

BRITISH & INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTERS EVENT INFORMATION SERVICE

TOKYO NEWSLETTER No 9 MONDAY 22nd September 2025 GEORGIA AND KEELY MEDAL IN GREAT 800m in BELOW-PAR WEEK FOR GB

Women's 800m – Odira what can the matter be?

A stunning 800m saw the two Brits run inside 1:55 but have to settle for second and third as a late kick by Lilian Odira gave her a two second PB and championships record and world lead 1:54.62. It was Odira's first world championships having been a semi-finalist in Paris.

Fellow Kenyan Mary Moraa seemed to be the disruptor leading through 200m in a fast 26.35 but surging to hold Keely Hodgkinson off through 400m in 55.67 to Hodgkinson's 55.85 with Georgia Hunter Bell fifth in 56.08.

Hodgkinson was on the inside at 600m with the same time as Moraa (85.21) with Hunter Bell third in 85.46 with Odira fifth (85.79).

At 700m Hodgkinson (1:39.74) was ahead of Hunter Bell (1:39.89) with Odira (1:40.16) three metres back. Odira though had the strongest finish and went to seventh all-time, one hundredth behind Hodgkinson's British record.

In her last stride, Hunter-Bell edged by her team-mate and her 1:54.90 moved her to ninth all-time in the world and second in the UK.

Hodgkinson who beat Odira in Chorzow on her return ran her third sub 1:55 and was close to her British record and won her fifth successive global medal in five years.

Gold: Lilian Odira KEN 1:54.62

Silver: Georgia Hunter-Bell GBR 1:54.90

Bronze: Keely Hodgkinson GBR 1:54.91

Men's 5000m – Hocker shocker

Olympic 1500m champion Cole Hocker was unable to contest the 1500m final in Tokyo after disqualification for pushing but he bounced back with a superb victory. He led the first lap in 65.50 before Indoor world record-holder Grant Fisher picked up the pace through 1000m (2:40.40) and then his team-mate Nico Young (5:15.12) went even faster through 2km, Fisher was back in front at 3km (7:51.78) but the pace slowed at 4km as surprisingly defending champion but not 100pc Jakob Ingebrigtsen showed ahead in 10:47.97.

Ethiopian talent Biniam Mehary was ahead at the bell (12:04.53) hopeful that his nation was finally going to get a gold after a terrible championships.

Hocker was back in twelfth at the bell but up to fifth with 200m to go but he then up to second as he hit the straight and thanks to a 25.50 last 200m and 52.62 final lap won gold even though he had the 13th best PB! Isaac Kimeli won Belgium's best ever medal in the event while 10,000m champion Jimmy Gressier won his second medal of the Games. Ky Robinson was a shock fourth ahead of Mehary and Young. Ingebrigtsen was tenth.

George Mills was clearly not at his best and was last all the race and ended up 16th in 13:44.68.

Gold: Cole Hocker USA 12:58.30

Silver: Isaac Kimeli BEL 12:58.78

Bronze: Jimmy Gressier FRA 12:59.33

Unofficial Placings (8 for 1st, 1 for 8th)

1 USA 296;
2 Kenya 118;
3 Jamaica 82;
4 Germany 65.5;
5 GB 65;
6 Italy 61.5; 7 Netherlands 55; 8 Ethiopia 51; 9 China 50

Men's 4x400 – Benjamin Buzanged by Botswana

Just seven hundredths of a second covered the medallists in a cracking race.

In pouring rain, which seemed to adversely affect splits, Vernon Norwood (44.60) gave USA a clear lead on leg one with Botswana third (45.16) but South African splits were strangely missing.

Lee Thompson didn't match his heat run with a 45.91 opener but Toby Harries moved up a few places with a fine 44.81 as well ahead USA led with 1:28.82 (after a 44.02 from Jacory Patterson) from Botswana who had Letsile Tebogo close up with a 44.05.

USA stayed ahead on leg three despite a seemingly slowish 44.63 by Khaleb Macrae ahead of Bayapo Ndori's 44.61. Much faster was world record-holder Wayde van Niekerk who brought South Africa into contention.

400m hurdles champion Rai Benjamin led all the way but a 44.40 saw him lose out in the final strides to 400m champion Busang Collen Kebinatshipi's 44.14 (much slower than his individual run) but finishing faster was Zakithi Nene who almost caught USA on the line.

Britain ended up sixth with Lewis Davey only given 46.83 while Charlie Dobson closed with a 45.34

Gold: Botswana 2:57.76

Silver: USA 2:57.83

Bronze: South Africa 2:57.83

Women's 4x400 – American fly

The USA continued their great Championships with a very easy win in a race that lacked the drama of the men's.

