

USA TRACK & FIELD
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Fred Baer Women's Track & Field Chair

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION
May 24, 2007
Phone: 650-345-4114

\$15,000 At Stake in USATF PA Grand Prix:

ALDRICH RETURNS FROM THE BEACH FOR CLASSIC DUEL WITH ACUFF SUNDAY AT CSM

Erin Aldrich will bring the flavor of the pro beach volleyball tour to Sunday's exciting women's high jump competition at USA Track & Field's Pacific Association Championships Grand Prix meet at College of San Mateo on Sunday (May 27). The season-long PA Grand Prix offers \$15,000 in prize money for registered association members, with double points in awarded at Sunday's championships.

After wrapping up the pro volleyball season in Italy, 2000 Olympian Aldrich has announced her intention to compete for one of the two USA berths in this year's World Championships and the Pan American Games. She has a best of 6 feet, 4 3/4 inches outdoors and 6-5 1/2 indoors.

Sunday's 11:30 a.m. duel with three-time Olympian Amy Acuff will be the first step in that process, which culminates June 20-24 at the USATF (national) championships in Indianapolis. Aldrich finished fourth in the 2004 and 2005 USA Championship meets. That included the alternate position on the 2004 Olympic team. She jumped 6-4 3/4 in 2005, her last regular season of competition, to rank third in the USA for the year.

Aldrich won NCAA outdoor titles in 1998 and 2000 for Texas (after transferring from Arizona, where she was the Pac-10 runner-up and third in the NCAA in 1997 as a freshman – finishing a notch behind Acuff in both meets).

Track competition Sunday begins at 9 a.m. with the 10,000 meters. Field events start at 10 a.m. There will be a 5,000 meter racewalk championship at 10:30 a.m.

ALSO:

--Amy Chow, a 1996 Olympic gymnastics gold medalist, is entered in the women's pole vault.

--American master's record breaker Joy Upshaw Margerum will make her outdoor season debut Sunday. She is entered in the 100, 200, and long jump.

--Scheduled to challenge Olympian Stephanie Brown-Trafton in the women's discus throw are three-time NCAA Division II champion (Cal State Bakersfield) Cecilia Barnes (191-10 best) and two-time Pac-10 champion (Arizona) Rachel Varner (190-0)

--Topping the men's hammer throw entries are the U.S. Army's Michael Mai, who ranks No. 15 on the all-time U.S. list at 244-1, and 2003 Stanford grad Nick Welihozkiy, who threw 228-0 last season.

--Cal grad Tim Bogdanof is entered in both men's hurdle races.

LATE REGISTRATION: Although advance registration for the meet has closed, late registration will be available until 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, for \$30. USATF membership is also required and will be available on site.

###



AMY ACUFF

Event: High Jump

Height: 6-2 **College:** UCLA '97

Coach: Dan Pfaff

Agent: Ray Flynn

Club: Asics

Career Highlights: 5-time U.S. Outdoor champion ('95, '97, '01, '03, '05); Three-time ('96, '00, '04) Olympian; 4th at 2004 Olympic Games; 2004, Three-time U.S. Indoor champ ('01, '04, '07); 3-time NCAA Indoor champion ('94, '95, '97); 2-time NCAA Outdoor champion ('95, '96); 1997 World University Games champion.

Acuff placed fourth in the women's high jump at the 2004 Olympic Games in a dramatic, four-woman competition for the top three spots...In 2005, Acuff won the fifth U.S. outdoor title of her career, coming back from ankle injuries to qualify for the World Outdoor Championships in Helsinki...Acuff enjoyed a strong 2003 season in winning her fourth USA Outdoor title and posting the best clearance by an American since 1998 with a personal best of 2.01 meters/6 feet, 7 inches...though on the national scene for years, Acuff in 2001 established herself among the world elite.

Acuff won her first-ever U.S. title indoors that year and went on to place fourth at the World Indoor Championships, narrowly missing bronze...she was unbeaten outdoors in 2001 on the world stage through the U.S. championships...ironically, Acuff was involved in a car accident three weeks before the 2000 Olympic Trials, on Olympic Boulevard in Los Angeles...Acuff was rear-ended, but did not let that affect her desire to make her second Olympic team...after being treated with acupuncture following the automobile accident Acuff began study at the Academy of Oriental Medicine in Austin, Texas...it's a four-year program toward becoming a doctor of Oriental medicine and a licensed acupuncturist...she moved to Austin in December 2001...

