

Nelson Qualifies for Steeple Finals at Nationals

by Jordan Christiansen, BYU Athletic Communications



Richard Nelson finished in the top ten to advance to Friday's final in the 3,000-meter steeplechase (BYU Photo/Jaren Wilkey)

EUGENE, Ore. (June 9, 2010) - Senior Richard Nelson advanced in the preliminaries of the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the NCAA Outdoor Championships for BYU on Wednesday.

Nelson finished 10th with a time of 8:44.39 to advance to the finals on Friday.

"He learned a lot from running last year," said BYU men's track and field coach Mark Robison. "He didn't try to win it but did just enough to qualify for Friday."

Nelson highlighted a down day for the Cougars on both the men's and women's side. Junior Leif Arrhenius participated in the first of two events the thrower will compete in this weekend, beginning with the discus. Arrhenius fouled on his attempts in the final. Also for the men, Ryan Waite finished the 800 meters in 1:51.29, good for 21st in a field where only the top eight advanced to the finals.

"It just wasn't the best," Robison said. "We were just off a bit all day."

In the women's 800-meter race, BYU's trio of Angela Wagner, Nachele Stewart and Lacey Cramer all came up short in qualifying for the event finals. Wagner placed 10th at 2:06.33, finishing two spots away from an invite to the finals. Stewart finished 18th at 2:09.45 while Cramer ran in a time of 2:15.92 and a 24th finish.

Ada Robinson was the only other Cougar competing on Wednesday; the sophomore failed to reach the opening

height of 1.72 meters.

BYU still has athletes left to compete, including tomorrow's competition that will include Mindy McClurkin in the 200-meter preliminary, Chris Little in the pole vault final, and the Cougar trio of Chris Reno, Sean Richardson and Blaine Baker in the javelin finals.

Men's Event Schedule

Name	Event	Place	Mark
Leif Arrhenius	Discus	N/A	N/A
Ryan Waite	800 Meters	21st	1:51.29
*Richard Nelson	Steeplechase	10th	8:44.39

Name	Event	Prelims	Final
Chris Little	Pole Vault	N/A	Thurs., 4 p.m.
Sean Richardson	Javelin	N/A	Thurs., 5:15 p.m.
Blaine Baker	Javelin	N/A	Thurs., 5:15 p.m.
Chris Reno	Javelin	N/A	Thurs., 5:15 p.m.
Oliver Whaley	Hammer	N/A	Fri., 3:30 p.m.
Leif Arrhenius	Shot Put	N/A	Sat., 9:40 a.m.

Women's Event Schedule

Name	Event	Place	Mark
Angela Wagner	800 Meters	10th	2:06.33
Nachelle Stewart	800 Meters	18th	2:09.45
Lacey Cramer	800 Meters	24th	2:15.92
Ada Robinson	High Jump	N/A	NH

Name	Event	Prelims	Final
Mindy McClurkin	200 Meters	Thurs., 4:30 p.m.	Sat., 10:41 a.m.
Kari Clark	Pole Vault	N/A	Fri., 4 p.m.
Mindy McClurkin	Long Jump	N/A	Sat., 9:30 a.m.

*Qualified for event finals