Isabella Whittaker (50.12) and Lynna Irby-Jackson (48.71) pulled them well clear of the opposition and then Aailyah Butler (49.96) pulled further clear and with a big lead predictably Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone pulled further clear with a superb solo 47.82 and their 3:16.61 narrowly broke their 32-year-old championships record.

Jamaica were a clear second highlighted by Nickisha Pryce's 48.50 and were also inside 3:20.

Netherlands were an isolated third after an early 49.08 by Lieke Klaver and a controlled 49.10 by Femke Bol who won her third medal in Tokyo.

Belgium were a strong fourth.

Gold: USA 3:16.61

Silver: Jamaica 3:19.25

Bronze: Netherlands 3:20.18

Decathlon – Leo Slayer's an one-man band

The decathlon gold was won by just 20 points as Olympic runner-up Leo Neugebauer narrowly held on from Ayden Owens-Delerme and he won Germany's only gold in Tokyo.

The latter who won the 100m and 400m also came out on top in the 110m hurdles (13.65) though Kyle Garland stayed ahead with a 14.30 and a 48.06m discus did likewise but Neugebauer who ran 14.80 in the hurdles bounced back with a brilliant 56.15m discus.

Garland stayed ahead with a 14.80m vault matched by the German but the latter's 64.34m to the American's 59.78m. Though third the danger was the Puerto Rican whose 58.79m kept him close. In the 1500m Owens Delerme ran 4:17.91 which was almost enough to overhaul Neugebauer's tired 4:31.89.

Gold: Leo Neugebauer GER 8804

Silver: Ayden Owens-Delerme PUR 8784

Bronze: Kyle Garland USA 8703

Medals

1 USA 16-5-5, 2 Kenya 7-2-2, 3 CAN 3-1-1
4 NED 2-2-2, 5 BOT/NZL/ESP/SWE 2-0-1;
9 POR 2-0-0; 10 Jamaica 1-6-3; 11 Italy 1-3-3;
12 Germany 1-3-1 **21 GBR 0-3-2**
20 countries won gold — 53 won medals

Women's 4x100 – Jefferson-Wooden Heart

Melissa Jefferson-Wooden won her third gold of Championships as USA headed the field but Jamaica were close in second and just four hundredths of second back.

The 100m and 200m champion led off and the Twanisha Terry, Kayla White and Sha'Carri Richardson kept it safe.

Jamaica led off by Shelly-Ann Fraser Pryce who won the last of her 17 world medals as she retires and got legs by the Clayton twins Tia and Tina and anchored Jonielle Smith brought them close. It might have been a different result had Shericka Jackson ran.

Germany ran their usual dependable race to take the two metres up on Britain.

This meant that Britain failed to win a medal in the relays having won them in all five in Paris.

Dina Asher-Smith (11.27) and Amy Hunt (9.95) were actually ahead at halfway.

Desiree Henry (many were expecting Success Edu who ran the heats) ran solidly (10.60) and Britain's third but Daryll Neita seemed to go early and then she and her 10.25 wasn't helped by the stutter as Britain 10.42.07.

Gold: USA 41.75

Silver: Jamaica 41.79

Bronze: Germany 41.87

Men's 4x100 – State and Lyles

USA's team of Christian Coleman (10.30), Ken Bednarek (8.84), Courtney Lindsey (9.31) and Nic Lyles (8.84 for his third medal of the Champs) won easily in a world lead 37.29.

Canada anchored by Andre De Grasse and Netherlander with a Dutch record 37.81 surprisingly took bronze teams like Jamaica and GB lamented their semi-final.

Gold: USA 37.29

Silver: Canada 37.55

Bronze: Netherlands 37.81

Women's High Jump – Lagers on Olyslagers?

The double world indoor champion and Olympic silver medallist Nicola Olyslagers won her first outdoor global title courtesy of first time clearances at 1.93, 1.97m and 2.00m.

Maria Zodnik went over on her third attempt to snare a PB and surprise silver.

Bronze was shared by a below par world record-holder Yaroslava Mahuchikh and 20 year-old Angelina Top Morgan Lake cleared 1.93m to finish equal seven after jumping 1.92m in qualifying

Gold: Nicola Olyslagers AUS 2.00m

Silver: Maria Zodnik POL 2.00m

Bronze: Y Mahuchikh UKR/A Topic SRB 1.97

Men's Discus

The event was delayed by heavy rain and restarted at the handing over ceremony and rain continued for much of the contest and many fell or slipped.

Daniel Stahl threw a near 70 metre opener but strangely stepped out of the circle but it was world record-holder Mykolas Alekna who threw 67.84m who led until penultimate throw of the competition. Then Stahl had thrown 67.47m in round four set a stadium record 70.47m to win his third world title.

Alex Rose won Samoa's first medal at any event

Gold: Daniel Stahl SWE 70.47m

Silver: Mykolas Alekna LTU 67.84m

Bronze: Alex Rose SAM 66.96m

