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By Michael Newman

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Three of the top meets in Illinois this past weekend did not see the light of day. Thunderstorms in the Chicago area forced meet directors to cancel the Hornet Red-Devil Invitational in Hinsdale, the Mike Kuharic Invitational at Lyons Township, the Leavey Invitational at St. Charles, and the Plainfield Central Invitational. Naperville North's Girls team and Wheaton North's Boys team traveled to the Quad Cities only to find out that the Spartan Classic in Bettendorf, Iowa had been cancelled because of the storms. The Oregon Open was also cancelled. Galesburg's Silver Streak Invitational was postponed to September 4.

The story of this weekend should not be the cancellations but the meets that persevered. That is what we will concentrate on here. The biggest of the meets, the John Kurtz Early Bird Invitational at Fenton, did find a way to go on consolidating their competition down to two races. You can read more about those races on the [meet's coverage page](#).

Here are some highlights from this past weekend's action across Illinois and involving Illinois teams outside of the state.

Granite City Invitational @ Wilson Park

The weather played a part in this meet but not in a thunderstorm kind of way. Temperatures had climbed into the 80's with humidity levels matching that. The top ranked 2A Boys team in the state Chatham-Glenwood ran their first race of the season on Saturday. Their race plan was to run a tempo pace and see what happened in the final mile. It was a good decision for Glenwood Coach **Mike Garber** and his team considering the weather forecast.

"I'm glad we tempo ran the first half the way we did," Garber said "I let them go the second half but the Maton's (Drew and Dathan) didn't want to press too hard and Coop (Cooper Peterson) and Graham (Turk) just cruised it in. It felt good for a relatively easy day of racing, but it can still hurt a bit with the heat."

Chatham-Glenwood finished fourth with 127 points. The first three Boys teams were only separated by seven points led by Missouri school St. Louis University that won with 75 points. Edwardsville (80 points) and O'Fallon (82 points) finished second and third. Southwest Conference rivals **Andrew O'Keefe** of Granite City and **Roland Prenzler** of Edwardsville led the way. O'Keefe, in his first race of the season, ran 15:10 on his home course for the win six seconds ahead of Prenzler (15:16). Quincy freshman **Fiker Rosen** was the third Illinois runner to finish as he placed fifth overall (15:28).

Edwardsville, who is ranked 18th in 3A, won the Girls team race with top five finishes from **Abby Korak** and **Hannah Stuart**. Korak pulled away from Quincy's **Lydia Kurfman** to run 17:52 for the win by 12 seconds. 2A state champion **Jenna Schwartz** was absent from the race. Schwartz is recovering from an illness that sidelined her on Saturday. **Lydia Roller** of Staunton, who won the FTTF Kickoff Race last week in Edwardsville, placed third (18:40) ahead of Edwardsville's Stuart (18:50).

Edwardsville put 5 runners in the top 22 to score 58 points for the team title. O'Fallon, led by a fifth-place finish from freshman **Julia Monson**, scored 92 points to finish second. Belleville East was the surprise in the Girls race as they scored 110 points to finish third behind **Myecia Bright's** sixth-place finish. Bright, a transfer from Louisville (KY) DuPont Manual, was a top 5 runner for the Kentucky school at last December's Nike Cross Nationals. Bright finished sixth just ahead of teammate **Hannah Eastman**.

Crystal Lake South Invitational @ Veteran Acres Park

2A Top ranked Belvidere North made their 2018 debut a success on this hilly rough Veteran Acres course. **Madison Diercks** and **Gianna Sagona** finished 1-2 to lead the Blue Thunder to the team win with only 42 points. North placed 5 runners in the top 17 with **Sydney Elder** (9th), **Natalie Horgan** (13th), and **Kayla McGuire** (17th). Diercks winning time of 19:25 was three seconds ahead of her teammate Sagona and eight seconds ahead of third-place **Emily Burns** of Lake Zurich (19:33). Host 2A #10 Crystal Lake South finished second (70 points) behind the 3-4 finish from **McKenzie Aldridge** and **Olivia Beckwith**.

Eddie Lennon came down the final hill towards the finish of the Boys race with a purpose. The Rolling Meadows senior crossed the line in 16:45 for the 5-kilometer course for the win ahead of Dundee Crown's **Adam Swanson** (16:48.4) who edged Kaneland's **Daniel Occhipinti** for second (16:48.7). Lennon's win, along with top ten finishes from **Stephen Barretto** (5th) and **Matt Schoessling** (9th), gave the Mustangs the win with 66 points. Dundee-Crown (90 points) and 2A #23 Kaneland (92 points) finished second and third.

