



JOHNSON, TORRENCE TOP ATHLETES OF CENTURY LIST



Michael Johnson

Michael Johnson, considered the greatest long sprinter in the history of track and field, and Gwen Torrence, one of America's best and most versatile women sprinters of all time, have been named the Drake Relays overall Men's and Women's Athletes of the Century.

The duo combined to win 14 Drake Relays individual titles, while setting four Drake Relays records.

They join 18 other track and field athletes who were recognized as the greatest Drake Relays Male and Female Athletes of the Century. Together, the entire group combined to win 99 individual Drake Relays titles, while setting 41 Drake Relays records in the process.

All 20 Drake Relays Athletes of the Century were honored during a gala event Thursday at the Drake Knapp Center.

The public also is invited to attend the unveiling of permanent plaques recognizing the group at 11:50 a.m. Friday on the west concourse of Drake Stadium.

A three-time Olympian, Johnson won four gold medals. He is the only athlete in history to win the 200 and 400 at the same Olympics, accomplishing the feat in 1996 when he set a then world record in the 200 (19.32).

He also owns the current world record in the 400 of 43.18 in 1999 and became the only man to repeat as Olympic 400 champ when he won gold in 2000. Johnson accumulated nine gold medals at world championship meets, the most of any athlete in history.

Johnson captured six individual Drake Relays titles, while anchoring Baylor to four relay victories, (special 200-1988, 1992, 1993, 1997; special 400-

1991, 1996). He ran anchor legs on Baylor's winning 4x200 (1987, 1990) and 4x400 relays (1989, 1990) at the Drake Relays.

He still owns Drake Relays records in the men's special 200 (20.05, 1997) and 400 (44.41, 1996). Johnson was named the outstanding performer of the 1996 and 1997 Drake Relays and was inducted into the 1996 Drake Relays Hall of Fame.

Torrence won medals at every major athletics competition, including the Olympics, outdoor and indoor world championships. She was a five-time Olympic medalist, winning three gold medals in the 200 (1992) and 4x100 relay (1992, 1996).

She also earned a silver medal, running on the 4x400 relay which was second at the 1992 Olympics and a bronze medal in the 100 at the 1996 Olympics.

She captured the gold medal in the 4x400 relay at the 1993 World Outdoor Championships and in the 100 at the 1995 World Outdoors.

Torrence burst on to the scene at the 1984 Drake Relays. She went on to win more Drake Relays career titles (eight) than any female performer.



Competing for Georgia, Torrence won the Drake Relays women's university-college 100 in 1984 (11.83) and 1985 (11.35), while running on the Bulldogs' winning 800-medley relay team in 1985.

She won the special 100 at the 1984, 1985 and 1987 Drake Relays, while capturing the special 200 in 1994 and 1996. Torrence also won the special 400 in 1991, 1992, and 1995 and the special 200 in 1992 and 1996. She was inducted into the 1993 Drake Relays Hall of Fame.

Want to know why Drake Relays fans really like Torrence?

Before the special 400 in 1995, Torrence bowed to them, then after winning the race, she began her victory lap by hurling her shoes into the stands to celebrate becoming Drake Relays career victory leader with eight wins.

"I had never done that (throw her shoes) before, but Drake Relays fans have been so good to me that I wanted to give something to them," said Torrence.

During her collegiate career at Georgia, Torrence sprinted to an unprecedented four NCAA championships in 1986-87 in the indoor 55 (twice) and outdoor 100 and 200.

Meet officials unveiled the initial list of athletes who were selected as the top 10 Drake Relays men's and women's athletes of the century on Jan. 12 which was 100 days counting to the 100th running of the Drake Relays.

Here are capsule summaries of the other Athletes of the Century.

