

Emma Coburn and Shalaya Kipp qualified for the London Olympics in the women's steeplechase on Friday at the U.S Olympic Trials. Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



Coburn and Kipp Qualify For London Olympics

Release: 06/29/2012 Courtesy: Ron Knabenbauer, Graduate Assistant SID

EUGENE, Ore.—For the second straight time, the University of Colorado will have a student-athlete representing the United States at the Summer Olympics. However this time, there will be two Buffs going to the games.

Seniors **Emma Coburn** and **Shalaya Kipp** punched their tickets to London on Friday night with a first and third place finish in the women's 3,000 meters steeplechase final at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials.

Like she had done many times before, Coburn worked her way to the front position, this time by the third turn of the first lap, and never relinquished the lead. In fact, Coburn finished all alone when she crossed the finish line in nine minutes and 32.78 seconds – over three full seconds ahead of second place Bridget Franek – and had enough time to turn around and give a giant hug to Kipp as she finished the track at Hayward Field moments later.

“Honestly, it went the way we hoped,” said Colorado track and field head coach **Mark Wetmore** of the race.

“They each can now have a roommate that they can get along with over in London.”

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Crested Butte Celebrates

Kipp needed to finish in the top three and pick up the Olympic “A” standard time of 9:43 in order to qualify, and she easily did so, running the 3,000 in 9:35.73.

“When I saw Emma cross at 9:32, I thought, ‘I am going to get it’ (the “A” standard),” said Kipp.

After the starting gun, Kipp found a good position behind Coburn and stayed with the front pack for the entire race, never dropping past seventh place. She turned it on in the last two laps, and it was her and Franek that were the only runners trying to chase down Coburn on the home stretch.

“I just went out and followed ... two spectacular athletes (Coburn and Franek),” Kipp said of her race. “Luckily it worked out for me.”

It has been a whirlwind few months for Kipp, who won the NCAA Championship and Pac-12 Conference Championship in the steeplechase earlier this spring. Now, she can add ‘Olympian’ to her resume.

“I can’t believe that,” said Kipp when she was told that she was going to the Olympics.

Coburn redshirted the 2012 NCAA season after winning the steeplechase events at the 2011 NCAA Championships and the 2010 and 2011 Big 12 Conference Championships. She is also the reigning USATF Steeplechase Champion.

“I had faith in my training and faith in my coaches and that today was going to come together as long as I focused on doing what I know I can do,” Coburn said after the race.

This will be the second straight time that CU will have athletes running in the steeplechase at the Olympics, as Jenny (Barringer) Simpson qualified for the 2008 Beijing Summer Games in the event. Simpson still holds the American record in the steeplechase at 9:12.50.

Coburn and Kipp join two former Buffs who have already qualified for the London Olympics for Team USA: **Kara Goucher** in the women’s marathon and **Dathan Ritzenhein** in the men’s 10,000-meter run.

The steeplechase duo were not the only current student-athletes who competed in Friday’s trials, as senior **Joe Morris** joined former CU sprinter **Jeremy Dodson** in the 200-meter dash preliminary rounds earlier in the day. However, Morris needed a little luck to advance to Saturday’s semifinals in the event.

Morris, who was in the last heat of the qualifying event, needed to run a 20.79 to advance, but instead fell three-hundredths of a second short of that mark with a time of 20.82.

Olympic dream over, right? Not quite yet.

After Morris’ run, it was ruled that Troy Faulkner was disqualified in the previous heat, allowing the Buff to get the last qualifying spot based on time and advance to the semifinals with Dodson.

Dodson earned an automatic qualifying spot after running a 20.28 and finishing second in the first heat.

“It’s nerve-wracking to get that first race over with and shake everything out,” Dodson said. “After that first round, now I feel ready to go.”

Dodson finished with the third quickest time in the preliminary round while Morris finished 21st.

The 200-meter semifinals will be on Saturday at 7 p.m. MT.

