

## **Summer Nights Series 2012 – Event 1 at Cathedral Catholic on 6/6/12**

By Gina Merchant

For the third year in a row, the San Diego-Imperial USATF Association is sponsoring the San Diego Summer Nights Track & Field Series. The four event series features an abbreviated schedule consisting of hurdles, sprint, long sprint, mid-distance, distance running events plus shot put, long jump, and high jump. These all-comers meets attract a range of abilities and ages – the only prerequisite being a love for all things track and field. This passion was on display at the first meet of the series on June 6 at Cathedral Catholic High School in Del Mar. Fathers were overheard encouraging their daughters in their first-ever track meet, masters competed alongside high school athletes, and a number of kid's races displayed fantastic competition. Participants' and fans' experiences were also enriched by the presence of and words of wisdom passed on by San Diego Olympians such as Steve Scott and Tonie Campbell.

The meet was highlighted by the Steve Scott mile, the Thom Hunt 5000, the Monique Henderson 400, and the Men's 1500. In the mile, Torrey Pines high school athlete Tal Braude won easily in a time of 4:21:9 followed by Yale Bulldog alum Murat Kayali in 4:35:5. In the race for second, Prado Racing Team's Dan Farmer almost overtook Kayali, crossing the line in 4:35:9. The women's mile played out similarly as Prado Racing Team's Gina Merchant finished in 5:15:2 followed by her teammate Hilary Corno (5:28:5), and Celeste Arambulo (5:28:8). The Thom Hunt 5000 was more spread out with Mesa College's Dylan Marx crossing the finish line far in front of his competitors in 14:45. Second place went to UCLA alum Marco Anzures (15:17), and third to Cuyamaca College's Ryan Lawler (16:08). The Monique Henderson 400 had some fast running with Granite Hills high school graduate Taylor Schneider finishing in 48:46, followed by Scripps Ranch High School record holder (4X100) Kevin Ottwright (49:29), and Chase Peterson (50:77). Local stand out David Edwards of BSK/Running Center won the Men's 1500 in 3:46:28, with second and third duking it out not far behind. Sean Brosnan finished second (3:52:31) edging out Pete Hass of San Diego Track Club (3:52:92) at the line.

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