Despite not having a coach while competing in high school, Acuff was named National High School Athlete of the Year in 1993...she taught herself using books and videos, and called herself 'the mail order high jumper.' She ended her prep career holding national high school records for freshman, sophomore, junior and senior levels...country music legend Roy Acuff was a second cousin of her grandfather...

Once at UCLA, Acuff was hampered her first year by lingering ankle injuries that were corrected with surgery in August 1994...she blew out her ankle in the qualifying round at the 1996 Olympics: tore a ligament, collapsed her arch...earned degree in biology at UCLA...

Models in her spare time...has had national exposure in national TV commercials and has appeared in Rolling Stone, Sports Illustrated, Maxim, Vogue, US, the cover of Playboy and other magazines...was on the cover of Vogue in the spring of 2000...Acuff was the organizer of the 2000 Omni Lite Millennium Calendar of Champions, featuring photos of Acuff and 11 other U.S. female track and field stars...half of the proceeds from the calendar were donated to the Florence Griffith-Joyner Foundation...Acuff wed pole vaulter Tye Harvey, the 2001 World Indoor silver medalist, in October of 2004 in Hawaii...surfing is a favorite pastime...official website is www.amy.flynnsports.com.

2007: USA Indoor champion (1.92m/6-3.5)...1st at Millrose Games (1.89m/6-2.25).

2006: USA Outdoor runner-up (1.92m/6-03.50)...USA Indoor champs runner-up (1.89m/6-2.25)...2nd at Reebok Boston Indoor Games (1.92m/6-3.50)...1st at Tyson (1.95m/6-4.75)...3rd at Nike Prefontaine Classic (1.96m/6-05)...5th at Paris (1.94m/6-4.25)...4th at Rome (1.94m/6-4.25)... 3rd at Lausanne (1.96m/6-5)...3rd at Stockholm (1.93m/6-4)...2nd at London (1.94m/6-4.25)...ranked #8 in the world (#2 U.S.) by *T&FN*...best of 1.96m/6-5.

2005: USA Outdoor champion (1.90m/6-02.75)...8th at World Outdoors (1.89m/6-2.75)...1st at Mt. SAC Relay (1.93/6-4)...1st at Oslo (1.93/6-4)...5th at Nike Prefontaine Classic (1.79m/5-10.50)...ranked #2 in the U.S. by *T&FN*...best of 1.93m/6-4.

2004: 4th at Olympic Games (1.99/6-6.25)...3rd at Olympic Trials (1.95m/6-4.75)...USA Indoor champion (1.93m/6-4)...1st at Munich (2.00m/6-6.75)...2nd at Berlin (2.00m/6-6.75)...3rd at London (1.97m/6-5.5)...3rd at Zurich (1.97m/6-5.5)...1st at Drake Relays (1.88m/6-2)...2nd at Mt. Sac Relays (1.92/6-3.5)...3rd at Home Depot (1.92m/6-3.5)...Tied for 1st at Millrose Games (1.92m/6-3.5)...ranked #5 in the world (#1 U.S.) by *T&FN*...best of

2.00m/6-6.75.

2003: USA Outdoor champ (1.95m/6-4.75)...runner-up at USA Indoors (1.94m/6-4.25)... 9th at World Outdoor Champs (1.90m/6-2.75)...10th at World Indoors (1.92m/6-3.50)...4th at Zurich (2.01m/6-7PR, U.S. Leader)...1st at Glasgow (1.98m/6-6)...1st at Millrose Games Indoors (1.95m/6-4.75)...2nd at Nike Prefontaine Classic Outdoor (1.95m/6-4.75)...tied for 1st at U.S. Oracle Open (1.97m/6-5.52nd at Golden Gala (1.97m/6-5.50)...5th at Rieti 2003 (1.92m/6-3.50)...ranked #10 in the world (#1 U.S.) by T&FN...best of 2.01m/6-7.

2002: Runner-up U.S. Indoors (1.90m/6-2.75)...won adidas Boston Indoor Games (1.90m/6-2.75)...won adidas Midwest Track Classic (1.92m/6-3.5)...2nd at Verizon Millrose Games (1.92m/6-3.5)...3rd at U.S. Outdoors (1.90m/6-2.75)...3rd at Oracle U.S. Open (1.90m/6-2.75)...4th at Zagreb GP (1.93m/6-4)... 5th at Paris GL (1.93m/6-4)...7th at Lausanne GP (1.94m/6-4.25)...ranked #2 in U.S by T&FN...best of 1.95m/6-4.75.

