



The XV International Track and Field Meeting (X Memorial Primo Nebiolo), organized by CUS Torino, will take place on June 4th 2009 at the Primo Nebiolo Stadium (Parco Ruffini, Torino, ITALY).

Let's go backwards through the last 14 editions...

## 2008

More than 6.000 spectators attended the 9th edition of the Memorial Primo Nebiolo: 17 competitions for two hours of great athletics in the Savoy Capital.

Great absent in the pole vault the long-awaited Giuseppe Gibilisco who – just a few hours before the event - announced he couldn't be present because of health problems (and of a missed medical check)- just like Andrew Howe who chose colder climates: the Italian protagonist was once again Antonietta Di Martino, who, even if she could not repeat last year's great performance (2,02 m, Italian record) stopping at 1,90 m and winning the bronze medal, was capable of enflaming the audience's hearts.

The bad weather surely made the competitions harder than usual, especially the races: nonetheless the King of the Meeting was the young Cuban Athlete Dayron Robles, who won the 110 hurdles in 13"28 and, one week after the Memorial Primo Nebiolo, realized the world record of 12"87 and won the Olympic gold medal in Beijing.

2008 has also been the year of the relays: the Meeting of Torino was valid for the Olympic qualifications, both for the 4x100 men's and women's and the 4x400 women's. The Meeting proved to be of great importance for all the athletes who were training for the Golden league and the Beijing Olympics: an important test for many of them and a not-to-be-missed appointment for their fans.

Next appointment will be in 2009, the 10th anniversary of the death of the unforgettable Primo Nebiolo.

## 2007

The 2007 edition was undoubtedly dominated by Antonietta Di Martino. Her Italian record in the high jump, that 2.02 which silenced and then made all the audience at the Nebiolo stadium exult, is the remembrance we all share of the past edition. It doesn't matter if the competition was won by the Swedish Kajsa Bergqvist with the same result; Antonietta entered the history of athletics, overcoming the record by Sara Simeoni and doubling this performance at the world Championship of Osaka, where she was second with a 2,03.

Another silver medal was won by an athlete who had already taken part many times to the Meeting of Torino: Andrew Howe. His performance was not one of his best ones, a first jump measuring 8.25 which closed his attempts without great merits. Nonetheless an important test which led him to the spectacular confrontation with Irving Saladino in Osaka and to the silver medal with the Italian record of 8,47. All competitions proved to be spectacular, in particular the 200 m characterized by the record signed by Brian Dzingai (20"29).

## 2006

Andrew Howe and Tatiana Lebedeva, both of them did great jumps on the takeoff boards of the Primo Nebiolo Stadium. The first athlete jumped 8,26m and the second 15,00m : great performances which thrilled more than 10.000 spectators. The swedish Stefan Holm outclassed everyone in the high jump, with a 2,30m jump, in a spectacular competition where the Italian Andrea Bettinelli placed 2nd with a 2,27 mts jump. Brad Walker won the pole jump with a 5,70 mts performance, Gibilisco still not in full shape ended with a 5,40 mts jump. . Another traditional competition at the Torinese Meeting, the 400h., saw Bershawn Jackson win his 12th victory in a row.



## 2005

2005 was a record year for the 200mts., both men's and women's, and for the javelin throw, in particular for Zahra Bani. On the half turn of the track, J.J. Johnson took to 20"35 the Meeting record, and so did also Veronica Campbell taking the record, conquered by Ottey in 1995 and unbeaten since then, to 22.35. The Javanese Zahra Bani won with an incredible 62,45m, prelude of a promising season. Sandra Glover dominated the women's 400mts, while the men's competition was won by the young South African Luis Van Zyl. The awaited Kallur twins were outdone on the finishing line by the American Lolo Jones, and in the triple jump the always second Marian Oprea finally won the Turinese competition with a good 17,37. Simona Lamantia confirmed her talent in the women's competition with a 14,28 mts. jump.

## 2004

Turin gives the Meeting the audience of the big occasions and the Meeting repays the favour with an evening full of emotions and results.

The two triple jumps stand out as expected: Christian Olsson jumps 17,61 mts. and Magdelin Martinez jumps 14,73 mts., and both hit the target of the world season best. Simona La Mantia draws attention by undermining Martinez with a fine 14,49 mts, her personal best. However, the true protagonist has been the public, with great satisfaction of the athletes for the steady support received throughout the competition. The eagerly awaited men's 800 meters haven't failed the expectations, even if the three announced protagonists, Krummenacker, Said Guerni e Longo, have been outclassed (in that same order) by Florent Lacasse (1'44"82, second world best performance) whom, for the second time, gains victory in Turin.

The men's high jump competition has been very interesting and fought to the last jump: the challenge between Nicola Ciotti e Gennady Moroz ended in a draw with a 2,28 mts. – the Italian missed the 2,30 mts by a little.

