

Johnson, Greene anchor relay teams to gold

SEVILLE, Spain (AP) — Golden Boys Michael Johnson and Maurice Greene put their special golden touches on the final day of the World Championships.

Each anchored a winning United States relay Sunday and entered their names prominently in the championships' record book.

The businesslike Johnson, winner of his fourth straight 400-meter title earlier in world record time, ran a sizzling leg in bringing the U.S. 1,600-meter relay team home in 2:56.45, the year's fastest time and the seventh-best ever. It was the Americans' third consecutive title, each relay anchored by Johnson.

Johnson, who also owns two 200 titles, now has nine gold medals at the World Championships, the most by any athlete — one more than Carl Lewis.

"It's an honor," Johnson, timed in 43.50, said of

breaking Lewis' record. "It's a testament to what I've tried to do in my career: to be consistent, and go into every championships on the top of my game and go in to win."

Jerome Davis gave the Americans the lead from the outset, then Antonio Pettigrew, Angelo Taylor and Johnson continued to widen the advantage as the Americans beat runner-up Poland by nearly 2 1/2 seconds before a capacity crowd of more than 50,000.

The enthusiastic Greene, the 100 and 200 champion, overcame Britain's Dwain Chambers on the final leg of the 400 relay with a sensational 9.12 effort, carrying the Americans to victory at 37.59, the fastest time in the world this year and the fifth-best ever.

"A guy of that caliber with that kind of heart, all you have to do is keep him within striking distance," U.S. men's team coach George Williams

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said. "He just believes in himself."

The Americans' victory was retribution for failing to get through the first rounds at the past two championships because of dropped batons, and they celebrated accordingly.

As Greene crossed the finish line, he raised his left hand signifying No. 1 and flailed his tongue in typical Michael Jordan fashion. He then jumped into the arms of leadoff runner Jon Drummond, who was wearing leopard-spotted spikes.

Then, Greene and Drummond knelt on the track in prayer, as did Tim Montgomery and Brian Lewis. That was followed by

the four teammates stripping to the waist and posing in bodybuilding stances, flexing their muscles, before taking their victory laps with American flags draped over them.

Later, after the victory ceremony, Drummond, Lewis and Montgomery lifted Greene onto their shoulders, and two of them gave him their gold medals so he could pose for pictures with three golds.

"That's three, baby," the smiling Greene said, while holding up three fingers.

The three golds enabled Greene to tie Lewis and East Germany's Marita Koch for the most in one championships. Lewis did it twice, in 1983 and 1987.

"I want to take what Carl Lewis did a step farther," Greene said.

"I've always believed I was one of the best athletes in the world. If you say I'm the man of this meet or one of the top athletes in track and field, I'll love it."

Unlike in the past, the Americans' 400 relay handoffs were sure and swift, and although Greene trailed Chambers slightly at the start of the anchor, he was able to power down the final straight and overtake the young Brit.

"We had a great relay team and the bottom line is that we knew if passed the stick around we would win," Greene said.

The two women's relays also were run in world-leading times. The biggest surprise was the Bahamas' victory in the 400 as the favored U.S. team finished fourth, behind France and Jamaica.

The Americans appeared

doomed from the outset when their first two runners, Cheryl Taplin and Nanceen Perry, left them trailing badly. Inger Miller, the 200 champion, got them back into contention with a solid third leg, but Gail Devers, the 100 hurdles champion, who started in second place, was passed by France's Christine Arron and Jamaica's Peta-Gaye Dowdie.

Meanwhile, the Bahamas' team of Sevatheda Fynes, Chandra Sturup, Pauline Davis and Debbie Ferguson provided the country's first gold of the championships, running 41.92.

In the women's 1,600 relay, the Russian team of Tatyana Chebykina, Svetlana Goncharenko, Olga Kotlyarova and Natalya Nazarova won at 3:21.98, as the Americans' chance for victory vanished when German anchor Grit Breuer clipped the heels of Jearl Miles-Clark.

Neville

(Continued from Page 11)

Barrere on guitar, Sam Clayton on percussion, Bill Payne on the keyboard, Richie Hayward on the drums, Kenny Gradney on bass and Fred Tackett manning the trumpet.

Weaving in and out of a country maze, lacing their music with a strong injection of soul and gospel, Little Feat was a hard act to follow.

I'd define Little Feat's music as "Caribbean country." Their latest CD, "Dixie Chicken," is a pleasant surprise.

On such a high after Little Feat, I welcomed the intermission and readied for the Neville Brothers.

Together as a group since 1978, the Nevilles are unquestionably the first family of New Orleans' soul. The Neville family heritage is a cultural gumbo — African, American, Indian, French, Spanish and Caribbean.

Their music mix is cultural gumbo of the heritages the found in the Neville family — African, American Indian, French, Spanish and Caribbean.

The stage decorated with a "power to the struggle, woodstock, reggae" look, Art, Charles, Aaron, and Cyril took the audience on a journey through the Neville music history, each brother getting highlighted.

At one point, the lights took on a blue hue and Aaron Neville commanded the atmosphere. People hushed neighbors to get a better listen.

The silence spread like the wave in a football field. From there, it was no stopping the legendary family.

For those of us who didn't understand the Neville foundation, they brothers performed "Over Africa" to demonstrate their connection between Africa.

The audience was treated to the next generation of Nevilles who performed trumpet and percussion solos. No doubt the Neville legend will boldly march into the new millennium.

From there, we rode the tide of Neville hits 60s to the present. Showcasing Poppa Funk, Art Neville, the classic soul syncopator, the brothers pumped out island-flavored versions of Sly Stones "Everyday People, and "Different Strokes for Different Folks."

The brothers' rendition of "If I had a hammer" was a wellspring of folk, Cajun and jazz. You can check it out and more of the Nevilles great sound on their new CD, "Valence Street."

All in all the evening's combination of southern rock, blues and funk was simply a successful Little Feat-Neville Brothers '99 tour in progress.

Review

(Continued from Page 10)

eagerly accepts an assignment as an undercover agent to bring down God (Mr. J), the local drug kingpin. But to do so Jeffrey must not only assume a new identity, but he must actually adopt the gangsta lifestyle, and even commit crimes to gain the gang's confidence.

But once he's an accepted insider, Cole is exposed not only to all the viciousness but also to the tender sides of those he is setting up. An immense internal conflict develops for Cole who can no longer see them strictly as criminals.

So, *In Too Deep* is not just another gangsta movie about the harshness of ghetto life. It's a well-written, well-acted graphic but sensitive depiction of a complex array of characters, all flawed, but all, nonetheless, human, despite the rigors of ghetto life. And it keeps you guessing just which side Detective Cole is going to end up on.

Raw, violent but real.

Excellent (3.5 stars) Rated R for very graphic violence, incessant profanity, drug use and sex.

702

(Continued from Page 11)

over a tape was more disappointing.

The trio performed crowd favorites "I Like His Steelo" from their gold debut album "No Doubt" and their most recent hit single, "Where My Girls At?" from their latest self-titled album "702." That was half of the show. They only sang five songs.

The audience had mixed feelings about the performance. Andrew Wilkerson, a structural designer, was very pleased.

"It was excellent and very clean," he said.

Lori Penniston, a network analyst trainer, was disappointed, saying the performance was "like a high school talent show."

After the show, their two hit singles summed up my feelings about their performance, "I Like Your Steelo," but after five songs, I wanted to know "Where My Girls At."

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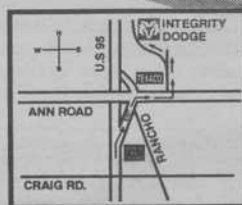
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