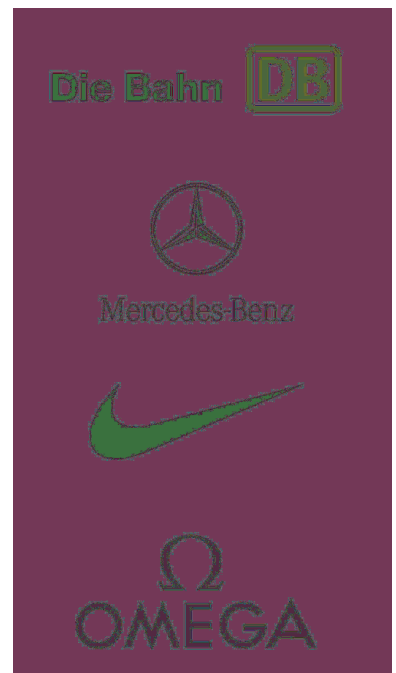
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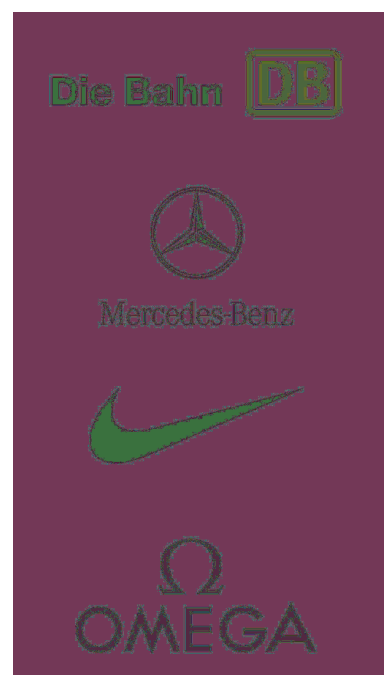
# German Top Athletes to Compete at the ISTAF 2005.

**Men's pole vault with Tim Lobinger and decathlete André Niklaus as additional ISTAF discipline selected / Claudia Marx and Thomas Blaschek committed / Ticket sales climb to 25 000: New summer special until the 15<sup>th</sup> of August with a 30 % discount.**

*Berlin, July 6<sup>th</sup> 2005*

With the beginning of the outdoor season and the first important performance test for German athletes at the German Championships in Bochum-Wattenscheid this past weekend, ISTAF Berlin today has contracted four German top athletes for the 64<sup>th</sup> Internationals Stadionfest on September 4<sup>th</sup> at the Olympic Stadium Berlin: This year's ISTAF is shaped by the X. IAAF Athletics World Championship at Helsinki; only three weeks after the season's highlight, German athletes will compete with the international elite of athletes at ISTAF. As in 1998-2002 and 2004, the ISTAF is the final meeting of the TDK Golden League, the Premium series of international athletics events, where athletes compete for their share of a Jackpot of one million US-Dollars in gold: The meeting series started with an exciting Gaz de France Meeting in Paris on July 1st, when the hunt for the Jackpot was launched.

„Given the very good German performances, we will increasingly commit German athletes for this year's ISTAF, hoping to offer the audience an equally strong German starting field. The ISTAF will commit four more German athletes – Claudia Marx, Thomas Blaschek, Tim Lobinger, and André Niklaus – for the biggest German meeting“, announced Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the ISTAF Berlin, today. „We are excited that we were able to commit these four, including two Berlin athletes, Claudia Marx and André Niklaus. These top athletes have qualified for the World Championship at Helsinki and will now get the chance for new





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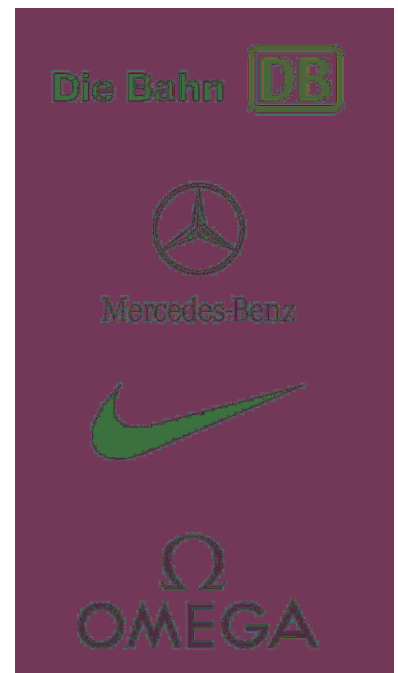
challenges and revenges with the international top athletes at the ISTAF un Berlin“, Janetzky explained.

Only three weeks after the X. Athletics World Championship at Helsinki (06.-14. August 2005), many well-known and new-born star athletes will compete at the Olympic stadium Berlin. To be able to get the commitment of those top athletes the budget of the ISTAF of 2.2 million euros for athletes' fees remained unchanged from last year.

## ISTAF commits four more top athletes

After the commitment of the new German sprint talent **Tobias Unger** for the ISTAF-discipline of the 200m sprint, which ISTAF had announced in later May, the commitment of the German quartet is the second most important athletes' contract of ISTAF so far.

The 26-year-old **Claudia Marx** (Team Erfurt) from Berlin will start at the 400m hurdle run – for her, this is a new and surprisingly successful discipline: The 400m-runner did her first 400m hurdle run at the beginning of this June at Kassel and finished with 55,59 sec., well ahead of national top hurdle runners such as Anja Neupert. With this success, Marx managed to qualify for the 400m as well as for the 400m hurdle run at the Europacup at Florence a week later, where she won 3rd place with 55,84 sec, as well as achieving the obligatory trials norm of the DLV (German Athletics Federation) for the World Championship. She is now nominated for the 4x400m relay and 400m hurdle run at the World Championship. „We commit Claudia Marx, who started straight through at the 400m in the last few years at ISTAF and who proved herself as very popular with the audience, because we believe that it is a great opportunity for her to present herself in a new discipline and to show herself from a completely new perspective, particularly as we are also inviting the top international women hurdle runners.“ Traditionally, the women's 400m hurdle run is an ISTAF discipline with a top-class starting field: 2003 the world top hurdle runner competed with the present Olympia winner, US-athlete Joanna

