



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Kaiserslautern's Oscar Gramling competes in the 110-meter hurdles at the U.S. Forces Europe Track and Field Championships in Bruchkobel, Germany, on Saturday. Gramling won the race in 15.52 seconds.

Jacobs powers team to Europe track title

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

BRUCHKÖBEL, Germany — Led by versatile Jennifer Jacobs and a five-medal performance in the weight events by the husband-and-wife duo of Christopher and Jennifer Diedrich, the Grafenwöhr-Vilseck squad ran off with the team title Saturday in the 2003 U.S. Forces-Europe track and field championships.

Fresh from the Ironman Switzerland triathlon July 31 in Zurich, Jacobs, the USAREUR 10-Miler champion, tried her hand at the 400-meter hurdles to open her four-medal day with a silver. She then moved to her regular events and struck gold by impressive margins in the 800 and 1,500, and anchored Graf-Vilseck to a victory in the 4x400-meter relay in the final women's event of the day.

"I did hurdles in high school," said Jacobs, who ran cross-country and competed in triathlon at the University of Wisconsin. "I entered the 400 to try to get the team a few more points."

The strategy worked. She ran second to teammate Virginia Arias for a Graf-Vilseck sweep. Arias took the gold in 1:12.81, and Jacobs followed in 1:14.29 to get the team started on its 359-point effort, far ahead of runner-up Spangdahlem's 277.

Jacobs won her 800 and 1,500 gold medals easily, clocking 2:34.17 to beat Spangdahlem's Juanita Thomas by 15.80 in the 800. Her time of 5:00.03 in the

1,500 was 1:19.30 faster than runner-up Emily Pereira, her teammate.

Jacobs' decision to enter the 400 hurdles cost her a chance to run in the longest women's race here, the 3,000. It also left the door open for Kaiserslautern's Jacqueline Chen, runner-up to Jacobs at this year's USAREUR 10-Miler and winner of that event in 2002.

Chen easily took the 3,000 gold, running 11:11.64 in the 95-degree heat. Teammate Wendy Cooper finished second in 11:57.62.

"I'm looking for some shade," said Chen, who's stationed at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

K-town's Shannon Swords, the two-time defending men's USAREUR 10-miler champion, won the 10,000-, 5,000- and 1,500-meter races in 35:03.37, 18:09.99 and 4:18.30, respectively.

Swords lapped the field twice in the 10,000 and won by 2:04 over runner-up Robin Zuch of Heidelberg, even though he let Zuch run shoulder-to-shoulder with him, one lap back, for five laps. Swords, who was offering advice and helping Zuch establish a pace, began pulling away with three laps to go and won by nearly two laps.

Two hours later, Swords changed clothes and took the 1,500 wire-to-wire by more than nine seconds over late-closing Phillip Livingood of Baumholder. A third uniform produced a third victory in the 5,000 as Swords beat Ryan Hort of Würzburg by more than 1:07.

Even with the remarkable performance by Swords, however, K-town finished third in the team standings with 152 points.

Jennifer Diedrich of Graf-Vilseck matched Jacobs in individual medals. She won gold in shot put and discus and silver in javelin, a discipline she is less familiar with.

Husband Christopher, recently back from a nine-month deployment, chipped in with shot put silver and discus gold, alternating those medals with Byron Grays of Spangdahlem. Grays took the shot by 11 centimeters, Diedrich was nearly eight meters farther than Grays in the discus.

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U.S. Forces-Europe track championships

BRUCHKÖBEL, Germany — Leading finishers Saturday at the U.S. Forces-Europe track and field championships at the Rudolf Harbig Stadion. All race distances in meters.

Team scoring (men and women combined) — Grafenwöhr-Vilseck 359, Spangdahlem 277, Kaiserslautern 152, Würzburg 135, Mannheim 127, Heidelberg 35, SHAPE 29, Schweinfurt 28, Ramstein 22, Baumholder 9, Hanau 9, Stuttgart 6, Aviano 2, Darmstadt 1, Wiesbaden 1.