In the women’s 1,500 meters semifinals, alums **Jenny (Barringer) Simpson** and **Sara Vaughn** easily qualified for Sunday’s finals after Simpson placed second and Vaughn fifth in their respective heats.

Simpson was in the first heat and quickly jumped out to the front of the pack with Morgan Uceny and Nicole Schappert. After 700 meters, Simpson moved to the second position – behind Uncanny – where she remained for the final two laps. She crossed the finish line with a time of 4:09.12 and a giant grin on her face.

“At this point, I am just trying to focus on me and focus on the training that I have done throughout the season,” said Simpson, who finished second overall. “I am really happy with today. It felt really smooth and really good. Hopefully that is a good indication for Sunday.”

Expect the Simpson-Uceny matchup/rivalry to continue during the finals on Sunday, when they are run at 5:23 p.m. MT.

“I think we are equally strong in similar areas,” said Simpson, when comparing herself to Uceny. “I think we make a really good matchup because we are both good kickers and we are both strong runners and we are both becoming better and better tacticians.”

In Vaughn’s race, she found a good spot in the inside lane and stayed there for all four laps, finishing in 4:10.57 and picking up one of the five automatic qualifiers in the heat. She finished 10th overall.

Volunteer assistant coach **Emily Pearson** began her quest at the U.S. Olympic Trials in the women’s heptathlon earlier in the day and is in 16th place with 3,391 points.

She began the competition with a 17th place finish in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.03 seconds, before picking up a 12th place finish in the high jump with a mark of 1.69 meters (5 feet, 6.5 inches). In the shot put, Pearson had a long throw of 11.76 meters (38 feet, 4 inches) and placed 15th. She had her best finish in the final event of the day, the 200-meter dash, as she ran the distance in 24.53 seconds and picked up 930 points.

The women’s heptathlon concludes on Saturday with the long jump (4 p.m. MT), the javelin throw (5:15 p.m. MT) and the 800-meter run (7:20 p.m. MT).

SHOW MENU





Emma Coburn punches her ticket to London as a U.S. Olympian.

Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



Brooks: Coburn Makes Olympics, Makes Her Town Proud

Release: 06/29/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

CRESTED BUTTE - A month ago, Emma Coburn told me if I couldn't be at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials to watch the finals of the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase, then the next best vantage point would be here at the Brick Oven Pizzeria.

But there was a stipulation: Coburn would have to be competing in the steeple finals, having advanced through the prelims earlier in the week in Eugene, Ore.

She did her part, qualifying for Friday's finals with Monday's fastest time, and since a Thursday-

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Photo Gallery



Coburn, Kipp Olympians

Saturday trip to Crested Butte had been planned for over a month, I would do mine. The Brick Oven Pizzeria was the place to be Friday at 5:45 p.m. MDT.



Patrons of The Brick Oven Pizzeria in Crested Butte settle in for the U.S. Steeplechase finals.

Right about now, you're asking if the Coburns of Crested Butte are shareholders in this particular Elk Ave. eatery. The answer is no, but here's the tie-in: Three of the four Coburn siblings - Gracie, Emma and Willy - worked there. And in time, given that trio's reviews, a job might be waiting for youngest son Joe if he desires.

"If I'm in the finals," Emma told me, "the owner will have a TV showing it. They'll show all of my races they can."

Correct. I counted two TVs inside and one on the spacious patio, which is billed as the "best in town" and made a strong case for itself as such as the Coburn countdown began. There also was a Coburn watch party directly across Elk Ave. at Maxwell's, another of this funky, breathtaking mountain town's hot haunts.

But I went with Emma's recommendation, figuring from a story-telling standpoint, her former employers and a few co-workers had angles not to be found across the street. Good call . . . and that was before the pizza and beverages arrived.

Colleen Farrell, who has tended bar and worked as an out-front manager for 13 years at the bar/restaurant, hired Emma based on the good work that older sister Gracie had done. She figured it must run in the family - and she was right.

"Yeah, it had a lot to do with Gracie," Farrell said. "She was such a great worker, so (when Emma applied) I certainly said yes. Then Emma turned out to be just a delight; both of them were really fun."