For what concerns women's competitions double victory for Ionela Tirlea that not so much satisfied of her time on the 400mts. (54"86 – third world best performance - before Debbie Parris and Benedetta Ceccarelli that gets her personal best at 56"04) decides to beat her opponents easily even on the 200 flat race an hour and a half later finishing in 23"13.

## 2003

Great passion and great results at the debut of the Torino Meeting in the GPII circuit: Italian record in the women's triple jump for Magdelin Martinez (14.77 m at the first attempt), two world seasonal bests (7'30"23 in the 3000 metres for Hicham El Gerrouj – 17.46 m for Walter Davis in the men's triple jump) and together with these, two more records for the Meeting thanks to Tirlea (54"10 in the 400 h) and Fenton (50"45 in the 400 m flat race). El Gerrouj's unforgettable race, the undoubted star of the evening, with a time that could only have been bettered if the hares had been up to standard! Half-way through the race, in fact, the Moroccan champion, after having repeatedly asked for the leaders to increase the rhythm, took the initiative and having overtaken the hares, left the group, leaping towards the victory, encouraged by the enthusiastic public and awaited at the finishing line by his countrymen who, peacefully invaded the track to honour his performance.

## 2002

This time the young Borzakovsky and Jonathan Edwards are the stars. The Russian wins 800 m in 1'44"25 while Edwards wins with 17,18 the triple jump (record of the Meeting as the Cuban Quesada) In the hammer throw the Belarus Astapkovich exceeds 80m and he wins with 81,09. In the female pole vault the challenge between Grigorieva and Becker finishes in a draw (4,40).



## 2001

2001 is great athletics again: Bernard Williams and Fabrizio Mori heat the public. The first (bronze at Edmonton world championship) wins 100m in 10"08 (new record of the Meeting). Mori leads 400hs in 48"30 the 400hs, he improves his performance (47"54) at World Championship in Edmonton where he wins the silver medal. In the high jump the Russian Tatiana Kotova lands at 7,12 best world performance of the year, beating Fiona May. But Fiona will win the gold medal at the World Championship for the second time...

## 2000

This year - first Memorial Primo Nebiolo - is remembered above all for the violent thunderstorm that felt on Turin. Although the rain the competition goes on thanks to the good condition of the track. Anier Garcia obtains the new record of the Meeting in 110hs with 13"25. The young Andrea Cavallaro (1980) runs 200 m. in 20"48 (seventh best Italian time of the history) while Ivan Pedroso wins the long jump with 8,39 m and Inga Babakova jumps high at 1,97 m.

## 1999

Long jump is the fulcrum of 1999: a great challenge between James Beckford and Iago Lamela, the Spanish wins with a last jump of 8,56 best world performance of the year and obviously record of the Meeting. Voronin leads in the high jump (2,31) and Diego Fortuna in the discus throw (63,38). Record of the Meeting for the Russian Tsiganova too that runs 800 m. in 1'59"83 and for Shishigina that finishes 100hs in 12"70.

## 1998

1998 is the year of Cuban athletes: Ivan Pedroso wins in the long jump (8,30), Yoel Quesada in the triple jump (17,18). In the high jump Troy Kemp establishes the new record of the meeting (2,31). But the best results are in the female competition: the Nigerian Opara runs 400 m. in 50"45, the Australian Emma George is gold in the pole vault with 4,40; Zvereva (Belarus) wins the discus throw (66,14). In the 3 km walk the best performance is from the Italian Perrone with 12'14"83.

## 1997

1997 proposes Samuel Matete and Kamoga on 400m: victory for the Uganda's athlete with Meeting record. Spectacular event on hammer throw too, with Balasz Kiss arriving at 81,62m. At the starting line of 100m appears Marion Jones, winner of U.S.A. Trials and not really known in Italy. It is the first time in Europe for her and she needs only 11"08 to win the favour of the public. For her too, after Torino, a lot of important victories.

## 1996

1996 is the year of Roberta Brunet and Maria Carla Bresciani: they both establish the new national record on 2.000m (5'32"83) and on pole vault (4,06 m). But we see also the debut of Hicham El Guerrouj in 5.000m, and after Torino, he will be the real number one! Meeting record on 2000sp for Lambruschini (5'32"73) and in the shot put for Dal Soglio with a good 20.48.



## 1995

The new beginning of Torino's Meeting in 1995: "small but honest" and with some record of the event still unbeaten. Russian Tarasov jumps 5,80 in the pole vault; Marlene Ottey runs 200m in 22"75. Troy Kemp jumps 2,25 in high jump, but will do better in 1998 (2,31, as Voronin in 1999).

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## 1963-1983

### ALL THE BEST IN ATHLETICS COME IN TURIN

**June 2nd** is an important date for athletics in Turin: it is the appointment with the Meeting.

In **1963** begins the adventure for CUS Torino with a "Preolympic" appointment: Livio Berruti wins, obviously, 200m and on 110h the young Eddy Ottoz begins his career.

