



Track is back!!!!

By Don Harris

As I write this second newsletter, I am taking pause to reflect on the sense of elation because we are about to close out an exciting indoor season.

This indoor season looks much different than past years but, through the efforts of many folks, several meets at different levels have moved forward and have been successful.

There has been a lot of action on the track at the collegiate and professional levels. The professionals are starting to emerge after many months without competition. Hopefully you have been able to take in some of the television coverage of the American Track League series and the New Balance Indoor Grand Prix.

Also, not to be overlooked are the opportunities that we have had to travel and work collegiate track and field meets. Although these meets have been scaled back and many require COVID testing for officials, the extra requirements haven't been burdensome. It has been so gratifying to see the smiling faces (even if under masks) and the enthusiasm and positive demeanors of the athletes. The common theme and consensus from both athletes and officials is that we are "just glad to be back." Cardboard cutouts have replaced spectators, but that certainly hasn't hampered many performances. We have seen numerous meet, facility, national and world records fall. There are lots of success stories on the track and in the field that are happening, so let's continue to do our part as USATF members to be safe as the indoor season winds down.

This issue features: Tim King, Kentucky Association President; the Junior Officials Program; links to the Association website; and the new Norton Sports Health Athletics & Learning Complex in west Louisville.

Introduction

Allow me to introduce . . .

Getting to know Tim King, President – USATF Kentucky Association

This is the first of several introductions that I'll be making in newsletters. So, I'm starting at the top with Tim King. As many of the leaders in the association do, Tim puts a lot of hours behind the scene and works tirelessly to complete his fiduciary responsibilities as president of the Kentucky Association.

On a personal note, as I get to know Tim better, he always is thankful and continues to reiterate that he has been blessed and is appreciative for individuals in the past and the present who have helped him along the way.

Question: How long have you been involved with track and field?

Tim King: Been involved about 20 years. I began when my son started to run. I coached for about seven years and the rest as an official.

Q: What are your primary roles of president of the Kentucky association?

TK: To build memberships, sanctions and clubs. I must make sure we are accredited each year. This past year was the first time we had been fully accredited in at least 10 years. I also have worked on bids for National Championships that we have successfully won in the last couple of years. 2020 & 2021 USATF JO XC, 2022 USATF Outdoor Masters. I am working on a bid for the 2022 Youth Indoor.

Q: What goals do you have for the Kentucky Association?

TK: To put us on firm ground financially. To become fully accredited every year. To become a very well-known association in the national office's eyes.

Q: Away from the track, how do you like to spend your time?

TK: Spending time with my family. I broadcast our local high school's basketball games (Pendleton County).

Q: If you could have lunch with anyone, who would that be?

TK: Jesse Owens

Q: What is something that you try to live your life by?

TK: If you can dream it, you can do it.

Q: What is a book, movie, or podcast that you have enjoyed recently?

TK: I watched a documentary on the band Rush.

Q: What would you like your legacy to be?

TK: That I made a difference in people's lives, especially my children.

On behalf of the Kentucky Association, Tim has been very active with the Norton Sports Health Athletics & Learning Complex in drawing meets to the venue. Although several meets have taken place in the complex, due to inclement weather the ribbon cutting for the facility took place on March 9, 2021. Several government officials, corporate donors, and Louisville Urban League President, Sadiqua Reynolds spoke at the event. Additionally, Tim King shared a quote from Jesse Owens with the attendees.

For 2021, the National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships will be held for the second consecutive year at Paris, Ky. There are other bids in the works to host major USATF Masters and Youth events and potentially even some NCAA Championship meets.

In conclusion, I really appreciate Tim's time and willingness to share a few things about himself and for providing updates on happenings in the Kentucky Association.

JUNIOR OFFICIALS PROGRAM

After many months of hard work, the Junior Official Program (JOP) officially launched in January 2021. The JOP Committee has worked to create a program that is intentional about attracting youth to the sport that we love. Our own Ashley Newton of the Kentucky Association and Mike Trego of the Indiana Association are Co-Chairs of the program.

The objective of the JOP as outlined in the Mentor Handbook developed by the JOP Committee is “To educate, train and provide opportunities for USATF members to serve as part of the USATF officiating team; and to promote opportunities to encourage our Junior Officials to continue serving as USATF Officials in the future. We are instituting this effort to provide the necessary longevity of having outstanding officials to continue servicing our track & field programs nationwide on all levels (Association, Region, National and in some cases, Internationally) and in all disciplines from Youth to Masters.”

JOP is open to ages 14-17. Participants must have a current USATF membership, be in good standing, meet all USOC SafeSport requirements and submit a waiver of liability.

Once accepted and enrolled in the program, each JOP participant is assigned a mentor to work with. JOP participants study the competition rules and receive training utilizing study guides developed by the JOP committee and through working meets. Program participants can officiate most events except for the throws. This program provides exposure to all areas under the purview of USATF. However, Junior Officials are not considered certified officials.

After completing the program, JOP participants will be well-rounded in their knowledge of track and field and undergo mentor evaluations and testing throughout. With the coupling of mentor training, completing study guides, evaluations, understanding USATF Competition Rules, and through working meets, enrollees are thoroughly equipped to become USATF Certified Officials upon reaching age 18. Former mentees with one-to-two years in the program come in at the Apprentice level. Individuals with three or more years in the program start at Association level.