Knowing both were runners, the "kitchen boys" - as Farrell described them - routinely challenged the Coburn sisters to races in the alley between the Brick Oven Pizzeria's old building and its spacious new digs next door.

"Neither one of (the Coburn sisters) were really sprinters," Farrell remembered with a laugh, "so sometimes the kitchen guys got lucky . . . but they wouldn't want to line up with Emma now in her event."

The restaurant is co-owned by Brian Schneider and Dan Loftus, who moved to Colorado from New York in 1996. Loftus also recalled Emma's work ethic and poise when "things kind of blew up out on the patio . . . when everyone else was getting frazzled - 'Oh, I've got too many tables, the credit card machine just broke, the pizza got burned, whatever . . .' - she stayed super cool. She's just real smart and put together."

Added Farrell: "She had an amazing work ethic. She was good with customers and made people happy. She did her job and never complained."

Crested Butte boasts a list of Winter Olympians, but if the town has produced a Summer Olympian, no one I talked to could identify him/her. No wonder Coburn's shot late Friday afternoon at making Team USA for next

month's London Olympics had the Butte buzzing.

"It's such a small town that everyone follows everyone's athletic endeavors," Loftus said. "It's not every day when you have someone have a chance to go to the Olympics . . . everyone is on the bandwagon for Emma."



Emma Coburn gets set to embrace fellow teammate and Olympian Shalaya Kipp.

In Monday's two qualifying heats, Coburn's time of 9:43.19 was the afternoon's fastest and a second-plus ahead of Nike's Bridget Franek (9:44.05). Coburn's University of Colorado teammate, Shalaya Kipp, ran second behind Coburn in their heat, finishing at 9:46.17, the day's fifth-fastest time.

Coburn and Kipp, respectively, were the 2011 and 2012 NCAA steeplechase champions, and with Jenny Barringer (now Simpson) winning the event in 2006, 2008 and 2009, CU could be calling itself "Steeplechase U."

Simpson's 9:12.50, run in 2008, is the American women's record, and loquacious Buffs track coach Mark Wetmore often finds himself close to speechless about that race. He has trouble believing anyone can beat that time. A couple of years ago when I was interviewing him for a story on Coburn, Wetmore had this to say about her: "She's going to be one of the greatest collegiate steeplechasers ever, we feel."

(An aside: Wetmore celebrated a birthday Friday in Eugene by rejoicing with another pair of CU Olympians. His list grows. I'm guessing he treated himself to a nice slice of key lime pie.)

At about 5:40 p.m. Friday, Loftus and most of the kitchen staff at the Brick Oven Pizzeria began milling around the flat screen TV mounted above the bar's left flank, or almost directly above the swinging kitchen doors that never seemed to stay closed for more than a second or two.

"Has it started yet?"

"Five minutes. Stay cool. There's Emma now."

When NBC's cameras panned the 3k steeplechase field and focused on Coburn, a cheer erupted. When Coburn broke from the pack almost immediately and eventually began building a 10-, then 15-, then 20-yard lead, the cheers gave way to chants of "Em-ma, Em-ma." Coburn had dominated the race.

She crossed the finish line in 9:32.78. Franek was second at 9:35.62, Kipp was third at 9:35.73. Two Buffs are headed for London and their sport's grandest stage as first-time Olympians. "Steeplechase U." indeed.

Loftus, Farrell and the rest of the Brick Oven Pizzeria crew aren't sure when they'll see Coburn again. The next month will be a blur for her, but Farrell said when Emma comes home, "She usually stops by here if she can. Everybody follows her here; everybody is really proud of her. It's good stuff."

About two hours after the race, after a thunderstorm had passed through and the pizza had disappeared, a wait staffer hurried by and announced, "Go outside right now, there's a crazy double rainbow . . . you gotta see it."

The town's favorite daughter is an Olympian, now officially in pursuit of gold, and the heavens appeared to be acknowledging it. Not a bad summer afternoon to be in Crested Butte.