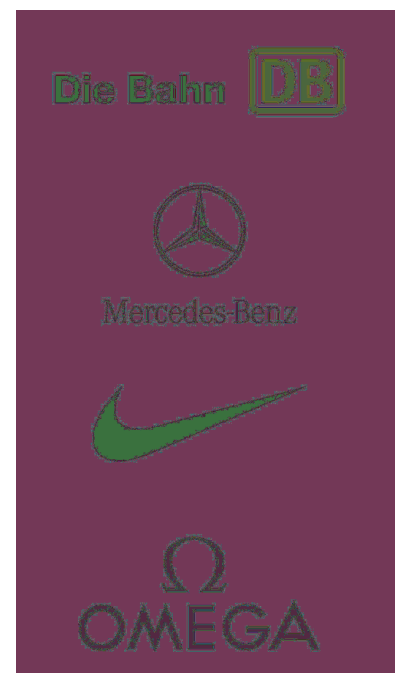


# Press Information



Hayes (over 100m hurdle sprint), and the acting World Champion Jana Pittman (AUS).

The 110m hurdle run specialist **Thomas Blaschek** (LAZ Leipzig), the German Indoor Champion 2005 and Fifth at the Indoor European Championship 2005, will start with at of the most popular discipline of the ISTAF. He beat the German World Championships norm of 13,55 sec already in Kassel with 13,49 sec in the heats. In the finals, the 24-year-old managed to get 13,41 sec (PB), and is pretty close behind US athlete Arend Watkins (13,38 sec). At the Europacup at Florence, Blaschek proved his talent again and finished with 13,44 sec (behind Ladji Doucouré at the 2<sup>nd</sup> place). At the German Championship in Bochum-Wattenscheid last weekend, Blaschek again beat the norm (13,49 sec); as the best current German hurdle sprinter, it promises to be exciting to see Blaschek compete in Helsinki against international competition. Apart from Mike Fenner, Thomas Blaschek had been the only German hurdle sprinter at ISTAF 2004: After an exciting sprint with stars like Allen Johnson (USA) and Maurice Wignall (JAM) he had to settled for the 7<sup>th</sup> place with 13,76 sec.



**Tim Lobinger** (ASV Cologne) one of Germany's most popular athletes, makes a comeback in one of the most spectacular disciplines of the meeting at the Olympic Stadium Berlin. The 32-year-old pole vault jumper started with great performances into the season and reached the World Championship norm (5,75m) already at the end of May at the Grand-Prix-Meeting in Hengelo with 5,82m. At the German Championship, he also won German Champion for the eight time (5,75m) – this time slightly ahead of Danny Ecker. Lobinger, Danny Ecker and Lars Börgeling are starting together in the DLV-Team in Helsinki.

The 24-year-old decathlete **André Niklaus** (LG Nike Berlin) will also compete at vault pole: At the IX. World Championship 2003, he came in as eighth; this year, he qualified for the World Championship in Helsinki with 8.193 points at the end of June at the Pentathlon-Meeting at Ratingen and



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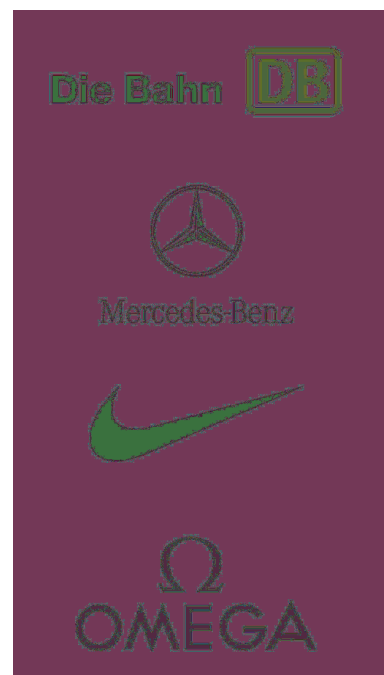


will be the only German decathlete to compete in Helsinki. In the competition at Ratingen, he performed especially well at the vault pole, with 5,30m he managed a formidable height and will now be able to compare with the German and international vault pole elite at the ISTAF. For Niklaus, this is not the first unusual challenge at the ISTAF: last year he took part in the 1500m-farewell run of the decathlete Frank Busemann and was second with 4:19.09 min.

More famous names of the international athletic world will be announced in the upcoming weeks. At ISTAF 2005 the world's best athletes will compete in twelve disciplines. The men start with 100m, 800m, 1500m, 3000m/5000m, as well as the 110m hurdle sprint. In addition, there are technical disciplines of high jump and javelin. Women compete in the disciplines of 100m, 800m, 3000m/5000m, 400m hurdle and triple jump. In addition to the official IAAF disciplines, ISTAF 2005 will stage two more disciplines apart from men's 200m and high jump, depending on the results of the TDK Golden League Meetings.

### **Berlin as final meeting of the TDK Golden League**

At the ISTAF 2005, some 200 top athletes from around the world will compete; the winners of all six meetings from each discipline will be able to get a share of the one million US dollar in gold of the TDK Golden League Jackpot. The TDK Golden League started on July 1<sup>st</sup> with the exciting meeting Gaze de France in Paris, it followed up with Rome (8<sup>th</sup> July), Oslo (29<sup>th</sup> July), Zurich (19<sup>th</sup> August), Brussels (26<sup>th</sup> August) and finally Berlin on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Among the Jackpot-winners of the last years were the Moroccan runner Hicham El Guerrouj, the hurdle sprinter Felix Sanchez (DOM) as well as, for the first time in the history of the TDK Golden League, the 800m-runner Maria Mutola (MOZ) as a single winner of the Jackpot in 2003. Last year, 400m runner Tonique Darling-Williams from the Bahamas shared the Jackpot with Swedish triple jumper Christian Olsson. The Golden League of the international athletics IAAF has found a



# Press Information



well renowned title sponsor in the Japanese electronics corporate group TDK for the years 2004 and 2005. TDK also funds the Jackpot.

