The "Track and Field all-time Performances Homepage"



Introduction

he "Track and Field all-time Performances Homepage" (http://www. alltime-athletics.com) is an athletics results and record website maintained and updated by the Swedish track-and-field expert Peter Larsson. Larsson draws his statistical data from many different sources, mainly from the ATFS annuals from the past years, but for the latest years much information has come from newsletters and the Internet. Today, the Internet has become more and more the main source for the information provided.

Form

The "Track and Field all-time Performances Homepage", which was established in May 1997, has a very simple structure, there is no advertising distracting the user's attention, and the navigation through the website is very easy.

From the entry page one learns at first sight that the information provided is very up-todate, which is perhaps the most important quality criterion for a page like this (Figure 1).

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Figure 1: "Track and Field all-time Performances" entry page

Starting from the website's entry page, the user has basically three search options:

- By clicking either of the two buttons on the left sidebar ("Men" or "Women"), which will lead to a list of either the men's or women's standard and special events.
- 2. By putting in, for example, an athlete's name into the search slot, which will lead users to an overview of the events in which this athlete has competed.
- 3. By clicking the "What's New on this site" button on the right. This will provide a list of the latest entries.

By scrolling down this list, one learns, for example, that on July 18, 2014, a new result was added to the Men's 800m list. By clicking this entry, this list opens, and now one is at a loss, at first, where to look for this new entry. This problem can only be solved by putting in, for example, "07.2014" into the search slot of the browser. By pressing the enter key several times one will get all the new results for July 2014. Although this method is certainly somewhat cumbersome, it is the only way to find the new results added. It would certainly be better to present these results separately, for example at the top of the list.

At the top right of the list of search results there is also an "advanced search" button. By

clicking this button, the advanced search mask will open (Figure 2).

By putting in this mask, for example, an athlete's name combined with a certain place, one will get all results achieved by this athlete at this place (Figure 3).

Contents

Although the way of presenting the search results could be improved as far as visual clarity is concerned, the sheer contents of the "Track and Field all-time Performances Homepage" may be hardly beatable. The lists seem to absolutely complete and up-to-date. For example, the men's marathon list includes 2494 performances down to a time of 2:10:29. As with all other events, too, there is not only a list of legal marks but also a list of non-legal marks: short course, questionable performances, and drug abuse (Figure 4).

Conclusion

The "Track and Field all-time Performances Homepage" is an easy to navigate website that features very complete, up-to-date, and detailed statistical track-and-field information. It is very clearly structured, and there is no information distracting from the page's main purpose:

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Figure 2: Advanced Search mask

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Figure 3: Advanced search results for the race times achieved by the German distance runner Uhlemann in Helsinki

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Figure 4: List of non-legal marks for the men's marathon

to provide the user with up-to-date information about world-best performances in all trackand-field events. Mainly because of the volume and quality of this information, the "Track and Field all-time Performances Homepage" is a must to look at for all people interested in trackand-field results and records.

Reviewed by Jürgen Schiffer