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CU's Emma Coburn, Shalaya Kipp make Olympic team in steeplechase

By John Meyer The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

EUGENE, Ore. — It took Emma Coburn a fraction under nine minutes and 33 seconds to win the steeplechase Friday at the U.S. Olympic trials. It took more than 30 minutes for the significance of the achievement to sink in.

There wasn't time for an emotional release during her victory lap at historic Hayward Field or the medals ceremony that followed, and then there was a news conference to attend. But after that, the tears flowed, and it took 20 seconds for her to compose herself.

"I'm sorry, it just hit me now," said Coburn, a Colorado Buff from Crested Butte. "I'm so sorry, it didn't even sink in until just this moment."

Coburn was overjoyed for a friend as well as for herself. Her CU teammate, Shalaya Kipp, also made the team by finishing third.

"I know I'm a hysterical mess, but this is big for us," said Coburn, dabbing away tears that streaked her dark eye shadow. "It's our dreams. It's why we get up every day and run. It's why we sweat and cry and work our (rears) off in practice. This is our dream, and to have it come true is just really special. To get to do it with my teammate, who's now one of my best friends, and to have two coaches who I really love and respect, I think we both feel really blessed right now."

"It's all just hitting me that we're Olympians, and it feels really special."

Coburn and Kipp did it together, but they were in much different positions going into the race. Coburn made the world championships team last year and was the clear favorite Friday, winning easily in 9:32:78. She redshirted the indoor and outdoor track seasons at CU to focus on the trials and London.

Kipp ran for CU this spring — winning the NCAA steeplechase title — but she came here without the Olympic A standard qualifying time. To accompany Coburn to London, she had to finish in the top three and break 9:43. She ran 9:35.73 and fell to the track, a look of shock on her face.

"I was aware of the time the last 100 meters," Kipp said. "I tried just to be competitive in that top three, I was sprinting, and I was just looking at the clock every second."

Before the race the qualifying time caused plenty of stress.

"Honestly I wasn't that sure if I was going to make it or not," said Kipp, who is from Salt Lake City. "I'm still enrolled in summer school. That's supposed to start in a week. I think I'm going to have to rearrange my academic schedule now."

Like Coburn, Kipp was eager to credit CU head coach Mark Wetmore and associate head coach Heather Burroughs.

"Back in December coach Wetmore told me, 'It's not unrealistic for you to make an Olympic team this next summer,'" Kipp said. "It's kind of stuck with me, and every day I've thought about it during training. Now that it's sinking in, it feels really good."

There also was pressure on Coburn in a 3,000-meter race with 35 barriers — each 30 inches high — to clear.

"Although I was the favorite, there's so many what-ifs," Coburn said. "You still have to go out there and run for nine and a half minutes hard if you want to get that dream. Just because I was expected to win, it didn't mean I was in. I'm going to London, and I'm an Olympian. That's something I'm so proud of."

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Jenny Simpson finishes second in 1,500 semifinal at Olympic Trials

By John Meyer The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

EUGENE, Ore. — Whenever Jenny Simpson is introduced before a race, the announcer describes her as "world champion," a title she won in the 1,500 meters last summer in Daegu, South Korea.

And every time she hears the national anthem, it reminds her of the podium ceremony there last August.

"The hardest thing is hearing the national anthem at every event," Simpson said. "You can kind of fade out, like, 'World champ, that was a year ago.' But every time I hear the national anthem, I almost try to distract myself, because that has a whole new meaning once you've been on the top of the podium."

The former University of Colorado star finished second Friday in her semifinal heat at the U.S. Olympic trials with a time of 4 minutes, 9.12 seconds, behind Morgan Uceny of Mammoth Lakes, Calif. Uceny (4:08.9), won the prestigious Diamond League title last year.

"I really felt like the race was going to go out a little more honest pace, so when it did, I was happy," Simpson said. "Just stuck on Morgan — she's an incredible pace person and smooth runner. She never does anything crazy or erratic."