JOP Mentors Needed

To serve as a mentor, National and Masters level officials are strongly encouraged to apply. Also, Association level officials with three years of experience may submit an application for consideration to be a mentor in the JOP program.

After the decision is made to pursue mentoring, an application must be submitted. Applications are submitted, reviewed and approved by the Co-Chairs/Certification Chair/Association Designee. Before applying, please review the handbook developed by the JOP Committee: [JOP Mentor Handbook 2020.pdf](#).

If approved, mentors must complete mandatory mentor training. Approved mentors will be assigned a mentee and will design an individual program to assist the mentee with completing 10-to-17 program study guides. As mentioned, mentors will continually work with and evaluate the mentees to ensure that all program requirements are being fulfilled.

All materials that more fully explain the program, including study guides, are available on the NOC dashboard: <http://noc.mach2k.net> . After reviewing the program materials and determining that mentoring is for you, please help the association by reaching out to some youth in the program age demographic. If you have questions or require additional information, reach out to Ashley Newton at flaming_roses@hotmail.com or Mike Trego at mikeogert@gamil.com .



Kentucky Association Website

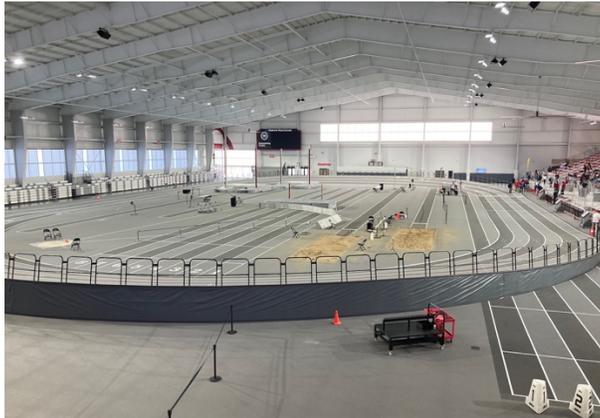
As a reminder, the Kentucky Association has a website. There are useful links to the National USATF Website. Take some time to visit the USATF Kentucky Association website. Even though there is an endeavor to update content on the USATF Kentucky page, the site is still functional. Your patience is requested. In the meantime, here are a few things you should check out:

Events calendar: [USATF Sanctioned Events](#)

Resources: <https://kentucky.usatf.org/about>

Directory: [Kentucky Association Contact Information for Board Members and Committee Leadership](#)

Coaching Education: [Program Information](#)



New Indoor Track and Learning Center is Open

It's official, the Norton Sports Health Athletics & Learning Complex in west Louisville, located at 30th Street at West Muhammed Ali Boulevard, is open. The \$52 million project officially broke ground in August 2019. Tax credits, individual donations, and corporate sponsors assisted with financing the facility.

The facility is on 24 acres, has 90,000 square feet and the indoor track facility has seating for 4,000 spectators. However, until we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance levels, mask-wearing, and additional safety protocols will be in place.

The indoor track is a six-lane, 200-meter banked oval and boasts a Mondo surface, which is the best in the industry and is same surface used for the Olympics. Hydraulics allow banking for certain track events. Additional competition areas are available for jumps, vaults and throws. Also, there is a 60-meter warmup area.

The Urban League is utilizing ASM Global to manage the venue and the Louisville Sports Commission will assist with trying to attract meets. ASM Global manages the KFC Yum Center and Lynn Family Stadium. The track facility also has a rock-climbing wall, bowling alley, and several educational spaces. A Thornton's store is on site and 100 percent of profits go to the Louisville Urban League.

Visitors and attendees to the facility are immersed in an educational experience as they enter the facility with a wall design that pays tribute to the social justice movement, including the faces of Breonna Taylor, Travis Nagdy, George Floyd,

David McAtee, Tyler Gerth and several black community leaders. On the outside wall of the complex is a picture of Muhammed Ali.

The first indoor track meet -- the University of Louisville Lenny Lyles Cardinal Invitational -- took place Feb. 17. U of L was joined by Bellarmine, Eastern Kentucky and Notre Dame.

Throughout February and March, the following collegiate, high school and middle school meets were held or will be held at the facility during February and March:

- Feb. 17 – University of Louisville Cardinal Invitational
- Feb. 19-21 – KTCCCA (Kentucky Track and Cross Country Coaches Association) College Indoor Invite
- Feb. 27 – Louisville Indoor Games / High School Opener
- March 6 – KTCCCA Indoor High School State Meet for Class AA and AAA
- March 7 – KTCCCA Age-Group Meet
- March 13 - KTCCCA Indoor High School State Meet for Class A
- March 14 – KTCCCA Age-Group Meet
- March 20-21 – USATF Kentucky Indoor Master Showcase

Coming soon on the campus will be an outdoor track. The facility not only revitalizes the community, but it offers hope and a healthy avenue for various activities, and also a cultural learning experience.

Well, this concludes the second issue and I hope you have found this information helpful. If you have any suggestions, comments, would like to submit an article, or If you want to unsubscribe, email me at: harrisdon3807@gmail.com