Amy Acuff

A 2007 Drake Relays Hall of Fame inductee, Amy Acuff has dominated the women's invitational high jump at the Drake Relays, winning titles in 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2006. She set a Drake Stadium record in her first appearance at the Drake Relays in 2001 at 6-3.25. Acuff established a meet record of 6-4 in 2006. She competed in the 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 Olympics, placing fourth in 2004. Acuff was an eight-time U.S. national champ and six-time NCAA champ at UCLA. Despite not having a coach while competing in high school in Corpus Christi, Texas, Acuff set a national scholastic mark of 6-4 in 1993, which still stands today.



Suzy Favor Hamilton

Three-time Olympian Suzy Favor Hamilton is the only athlete to hold Drake Relays records in three events. Favor Hamilton set Drake Relays women's records in the invitational 800 (2:01.68), 1998; invitational 1,500 (4:05.13), 2000; and invitational 3,000 (8:56.03), 2002. She won four individual Drake Relays titles in the invitational 800 (1997, 1998); invitational 1,500 (2000) and invitational 3000 (2002). She was named the outstanding performer of the 1998 and 2000 Drake Relays and was inducted into the 2001 Drake Relays Hall of Fame. She ran five of the nine fastest times ever run by an American in the 1,500 including a world leading time in 2000 at 3:57.40. During her collegiate career at Wisconsin, Favor Hamilton won nine NCAA individual track titles which still stands as the most in NCAA history.



Michael Boit

A world-class middle distance runner throughout the 1970s, Michael Boit earned the bronze medal in the 800 at the 1972 Olympics. He was named the Drake Relays Co-Athlete of the Quarter Century (1960-1984) while being named outstanding performer of the 1973 and 1976 Drake Relays.

During his career at the Drake Relays, Boit won five individual titles and anchored Eastern New Mexico to six college division relay titles. He won four 880-yard or 800 invitational races in 1973, 1975, 1976 and 1981. He also won the university-college mile in 1974. Boit led teams to four straight distance medley relay titles (1973-76) and the sprint medley relay title in 1975 and 1976. He was second in the invitational 880/800 races in 1974 and 1977. A 1981 Drake Relays Hall of Fame inductee, Boit set NAIA records in the mile and 800 at Eastern New Mexico.



Jeff Hartwig

Jeff Hartwig dominated the Drake Relays invitational pole vault, winning eight career titles from 1995-2001 and 2007. A model of consistency for over a decade, Hartwig was an American indoor and outdoor record holder and competed in the 1996 and 2008 Olympics. Hartwig won the 1998 Goodwill Games and captured a silver medal in the 1999 World Indoor Championships.

Owner of six U.S. national titles, including four outdoor (1998, 1999, 2002, 2003), he was ranked No. 1 in the world in 2002. He was the top-ranked vaulter in the U.S. in 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2002. At the age of 40 he won the 2007 U.S. Indoor Championships and set the existing Drake Relays mark of 19-0.75. He also is the master's world record holder. He was inducted into the 2001 Drake Relays Hall of Fame.



Cindy Bremser

Cindy Bremser, a former University of Wisconsin standout, was a pioneer in women's distance events at the Drake Relays winning the 1,500 six times (1979, 1981-85). She became the first athlete, man or woman, to win the same individual Drake Relays event six times, setting records in 1984 (4:12.46) and 1985 (4:10.89). Bremser was named the outstanding performer of the 1985 Drake Relays after setting a then meet record in the 1,500 (4:10.89) on Saturday following her induction into the Drake Relays Hall of Fame on Friday. She was fourth in the 3,000 at the 1984 Olympics and earned a silver medal in the 1,500 at the 1983 Pan American Games. In 1975 Bremser became the first female NCAA All-American in school history at Wisconsin.



