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Sports

Campbell, Gay shine at Adidas Track Classic

AFP

Monday, May 19, 2008



Veronica Campbell-Brown (eft), Carmelita Jeter (centre) and Allyson Felix compete in the women's 100 metres during the Adidas Track Classic at the Home Depot Center in Carson, California, yesterday. Campbell-Brown finished first and Felix came in fourth. (Photo: AP)

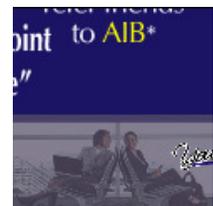
LOS ANGELES, USA (AFP) - Reigning world champion Veronica Campbell of Jamaica defeated a strong field to win the women's 100m at the Adidas Track Classic, before world 100m and 200m champion Tyson Gay completed the sprint double.

After two false starts, Campbell won her pet event in 11.14 seconds, edging Lauryn Williams, the 2005 world champion and 2007 world runner-up by .01 of a second with Jamaica's Kerron Stewart third in 11.16.

Seven of the world's top 10 female sprinters took to the track, including reigning world 200m champion Allyson Felix, who has the fastest time (10.93) over the distance this year; Torri Edwards, Lisa Barber and Sanya Richards.

Campbell trailed her rivals out of the box, but had just

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enough speed to pip Williams on the line, similar to their classic photo-finish at last year's World Championship. "It was a great race," Campbell said. "I'm glad I executed. I got off to a great start."

Gay swept both sprint events afterwards, while Jenn Stuczynski set an American record in the women's pole vault.

In his US seasonal debut, Gay edged fellow American Darvis Patton to win the 100 in 10.05 seconds and slowed near the finish in winning the 200 in 20.08 with Xavier Carter next in 20.30

The victories were a key boost for Gay with the US Olympic trials barely a month away and the Beijing Olympics coming in three months.

"It helps a lot because it's about the victory," Gay said. "The more I win, the more comfortable I am."

Into a headwind of 0.3m per second, Gay shrugged off two 100m false starts and got out of the blocks well when it mattered to edge Patton, second in 10.06, with 2007 world runner-up Derrick Atkins of Bahamas third in 10.16.

"Considering this was my first race of the year, that made me nervous," Gay said of the false starts. "I had to refocus and refocus at the blocks."

"Me and (Patton) got off the blocks together. I was a little surprised, but I held on for the win."

With a tailwind of 1.7m in the 200, Gay cruised from the start and eased up at the end in the 200, serving notice he will be a double title threat again in Beijing as he was at last year's worlds in Osaka.

Stuczynski improved her personal best to 4.90m, but failed in three attempts at a world record.

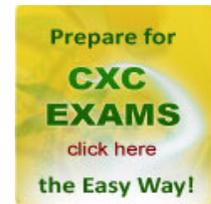
World and Olympic 400m champion Jeremy Wariner, feeling better after pulling out of Doha with sore hamstrings, won the 400 in 44.42 seconds with Canada's Tyler Christopher second in 44.71 and Chris Brown of Bahamas third in 44.94.

Jamaica's Novlene Williams-Mills won the women's 400 in 50.38 seconds with American Mary Wineberg second in 50.41 and Jamaican Shereefa Lloyd third in 50.93.

Kenyan-born US standout Bernard Lagat, who achieved a 1,500 and 5,000 double at last year's worlds, won the 1,500 in 3:35.14 with New Zealand's Nick Willis second in 3:35.75 and Canada's Kevin Sullivan third in 3:35.78.

Christian Cantwell, a two-time world indoor champion and 2008 world leader, won the shot put at 21.39m with two-time Olympic runner-up Adam Nelson second in 21.13.

Reigning Olympic champion Joanna Hayes won the 100 hurdles in 12.64 seconds, edging fellow American Candice



Davis by .07 of a second with a 0.6m/sec tailwind.

American Muna Lee won the 200 in this year's fastest time in the world, 22.30 seconds, to edge compatriot Carmelita Jeter by .17 of a second.

Shannon Rowbury won the women's 1,500 in 4:01.61, the best time in the world this year and the fastest by a US woman in the event in five years.

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