

## Echevarria sets a world-leading mark in long jump

## Warholm runs 2nd fastest 400 hurdles ever at Diamond League

ZURICH, Sept 4, (AP): Karsten Warholm ran the second-fastest time in history to win the men's 400 meters hurdles in 46.92 seconds at the Diamond League finals.

The 23-year-old world champion from Norway took 0.20 seconds off his lifetime best, but was 0.14 behind the 27-year-old world record set by Kevin Young winning the 1992 Barcelona Olympics title. Young was in Zurich for Thursday's race.

Warholm was pressed hard by Rai Benjamin who clocked 46.98, lifting the 22-year-old American into a tie for third all-time. Track great Edwin Moses is now fifth on that list with 47.02.

"It was crazy," Warholm said. "I knew that I will do a good time but this race and with this new (personal best), it's just amazing."

Four world-leading marks were set on a warm evening at the storied Weltklasse meeting, one month before the world championships open in Qatar, where the 400 hurdles is shaping up to be a standout duel.

Shaunae Miller-Uibo ran 21.74 in the women's 200; Juan Miguel Echevarria's opening leap of 8.65 meters won the men's long jump; and Lijiao Gong's 20.31 meters took the women's shot put.

In the men's 100, Noah Lyles

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surged late to win in 9.98, leaving world champion Justin Gatlin back in fourth.

Racing into a slight headwind, Lyles trailed late in the race before blasting past his American teammate Gatlin in the next lane.

"I followed my race plan, my execution was great," Lyles said. "The race was not as fast as I wanted."

Lyles will focus on the 200 at the Sept 28-Oct 6 worlds in Doha, where the 37-year-old Gatlin could be the best American hope for the 100 title.

Gatlin timed 10.08 behind runner-up Zhenye Lie of China, who clocked 10.04 and 2011 world champion Yohan Blake of Jamaica, who was third in 10.07.

Miller-Uibo, the Olympic champion over 400, is now the 11th-fastest woman all-time in the 200. Sporting green-streaked hair, Miller-Uibo's personal best was a huge 0.26 faster than Elaine Thompson's previous world-leading mark in 2019.

Dina Asher-Smith of Britain was second in 22.08 and Thompson, the Olympic 100 and 200 champion from Jamaica, clocked 22.44 in third.

In the long jump, Echevarria set a world-leading mark by 24 centimeters.

Gong took the women's shot put victory from Chase Easley of the US, who set a lifetime best of 19.68 meters. Gong's 20.31 mark was 47 centimeters beyond her own world's best this season.

Donavan Brazier of the United States won the 800 in a personal



Karsten Warholm from Norway competes in the men's 400m hurdles race during the Weltklasse IAAF Diamond League international athletics meeting at the Letzigrund stadium in Zurich, Switzerland on Aug 29, 2019. (AP)

best 1:42.70 after overhauling Nijel Amos in the closing meters.

Salwa Eid Naser, the 2017 world silver medalist, won the women's 400 in 50.24. The Nigeria-born runner who competes for Bahrain is unbeaten over 400 this season.

Sydney McLaughlin led an American podium sweep of the 400 hurdles in her season-best time of 52.85. Sifan Hassan of The Netherlands won the 1,500 in 3:57.08. World record holder Beatrice Chepkoech took the 3,000 steeplechase in 9:01.71.

In another field event win for China, Lyu Huihui won the women's javelin at 66.88. Magnus Kirt won the men's javelin at 89.13. Both were more than a meter behind their world-leading season's best.

The Diamond League finals are split over two meetings, and are completed next week in Brussels.



Juan Miguel Echevarria from Cuba reacts after winning the men's long jump event during the Weltklasse IAAF Diamond League international athletics meeting at the Letzigrund stadium in Zurich, Switzerland on Aug 29, 2019. (AP)

## Gatlin OK after hamstring scare

## AIU won't appeal Coleman ruling

MONACO, Sept 4, (Agencies): The Athletics Integrity Unit says it won't appeal a decision to clear American sprinter Christian Coleman of a rule violation.

