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# Masters athletes reunite on track

By Clayton Freeman Mon, Jul 27, 2015 @ 6:36 am | updated Mon, Jul 27, 2015 @ 6:50 am



Fran Ruchalski/For the Times-Union  
Ninety-eight year old Champion Goldy, Sr of Haddonfield, NJ competes in the javelin competition for athletes over eighty at the USATF National Masters Track & Field Championships Jacksonville.

Fifty-one years ago and half a world away, Ron Joseph starred at the 1964 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, earning bronze in pairs figure skating alongside sister Vivian.

Closer to home Sunday, the Ponte Vedra Beach resident returned to competition on the track with high school teammates.

Their effort was just one of the storylines as the four-day USA Track & Field Masters Outdoor Championships concluded at the University of

North Florida's Hodges Stadium.

Joseph reunited with Robert Picker, Barney Olson and Joel Lewitz, track teammates from Highland Park (Ill.) High School's Class of 1962, to run the men's 4x800 relay.

"These guys came all the way from across the country, two from the California bay area, one from Illinois," said Joseph, 70, a state-ranked long jumper in high school. "We put this together to have fun and remember what we did."

The group had been planning the relay for months.

"I stopped running when I was 35, over half my lifetime ago," Olson said. "They called me in January and said, 'We've got to do this.'"

But even their long athletic history came up short compared to 98-year-old Champion Goldy of Haddonfield, N.J., who competed in five events. For him, the race against the clock never gets old.

"You always try to beat your record," Goldy said. "Yesterday I did the 100 in 31.8, and April 25 at the Penn Relays I did it in 33.9. So I'm really happy about that."

One certified world masters record and 10 national ones fell, including two for 80-year-old Christel Donley in the high jump and triple jump.

Anne Sluder scored 3,746 points to surpass her own American mark in the outdoor pentathlon for women 40-45 — an especially impressive feat for an athlete who had never attempted two of the events until last year.

"I just can't believe that someone hasn't done this [score] before," she said. "So it's pretty cool."

For world-class contenders like Bob Lida, the meet was a crucial tune-up for August's World Masters Athletics outdoor championship in Lyon, France.

"I've been doing it since college and it's hard to quit," said Lida, 78, named 2012 world masters athlete who still runs the 100 under 14 seconds.

UNF welcomes the USATF National Junior Olympic Championships for a week of competition beginning Monday.

### Certified records set

Women's 35-39 hammer throw: Michelle Clayton (38) 51.63 m

Women's 80-84 high jump: Christel Donley (80) 1.03 m  
Women's 80-84 triple jump: Christel Donley (80) 6.86 m  
Women's 75-79 high jump: Kathy Bergen (75) 1.20 m  
Men's 45-49 110 hurdles: Derek Pye (47) 14.46 sec.  
Men's 70-74 80 hurdles: Ty Brown (70) 12.61 sec. (world record)  
Women's 50-54 1500 m: Marisa Sutera Strange (50) 4:51.86  
Men's 55-59 3000 race walk: Ian Whatley (55) 14:24.54  
Women's 35-39 shuttle hurdle relay: Unattached A 1:14.60  
Men's 80-84 200 hurdles: Robert Hewitt (80) 37.15 sec.

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