**New summer special until August 15th: “20 €return ticket“: At the purchase of two tickets in the prise category III, you will save over a third of the original ticket price!**

ISTAF organizers are quite satisfied with ticket sales. After the first sales wave in April and May, ticket sales have levelled on a good level; we have sold over 25 000 tickets so far and offer a new summer special from today-under the motto “we give you 20 €” it is possible to buy ticket from the price class III for 38 € i.e. one can save a third of the original prise. This offer is temporary and runs into the first weeks of school begin and ends on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August.

## **ISTAF to be staged on a Sunday with entertainment program**

Just as in the past two years, ISTAF once again will be staged on a Sunday afternoon and starts with an attractive and sports-orientated entertainment program for children and youngsters, offering great entertainment for the whole family – with training race tracks for children, leisure facilities for adults to market stalls and a manifold choice of foods all around the stadium. The ISTAF starts at noon with the entertainment program on the stadium grounds, and the pre-programmes inside the stadium, including the traditional students’ relay races and the finals of the “Germany searches for the super sprinter” sports campaign. Official IAAF competitions of the TDK Golden League will be starting at 2 pm. The German national television, ZDF, broadcasts the ISTAF live between 3.30 and 5 pm.

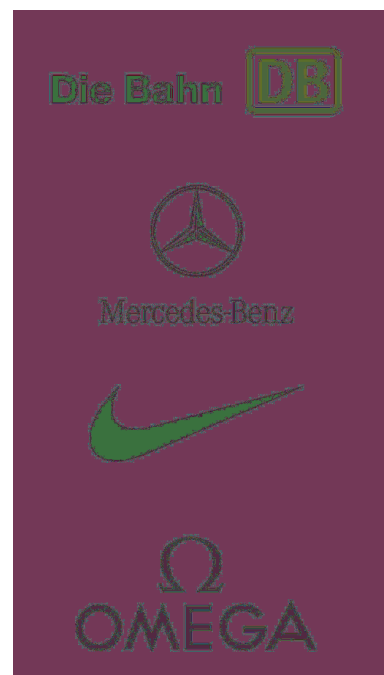
For more and updated information, visit our website at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de). Ticket orders available by phone at + 49 (30) 4430 4430 or on-line at [www.velomax.de](http://www.velomax.de)).

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## Press Release



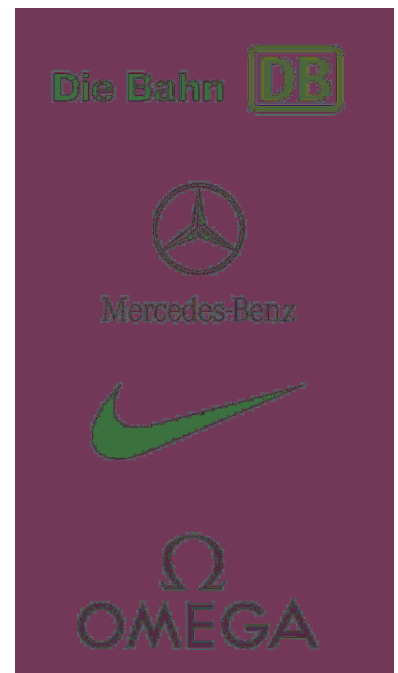
### **ISTAF 2005 Berlin is the final meeting of the TDK Golden League**

**The competition to win the one Million US Dollar gold  
Jackpot at the TDK Golden League was officially launched  
with the exciting Prelude-Meeting Gaz de France on July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

*Berlin, July, 6th 2005*

With the first meeting of the TDK Golden League at the Stade de France last Friday, the hunt for the Jackpot of one Million US Dollars, was launched successfully. The world's top athletes will be competing in twelve different disciplines, exciting and stunning competitions will guarantee to be captivating until the last dramatic fight for the Jackpot of the TDK Golden League at the ISTAF 2005 Berlin on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

The winner of each discipline will be able to hit the Jackpot. Those winning in their various disciplines at all six meetings of the TDK Golden League, are qualified to get a share of the Jackpot. The TDK Golden League started on July 1<sup>st</sup> with the meeting Gaze de France in Paris, it then continues in Rome (July 8th), Oslo (July 29th), Zurich (August 19th), Brussels (August 26th) and finally on September 4<sup>th</sup> 2005 at the new Olympic Stadium in Berlin. Among the Jackpot winners of the last few years were Hicham El Guerrouj a Moroccan runner, the hurdle sprinter Felix Sanchez (DOM) as well as, for the first time in the history of the TDK Golden League, 800m-runner Maria Mutola (MOZ) winning the Jackpot in 2003 all for herself. Last year, 400m runner Tonique Darling-Williams from the Bahamas shared the Jackpot with Swedish triple jumper Christian Olsson. With the Japanese electronics corporate group TDK, the Golden League of the international athletics federation IAAF has found a well-renowned title sponsor for the years 2004 and 2005. TDK also provides the Jackpot.



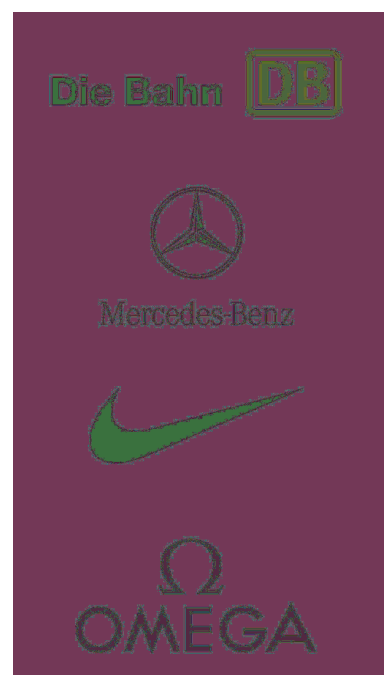
# Press Release



## TDK Golden League Winners 2005

### Men

Discipline	Paris 1.7.	Rome 8.7.	Oslo 29.7.	Zurich 19.8.	Brussels 26.8.	Berlin 4.9.
100m	Zakari, Aziz (GHA) 10.04					
110m H	Doucouré, Ladj (FRA) 13.02					
800m	Yiampoy, William (KEN) 1:45.98					
1500m	Komen, Daniel Kipchircir (KEN) 3:30.01					
5000m	Bekele, Kenenisa (ETH) 12:40.18					
High Jump	Holm, Stefan (SWE) 2.32					
Javelin	Pitkämäki, Tero (FIN) 85,95					