Men

110 hurdles — 1, Oscar Gramling (Kais) 15.52; 2, Robert Jordan (Mann) 20.70; 3, Edgar Luna (G-V) 21.77; 4, Douglas Washington (Mann) 22.26.

400 hurdles — 1, Gramling, 58.34; 2, Randall Strong (G-V) 66.22; 3, Washington, 67.06; 4, Jimmie Watkins (Wzbg) 70.55; 5, Luna, 71.18; 6, Byron Grays (Spang) 80.07.

10,000 — 1, Shannon Swords (Kais) 35:03.37; 2, Robert Zuch (Heid) 37:07.08; 3, Scott Fitzgerald (Wzbg) 38:09.21; 4, Amos Kabul (G-V) 41:02.50; 5, Victor Adams (G-V) 41:02.50; 6, Gordon Jacob (Hann) 42:54.83.

1,500 — 1, Swords, 4:18.30; 2, Phillip Livingood (Baum) 4:27.60; 3, Norberto Solis (G-V) 4:35.08; 4, Joshua Ramon (Spang) 4:36.64; 5, Fitzgerald, 4:51.52; 6, Aody Riadia (SHAPE) 4:58.96.

5,000 — 1, Swords, 18:09.99; 2, Ryan Hort (Wzbg) 19:16.59; 3, Joshua Ramon (Spang) 19:52.52; 4, Fitzgerald, 20:31.70; 5, Adams, 20:32.00; 6, Eric Deffenbaugh (Mann) 21:12.24.

800 — 1, Isaiah Taylor (Mann) 2:13.83; 2, Solis, 2:15.04; 3, Kabul, 2:15.88; 4, Lindir Rush (Heid) 2:15.84; 5, Robert Meinen (Wzbg) 2:21.41; 6, Tobias Lefear (Spang) 2:41.46.

Javelin — 1, Lee Solandro (Spang) 34.1 feet, 6 inches; 2, Chris Roach (SHAPE) 34.1; 3, Grays, 32.8; 4, Washington, 31.2; 5, Jermaine Malone (SHAPE) 31.2; 6, Morton Hughley (G-V) 30.4.

Shot put — 1, Grays, 47.1; 2, Christopher Diedrich (G-V) 46.9; 3, James Thomas (Spang) 37.3; 4, Travis Kent (Mann) 35.5; 5, Roach, 34.9; 6, Malone, 32.4.

Discus — 1, C. Diedrich, 140.5; 2, Grays, 115.4; 3, Hughley, 89.2; 4, Thomas, 87.1; 5, Brian Cavanaugh (Mann) 76.3; 6, William Fry (Mann) 69.8.

High jump — 1, Solandro, 5-8; 2, Lanyi Cundiff (Spang) 5-5.25; 3, Strong, 5-5; 4, Roy Dean (Wzbg) 5-0.

200 — 1, Elijah Ham (Schf) 22.25; 2, Eric Burdett (G-V) 23.6; 3, Donald Houston (Wzbg) 23.50; 4, James Nichols (Wzbg) 24.00; 5, Ershan Noel (Heid) 24.21.

Long jump — 1, Houston, 19-7; 2, Cundiff, 19-0; 3, James Nichols (Wzbg) 18-2; 4, Timothy Gause (Mann) 18-1; 5, John Clayton (Hann) 18-1; 6, Derrick Howard (Mann) 17-11.4.

100 — 1, Ham, 11.13; 2, Kendall Davis (Spang) 11.41; 3, Waczar Poyeeo (G-V) 11.39; 4, Gause, 11.88; 5, Drain, 12.93.

400 — 1, Eric Burdett (G-V) 50.30; 2, Houston, 52.35; 3, Washington, 59.03; 4, Michael Jacobs (G-V) 64.82; 5, Roy Dean (Wzbg) 69.42.