Racine Horlick Rebel Invitational @ UW-Parkside

Due to storms in the area, this meet, just running one race each for the Boys and the Girls. The Girls race was adjusted from 5000-meters to 4000-meters. Oswego's Girls team

adjusted just fine. The 3A #15 Lady Panthers put three runners in the top five to win with 48 points ahead of a good Waukesha West (WI) team (55 points). **Isabelle Christiansen** led the way with a second-place finish 25 seconds ahead of teammates **Ella Hale** (3rd) and **Becca Corbett** (4th). **Caitlin Guist** (16th) and **Paige Bohnert** (23rd) were Oswego's other scorers.

The emergence of Libertyville freshmen **Brielle Rochester** and **Bree Ponchak** could move their team into a position to qualify for the state meet. I know, absurd statement this early in September, but Libertyville does have that potential. Rochester won the Girls race (14:52) six seconds ahead of Oswego's Christiansen (14:58). Ponchak finished fifth (15:27) to lead Libertyville to a third-place team finish (94 points).

Libertyville also had a strong showing in the Boys race finishing second overall. **Will Gordon** led the Tigers with a fifth-place finish. Antioch's **Charlie Smith** was the top Illinois finisher as he placed third (16:42). **Alexander Vance** of Oconomowoc (WI) won the Boys individual race (16:11) by 27 seconds ahead of teammate **Michael Kluz**. Oconomowoc also won the team title scoring 80 points.

Chrisman Cowchip Classic

1A top ranked Monticello bounced back from an opening meet loss last Saturday at St. Thomas More winning six of seven flight races. The Sages scored only 8 points for the win ahead of #1A #2 Urbana University (16 points) and 1A #8 Robinson (28 points). Monticello's **Garrett Dixon** won his second race of the season running 15:34 to win the championship flight ahead of Robinson's **Negus Bogard** (15:46). Arthur-Lovington's **Layton Hall** finished third (16:19).

Tolono Unity, the defending 1A state champion, scored 8 points to win the Girls team title without two of their top runners from last year's state team. **Jordan Harmon** is training back from an injury that forced her to miss almost a year of running. **Evelyn Atkins** became ill during a run during the week and was kept out of this race as a precautionary measure. Unity's depth paid off winning three of the seven flights. **Fran Hendrickson** of St. Thomas More, who won on her home course last week, made it look easy as he ran 18:56 to win the championship flight by 28 seconds ahead of Unity's **Caroline Bachert**.

St. Ignatius Connelly Invitational @ Lewis University

Rosary freshman **Lianna Surtz** picked up her third invitational win of the season but did not do it the traditional way. Surtz ran splits of 6:28, 6:25, and 5:44 on her way to the win running 18:55 and winning by 32 seconds ahead of Katie Castelli of St. Viator. According to her brother **Christian Surtz**, Lianna paced her teammate **Maia Italia**, who was 12th overall, for the first 1.75 miles of the race. She was 45 seconds behind the leaders at 1.25 miles. She moved the final mile to capture the win. St. Ignatius won the Girls team title with 34 points. The Wolfpack placed 6 runners in the top 11 with a 66 second split in their top five led by **Rhiannon O'Keefe's** third-place finish.

The boys team from St. Ignatius was even more in control taking the top three spots with 5 in the top 7 to win with only 19 points. **John Walls** ran 16:06 for the win 35 seconds ahead of teammates **Jacob Flynn** and another 10 seconds ahead of **John Rittereiser**.

Charleston Invitational

Mathias Powell captured his opening race of the season while his Mahomet-Seymour teammates packed it up to win the Boys race on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. Powell had a convincing win running 15:30 ahead of Danville's **Michael Moreman** by 39 seconds. Charleston's **Austin Ames** ran 16:15 to finish third overall. The 2A #12 Bulldogs 2-3-4 pack **of Kyle Nofziger, Jonah Singer,** and **Joseph Scheele** (all freshman) placed between eighth and tenth all with the same 17:20 time. The Bulldogs scored 46 points to finish ahead of Charleston (73 points) and Champaign Central (75 points).

Mahomet's 2A #15 Girls team were even more dominant placing 7 runners in the top 15 to score only 34 points for the team title. Freshman **Elizabeth Sims** led the Lady Bulldogs running 18:57 for the individual win ahead of the Shelbyville duo of **Ailey Mitchell** (19:03) and **Gabrielle Spain** (19:15).

Rochester Invitational

It was a good showdown between two top 10 1A Girls teams in this meet. #6 Williamsville placed their top four runners between 6th and 12th places to capture team title with 52 points ahead of #7 Pleasant Plains (67 points) and unranked Bloomington Central Catholic (83 points). **Caroline Jachino** of Pleasant Plains got the win (19:51) nine seconds ahead of Clinton's **Payne Turney** (20:00). Williamsville's pack of **Caroline Gwaltney** (6th) **Audra Koechle** (7th), **Lexy Henrikson** (10th), and **Katherine Walker** (12th) was only separated by 24 seconds.