### Women

Discipline	Paris 1.7.	Rome 8.7.	Oslo 29.7.	Zurich 19.8.	Brussels 26.8.	Berlin 4.9.
100m	Arron, Christine (FRA) 11.03					
400m H	Demus, Lashinda (USA) 53.85					
800m	Cherkasova, Svetlana (RUS) 1:57.52					
3000m	Masai, Edith (KEN) 8:31.27					
Triple Jump	Lebedeva, Tatyana (RUS) 15.11					



# Press Release



Next to the highest prize money for athletics in all track and field events, (different amounts for particular places and 50,000 € for every athlete who breaks a world record), the TDK Golden League is all about winning the TDK Golden League Jackpot. The Jackpot was doubled in 2003 and is now worth one Million US Dollars in pure gold. It will be split between those athletes who won in their disciplines at all TDK Golden League Meetings. Since 1998, 19 different athletes have won the Jackpot: eight men, such as the Moroccan runner Hicham El Guerrouj four times and eleven women (among them US sprinter Marion Jones twice). In 2003, Maria Mutola (MOZ) was the first one in the history of athletics to be able to collect the whole Jackpot by herself, until today, the highest prize money ever paid in athletics.

All TDK Golden League winners are listed below:

## 1998

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Haile Gebrselassie (ETH)

Marion Jones (USA)

## 1999

Wilson Kipketer (DEN)

Gabriela Szabo (ROM)

## 2000

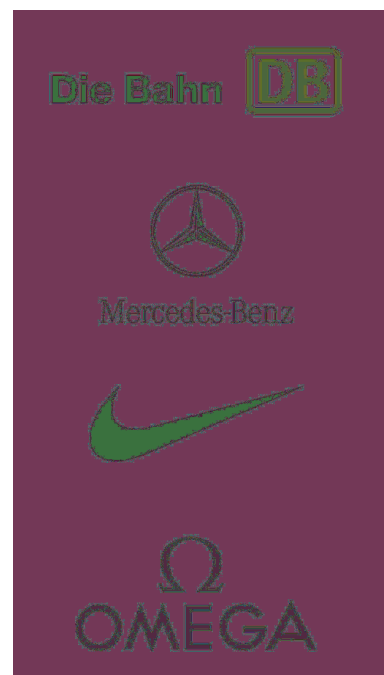
Gail Devers (USA)

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Maurice Greene (USA)

Trine Hattestad (NOR)

Tatjana Kotowa (RUS)





# Press Release



## 2001

André Bucher (SUI)

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Allen Johnson (USA)

Violeta Szekely (ROM)

Olga Jegorowa (RUS)

## 2002

Hicham El Guerrouj (MAR)

Ana Guevara (MEX)

Marion Jones (USA)

Felix Sanchez (DOM)

## 2003

Maria Mutola (MOZ)

## 2004

Tonique Darling-Williams (BAH)

Christian Olsson (SWE)

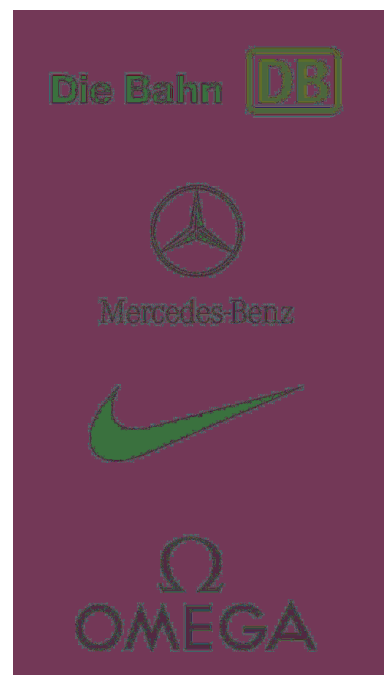
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## From the Olympics to the Olympic Stadium:

**ISTAF promises top-class international track and field athletics  
ISTAF to feature 220 athletes from all around the world in 18 disciplines  
/ Over 30 Olympic medal winners / Numerous competitions featuring up  
to five of the best from the Olympic Games / 60,000 expected to watch  
ISTAF this Sunday under ideal weather conditions.**

*Berlin, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2004*

The 63<sup>rd</sup> international ISTAF athletics meeting promises to be one of the best sporting events and most successful meets of the track and field season. Event officials today announced a number of the highlights and published further information about this year's ISTAF meeting on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September in the new Berlin Olympic Stadium.

"We are keeping to our promise and bringing many of the best athletes from Athens here to Berlin. As a result, we will have the top three, and sometimes the top five, athletes from the Olympic Games competing in a number of the disciplines," announced Managing Partner Gerhard Janetzky today. "We will be welcoming around 220 top athletes from all around the world, including 30 newly honoured medal winners from the Olympic Games in Athens, numerous world record holders and athletes currently holding top spot in the world rankings, plus some of the best athletes from Germany. In many disciplines we will also be staging head-to-heads that people would have liked to have seen in Athens and will now get a chance to see with us in Berlin's Olympic Stadium. Many of our competitions will feature top-class duels and rematch situations."

Based on latest ticket sales, which went past the 50,000 mark last weekend, ISTAF organisers are expecting a crowd of around 60,000 spectators to watch this top athletics event live and direct in Berlin's new Olympic Stadium. This will be a new attendance record for the ISTAF in its 63-year history. Tickets in price categories 5 and 6 in the upper circle are still available. These can be obtained online at [www.istaf.de](http://www.istaf.de) or [www.velomax.de](http://www.velomax.de) or via the Velomax hotline on +49 (0)30 4430 4430.