Triple jump — 1, Robert Jordan (Mann) 40-2; 2, Chris Hunter (G-V) 36-2; 3, Kendall Davis (Spang) 35-8; 4, John Atkinson (Mann) 35-5.

400 relay — 1, Grafenwöhr (Burdett, Fulton, Poyeeo, Strong) 45:55; 2, Würzburg (Nichols, Dean, Watkins, Houston) 45:97; 3, Mannheim (Atkinson, Jordan, Taylor, Gause) 46:71; 4, Heidelberg (Coxo, Saunders, Rush, Noel) 47:44; 5, Spangdahlem (Thomas, Morgan, Solandro, Kendall) 48:27.

1,600 relay — 1, Grafenwöhr (Burdett, Kabul, Strong, Solis) 3:44.81; 2, Mannheim (Howard, Jordan, Taylor, Gause) 3:38.28; 3, Würzburg (Nichols, Dean, Houston, Meinen) 4:06.18; 4, Spangdahlem (Lefear, Solandro, Grays, Cundiff) 4:10.28.

Women

100 hurdles — 1, Tracey Schwartzkopf (Kais) 19.45; 2, Teresa Madison (Spang) 20.56.

400 hurdles — 1, Virginia Arias (G-V) 72.81; 2, Jessica Jacobs (G-V) 74.29.

3,000 — 1, Jacqueline Chen (Kais) 11:11.64; 2, Wendy Cooper (Kais) 11:57.62; 3, James Anderson (G-V) 13:10.87; 4, Emily Pereira (G-V) 13:13.82; 5, Dana Kerry (Spang) 15:24.05.

1,500 — 1, Jacobs, 5:00.03; 2, Pereira, 6:15.33; 3, Kelly Hueme (Spang) 7:09.55.

800 — 1, Jacobs, 2:34.17; 2, Juanita Thomas (Spang) 2:48.97; 3, Anderson, 2:56.81; 4, Hueme, 3:11.91.

Shot put — 1, Jennifer Diedrich (G-V) 40-11; 2, Elijah Bray (Spang) 28-8; 3, Nicole Roberts (Mann) 18-1.

Discus — 1, Diedrich, 101.4; 2, Rebecca McCue (Kais) 77-6; 3, Bray, 67-6; 4, Charlene Young (G-V) 47-5.

Long jump — 1, Lyndi Love (Ramst) 14-0; 2, Schwartzkopf, 13-7; 3, Madison, 13-5; 4, Kenya Brown (Kais) 12-3; 5, Lashonda Myers (Spang) 10-8; 6, Anderson, 10-0.

Javelin — 1, Anderson, 90-5; 2, Diedrich, 84-8; 3, Thomas, 56-9; 4, Holme, 37-9.

400 — 1, Cynthia Jackson (Kais) 62.69; 2, Evette Price (G-V) 67.21; 3, Brown, 69.84; 4, Alfreida Jenkins (G-V) 69.84; 5, Myers, 75.49.

200 — 1, London Palmer (Spang) 27.27; 2, Jackson, 29.45; 3, Brown, 30.96; 4, Karen Edmond (G-V) 31.57; 5, Allie Wortham (Kais) 31.99; 6, Melanie Middlebrook (Spang) 35.81.

100 — 1, Palmer, 13.47; 2, Arias, 14.01; 3, Schwartzkopf, 14.19; 4, Charlene Young (G-V) 14.77; 5, Wortham, 15.56; 6, Ketric Humphrey (Spang) 15.88.

400 relay — 1, Kaiserslautern (Jackson, Kelly, Wortham, Schwartzkopf) 54:21; 2, Spangdahlem (Thomas, Palmer, Myers, Madison) 55.58; 3, Grafenwöhr (Arias, Edmond, Jenkins, Price) 56.31.

1,600 relay — 1, Grafenwöhr (Arias, Jacobs, Price, Young) 4:57.39; 2, Spangdahlem (Thomas, Myers, Humphrey, Hueme) 5:24.59.

Triple jump — 1, Love, 39-0.

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