Shane Yamco of Riverton ran 20 seconds faster than in this race in 2017. His time of 15:29 was 18 seconds ahead of Tremont's All-State returning **Leland Sumer** (15:47) who finished second. Yamco finished third last May in the 1A State Meet 800 Meter Run. Carlinville, led by **Jacob Landon's** ninth-place finish, won the team title (100 points) ahead of Clinton (112 points) and Bloomington Central Catholic (122 points).

Normal Open Meet

Bloomington's **Nick Doud** and Normal Community's **Olivia Hartke** were individual winners in this low-keyed opener for most school's at Normal's Maxwell Park. Doud showed he was in great shape covering the fast Maxwell Park course in 15:21. He was 34 seconds ahead of teammates **Bradyn Olmstead** (15:55) and **Evan Turnbull** (16:00).

Hartke, only a freshman, ran 18:53 to take home the win in the Girls race with El Paso-Gridley's **Cate Atkins** 22 seconds back in second-place (19:15). Bloomington's **Katlin Skeate** to finish third.

Canton Invitational


2A #25 Canton placed 3 runners (Claire Wheelwright, Eleanor Fournier, Isabella Keys) in the first 6 to win on their home course with 52 points. Macomb (73 points) and Pekin (80 points) finished second and third. **Paige Arseneau** of Pekin had a 21 second margin of victory ahead of Canton's Wheelwright with a 19:50 winning time. **Brody Blackwell** won individually and led Pekin, with three other runner in the


Photo – Quincy's Lydia Kurfman and Fiker Rosen finished in the top five at Saturday's Granite City Invitational (Quincy XC Photo Credit)

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A promotional banner for the Hoka One One Long Island Mile 2018. The background features a collage of athletes: a female runner in a yellow singlet on the left, and a male runner in a yellow singlet with his arms raised in celebration on the right. A white finish line banner with the Hoka One One logo is visible. In the center, there is a blue play button icon. Overlaid on the image is a blue-bordered box containing the text 'HOKA ONE ONE' in a stylized font, followed by 'LONG ISLAND MILE' in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below this text is an orange silhouette of Long Island with two white stars. At the bottom of the box is a dark red rectangular area with the words 'LIVE WEBCAST' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

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Selemon Barega Earns Performance of the Week Honors - 9/4/18



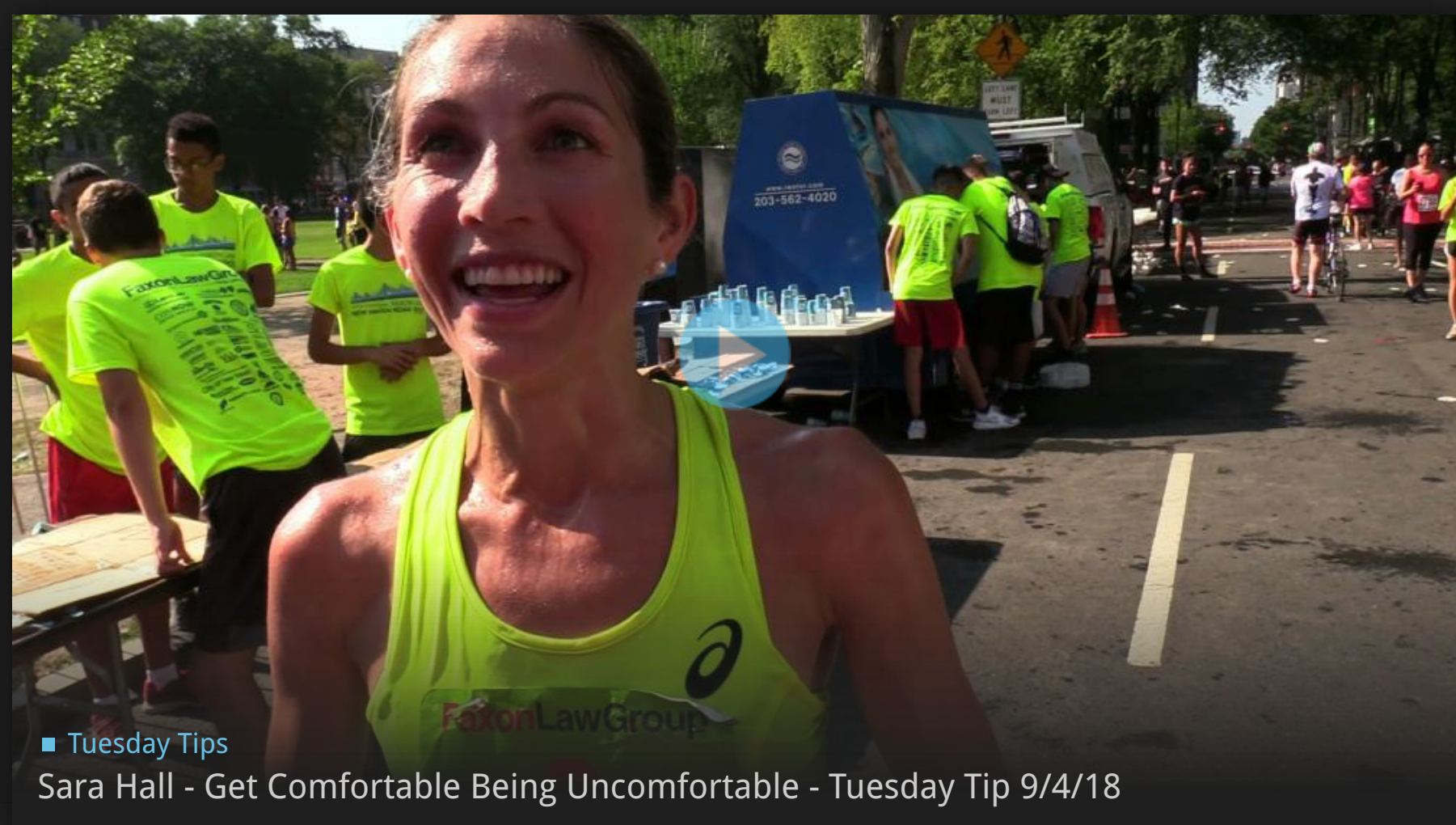
■ [DyeStat.com](https://dye-stat.com)

