

# 2006

## The meeting



The season promises to be rather slack, wedged midway between two Olympic Games, except for the Europeans whose eyes are on the championships in Gothenburg. The Meeting makes the most of it to provide a startling array of stars from the track, and hence a wealth of great performances. Jamaican Asafa Powell, Americans Jeremy Wariner and Sanya Richards, Russian Yelena Isinbayeva, and Ethiopian Tirunesh Dibaba, haven't yet performed at the Meeting prior to Saturday 8th July 2006. However, they don't take long to find their way around. All of them take victory in their first participation and each in their own inimitable style: 9''85 in the 100 m for Powell, 43''91 for Wariner in the 400 m, 49''73 over the same distance for Sanya Richards, 14'54''24 for Dibaba in the 5,000 m, 4.76 m for Isinbayeva. At the ranking for the IAAF meetings, the Ile de France meeting is firmly fixed in 4th place behind Rome, Lausanne and Zurich.

## The performance

To play host to a 100 m world record athlete is always a major event. Asafa Powell, the fastest man on the planet since his time of 9''77 the previous year in Athens, knows it only too well. At the Stade de France, he intends to honor his status and his reputation. For his first participation at the Meeting, he comfortably dominates down the straight. The Jamaican takes victory in a time of 9''85, a competition record, with a lead of 23 hundredths of a second over runner-up Canadian Marcus Bronson. That same year, Asafa Powell runs 9''85 or less a total of four times.

## The revelation

In July 2006, Dayron Robles is not yet 20 (he is to celebrate that particular birthday four months later). The previous year, he rounded off the season with a promising personal best of 13''46. However his name isn't being banded about much among the favorites in the 110 m hurdles, a race where Americans Dominique Arnold and Terrence Trammell jostle for position with the French athlete Ladji Doucouré and Chinese athlete Liu Xiang. At the finish, the young Cuban takes 3rd place, behind Trammell and Arnold. He scores a new personal best of 13''11, a time which is to herald another, as he ends the season on 13 seconds. Since then, Dayron Robles has stretched the limits still further to become the world record man on 12th June with 12''87.

## The quote

"It was my first visit to Paris, and I really liked it. The crowds are great and the track is fast. I felt like I was in the Olympic final. I'll be back next year."

Jeremy Wariner, winner of the 400 m in 43''91.

## The public

62,900 spectators

## The records

Four meeting records: Asafa Powell (Jamaica), 9''85 in the 100 m, Jeremy Wariner (E-U), 43''91 in the 400 m, Yuliya Chizhenko (Russia), 3'55''68 in the 1,500 m, Yelena Isinbayeva (Russia), 4.76 m in the pole vault. Six national records: Nick Willis (New Zealand), 3'32''17 in the 1,500 m, Alistair Cragg (Ireland), 12'57''60 in the 5,000 m, Guillermo Martinez (Cuba), 87.17 m in the javelin, Vanya Stambolova (Bulgaria), 49''96 in the 400 m, Souad Ait Salem (Algeria), 15'07''49 in the 5,000 m, Tia Hellebaut (Belgium), 2 m in the high jump