



**Penn State | | 2012 US Olympic Trials
Session One Preview
June 22-26**

Current Nittany Lions in Action

**Rebekka Simko
Women's 800-Meters**

Simko, just a sophomore, punched her ticket to the Trials in fine style last weekend, running a PR and school-record 2:03.09 for the 800-meters at the American Milers' Series in Indianapolis. The sophomore has had a breakout 2012, qualifying for her first NCAA Outdoor Championships earlier this month, where she finished 15th overall to earn Second Team All-America honors. Simko has also enjoyed a great deal of success at the conference level this year, finishing third in the 800 at the Big Ten Indoor Championships, and matching the bronze-medal effort at the outdoor conference meet.

**Casimir Loxsom
Men's 800-Meters**

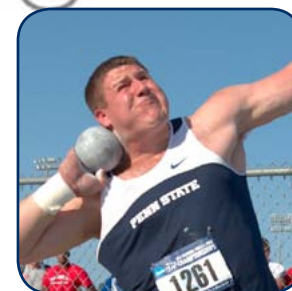
Loxsom is no stranger to high-level competition, having represented the U.S. in international competition at the 2010 IAAF World Junior Championships and the 2011 World University Games. The junior got his qualifying mark out of the way last summer, thanks to a school-record 1:45.28 at the Harry Jerome Classic. Loxsom put together another stellar campaign in 2012, picking up his third-straight Big Ten Outdoor title in the 800-meters this spring, to go along with a gold-medal finish in the 4x400-meter relay. Loxsom and the relay proved to be one of the top quartets in the country at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, placing fourth in the 4x400 final, following a school-record run of 3:01.52 in the preliminary round.

**Brady Gehret
Men's 400-Meters**

Gehret is another Nittany Lion to come on strong this spring, winning his first-career Big Ten title in the 400-meters, via a PR and Trials "A" standard performance of 45.22. Already a five-time All-American in just three NCAA appearances, Gehret impressed at the NCAA Championships, placing sixth in the 400 against sensational competition. The sophomore, who was the Big Ten runner-up in the 200-meters, has also been the big leg on the Nittany Lions' record-setting 4x400-meter relay, clocking 44-second splits on both of Penn State's 3:01 efforts at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. The Altoona, Pa., native is also in line to qualify for 200 at the Trials, which is set for the second session.

**Joe Kovacs
Men's Shot Put**

Kovacs, who finishes his Penn State career with three All-America certificates, will enter the 2012 Trials as the number-two entrant from the collegiate ranks, boasting a PR and Penn State record of 68-5 (20.85) in the shot put. The senior, who placed fourth at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, has been on fire throughout the spring, picking up victories at Penn Relays, the Big Ten Championships, and the NCAA Eastern Preliminary. His efforts have not gone unnoticed, as Kovacs was named Big Ten Field Event Athlete of the Year, as well as the USTFCCA Mid-Atlantic Region Field Athlete of the Year. The meet will mark Kovacs' third-straight appearance at the USATF Championship competition qualifying in 2010 and 2011.



TRACK & FIELD



Alumni and Friends of the Program ...

Volunteer Assistant Ryan Whiting || Men's Shot Put

* The 2012 IAAF Indoor World Champion in the event, Ryan Whiting is one of the contenders to make the U.S. Olympic Team in perhaps the deepest event on the Trials slate. Whiting, who has been training in Happy Valley for the past two years, was a six-time NCAA Champion will at Arizona State, after a storied Pennsylvania high school career at nearby Central Dauphin High School. Whiting's toss of 72-2.25 (22.00) at World Indoor remains the best performance in the world in 2012.

Blake Eaton, '11 || Men's Shot Put

* Eaton will participate in his first Olympic Trials, following a stellar career in the Blue and White. Eaton, who was a two-time Big Ten Champion, and three-time NCAA All-American as a Nittany Lion, owns a career-best 65-0.50 (19.82) from the 2012 outdoor season - a top 20 mark in the US this year.

Bridget Franek, '10 || Women's Steeplechase

* Franek will aim for her first Olympic bid after a pair of World Championship appearances for the U.S., in 2009 and 2011. An NCAA Champion in the steeplechase as a Nittany Lion, Franek owns a season-best 9:39.77, which ranks second among U.S. competitors. Franek, who claimed 10 All-America finishes as a collegiate, currently trains in Eugene as a member of the Oregon Track Club.

Rebecca Donaghue, State College Resident || Women's 10,000-Meters

Rebecca Donaghue is one of the nation's promising distance athletes, and trains locally in State College. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Donaghue is slated to run the women's 10,000-meters following a PR performance of 32:36.05 in the event earlier this month.

* More athletes and alumni will be featured in Session Two Preview. Athlete profiles will also be updated/added as acceptances are announced by USATF.

Session One Event Schedule ...

DAY ONE || FRIDAY, JUNE 22

Start Time	Gender	Events	Projected Field Size	Round	Penn State
3:10	Men	400m	28	1st Round	Brady Gehret
5:00	Women	800m	32	1st Round	Bekka Simko
5:20	Men	800m	32	1st Round	Casimir Loxsom
7:20	Women	10,000m	24	Final	

DAY TWO || SATURDAY, JUNE 23

Start Time	Gender	Events	Projected Field Size	Round	Penn State
3:00	Men	Shot Put	24	Qualifying	Joe Kovacs Blake Eaton - Alum Ryan Whiting - Volunteer Asst.
4:30	Women	800m	16	Semi-Finals	Qualifiers
4:45	Men	800m	16	Semi-Finals	Qualifiers
5:00	Men	400m	16	Semi-Finals	Qualifiers

DAY THREE || SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Start Time	Gender	Events	Projected Field Size	Round	Penn State
3:30	Men	Shot Put	12	Final	Qualifiers
4:20	Men	400m	8	Final	Qualifiers

DAY FOUR || MONDAY, JUNE 25 || END SESSION 1

Start Time	Gender	Events	Projected Field Size	Round	Penn State
4:50	Women	3,000m Steeplechase	24	Qualifying	Bridget Franek - Alum
6:50	Women	800m	8	Final	Qualifiers
7:47	Men	800m	8	Final	Qualifiers