2001: Won U.S. Outdoors (1.88m/6-2)...won Prefontaine Classic (1.98m/6-6), Peregrine Systems U.S. Open (1.94m/6-4.25), Osaka GP (1.96m/6-5) won U.S. Indoors (1.92m/6-03.50) and Millrose Games (1.96m/6-5)...4th at World Indoors (1.96m/6-5)...10th at World Outdoors (1.90m/6-2.75)...tied for 3rd at Goodwill Games (1.93m/6-4)...ranked #6 in world (#1 U.S.) by T&FN...best of 1.98m/6-6.

2000: 3rd at Olympic Trials (1.90m/6-2.75)...won jump-off against Tisha Waller at (1.91m/6-3.25)... finished 17th in qualifying at the Olympic Games (1.80m/5-10.75)...ranked #4 in U.S. by T&FN...best of 1.90m/6-2.75.

1999: 2nd at USA Indoors (6-4) and USA Outdoors (6-4)...9th at World Outdoor Champs (6-4)... Prefontaine Grand Prix champion...ranked #2 in U.S. by T&FN... best of 6-4.75.

1998: 2nd at USA Outdoors (6-4.25)...tied for 2nd at Goodwill Games (6-4)...2nd in Edwardsville GP (6-4.25)...3rd at USA Indoors (6-2/75), ranked #5 in world (#2 U.S.) by T&FN. best of 6-4.25.

1997: Won titles at USA Outdoors (6-5), NCAA Indoors (6-3.25), World University Games (6-6) and Pac-10 Champs (6-2.75)...2nd at NCAA Outdoors (6-2.75)...tied for 14th in qualifying at World Champs (6-3.5)...ranked #5 in world (#1 U.S.) by T&FN...best of 6-6.75.

1996: 3rd at Olympic Trials (6-3.5)...tied for 20th in qualifying at Olympic Games (6-0.75)... 3rd at NCAA Indoors (6-0.75)...Won Pac-10 Champs (6-3.25) and NCAA Outdoors (6-4.25)...ranked #3 in U.S. by T&FN...best of 6-4.25.

1995: Won titles at USA Outdoors (6-4.75), NCAA Indoors (6-5.5 Championship record), Pac-10 Champs (6-6 CR) and NCAA Outdoors (6-5 Meet Record)... 2nd at Olympic Festival (6-3.25)... tied for 8th at World Champs (6-4)...8th at World University Games (5-10.75)...named national HS athlete of the year ranked #10 in world (#1 U.S.) by T&FN...best of 6-6.

1994: Won titles at NCAA Indoors (6-3.25) and Pac-10 Champs (6-0.75) and USA Junior (5-8)... 2nd at NCAA Outdoors (6-2.25)...tied for bronze at World Juniors (6-2)...ranked #3 in U.S. by T&FN...best of 6-2.25.

1993: Won titles at Pan Am Juniors (6-0), U.S. Olympic Festival (6-0) National Scholastic Indoor Champs (5-10.75), Texas HS state meet, International Prep Invitational (6-1.5), National Scholastic Champs (6-2), USA Juniors (6-1.5). Also won at Innsbruck in August over elite international field with a High School Record 6-4, defeating the three medalists from the recent World Champs...High School Athlete of the Year...ranked #7 in U.S. by T&FN...best of 6-4.

1992: Won National Scholastic Indoor Champs (5-11)...won Texas HS state meet...no height in qualifying at Olympic Trials...3rd at National Scholastic Champs (5-10)...won USA Juniors (5-9.75)...9th at World Juniors (6-0.75)...best of 6-3.

1991: Won National Scholastic Champs (6-2)...won Texas HS state meet...3rd at USA Juniors (5-11.75) ...best of 6-2.25.

1990: Won Texas HS state meet ...best of 6-0. 1989: Best of 5-8.5.

1988: Best of 5-4

1/19/07

Weight: 145

PR: 2.01m/6-7 (2003)

Born: July 14, 1975, in Port Arthur, Texas

Current Residence: Isleton, Calif.

High School: Calallen HS (Texas) '93

###