The AIU says it agrees Coleman shouldn't face a ban for missed tests because of a technicality which led the US Anti-Doping Agency to drop its case against him last week.

Coleman is the reigning US champion in the 100 meters and a favorite to win gold at the upcoming world championships.

AIU chairman David Howman says he is following World Anti-Doping Agency guidance about how to date Coleman's "whereabouts failures." Athletes can only be punished for racking up three failures in a 12-month period, and WADA said one should be backdated to fall outside that period.



Reigning world 100 metres champion **Justin Gatlin** should be back training within the week after tests were negative for a possible hamstring injury, his manager told Reuters on Wednesday.

The American sprinter slowed noticeably about 65 meters into a race he was leading and began grabbing his left hamstring before finish-

ing fourth in Zagreb on Tuesday.

"He said he started to feel something grabbing, so he immediately tried to protect against any potential injury occurring," **Renaldo Nehemiah** said in an email.

Tests to Gatlin's hamstring "showed he still had 100% strength in the leg and there were no adhesions or anything," Nehemiah added. It was the second time within a week the 37-year-old had slowed in a race while leading.

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Gatlin finished fourth in the Zurich Diamond League final on Aug 29 after Nehemiah said he lost cadence after stumbling out of the blocks.

Three days later the 2004 Olympic champion showed form, winning a 100 metres race in Switzerland in 9.97 seconds.

The Zagreb race, on a relatively cool evening, was Gatlin's last before defending his world title in Doha later this month.

He is expected to resume training in Florida several days after returning home, Nehemiah said.

## Puerto Rico punches its ticket to second round of World Cup

Bogdanovic powers Serbia past Italy as hosts China flop

SHANGHAI, Sept 4, (AP): Puerto Rico couldn't even begin qualifying for this World Cup at home two years ago, forced to move its opening game to Florida because of the damage that Hurricane Maria inflicted on the island.

It was undeterred then. It is in the World Cup's second round now.

Gary Browne's 3-pointer with 5.1 seconds left capped a 15-4 run to end the game, and Puerto Rico beat Tunisia 67-64 in a contest that decided the second spot in the second round out of Group C in Guangzhou, China. The win ensures that Puerto Rico (2-1) will have its best World Cup finish since at least 2002, and earned the team a second-round opener in Wuhan, China, on Friday.

"Thank God we came up with the win," Browne said. "We've been working very hard for what we have right now."

Browne ran down the shot clock, faked a drive, stepped back and hit the shot that gave Puerto Rico its first and only lead of the

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final quarter. Renaldo Balkman led Puerto Rico with 14 points and David Huertas — who made a transition 3-pointer from the left wing to tie the game with 1:37 left — finished with 10.

Salah Mejri and Omar Abada each scored 14 for Tunisia (1-2), which was bidding for its first trip to the second round of the World Cup. Michael Roll scored 13 and Makram Ben Romdhane had 12 for Tunisia, which led 60-52 with 8:30 remaining.

"Players win and coaches lose," said Tunisia coach Mario Palma, whose club not only missed out on a second-round World Cup berth but also would have qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics with a victory.

Puerto Rico opened its World Cup qualifying run with a game in Orlando, Florida, against the US in November 2017, since the issues caused by Maria — a Category 4 storm when it hit Puerto Rico, killing around 3,000 people — could not be solved in time to play in San Juan. The Puerto Ricans wound up playing their other five home games of qualifying as scheduled, going 5-0 in San Juan.



Luis Scola of Argentina puts up a shot over Andrey Vorontsevich of Russia during their Group B match in the FIBA Basketball World Cup at the Wuhan Sport Center in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province on Sept 4. (AP)

## Serbia 92, Italy 77

At Foshan, Bogdan Bogdanovic finished with 31 points, five rebounds and five assists to lead powerful Serbia past Italy and a perfect 3-0 record in Group D.

Serbia outscored Italy 13-4 to take a 13-point lead into the fourth quarter, and then a 20-5 run in the fourth sealed the win. Nikola Jokic scored 15 points for the winners, who outscored three opponents in group play by a combined 120 points.