The battle for the TDK Golden League jackpot filled with one million US dollars in gold has also become even more explosive as a result of high jumper Hestrie Cloete (RSA) and 400m hurdler Felix Sanchez (DOM) dramatically dropping out of the running at the TDK Golden League meeting in Brussels. On Sunday, it will be just Swedish triple jumper and Olympic gold medal winner Christian Olsson and women's 400m runner Tonique Williams-Darling (BAH) fighting it out for their share of the jackpot – and either can be knocked out by any of the other competitors.

Everything around and about the event itself is also ready and waiting. "We are looking forward to an ISTAF in Berlin's newly refurbished Olympic Stadium with its blue artificial turf running track in sunshine and with mild, ideal weather for athletics at around 22 degrees centigrade. From noon onwards, we will also be providing a colourful supporting programme including sports, art and cultural events, live music and entertainment, plus, of course, a wide range of food and drink. The main competitions start at 2pm and will go on until 5.30."

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## Competition highlights in 18 disciplines

The athletes at this year's ISTAF will be taking part in a total of 18 different disciplines. First and foremost, these include the 12 disciplines prescribed for TDK Golden League meetings in all six host cities, i.e. for the men: 200m, 800m, 1500m and 400m hurdles, plus discus and triple jump. And for the women: 100m, 400m, 1500m, 3000/5000m, 100m hurdles and high jump. This year's additional ISTAF disciplines are the women's long jump, javelin and shot put, a 1500m farewell race for Frank Busemann and the men's pole vault and 110m hurdles.

The **men's 200m** promises to be one of the high points, with four athletes from the first ten in the world rankings. The USA will be represented in this race by four top sprinters, led by **Bernard Williams** and followed by **John Capel**, **Joshua J. Johnson** and **Coby Miller**. Also participating will be the surprise winners from the TDK Golden League meeting in Brussels, **Frankie Fredericks** (NAM) and **Asafa Powell** (JAM). A number of German sprinters will also be taking part: Olympic finalist **Tobias Unger**, plus **Ronny Ostwald**, **Sebastian Ernst**, **Alexander Kosenkow** and **Till Helmke** will again be lining up against the elite of the sprinting world.

This race promises several exciting head-to-head pairings, with a top-class trio in the starting line-up: Bernard Williams, newly crowned silver medallist over 200m and surprise athlete Asafa Powell, who claimed fifth place in the Olympic Games with a time of 9.94 seconds in the 100m sprint and also beat Maurice Greene prior to the Olympics at the TDK Golden League meeting in Zurich, plus up-and-coming star JJ Johnson. The race should see a tough battle for first place. To win, 37-year old Frankie Fredericks, who won the 200m in 20.20 last Friday at the TDK Golden League meeting in Brussels, will have to overcome a sprinting elite on average 15 years younger.

Joshua J. Johnson, whose impressive sprint in the 4x100m relay helped to secure victory for the USA at the 2003 World Championships, will also be trying to match up to the top three runners.

The starting line-up for the men's 800m will include three of the first ten in the world rankings: **Wilfred Bungei** (KEN), **Mulaudzi Mbulaeni** (RSA) and **Yusuf Kamel Saad** (BAR), who are sure to provide an exciting race. Amongst the runners competing for Germany will be **René Herms**, attempting to prove himself in this world-class field.

The 2004 ISTAF will be putting on a duel of Olympic proportions in the **110m hurdles**. Top Chinese athlete, gold medallist at the Olympic Games in Athens and new world record holder in the 110m hurdles, **Liu Xiang**, has been signed up for this additional ISTAF discipline. The 21-year old from China will be lining up against American **Allen Johnson** (33). This hurdles race will therefore be a competition between the young, new world-leader and the experienced Johnson, Olympic gold medal winner in 1996. "With this race, the ISTAF is staging one of the absolute highlights of the season," declared ISTAF Managing Partner Gerhard Janetzky. "We will be putting on the hurdles duel that failed to take place in Athens". The eagerly awaited race between Allen Johnson and his main rival Liu Xiang never came about in Athens, as Johnson fell in his qualifier and therefore missed the final. This top-class duo will be joined in the starting line-up by other leading athletes including **Duane Ross** (USA), **Ron Bramlett** (USA) and **Maurice Wignall** (JAM). Olympian **Mike Fenner** from Berlin will also be taking part.

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## Triple jump world elite out to catch Christian Olsson

The **triple jump** could take a dramatic twist, with the entire world elite of the sport out to catch the so far undefeated would-be jackpot winner and Olympic gold medallist **Christian Olsson** (SWE). The Swede now has to beat the first five jumpers from the Olympic Games, desperately defending his share of the jackpot. He only just managed to do this in Athens and at several TDK Golden League meetings. The revenge attempts of silver and bronze medallists **Marian Oprea** (ROM) and **Danil Burkenya** (RUS) respectively are likely to be particularly exciting. **Yoandri Betanzos** (CUB) and **Gregorio Jadel** (BRA), fourth and fifth at the Olympics, will also be trying to beat Olsson this time and to remove the jackpot from his grasp. The Swede last jumped against Burkenya and Oprea last Friday at the TDK Golden League meeting in Brussels. He won the competition with a jump of 17.44m, but his two rivals were not far behind with jumps of 17.24 and 17.26m respectively.

A similar situation presents itself in the **discus**. **Virgilijus Alekna** (LTU) lost his chance to a share of the jackpot against **Robert Fazekas** (HUN) at the TDK Golden League meeting in Zurich on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Now the athletes that Olympic gold medal winner Alekna will once again have to beat include silver and bronze medallists **Zoltán Kovago** (HUN) and **Aleksander Tammert** (EST).

