

Under generally favorable weather conditions, and the prospect of a sub-4 minute mile looming, the 2011 Summer Nights Track and Field Series commenced at Cathedral Catholic High School on Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. With only a brisk headwind greeting runners on the homestretch, the venue was in resplendent condition, offering the opportunity for both good marks and easy spectating. With competitors across nine events ranging from age 17 months to 68 years old, the meet blended the novice with the national elite.

In the field events, Leonidas Watson stole the show in the men's long jump, soaring to a leap of 23'10½," outdistancing his nearest competitor by a full foot. In the high jump, Alex Campbell and Jake Pavlovics had to settle for a draw, as each teenager cleared 6'0." In the shot put, the dominant mark was registered by a Masters competitor, as 56 year old Greg Stines heaved the shot put an impressive 47'2." Finally, in the lone unofficial event of the meet, several vaulters reached rarefied heights, with Willis Somervell leading the way at 15'9," followed by female competitor, Jacqui Kilpatrick at 11'6."

On the oval, running into a headwind, Bassim El-Sabawi, a former San Diego CIF Champion, torched the field in the 100m, dipping below 11 seconds to the tune of a 10.88 finish. With equal alacrity, former Cathedral High School sprinter, Daniel Thomas, unleashed a 48.40 in the 400m to fight off fellow local talent, Brandon Hilk, in the final meters. Not to be lost in the shuffle, Sasha Stephens and several female preteens notched marks well beyond their years. While Stephens, only 14 years old herself, crossed the line in 1:01.73, she was followed by two 12 year olds, Leela Robinson and Jayla Williams in 1:03.19 and 1:03.42, respectively. In the perhaps most-hyped event, several pace-setters took eventual winner, Collin Jarvis, through the half-way point in the Men's Mile at 1:58. Fighting the wind by his lonesome, Jarvis, a sub-8 minute 3000m runner this past winter for the Cal Bears, made a valiant go of it, clocking 4:07.82, just over a second ahead of hard-charging second place finisher and CSUSM alum, David Edwards. On the women's side, Nihal Kayali, a La Jolla High School graduate and an All-Ivy League performer at Yale, led the way in 4:53.59. On both the men's and women's sides, the Masters champions didn't fall far behind the Open champions, with Tim Gore racing to a 4:39.64 finish and Celeste Arambulo crossing in 5:28.36. Finally, in the 5000m, former UCSB harrier, Mike Powers, led the way in 15:21. In a similar display of pacing and resilience, Lindsey Drake, a former Cathedral High School standout and current Gonzaga Bulldog, led the women in 17:27.

From Colin Donnelly