Danilo Gallinari scored 26 points and Marco Belinelli added 15 for Italy (2-1). The Italians will meet Spain in a second-round opener Friday.

## Venezuela 72, China 59

At Beijing, Venezuela eliminated the host nation from second-round contention — and earned a berth out of Group A into the round of 16 for itself.

Heissler Guillent scored 15 points for Venezuela (2-1). Fang Shuo led China (1-2) with 13 points.

## Spain 73, Iran 65

At Guangzhou, Spain finished the game on a 16-3 run to hold off upset-minded Iran.

Spain (3-0 in Group C) trailed 62-57 with 6 minutes left before rallying. Marc Gasol led Spain with 16 points, Juan Hernandez had 11 points and 10 rebounds and Victor Claver added 11 for the winners.

Mohammad Jamshidifarabadi scored 15 points for Iran (0-3), and Hamed Haddadi finished with 10 points, 15 rebounds and six assists.

## Norway's 'biathlon' ace Hanevold dies, aged 49

OSLO, Norway, Sept 4, (AP): The Norwegian Biathlon Association says Halvard Hanevold who won three gold, two silver and one bronze medal across five Winter Olympics, has died. He was 49.

Arne Horten, the association's president, said Tuesday Hanevold "impressed the biathlon world with his fantastic achievements over a long career" and will be "sorely missed."

Hanevold who died Tuesday in his

home, competed in five Olympics from 1994 to 2010, running the 20 kilometer individual, the 10 kilometer sprint and the 4x7.5 kilometer relay.

He also took 16 world championship medals from 1994 to 2009, including five gold, seven silver and four bronze.

He retired after the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics where he claimed the last of his three gold medals.

The cause of death was not given.

## Argentina 69, Russia 61

At Wuhan, Argentina held off Russia to finish 3-0 in Group B.

Facundo Campazzo's floater with 28.4 seconds left helped seal things for Argentina and was part of his 21-point, six-rebound, seven-assist effort.

Marcos Delia and Luis Scola each scored 13 for Argentina. Andrey Zubkov scored 18 and Nikita Kurbanov added 13 for Russia (2-1), which plays Poland in the opener of the second round on Friday.

## Poland 80, Ivory Coast 63

At Beijing, Poland finished off an unbeaten march through Group A with its win over Ivory Coast, behind 16 points from Adam Waczynski on 6 for 7 shooting.

Poland plays the Russia-Argentina loser on Friday in a second-round opener at Foshan. Ivo-

ry Coast (0-3) got 23 points from Charles Abou and will begin the classification round on Friday in Guangzhou.

## Angola 84, Philippines 81, OT

At Foshan, Angola got its first win of this World Cup, hanging on despite wasting a 12-point lead in the final 8:20 of regulation. Valdelicio Joaquim scored 20 points and Yanick Moreira had 12 points and 15 rebounds for Angola (1-2 in Group D). Andray Blatche led the Philippines (0-3) with 23 points and 12 rebounds.

Both teams are headed to Beijing for classification games starting Friday.

## Nigeria 108, South Korea 66

At Wuhan, Nigeria avoided a winless stint in Group B by easing past South Korea.

Michael Eric scored 17 and Ike Diogu finished with 16 for Nigeria (1-2). Guna Ra scored 18 for South Korea (0-3).

The tournament continues for both teams with classification games in Guangzhou starting Friday. A pair of games Thursday will decide the last two berths in the 16-team second round.

Turkey, which unraveled in the final moments and lost to the US on Tuesday in overtime, will play the Czech Republic. And NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo and Greece will take on New Zealand. In both of those matchups, the winner advances to the second round and the loser heads to the classification games to determine 17th through 32nd place in the tournament.

Already in the second round: Poland, Venezuela, Russia, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Spain, Serbia, Italy, the US, Brazil, France, the Dominican Republic, Lithuania and Australia.



Marcos Delia of Argentina looks to pass under pressure from Nikita Kurbanov of Russia during their Group B match in the FIBA Basketball World Cup at the Wuhan Sport Center in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province on Sept 4. (AP)