## Roman Sebrle joins farewell race for Frank Busemann

A particular highlight of the event will be 29-year old German decathlete **Frank Busemann's** official departure from performance sport. Busemann will be bid a special farewell by the sport and by the Berlin crowd with a **1500m race in his honour** at the ISTAF. One of the top decathletes taking part in this event will be **Roman Sebrle**, also 29. He added a cherished gold medal to his previous successes at the Olympic Games in Athens, achieving the second-best performance of his career with 8,893 points, an Olympic record. Roman Sebrle is also the world record holder in the decathlon, with 9,026 points. He was the first athlete ever to break through the previous 9,000-barrier, when he achieved this in Götzis in May 2001.

Busemann, the successful and most popular German decathlete of recent years, will be taking his final bow before the Olympic Stadium public, having had to retire from active performance sport in June 2003 due to injury. Major successes in his career included a silver medal at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and a bronze at the 1997 World Championships in Athens.

The 1500m race will take place at the ISTAF in addition to the normal 1500m, one of the twelve official disciplines in the TDK Golden League. In addition to Roman Sebrle, German decathletes such as **André Niklaus**, **Florian Schönbeck** and **Stefan Drews** also agreed to take part as soon as they heard of Frank Busemann's involvement.

## Women's competitions

In the women's competition, the 100m with Olympic gold medal winner **Julia Nesterenko** (BLR) and the French European Championships winner from 2002, **Christine Arron**, promises to be a fascinating duel between two of the fastest women in the world at the moment. Arron finished sixth in the Olympic Games semi-final in a time of 11.21 and thus failed to qualify for the final. Nesterenko, who dropped out of her race in Brussels immediately after the Olympics with a virus infection, then went on to win the 100m in a time of

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10.93. The participation of **Ivet Lalova** (BUL) should bring a special excitement to the race, as she just missed out on bronze at the Olympic Games by three hundredths of a second (finishing in 11.00), even though as number one on the world ranking list she is currently the fastest woman in the world. Also in the starting field are Olympic finalists **Debbie Ferguson** (USA), **Aleen Bayley** (JAM) and **Kim Gevaert** (BEL). Gevaert won the 100m at the TDK Golden League meeting in Brussels last Friday, prompting enthusiastic celebrations from the home crowd.

Incidentally, three Jamaican runners taking part, **Sherome Simpson**, **Aleen Bayley** and **Tanya Lawrance**, won gold for their country in the 4x100m relay in Athens.

The field for the **400m** is equally outstanding and may even be more exciting, with **Tonique Williams-Darling** (JAM) defending her share of the jackpot in competition with the entire international elite in this discipline. No less than the top five runners from the Olympic Games will be pursuing the would-be jackpot winner at the ISTAF. "With a field like this, we are putting on one of the best races in this discipline this year", said Gerhard Janetzky. "We will have truly top competitors in this race, like **Monique Hennagan** from the USA, silver medal winner **Ana Guervara** from Mexico and the Russian **Natalja Antjukh**, who won bronze in Athens. The event is given added sporting appeal through the participation of the two hurdlers, **Fani Halkia** from Greece and **Ionela Tirlea** from Romania, Athens gold and silver medallists respectively, who will both be attempting to run under 50 seconds. This will be the only competition in the world, with two gold medal winners from different disciplines going head-to-head."

Ana Guevara's performance should also be interesting in this event. In 2002, she won a share of the jackpot and, after a weak season in the interim, has got much stronger this year. While Williams-Darling won at the TDK Golden League meeting in Brussels with a time of 49.59, Ana Guevara was close behind her on 49.95, taking second place.

The ISTAF crowd will be looking forward to another rematch between the top three from the Olympic Games in the **women's 100m hurdles**. Olympic winner Johanna Hayes (USA) will have to try to assert herself again in this event against the woman with the best time in the world this year, **Perdita Felicien** (USA), plus silver and bronze medallists **Melissa Morrison** (USA) and **Olena Krasovska** (UKR) respectively.

In the **women's 5000m** race the ISTAF will also be staging two direct duels between **Berhane Adere** (ETH), **Elvan Abeylegesse** (TUR) and **Isabelle Ochichi** (KEN). This too is a direct head-to-head that people had expected in Athens, but which unfortunately never came about. Despite registering for it, Berhane Adere did not race at the TDK Golden League meeting in Brussels. Nor did this exceptional Ethiopian runner and world champion from 2003 and 2001 (10,000m) take part in the Olympics, as the Ethiopian Athletics Association did not select her for their team. The hoped-for competition between Adere and the rest of the world elite therefore never took place.

With a time of 14:24.68, Elvan Abeylegesse (22), racing for Turkey, is the reigning world record holder. She set her world record at the TDK Golden League meeting in Bergen on 11<sup>th</sup> June. At last year's World Championships she only came in fifth, but has cemented her place this year amongst the world's elite (currently ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the world), although she had a disappointing 5000m race at the Olympic Games, finishing 8<sup>th</sup> in 15:12.64.

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After the games in Athens, Elvan went straight back to her training camp and is now preparing intensely for her appearance in Berlin. In the race in Berlin, Abeylegesse will also come up against Isabella Ochichi, who won the 5000m silver medal at the Olympic Games in Athens with a time of 14:48.19. The full starting line-up for this race also includes **Ejegayehu Dibaba**, who won silver in the 10,000m in Athens in 30:24.98, while these favourites will also be joined in the field by German athlete **Sabrina Mockenhaupt**.

## **Cloete to compete despite high jump defeat in Brussels**

After much deliberation, silver medallist **Hestrie Cloete** (RSA) has decided to accept the challenge in the **high jump**, so that in this event too the top three from the Olympic Games will be taking part. Last Friday at the TDK Golden League meeting in Brussels, Cloete failed to beat her rival in Athens, gold medal winner **Jelena Slesarenko** (RUS), and thus dropped out of the battle for the jackpot. Now she is seizing the chance to take on the Russian again here in Berlin. To win in the Olympic Stadium, Cloete will also have to overcome other favourites, such as **Blanka Vlasic** (CRO) and **Viktoria Sergjogina** (RUS), who won bronze in Athens.