Craig Lutz to Retire After Final Mile Race on Friday



■ [DyeStat.com](https://dystat.com)

Oakland Tech CA Girls Looking To Make History, Crash Top 10 at CIF Finals



■ Tuesday Tips

Sara Hall - Get Comfortable Being Uncomfortable - Tuesday Tip 9/4/18



■ USATF.TV

Leonard Korir 1st Place - USATF 20 km Championships 2018



■ [RunnerSpace.com](https://www.runner-space.com)

Korir, Hall Capture USATF 20 km Titles in New Haven - RRW



■ [USATF.TV](https://www.usatf.tv)

Men's Race Highlights - USATF 20 km Championships 2018



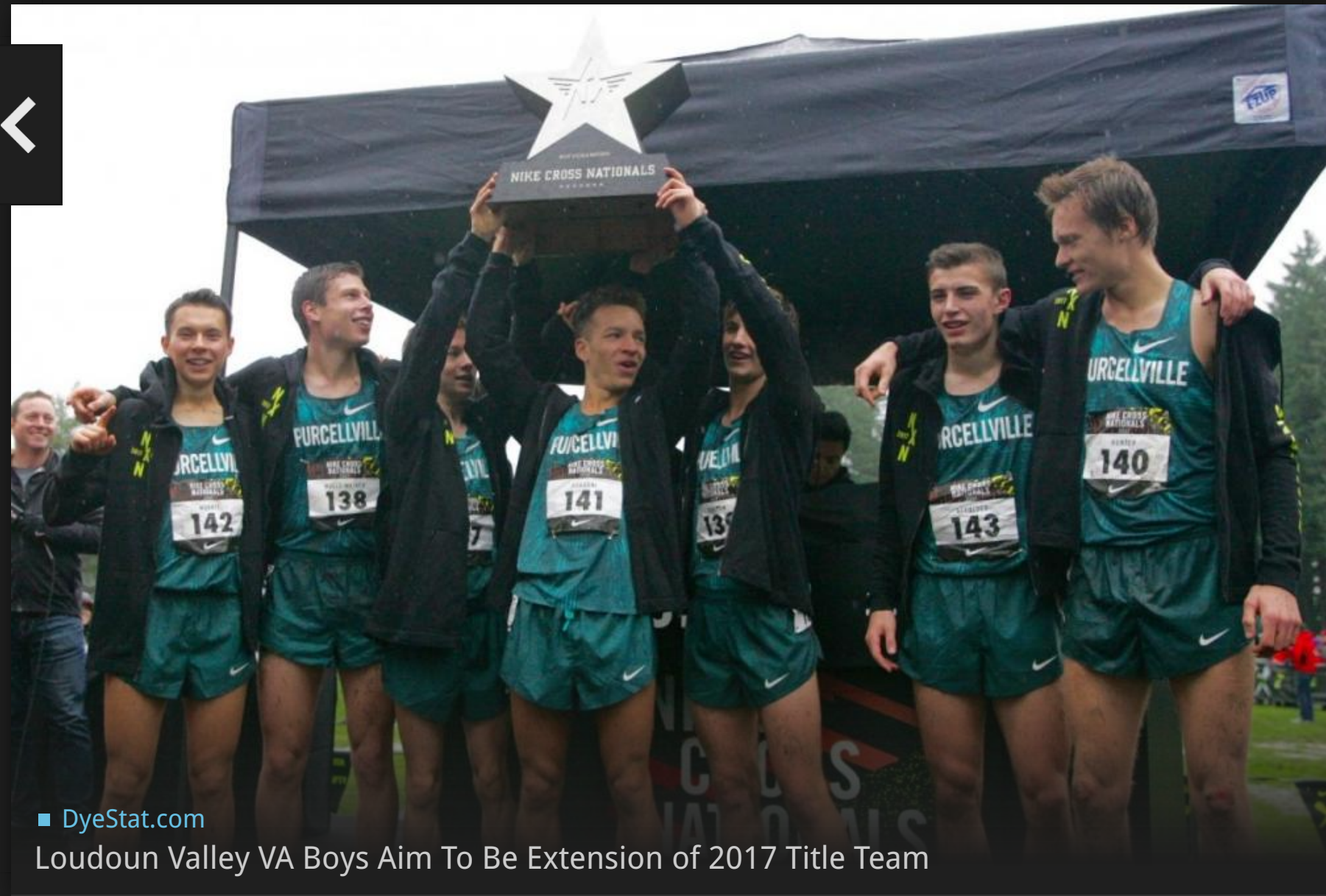
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Women's Race Highlights - USATF 20 km Championships 2018



