

## 2005 BC ATHLETICS REPORT – COMBINED EVENTS

2005 was a relatively deep year at the Youth and Junior age groups, but continued to be BC Athletics' weakest event group at the Senior National level.

Representing **Canada** in the Combined Events in 2005 were:

NAME	AGE/GENDER	COMPETITION	NOTES
Katie Gallagher	Youth Female	World Youth Champs	28 <sup>th</sup>
Reid Gustavson	Youth Male	World Youth Champs	Broke Canadian Youth Octathlon record
Aaron Dixon	Junior Male	Pan American Jr. Champs	5 <sup>th</sup>

Representing **British Columbia** in the Combined Events were:

NAME	AGE/GENDER	COMPETITION	NOTES
Jenna Nestman	Youth Female	Canadian Legion Champs	4 <sup>th</sup>
Mark Chenery	Youth Male	Canadian Legion Champs	1 <sup>st</sup>
Aaron Dixon	Junior Male	Canadian Jr. Champs, Canada Summer Games	1 <sup>st</sup>
Cloe Hewitt	Senior Female	Canada Summer Games	6 <sup>th</sup>

The other performance of note was Adelle Johns' bronze medal at the Canadian Junior Championships, in this, her first year in the event.

The issue that continues to linger with the Combined Events is the fact that these athletes have difficulty performing at a BC Trials meet only two weeks prior to the Age Group National Championships. The recovery time for the combined events is significant, and 21 days is a more appropriate span between competitions. To remedy this, Ron Parker and Laurier Primeau have agreed to attempt to initiate the first BC Combined Events Jamboree on the July 1<sup>st</sup> weekend.

The concept would have all age groups participate in the BC Championships for their age appropriate combined event (heptathlon, octathlon, decathlon, with the age – specific implements and specifications) on the same weekend. This idea was met with enthusiasm by the Track and Field Committee, as it was noted that removing the combined events from the 'regular' BC Championships would allow for a much easier flow of the meet schedule.

Some logistical issues will require discussion with the Officials Committee. For example, we need to establish whether a female Youth attempting to qualify for both the Legion meet and the Canadian Junior Meet could be afforded two opportunities in the hurdles – one at the Youth specifications and one at the Junior specifications. If this is not possible, alternately the Committee will have to create equivalent standards.

From the Combined Events perspective, this concept has promise for other reasons:

1. It will permit those who may have talent in the power – speed events but who have never attempted the combined events an opportunity to do so without conflicting with their event specialties.

2. It will enhance recovery time for those who do specialize in the power – speed events, as there will be at least one more week between the Jamboree and the first National Age Group Championships.

The best Combined Events meet in British Columbia in terms of participation and competition continues to be the BC High School Heptathlon and Decathlon Championships. It may be prudent to negotiate electric timing and the full use of wind gauges at this meet, as many of our athletes look to this Championships for qualification purposes for standards. Gerry Swan has been generous in both booking the stadium in Abbotsford and permitting the BCSSCCTFA to use the Valley Royals equipment.

At the AGM in January, 2005 it was put forward and passed by the committee to accept the Octathlon as a recognized event for record purposes effective immediately. This was to go to the Board of Directors, but no word came back to the Combined Events representatives on whether this was successfully passed at that level.

Further to this, given that the Canadian Juvenile Legion Championships and World Youth Championships contest an Octathlon, it is time to examine reverting from the Decathlon at the BC Juvenile Championships and toward contesting the event in which these athletes will be competing at the National and International level.

Submitted Friday, January 13, 2006, by Laurier Primeau