Germany's only two medal winners from track and field in Athens, **Steffi Nerius** and **Nadine Kleinert**, will be taking part in the other two technical disciplines at the ISTAF, the **javelin** and the **shot put**. Shot putter Nadine Kleinert will possibly be up against not only **Astrid Kumbernuss** (GER) and bronze medal winner **Swetlana Krivelova** (RUS), but also Olympic gold medal winner **Yumileidi Cumba** (CUB). This event would then also feature the top three athletes from the Olympic Games. There is a similar situation presenting itself for javelin thrower Steffi Nerius, who could encounter her rival and Olympic gold medal winner **Osleidys Menéndez** (CUB) in Berlin.

With the silver medallist from the Olympic Games, **Irina Simagina** (RUS), **Marion Jones** (USA) and Germans **Bianca Kappler**, **Sofia Schulte** and, of course, **Heike Drechsler**, the **long jump** ought to be an emotional and unforgettable experience for both the athletes and the Berlin public.

## **Athletes from Königs Wusterhausen meeting to compete at ISTAF**

As in previous years, the ISTAF is again cooperating this year with the Königs Wusterhausen athletics tournament (Stadionfest Königs Wusterhausen), which is taking place two days before the ISTAF on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September. The best athletes in five disciplines have the chance to get a wildcard entry into the ISTAF. The selected events this year are the men's and the women's 1500m, the men's pole vault and triple jump, and the women's high jump. Everyone attending the Königs Wusterhausen meeting will have the opportunity to buy combo-tickets for the 63<sup>rd</sup> ISTAF. By presenting their Königs Wusterhausen ticket at the ISTAF stand in the grounds, spectators will be able to buy ISTAF tickets for just €8 each. This offer relates to seats in the upper circle on the back straight of the Olympic Stadium. Anyone buying two ISTAF tickets also gets a free ISTAF key-strap. ISTAF combo-tickets are also valid for travel on local transport (VBB) in zones A, B and C.

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## **Exciting Olympic class hurdles duel**

**Berlin's ISTAF signs up Olympic gold medal winner Liu Xiang  
and Ladji Doucouré for the 110m hurdles / ISTAF to stage  
hurdles duel that never happened in Athens**

*Berlin, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2004*

The 2004 ISTAF will be putting on a duel of Olympic proportions in the 110m hurdles. As announced today by ISTAF officials in Berlin, top Chinese athlete, gold medal winner at the Olympic Games in Athens and world record holder in the 110m hurdles, Liu Xiang, plus the surprise athlete of the season, Frenchman Ladji Doucouré, have been signed up for this additional ISTAF discipline. Both 21 years old, the Chinese hurdler and Doucouré will line up on the Olympic Stadium's new blue running track against American Allen Johnson (33). This hurdles race will therefore be a battle between the young new stars at the world peak of the sport and the experienced Johnson, Olympic gold medal winner in 1996. "By putting on this race, the ISTAF is creating an absolute highlight of the season," declared ISTAF Managing Partner Gerhard Janetzky. "We will be staging in Berlin the hurdles duel that never took place in Athens." The eagerly awaited race between Allen Johnson and his main rival Liu Xiang never came about in Athens, as Johnson fell in his qualifier and therefore missed the final.

Bronze medallist in the 2003 World Championships, Liu Xiang was the only athlete in the 2004 Olympic Games to set a world record, equalling the time of 12.91 set by Colin Jackson at the World Championships in Stuttgart in 1993. His victory also saw Liu Xiang finally win the exciting long distance duel he had been having this season with Allen Johnson, after having managed prior to the games to beat Johnson's world best for the year of 13.06 just the once, which the American had set in May in Osaka. Johnson had also fallen just one hundredth of a second short of this time a month later in Lausanne. But for Liu Xiang's Olympic winning time of 13.05,

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Johnson, Olympic gold medal winner in 1996 and many times world outdoor and indoor champion, would have retained his world best ranking for the year ahead of strong competition from fellow Americans such as Duane Ross and Terrence Trammel, plus international rivals like the Lithuanian Stanislav Olijar and the Frenchman Ladji Doucouré. As recently as the Golden League meeting in Zurich on 6<sup>th</sup> August, Johnson won again with a time of 13.13, recording the second fastest reaction time at the start. Johnson last raced at the ISTAF in 2003 and achieved his best ISTAF performance in 2001 with a time of 13.04, thus securing himself a share of the jackpot. That was also the last time that Johnson appeared in the Olympic Stadium in Berlin. The ISTAF meeting record stands at 13.02 – time set by Roger Kingdom (1989) and Colin Jackson (1994).

Frenchman Ladji Doucouré, winner of the 2003 under-23's championships, ran himself right into the ranks of the world's top hurdlers in his qualifying races and semi-final at the Olympic Games, with a best time of 13.06. However, in the final he only managed a disappointing eighth place in a time of 13.76 after misjudging the ninth hurdle. Nevertheless, the Frenchman rates as one of the great athletic hopes of the coming years. For Doucouré and Johnson, this year's ISTAF is a repeat encounter. The pair also lined up against each other at the 2003 ISTAF. That time, the Frenchman ended up in fifth place with a time of 13.39 behind Johnson, who finished third in 13.21.

The 110m hurdles is the meeting's first additional discipline, with other athletes in the starting field including Berliner, Mike Fenner. In addition to Liu Xiang, Ladji Doucouré and Allen Johnson, others lined up for other events at this TDK Golden League meeting include Olympic decathlon gold medal winner Roman Serble and German decathlete Frank Busemann, who is due to be bid a special farewell with a unique 1500m race against other international decathletes.

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Coming hot on the heels of the Athens Olympics, the 63<sup>rd</sup> ISTAF meeting in Berlin is a potent symbol of the city's bid to host the 2009 World Championships. For the first time in two years, the ISTAF will again take place at its traditional venue, the now refurbished and modernised Olympic Stadium in Berlin. This year's ISTAF starts on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September, from 12 noon. The 2004 ISTAF will act as the final stage of the TDK Golden League, a top-class series of international athletics events, in which the athletes compete for a jackpot of one million US dollars in gold.