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Sara Hall 1st Place - USATF 20 km Championships 2018



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Loudoun Valley VA Boys Aim To Be Extension of 2017 Title Team



■ [USATFRunningCircuit.com](https://www.usatf.org/running-circuit) - USATF Running Circuit Official Site
Korir, Hall Win Big with Strong Finishes at USATF 20 km Championships



■ [HOKA ONE ONE Long Island Mile](#)
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■ [DyeStat.com](https://www.dyestat.com)

DyeStat Performance of the Week Voting - 9/3/18



■ [USATF.TV](https://www.usatf.tv)

Emma Bates Pre-Race - USATF 20 km Championships 2018



■ [USATF.TV](https://www.usatf.tv)

Aaron Braun Pre-Race - USATF 20 km Championships 2018



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Christo Landry Pre-Race - USATF 20 km Championships 2018



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Meghan Peyton Pre-Race - USATF 20 km Championships 2018



■ [USATF.TV](#)
Behind the Wings - Ashley Henderson - Athletics World Cup 2018



■ [Jeff Nelson Cross Country Invitational](#)
Jeff Nelson on Meet Named in His Honor - Jeff Nelson Invitational 2018



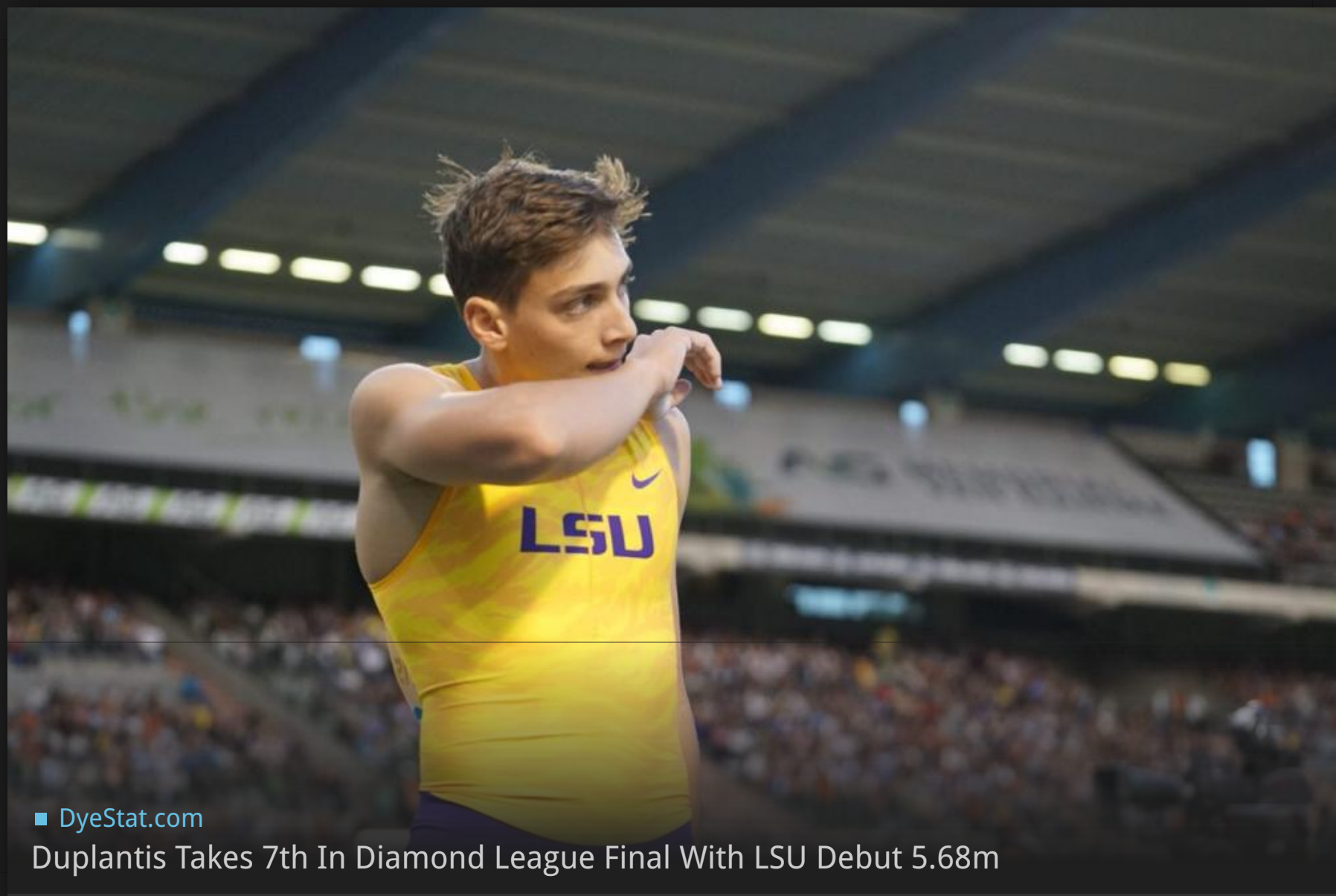
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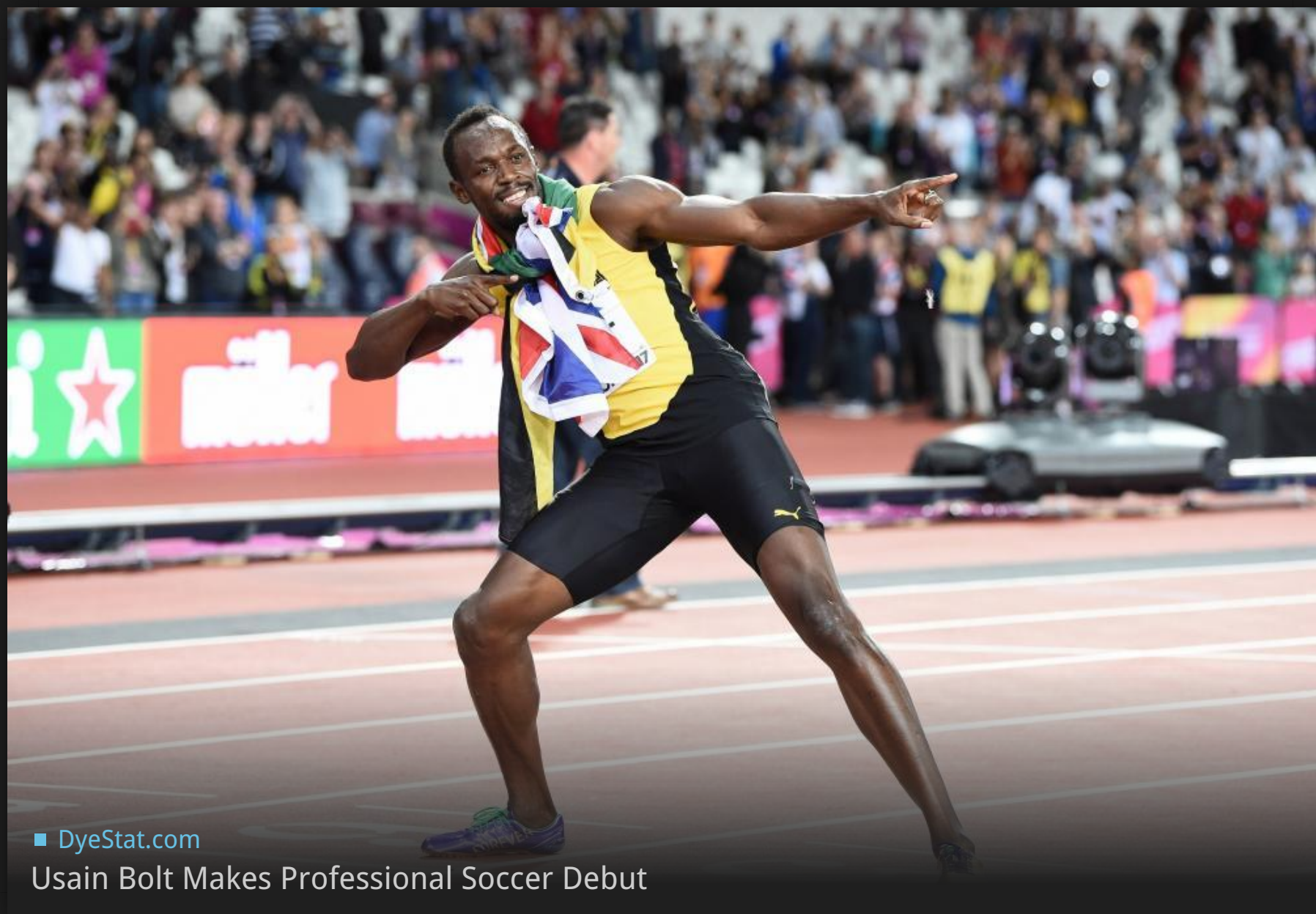
■ [USATFRunningCircuit.com](#) - USATF Running Circuit Official Site

