

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ON THE ROAD TO 2013 DEAFLYMPIC GAMES IN BULGARIA USA TRACK & FIELD ATHLETES MAKE FINAL TRAINING STOP IN TEXAS

Austin, Texas – July 18, 2013 More than 20 track and field athletes and coaches from all across the country, who are deaf or hard of hearing, are meeting at the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) today, for a final week of intensive training before heading to the 2013 Deaflympic Games in Bulgaria.

In total, TSD has 10 participants who will be attending the 2013 Games as athletes and coaches in a number of sports, including four TSD Rangers on the 2013 track and field team now training in Austin: sprint coach, Larry Smith - is currently an educator at TSD; Delvin Furlough – is a returning Deaflympian and 2009 gold medalist (400M), who will be competing in the 200M and 400M events in Sofia; Kyle Winter – TSD graduate, will also compete in the 400M, as well as hurdles in Sofia; and Saria Webb – who will be a senior at TSD this next year, is competing in the 100M and 200M events.

Unlike Olympic athletes, all US Deaflympians are responsible for funding their own travel and accommodations - a tab of about \$3900.00 each. Many have held fundraisers and hit up their friends and family to make the trip to compete in this elite event.

Nine-time Deaflympic veteran, Thomas Withrow, who currently resides in Austin, will be returning as the US Track and Field Head Coach. Withrow himself competed in the Games from 1981 to 2001. He was the US throws coach in 1993 and 1997, and has been head track and field coach, since 2001.

For him, to be returning for the 2013 Games, it's a pleasure well worth repeating.

"To be among this fine group of people, and to have been alongside so many who have come up and through the ranks over the years, truly I am the fortunate one, Withrow says. These athletes have all trained so hard getting ready for this, and we've all put our hearts and soul into it. To get to compete at this level, with the best of the best from the United States, and all around the world, it's an experience of a lifetime."

Athletes training at TSD leave Monday to join the United States' delegation in Sofia, Bulgaria and attend the 2013 Deaflympic opening ceremonies on July 26.

"Austin has been a great place to gather and practice. We look forward to returning to TSD every time, Withrow adds. The school has been very welcoming and supportive of us. We're so appreciative of the Texas hospitality, and we really enjoy the Austin culture."

WHAT: 2013 USA Deaflympic Track & Field Team Training Camp

WHEN: Now through Sunday, July 21, 2013
Mornings: 8:30-11:00 am
Evenings: 6:30-8:00 pm

WHERE: Rudolph Gamblin Field
Texas School for the Deaf
1102 South Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78704

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MORE:

**Athletes:
Female**

	Sport(s):	Home:
Shanika Coleman	Sprinter	Mississippi
Diana Dick	Distance	Ohio
MaKenzie Hageman	Sprinter	South Dakota
Kori Koss	Hurdler	Wisconsin
Erin LaFave	Distance/Steeple Chase	Michigan
Jasmine Simmons	Thrower	Ohio
Janna Vander Meulen	Hurdler	Washington
Saria Webb	Sprinter	Texas

Male

Onye Davis	Thrower	Indiana
DeWayne Esper	Sprinter	Illinois
Delvin Furlough	Sprinter	Texas
Michael Haynes	Hurdler	Missouri
Thomas Guideon	Pole Vaulter	Washington
Josh Hembrugh	Hurdler	Indiana
Taylor Koss	Hurdler	Wisconsin
Paul Littlebear	Sprinter	Oklahoma
Immanuel Neubauer	Sprinter	Arizona
Craig Saafeld	Decathlete	Nebraska
Kyle Winter	Hurdler	Texas

Coaches

Thomas Withrow	Head Coach	Texas
Dan Fitzpatrick	Throws Coach	Indiana
Dave Frank	Distance Coach	Maryland
Steven Fuerst	Hurdler/Relay Coach	Minnesota
Larry Smith	Special Assistant	Texas
Rohan Smith	Sprint/Relay Coach	Toronto, Canada

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ABOUT THE TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (TSD)

The Texas School for the Deaf is the oldest continuously operating public school in Texas. Educating deaf and hard of hearing students of Texas since 1856, the campus also provides outreach and educational resources for students, their families and professionals in the field throughout the state of Texas. With educational excellence and a strong belief in a culture and community at TSD, students form a unique identity based on their individual strengths and talents. TSD is an environment where students learn, grow, and belong. For more information about the Texas School for the Deaf, visit <http://www.tsd.state.tx.us/>.

ABOUT THE DEAFLYMPICS

The summer and winter Deaflympics are elite level International Olympic Committee (IOC)-sanctioned events, organized by the Comité International des Sports des Sourds (CISS - the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf) since 1924. In 1957, the first USA team competed at the games, in Rome. The Deaflympic Games were the first ever international sporting event for athletes with a disability. Historically, the games were called the International Games for the Deaf until 1965, and were then known as the World Games for the Deaf, until 2000, when the name Deaflympics was adopted. For more, visit: www.deaflympics.com.

VISIT TSD'S HISTORY MUSEUM

On display at the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) and open to the public through December 2013 - ***TSD at the Deaflympics*** - a comprehensive and fascinating collection chronicling the history of Texans participating in the Deaflympic Games, since 1957. TSD has had representatives at every summer Deaflympic Games, and currently boasts 103 medals earned by both past and present students and staff. Please contact: heritage.center@tsd.state.tx.us to schedule a museum tour during summer hours. Regular Fall semester museum hours resume August 19, 2013.