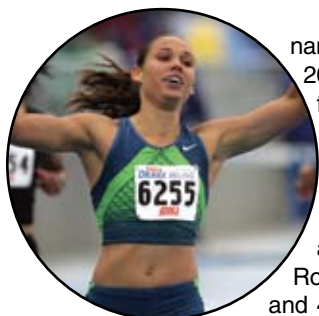
Kip Janvrin

A Panora, Iowa, native, Kip Janvrin is the Drake Relays all-time career individual victory leader with 17 titles including 15 in the decathlon. He also won the master's 800 in 2006 and 2007, setting a meet record of 1:53.89 in 2007. Janvrin won nine straight decathlon crowns from 1995-2003, setting a meet record with 8,198 points in 1996. He competed in the 2000 Olympics. Janvrin won the gold medal in the decathlon at the 1995 Pan American Games, while earning a bronze medal at the 1994 Goodwill Games. Janvrin won three NCAA Division III titles in the decathlon while competing for Simpson College.





Lolo Jones



Des Moines native Lolo Jones was named the outstanding performer of the 2008 Drake Relays after becoming the first athlete to capture four straight Drake Relays titles in the women's invitational 100 hurdles (2005–08). Jones set hurdle records in the 2005, 2006 and 2008 Drake Relays. She was a two-time Drake Relays champion for Roosevelt High School in the 100 (2000) and 4x100 relay (1998). She won the 60

hurdles at the 2008 World Indoor Championships. The two-time U.S. Indoor champ also won the 100 hurdles at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials while advancing to the finals at the 2008 Olympics where she placed seventh. Jones was an 11-time NCAA All-American at Louisiana State. She won the 60 hurdles at the 2003 NCAA Indoor Championships and was a member of the 4x100 relay teams that won titles at the 2003 and 2004 NCAA outdoor meets. Jones set Drake Relays records in the 100 hurdles in 2005, 2006 and 2008 and reached the finals of the 2008 Olympics where she finished seventh.

Natasha Kaiser Brown

A hometown hero who grew up in the shadows of Drake Stadium, Natasha Kaiser-Brown competed in 16 Drake Relays as a prep, collegian and professional athlete. She was named the first recipient of the outstanding high school girls' performer award at the 1985 Drake Relays, running for Roosevelt High School. She won the inaugural high school girls 100 at the 1984 Drake Relays and led Roosevelt to Drake Relays titles in the sprint medley and 4x400 relays in 1985. Kaiser-Brown won the women's invitational 400 at the 1990, 1993 and 1998 Drake Relays and was inducted into the 1995 Drake Relays Hall of Fame. While running for Missouri, she set a national collegiate record in the 400 (51.92) at the 1989 NCAA indoor meet. The two-time Olympian represented the United States on 16 national teams, highlighted by running a leg on the U.S. silver medal women's 4x400 relay at the 1992 Olympics.



Essie Kelley Washington



Essie Kelley Washington was named the outstanding performer of the 1979 and 1980 Drake Relays. She anchored Prairie View to five relay victories and captured three titles in the 800. In 1978, she ran the 400 leg on the 800-medley relay that set a Drake Relays and national collegiate record of 1:38.89, which marked the first of six straight wins for Prairie View in that event. She also won the 800 and anchored the 4x400 relay to victory

in 1979. She came back to win the 800 in the 1980 Drake Relays, while anchoring the 4x400 relay to a meet record 3:36.06 in the prelims. Kelley Washington closed out her Drake Relays career setting a meet record of 2:03.35 in the women's invitational 800 in 1986.

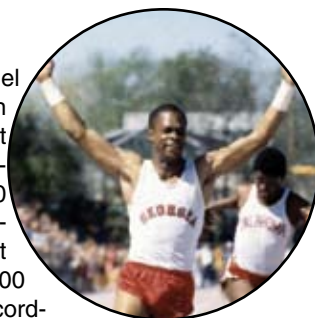
Jill Lancaster



Lancaster dominated the combined events at the Drake Relays in the 1980s, winning five heptathlon titles, starting in 1983. She also won Drake Relays titles in 1984, 1985, 1988 and 1989 and is the all-time career victory leader in the event. She set a Drake Relays record with 5,443 points in 1983. A versatile athlete, Lancaster earned her first win at the Drake Relays in 1980 as a member of the Oklahoma 4x800 relay team that won in 8:40.93.

