

## Press release

### An Electrifying Women's 100 m and the Next Generation in the 400m Hurdles

In the women's events, the 100m will be one of the highlights on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, the next edition of Athletissima. With the Olympic, World and European champions all lining up side by side, the organisers have ensured that this will indeed live up to be an electrifying race.

At Rio, the Jamaican **Elaine Thompson** made a thunderous Olympic debut by winning the 100 and 200m. Her record of 10.70 put her in fourth place of all-time bests. During her only appearance in Lausanne in 2016, she won in 10.78, despite racing 10 minutes earlier after not hearing the starter recall the initial race.

After having only just lost at the Olympic Games, the American **Tori Bowie** had her revenge 1 year later winning the World Championships in London. Her personal best is 10.78. The Dutch sprinter, **Dafne Schippers**, is double European champion over the distance and took bronze in London 2017 before beating everybody over the 200m to take gold. The winner in 10.85 during the first meeting of the Diamond League in 2018, the Ivorian **Marie-Josée Ta Lou**, who also took 2<sup>nd</sup> places in the 100m and 200m at the 2017 World Championships as well as in the 60m at the World Indoor Championships, this winter in Birmingham, will also be at the starting line. A race where we will also be seeing the Swiss **Mujinga Kambundji**, who took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the last World Indoor Championships. It will be the perfect occasion for her to run a sub-11, which is one of her objectives this season. She currently has a personal best of 11.07.

#### Kariem Hussein up against the next generation of competitors

Having had a slow start to the season, the Swiss 400m hurdles specialist will have to outdo himself to taste the same success that he had 12 months ago if you look at whom he will be up against. Among the young and upcoming stars, the Qatari, **Aberrahman Samba** burst onto the scene recently in Doha by recording an impressive time of 47.57. No other athlete has run so fast in the last 8 years. The World Champion **Karsten Warholm** from Norway and the American **Kyron McMaster**, the fastest athlete in 2017, complete the line-up of the next promising generation for the 400m hurdles. The Trinidadian, **Jehue Gordon**, World Champion in 2013 in a time of 47.69 is also confirmed.

#### The men's pole vault in Ouchy

As originally announced, it will be the women's pole vault that will have the honour of being on show at the stadium this year. But the popular men's event will not be missed, because Athletissima will take the event for the first time outside of the stadium. It will take place the day before the meeting at the "Place de la Navigation" in Ouchy. « *We will be using the infrastructure for the Fan Zones already in place to watch the football World Cup matches and as a result, will only need to setup the runway and the vaulting pit. TV coverage will be taken care of by the RTS* » explained Jacky Delapierre. It will be worth coming down to watch and cheer on the jumpers as all the best jumpers will be present. The world record holder **Renaud Lavillenie**, the world champion **Sam Kendricks**, silver medallist at the world championships **Piotr Lisek (Pol)**, world champion in 2015 **Shawnacy Barber** and **Armand Duplantis**, the recent U20 world record holder with 5.93m, have all already confirmed their participation. As well as, **Pawel Wojciechowski (Pol)** world champion in 2011 and the Frenchman, **Kevin Menaldo** silver medalist at the 2014 European Championships.

Athletissima/Press service/22.5.2018



*IAAF Diamond League*