Both women will likely be medal contenders at the Olympics.

"One of the great things about both Morgan's and my story is that, in different ways, we've reached the pinnacle of our sport but we've definitely earned our stripes along the way," Simpson said.

"Neither one of us are a flash in the pan. She's been around a long time, I've been around a long time, and I think we have a lot of mutual respect for each other."

Oliver safely through. Denver East grad David Oliver won his heat of the 110-meter hurdles in 13.32 seconds. The semifinals and finals will be held Saturday.

"Pretty good," said Oliver, the American-record holder and Olympic bronze medalist. "It's just the first round, nothing really to talk about."

DeLoach leads long jumpers. Janay DeLoach, a former CSU athlete who lives in Fort Collins, had the best mark in long jump qualifying with a leap of 23 feet, 5½ inches. The finals will be held Sunday.

Tiebreaker update. The women involved in the third-place tie in the 100 meters — training partners Allyson Felix and Jeneba Tarmoh — won their semifinal heats of the 200 and rolled through the media mixed zone without pausing for interviews. In both cases their coach, Bobby Kersee, walked them through the media tent like a bodyguard. Felix did offer that she was "feeling good."

Still no indication whether they will have a runoff to decide who takes the third spot on Team USA in the 100, and if there is one, where and when it might be.

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ESPN

Friday, June 29, 2012

Updated: June 30, 9:32 PM ET

Collegians making impact in Eugene

By Luke Cyphers

EUGENE, Ore. -- Act like you haven't been there before.

That's what Emma Coburn and Shalaya Kipp did at the U.S. Olympic trials on Friday night, and it worked out fine.

Coburn and Kipp, both students at the University of Colorado, took first and third, respectively, in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, beating a field of pros for a trip to London and headlining what turned out to be a banner day for collegians here.

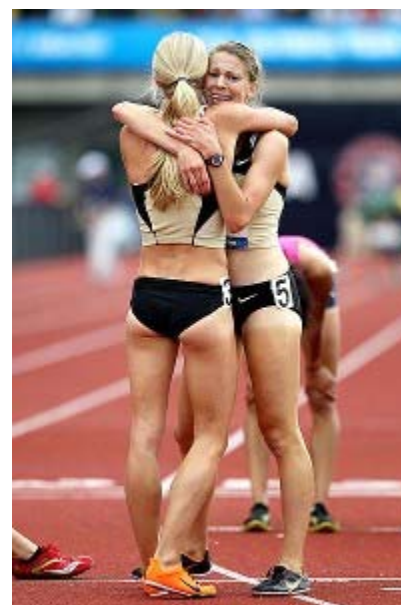
And while the pair of college kids ran like cold, calculating veterans to make the U.S. team, they weren't afraid to show a little emotion after punching tickets to the Olympics. Make that a lot of emotion. Kipp, a 22-year-old redshirt junior who grew up ski racing in Utah, wore a face of utter disbelief as she crossed the line in 9:35.73, 0.11 seconds behind runner-up Bridget Franek, seven seconds under the Olympic qualifying standard and more than seven seconds faster than her previous PR.

"Honestly, I wasn't that sure I was going to make [the team] or not," Kipp said, smiling through misty eyes. "I'm still enrolled in summer school that's supposed to get started in a week. I might have to reevaluate my schedule now."

But it was the usually cool Coburn, the defending U.S. champion in the event, whose tears could have filled one of the Hayward Field water jumps as she spoke to a small gaggle of reporters after the race.

"I'm so sorry," she said between sobs. "We were so rushed in our victory lap, and it didn't even sink in until this moment. I know I'm a hysterical mess, but this is why we get up every day and run, and it's why we sweat and cry and work our asses off in practice. This is our dream, and to have it come true, it's just really special. And to do it with my teammate who's now one of my best friends ... I think we both feel really blessed right now. It's all just hitting me that we're Olympians, and it feels really special."

