

Striders, Trojans, Bruins Masters Track & Field Tri-Club Challenge Press Release



As Masters Track & Field meets finally resume, the Santa Barbara Club West 42nd Masters and Open Track & Field Meet at Westmont College featured a new element with an inaugural Club Challenge between The Striders, Trojans and the newly formed Bruins Masters Track and Field Masters Clubs.

As expected, the Southern California Striders rose to the occasion with by far the largest member turnout as multiple World and National age category record holders powered the team to first place honors and a total of 195 points. The Trojans finished third with 20, while the Bruins with only two of its members competing, finished a surprising second with 30 points.

Striders President Linda Cohn and her multiple World Record holder team-mate Kathy Bergen led the way for their Club with six first place finishes each in their age categories, while Bert Bergen led the way for the Striders men with three firsts.

Reigning African High Jump record holder Said Mourali garnered four second place finishes for the Bruins, while teammate Canadian Masters Pentathlon champion and US Masters Games record holder Monte Gast notched three firsts and a second to help edge the Bruins into second place.

Trojans notched four firsts with Club President Eugene Driver sprinting to a first in the 100 meters as expected and Michael Washington and Freddie Braxton notching firsts in Men's & Women's steeplechase, plus Blanca Sanchez clocking a first place in the 5,000 meters.

Other performances of note in the Master's category aside from the three Clubs in their Tri-Club Challenge were Asian record holder Mahmoud Niroumand of the So Cal Track Club with four firsts and Joy Upshaw of Joy's Jackrabbits with five firsts.

Bruins co-founder Gast along with Striders and Trojans Presidents Cohn and Driver are working with Club West President Bill Rupp to expand the concept to include all Southern California Masters Track Field Clubs next year and beyond to create an official season ending Club Challenge. "This was a lot of fun and having it include all the Southern California Clubs in the future would be great," noted Cohn.