

Jones, Johnson dominate at Bislett meet

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Three women set world seasonal bests at the Bislett Games on Wednesday, but track and field's biggest female star was not among them.

Marion Jones began her quest for the \$1 million Golden League jackpot winning the 200 meters in a time of 22.13 seconds. The American led all the way.

"It was rather chilly, but the conditions were the same for everybody," Jones said. "We just came to Europe after our trials, so I'm satisfied with my win and time. The race for the jackpot started well. It was my first 200 on this track and it was OK."

The Golden League comprises the most important one-day meetings in Oslo, Rome, Monaco, Zurich, Brussels, Berlin and Paris.

A \$1 million jackpot will be shared among those athletes who win Golden

League events in all seven meets.

Jones won both her previous 100-meter races at Bislett, one of the sport's most storied venues where 51 world records have been broken since 1924.

But the 200 is her favorite distance. She had a winning time of 22.10 in the USA Championships last week, .29 off her seasonal best. Last year, she ran a 21.62, the second fastest time in history.

Beverly McDonald of Jamaica was runnerup Wednesday in 22.51 and third went to Zhanna Pintusevich-Block of Ukraine in 22.66.

The women's seasonal bests were set by Gabriela Szabo of Romania in the 3,000 meters, Tanja Damaske of Germany in the javelin and Deon Hemmings of Jamaica in the 400.

Szabo, one of the world's top middle and long-distance runners, was perhaps the most

impressive as she won her race in 8:27.21. It was 11 seconds faster than her previous best this year and also a new Bislett Stadium record.

"It's good, but not the best," Szabo said. "I'm only at the beginning of the year. But I've had a very good training for this season, so my expectations are high."

Zahra Ouaziz of Morocco was second in 8:28.26 and Gete Wami of Ethiopia third in 8:29.83.

Damaske's best throw of 214 feet, 9 1/2 inches was also a new German record. Still, she wasn't very pleased with her series.

"I don't think any of my throws were ideal. I hope they will come in Spain in August," said Damaske, referring to the World Championships in Seville.

The women were competing with the new javelin.

"Today we had a wind which would have been better for the old javelin," Damaske said. "The old jav could sail better."

Hemmings took the 400 in 53.48.

"It was a very good race for me," she said. "I'm not eventired. To beat the world's best time (this year) here was beyond my expectations."

Bernard Barmasai of Kenya clocked 8:06.15 in the 3,000 steeplechase and Kenyan-born Wilson Kipketer won the 800 in 1:43.11 for seasonal bests among the men.

"Not bad, but I have more in me," Barmasai said. "The first pacemaker was good, the second was a problem. He didn't do anything."

Kipketer, who set the 800 world record two years ago during a season when he also won his second world championship gold medal, is trying to come back after a

bout with malaria that hurt him badly in last year's European Championships.

"The king is back, but only almost," Kipketer said. "It's still not perfect. I need to adjust some small things. I still can't train at 100 percent after my illness."

World champion Allen Johnson won the men's 110 meter hurdles in 13.14, missing another world seasonal best by just .03. Fellow American Larry Wade, fastest this season, didn't compete. Johnson's time equaled the Bislett Stadium record he set two years ago.

"The time is OK," Johnson said. "This win shows to people who wrote me off that, after my injury problems, I'm back. I'm not dead. My strongest part was the finish and that's good. I'm happy that I equaled my stadium record. That's something special."

Florian Schwarthoff of Germany finished second in 13.22 and Mark Crear of the United States third in 13.31 in a race marred by two false starts.

Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia, the world's top long-distance runner, failed in an attempt to break the 5,000 record he set last year in Helsinki, Finland. He won the race, which did not count toward the Golden League, in 12:53.92.

It was more than 14 seconds off his world record, but the first sub-13 at Bislett. Said Aoutia of Morocco set the old Bislett mark of 13:00.40 in 1985.

"It was rather cool and windy, so we changed our plan," Gebrselassie said. "The pacemakers were OK. We didn't run fast enough for two or three laps. But it's something special to run a sub-13 as first ever on this track."

Tiger Woods not afraid to adjust swing, change game

LEMONT, Ill. (AP) — Never satisfied, always trying to find another edge, Tiger Woods has never been afraid to change his swing and adjust his game.

"I won the U.S. Amateur and said, 'I want a new game.' I won four events and said, 'I don't like it, I need to improve,'" Woods said Wednesday as he prepared for today's first round of the \$2.5 million Western Open.

"(Coach) Butch Harmon and I tore down my golf swing, rebuilt it and I won two more U.S. Amateurs. And I said, 'You know what? I know I can take it to a new level.' Tear down again and build it back up. And that's what we did. I did it in the



TIGER WOODS
middle of '97."

Woods has won two PGA Tour events this year and has three straight Top 10 finishes entering the Western, an event he won in 1997, when he had four titles, including the Masters.

Woods said tinkering with his swing and alleviating problems in it is just part of golf. But implementing the changes takes time, especially in pressure situations.

"No doubt I have an even more well-rounded game now," he said. "If you look at the way I played in '97, I did win, yes. But where did I finish when I didn't win? I'm finishing higher now when I don't have it, which means my swing is better. My short game is better."

Woods will never forget his walk up the 18th at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club two years ago. The adoring gallery engulfed him, and he's learned to deal with his popularity and the masses that follow him when he plays.

"Overwhelming, no. Distracting, sometimes. Obviously, they're making a lot of noise, and it depends when they make that noise - if it's in your swing or they catch you in a wrong moment, then it's a little tough," he

said.

Woods and Vijay Singh, who's placed in the top five of his last three tournaments, lead the Western field. U.S. Open champion Payne Stewart and money leader David Duval are among those absent. Six of the Top 10 money winners are in the field.

At last year's Western, where Singh finished second, he committed to a cross-handed approach. Seven weeks later, he won the PGA.

"I'd putted cross-handed before, but this was the first time where I said, 'This is it.' And I haven't changed since. This is the longest streak I've had putting cross-handed," he said.

Even though he led after three rounds last year, Singh didn't win the Western because Joe Durant was too good on the final day, shooting a 66 to win by two strokes.

"I didn't lose it. He won it," Singh said.

Sam

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to take any steps to prevent further killings in his neighborhood.

With all the non-stop womanizing, fistfights, chain-smoking, boozing,

womanizing, drug use, profanity and gambling, you would think that Italians are a frightening assortment of degenerates. Not one is portrayed as worthy of respect. And that reportedly 'hot' scene in Plato's Retreat is pathetically unerotic. The film drags interminably for over 2 hours but felt like three. You know how brothers like to give a shout out in a theater?



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1785 E. Sahara Ave. Ste. 337
Las Vegas, Nevada

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