Korir Eyes USATF Running Circuit Lead at USATF 20 km Championships



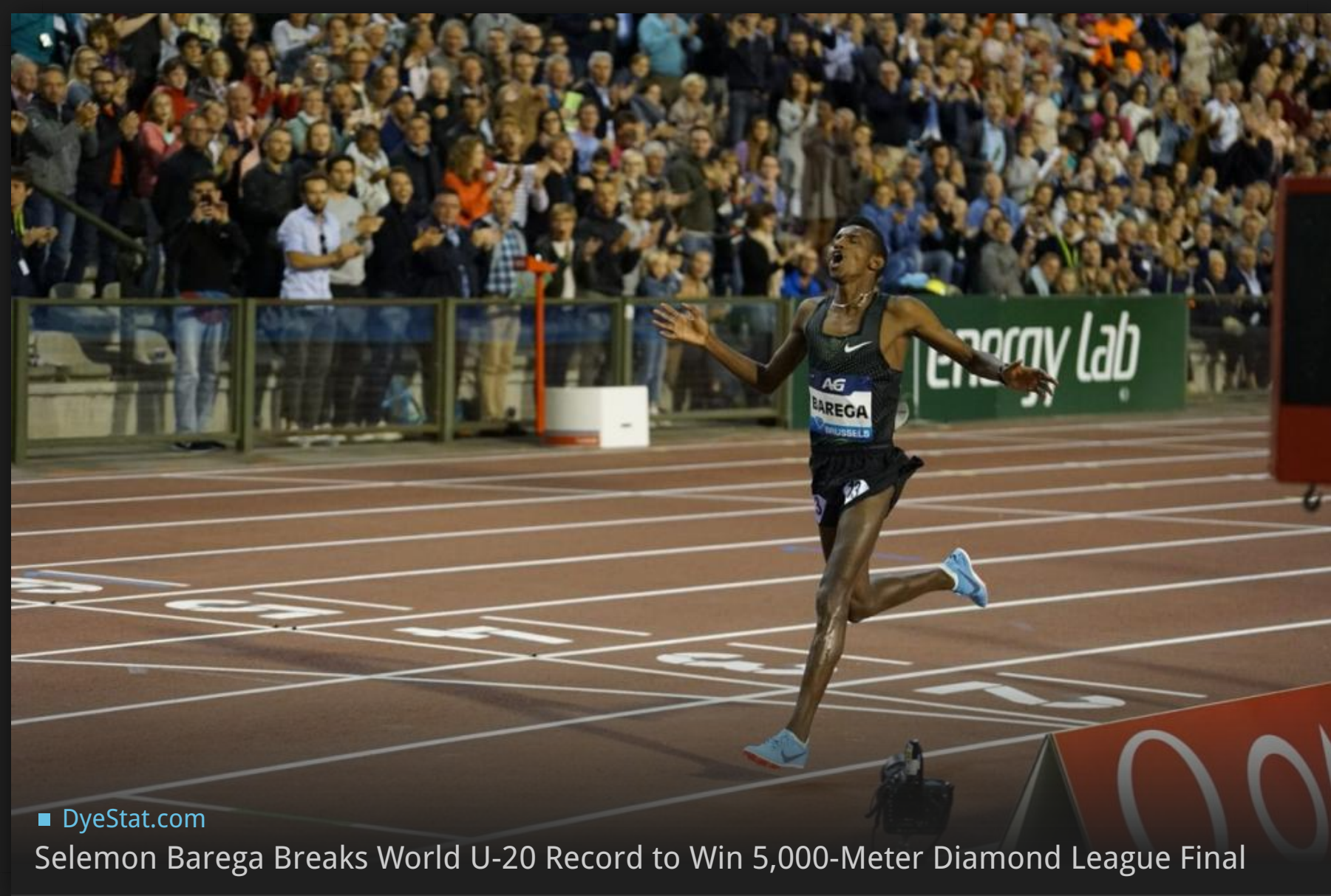
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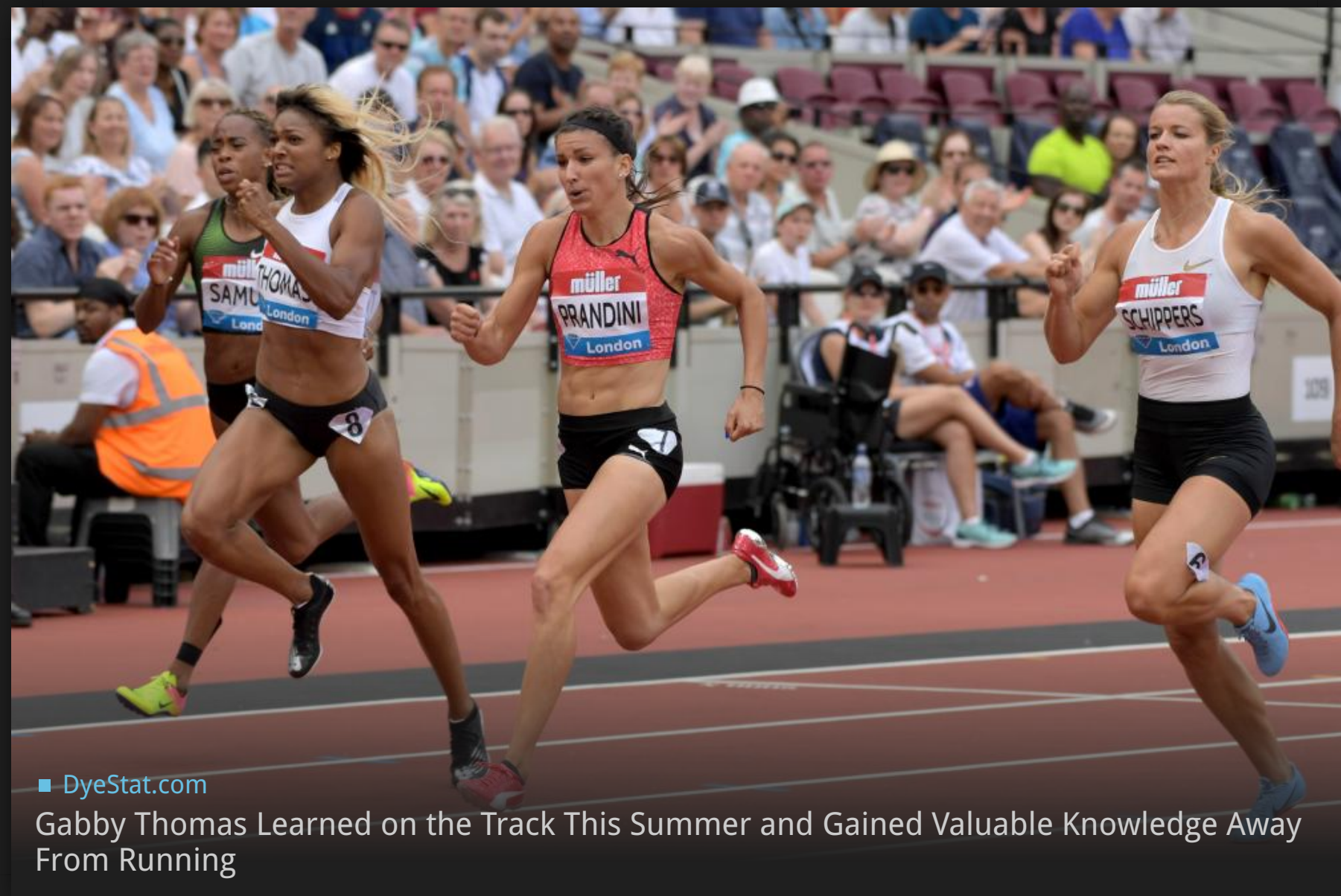
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Usain Bolt Makes Professional Soccer Debut



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Selemon Barega Breaks World U-20 Record to Win 5,000-Meter Diamond League Final



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Gabby Thomas Learned on the Track This Summer and Gained Valuable Knowledge Away From Running



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NCAA Division 1 Women's XC Team Rankings - 8/30/18



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Carmelita Jeter Joins Missouri State Coaching Staff



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NCAA Division 1 Men's XC Team Rankings - 8/30/18