In **1964** the Meeting becomes "University Meeting" and it is time for the hurdlers: Cornacchia, Mazza, Ottoz, and Frinolli. Great show from Rodeghiero (javelin throw) and D'Encausse (pole vault).

**1965**: a trilateral meeting between Italy, France and Soviet Union. Maria Vittoria Trio wins the long jump with the Italian record (6,26m) while "Prince Igor" Ter Ovanesian jumps at 7,70 under the rain. Tamara Press dominates javelin and shot put; Roger Bambuck wins 100m, Livio Berruti is second, but the timing is exactly alike.

The year after the pole vault Italian phenomenon Dionisi (19 years old) improves the national record; Ottoz and Frinolli are preparing for the European title and Carlo Lievore for the World Record. Russian Schelkanova wins female long jump, but it is a strange case of hormonal confusion...

**1967**: Ter Ovanesian lands at 8,01m in the long jump and Bliznyetsov flies over 5m in the pole vault. Ottoz runs 110h in 13"6 (personal best) and Berruti closes his career winning again on 200m. The year after Ottoz runs faster again (13"5) and Bliznyetsov again jumps more than 5 meters, but our Dionisi does the same... In the middle distance Zhelobowskiy wins on Del Buono and Arese; in the discus Neu throws over 60m. In **1969** it's a two days meeting, it seems a training for the Universiade. Arese beats Zheloboskiy, Pippo Cindiolo wins 5.000 mt while Ottoz is preceded by Davenport and Dionisi by Bob Seagren, with excellent measures. It is the first time for Borzov, while Kirszenstein competes three times. Paola Pigni wins 800m. In 1970 the Universiade "replaces" the Meeting. In **1971** Borzov wins 100m, Ter Ovanesian dominates again the long jump and Sanayev precedes Beppe Gentile, like in Mexico City. Pietro Paolo Mennea wins 200m. Great Italian middle distance: Del Buono wins 800m, Arese 1.500m, Cindolo 5.000m.



**1972** is the year of Paola Pigni who breaks many records and defeats the great Kazankina; record for female 4x100 too (Grassano, Nappi, Orselli, Molinari) and for Pietro Mennea. Good results on pole vault (Isaksson and Dionisi), on triple jump (Drehmel and Corbu) and two national stars: Sara Simeoni and March Fiasconaro, who competes for CUS Torino.

In **1973** Pigni precedes Kazankina once again. It rains: Crawford wins 100m in 10.2 and Mennea 200m in 20.4, Drut 110h in 13.60. Pascoe beats John Akii-Bua and Fiasconaro announces the world record on 800 m winning in 45"9 the 400 m. Italian again dominating the middle distance with Fontanella (800), Arese (1500) and Del Buono (5000), with Franco Fava second.

No Meeting in **1974**, the Meeting starts again in **1975** with two appointments in a month: among all, "El Caballo" Alberto Juantorena runs 400m in 44"7.

The best hurdlers are the Cuban Casanes and the American Bolding and Mann while Dwight Stones makes show in the pole vault. USA victories again in the shot put with Woods and in the discus with Powell.

Franco Arese closes his career winning 1500 in the edition of **1976** and on the same distance Gabriella Dorio is faster than everyone else. Other Italian win: Sara Simeoni, Rita Bottiglieri (record in 400 mt) and Carlo Grippio (800m). Hasely Crawford, from Trinidad, wins in 10"1; a few time later will be the owner of an Olympic gold medal. Stekic jumps five times over 8 meters.

In **1977** starts the use of automatic timing: Riddick runs 10"43 on 100m and Pietro Mennea runs 200m in 20"40.

Victory and record on 400h for Bottiglieri with 57"35 and at last apparition of Dionisi, preceded by Jessee.

Juantorena comes back in Turin with other Cuban athletes in **1978**: easy run for him on 800m. Also Cuban women winning: Chivas (100) and Penton (400). In 5.000 Zarcone wins, defeating Venanzio Ortis, who will be European Champion a few later. Mennea, Simeoni and Dorio are Italian stars. In 1979 the meeting is replaced by a four-way tournament (Italy, Poland, Canada and Kenya), but in 1980 the show is great with Sebastian Coe winning 800m, he will be gold medal in Moscow in 1500m. Sara Simeoni is once again the Italian star.

In **1981** we find a large number of young Italian athletes: Pavoni wins 100m, Mei wins bronze medal in 1.550, Antibo dominates 5.000 and Marisa Masullo is gold in 100m, as Gabriella Dorio in 1.500. 1982: last Meeting in Turin for Sara Simeoni, still winning. Good competition for Alberto Cova in 5.000m winning on Kip Rono and Panetta.

**1983** seems to be the last year of the Meeting: Said Auita is the last star.

**But the story starts again in 1995, June the 2nd...**