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## **Athletics champion at the Olympic Stadium ISTAF signs up Olympic decathlon winner Roman Sebrle for 1500m farewell race with Frank Busemann**

*Berlin, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2004*

Officials of the 63<sup>rd</sup> ISTAF meeting today announced the recruitment of another top international athlete for the event. Newly crowned Olympic gold medal winner in the decathlon, Roman Sebrle (CZE) will be taking part in the 1500m farewell race for Frank Busemann at the ISTAF in the Olympic Stadium on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

29-year old Roman Sebrle is one of field athletics' top athletes. In August he was finally able to add Olympic gold to his list of previous successes. His total of 8,893 points in Athens was the second best of his career and also an Olympic record. In Götzis in May 2001, Roman Sebrle also set the current world decathlon record of 9,026 points, becoming the first athlete ever to break through the previous barrier of 9,000 points. Neither any of his rivals, nor he himself, have since been able to repeat the feat. His other successes include a silver medal at the Sydney Olympics (2000) and the titles of European Champion in 2002, World Indoor Champion (2003) and European Indoor Champion.

Roman Sebrle will be lining up in a special 1500m race between decathletes at the 2004 ISTAF, helping to give a very special send-off to his former companion in the sport, Frank Busemann. Busemann, the most successful and popular German decathlete of recent years, will be taking his final bow before the Olympic Stadium public, having had to retire from active performance sport in June 2003 due to injury. Major successes in his career included a silver medal at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and a bronze at the 1997 World Championships in Athens.

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The 1500m race will take place at the ISTAF in addition to the normal 1500m, one of the total of twelve official disciplines in the TDK Golden League. As well as Roman Sebrle, German decathlete's such as André Niklaus, Florian Schönbeck and Stefan Drews also agreed to take part as soon as they heard of Frank Busemann's involvement. "We're expecting an exciting, very high-class race and times below 4.25 minutes," promises Gerhard Janetzky, Managing Partner of the Berlin ISTAF.

For Roman Sebrle this is the second time that he has taken part in the ISTAF. In 2002 in the 'Jahnsportpark', he came third in the quadrathlon, then one of the additional disciplines. This year, he will be making his first appearance in Berlin's new Olympic Stadium.

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## **Allen Johnson to hurdle around the blue track.**

**ISTAF announces signing of first international athlete / US hurdler Allen Johnson to take part in extra 110m hurdles race on blue tartan track.**

*Berlin, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2004*

Officials of the Berlin 2004 ISTAF today announced the signing of a top international athlete. US sprint hurdler Allen Johnson (33) will be appearing on 12<sup>th</sup> September in the men's 110m hurdles in Berlin's new Olympic Stadium. "We are delighted to have made this first signing of a top international athlete," said ISTAF Managing Partner Gerhard Janetzky. "Allen Johnson showed once more last year, and again this season, how much he dominates his discipline and also how strongly he battles with his rivals, which is bound to guarantee some thrilling races. With the Olympics this year and lots of athletes therefore in top form, the hurdles promises to be especially exciting."

Olympic gold medal winner in 1996 and many times world outdoor and indoor champion, Allen Johnson currently holds the record for the best time in the world this year at 13.05, fighting off stiff competition from fellow Americans such as Duane Ross and Terrence Trammell, as well as international rivals like China's Xiang Liu, Lithuanian Stanislav Olijar and Frenchman Ladji Doucouré. Johnson won in a time of 13.13 at the TDK Golden League meeting in Zurich last Friday, recording the second-fastest reaction time at the start. He last raced at the ISTAF in 2003, achieving his personal best at an ISTAF meeting in 2001 with a time of 13.04 and thus securing a share of the jackpot that year – which, incidentally, was also the last time that he appeared in Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

The 110m hurdles is the meeting's first additional discipline. Other athletes in the starting field for this discipline include the Berliner, Mike Fenner. Johnson and Fenner will also be meeting each other

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in just under two weeks at the Olympic Games in Athens, representing the USA and Germany respectively.

Allen Johnson is the third big name athlete to be signed up for this meeting. Other athletes already signed up include Lars Riedel and German decathlete Frank Busemann, who is due to be bid a special farewell with a unique 1500m race against the elite of the international decathlon.

"We are adding the men's 110m hurdles to the programme as we are hoping for a lot of exciting tussles due to the many promising performances being achieved by German and international athletes. The 110m hurdles complements the TDK Golden League's 400m hurdles very well and is very popular with the public," said Gerhard Janetzky. Last year, the 110m hurdles, with athletes including Allen Johnson, Duane Ross and Stanislav Olizar, was also one of the best races at the ISTAF.

Coming hot on the heels of the Athens Olympics, the 63<sup>rd</sup> ISTAF meeting in Berlin is a potent symbol of the city's bid to host the 2009 World Athletics Championships. For the first time in two years, the ISTAF will again take place at its traditional venue, the now refurbished and modernised Olympic Stadium in Berlin. This year's ISTAF starts on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September, from 12 noon. The 2004 ISTAF will act as the final stage of the TDK Golden League, a top-class series of international athletics events, in which the athletes compete for a jackpot of one million US dollars in gold.

Around 200 top athletes from all around the world will be taking part in the 2004 ISTAF. And the winners in each discipline in Berlin could hit the jackpot! Any athlete winning their discipline at all six TDK Golden League meetings gets a share of the jackpot. The TDK Golden League began on 11<sup>th</sup> June with the Evergood Bergen Bislett Games (the former stadium in Oslo is currently being refurbished), being followed by Rome (2<sup>nd</sup> July), Paris (23<sup>rd</sup> July), Zurich (6<sup>th</sup>





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August), Brussels (3<sup>rd</sup> September) and finally Berlin (12<sup>th</sup> September). Four athletes are currently still battling it out for the jackpot: 400m hurdler Felix Sanchez (DOM), Christian Olsson (SWE) in the triple jump, women's 400m runner Tonique Williams (BAH) and women's high jumper Hestrie Cloete (RSA). Virgilijus Alekna (LTU), ranked as favourite in the discus, who came through victorious in the first three meetings, lost surprisingly last Friday to Hungarian Robert Fazekas at the TDK Golden League meeting in Zurich.

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