Mel Lattany

Known as a compact sprinter, Mel Lattany became the first collegian in Drake Relays history to win an event (100) in four consecutive years (1978–1981). He was never beaten in the 100 at the Drake Relays, winning preliminary races as well. Lattany twice set the university/college record in the 100 – in the preliminaries in 1979 and a record-breaking 10.24 in the 1980 finals. In 1979, he anchored Georgia to victory in the 4x100 relay. He was named outstanding performer of the 1981 Drake Relays after anchoring Georgia to victories in the 4x200 relay and a meet record in the 4x100 relay (39.34). Lattany was inducted into the 1986 Drake Relays Hall of Fame. The six-time NCAA All-American also was a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic track and field team.



Lillie Leatherwood



Lillie Leatherwood rewrote the Drake Relays record book in the women's 400 meter dash three times. In 1984 as a sophomore at Alabama she made an auspicious debut, winning the invitational 400 in a meet record 50.98. She was named the outstanding performer of the 1986 Drake Relays after lowering the 400 meet record to 50.91, and powering Alabama from seventh-place to victory in the 4x400 relay with a 50.0 anchor leg. Leatherwood set the Drake Relays mark of 50.64 in the 400 as a senior in 1987 and bowed out as a collegian by anchoring Alabama to a record in the 4x400 relay (3:31.00). A 1992 Drake Relays Hall of Fame inductee, Leatherwood won a gold medal in the 4x400 relay for the U.S. at the 1984 Olympics. She also was a medalist on U.S. 4 x 400 relay teams at the 1987 and 1991 World Championships.

Rod Milburn

During the early 1970s, Rod Milburn dominated the 110 hurdles, setting or tying the world record five times. He won the gold medal at the 1972 Olympics setting a world record of 13.24, which would last until



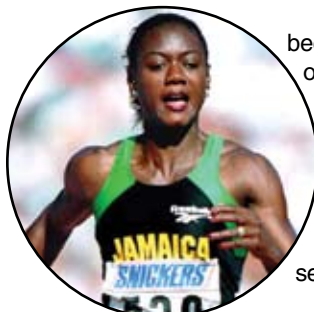
1977. He won the first of three Drake Relays titles in the 120-yard high hurdles in 1971 to begin a year in which he would go undefeated including a gold medal at the Pan American Games. Milburn was named the outstanding track & field athlete in the world in 1971 by *Track & Field News*. He won three NCAA hurdles titles at Southern University. The Louisiana native also won four national AAU championships. He was inducted into the 1978 Drake Relays Hall of Fame.

Al Oerter

Al Oerter was the greatest performer ever to compete in the discus. He became only the third athlete to win a gold medal in the same individual event for four consecutive Olympics (1956, 1960, 1964, 1968), setting an Olympic record each time. He was the first athlete to surpass 200 feet in winning his third gold medal. He was inducted into the 1959 Drake Relays Hall of Fame after winning the discus three consecutive years, starting in 1956 and setting records in 1957 and 1958. He returned to the Drake Relays in 1980, 22 years following his last appearance, and at the age of 43, won the invitational discus at 202-2, far past his Drake Relays university/college record throw of 185-7 1/2 in 1958 for Kansas. During his career, he also won two NCAA titles, six national AAU crowns and improved the world discus record four times.



Merlene Ottey



Jamaican-born sprinter Merlene Ottey became the first athlete to be named an outstanding Drake Relays performer three times (1981, 1982, 1983) while competing at the University of Nebraska.

She won four individual Drake Relays crowns (100—1981, 1982; 400—1982, 1983). In 1981, Ottey anchored Nebraska to victory in the 4x100 relay and set a meet record in the 100 at 11.18.

She won the 100, set a meet record in the 400 (51.45) and anchored Nebraska to a meet record in the 4x100 relay at the 1982 Drake Relays. 1983 was the final year of Ottey's three-year run as the outstanding performer and she went out with a bang. She set a Relays record in the 400 in 51.45 and anchored record-setting 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

The 1987 Drake Relays Hall of Fame inductee won nine Olympic medals, the most by any woman in track & field history, including three silver and five bronze medals. She won 14 World Championship medals from 1983–1997, more than any other athlete, male or female. Ottey ran the 100 meters under 11 seconds 67 times.

ATHLETES OF CENTURY HONORABLE MENTION LIST

Men - Bill Alley, javelin; Christian Cantwell, shot put; Jack Bachelar, distance; Harrison Dillard, sprints, hurdles; Charlton Ehizuelen, jumps; Harvey Glance, sprints; Al Feuerbach, shot put; Bruce Jenner, decathlon; Frank Shorter, distance; Anthuan Maybank, long sprints, long jump; Bobby Morrow, sprints; Jim Ryun, middle distance; Randy Wilson, middle distance; Joey Woody, intermediate hurdles.

Women - Pauline Davis, long sprints; Debbie Esser, hurdles; Perdita Felicien, hurdles; Holli Hyche, sprints; Francie Larrieu, distance; Nawal El Moutawakel, intermediate hurdles; Peg Neppel, distance; Pinky Suggs, weight throws; Connie Price-Smith, weight throws; Kellie Suttle, pole vault; Wilma Rudolph, sprints; Amy Wickus, middle distance.

Jesse Owens

As a sophomore at Ohio State, Jesse Owens set an American record in the broad jump (26-1.75) just 3/8 inches off the world record at the 1935 Drake Relays. That same year, he also equaled the Drake Relays record in the 100-yard dash (9.5). He was named the Drake Relays Athlete of the Half-Century in 1959, while being inducted into the Drake Relays Hall of Fame. He achieved international fame when he won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in the long jump, 100, 200 and 4x100 relay. He captured eight NCAA titles at Ohio State, scoring quadruple victories in both 1935 and 1936 in the 100, 200, low hurdles and long jump. His greatest day as an athlete occurred on May 25, 1935, when he set five world records and tied another in a span of 45 minutes at the Big Ten Conference Championships.



Steve Scott



One of the greatest milers in track and field history, Scott ran 136 sub-4 minute miles in his career, more than any other runner in the world.

Scott was named the Drake Relays co-athlete of the quarter century in 1984 after becoming the first athlete to win three different individual Drake Relays titles (800-1980; mile-1979, 1980; 5,000-1982). He was inducted into the 1984 Drake Relays Hall of Fame.

Scott was named the outstanding performer of the 1979 Drake Relays after fulfilling his promise to become the first athlete to run a sub-4 minute mile at the Drake Relays.

Illness prevented Scott from running the special mile in 1978 when fans thought he would break the 4-minute barrier. He promised fans he would return the following year and he accomplished the feat by almost five seconds – in 3:55.26. That would be a record that would stand for nearly 30 years.

A 1980, 1984 and 1988 Olympian, Scott set an American record in the mile at 3:47.69 in 1982, which would stand for a quarter century. Scott was a six-time U.S. outdoor champ and four-time U.S. indoor winner.

Calvin Smith

Smith was one of the finest 100 and 200-meter competitors in history, capturing five individual Drake Relays titles. He won the university/college 100 in 1982, while anchoring Alabama to victories in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays. He was named the outstanding performer of the 1983 Drake Relays after setting a university/college record in the 100 while running on Alabama's 4x100 and sprint medley relays, which set meet records. He ran the 200 leg on the sprint medley relay, which set a national collegiate and American record of 3:12.19. He captured the invitational 200 at the 1984 Drake Relays and swept the invitational 100 and 200 in 1985. He was inducted into the 1988 Drake Relays Hall of Fame.

Smith set a world record in the 100 (9.93) in 1983 and was a two-time world champ in the 200 (1983, 1987). Smith won a gold medal in the 1984 Olympics running on the 4x100 relay and captured a bronze medal in the 100 at the 1988 Olympics.