Though Coburn led from wire to wire in the race and finished in 9:32.78 -- and the outcome for her was never in doubt -- no one begrudged her a good cry. She took a big gamble to be here. After winning the national title and claiming a spot on the U.S. world championship team at Daegu last summer, the 22-year-old from tiny Crested Butte, Colo., decided to redshirt at CU -- forgoing all NCAA competition in the outdoor season -- so she could train full-time for the Olympics. She changed her major to marketing and real estate and was able to stretch out her coursework to allow more concentration on training, with only a limited race schedule.



Emma Coburn, left, and Colorado teammate Shalaya Kipp finished first and third, respectively, in the 3,000 steeplechase Friday to earn spot on U.S. Olympic team.

The gamble clearly paid off, as she was by far the class of the field. When asked if she'd turn pro, she hesitated, saying she thought she owed it to her school, coaches and teammates to come back and compete in the NAAs. But Coburn's move has already helped the Buffs because it helped Kipp, who benefitted from taking on a new role. "I couldn't rely on Emma anymore," Kipp said.

Thrust to the fore as a team leader, she won an NCAA title this spring in the steeple, and that experience steeled her for the trials. "The NCAA season was definitely steps I needed to take," Kipp said. "I needed to get used to pressure on me going into races, and I needed to win some races. Having a successful collegiate season was necessary."

The educational system has benefitted other U.S. events in Eugene. Coburn is the second student to win an event here, following the 27-foot, 4-inch footstep of Texas long jumper Marquise Goodwin, who earned his London trip earlier in the week.

In all, eight collegians have qualified for London. One of them was Tia Brooks, a shot-putter from Oklahoma who placed third behind medal favorite Jillian Camarena-Williams and Michelle Carter on Friday. She's a proven winner, holding the NCAA indoor and outdoor titles, but Brooks admitted to being a bit overwhelmed during Thursday's qualifying round.

"I'm really young and this is my first Olympic trials, and I was really nervous," she said. But she settled in early Friday, heaving the iron ball 60 feet, 2 inches on her second throw, a toss that held up for third place behind Camarena's 62-10¼ and Carter's 60-11¼.

College athletes always make an impact on Olympic teams. Jeremy Wariner came out of his Baylor season in 2004 to win gold in the 400 meters, and a pair of college kids, Florida's Tony McQuay and USC's Bryshon Nellum, beat Wariner for spots on the 2012 team this week.

And they'll continue to be heard from through the end of the trials. No fewer than 20 college athletes are competing in finals this weekend, including some of the most competitive events. Three college runners made it through to the women's 400 hurdles finals, while two others qualified for the stacked women's 200 final, a field that includes the likes of Allyson Felix, Carmelita Jeter and Sanya Richards-Ross.

LSU national champ Kimberlyn Duncan owns the second-fastest time this season, a 20.19 mark. "I'm not intimidated," Duncan said.

Clearly, she's not alone among her peers. It may be summer vacation, but the college kids are doing work.

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(Marcio Jose Sanchez | The Associated Press) Skyline High School graduate Shalaya Kipp, center, celebrates after realizing she will advance to the Olympics in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

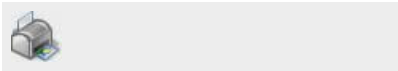
Salt Lake City native Shalaya Kipp qualifies for Olympic steeplechase

Track and field » Kipp finishes 3rd; BYU's Batty reaches men's 1,500 final.

By Michael C. Lewis | The Salt Lake Tribune
First Published Jun 29 2012 06:29 pm • Last Updated Jun 30 2012 12:06 am

Shalaya Kipp said recently that she was still amazed that she had put herself into position to earn a place at the London Olympics.

Her head really must be spinning, now.



Photos



The Skyline High School grad from Salt Lake City made the U.S. Olympic Team for London on Friday by finishing third in the 3,000-meter women's steeplechase at the track and field trials in Eugene, Ore. Kipp clocked a personal-best 9 minutes and 35.73 seconds to beat the qualifying standard and claim the final spot on the team in her event.

"I wasn't sure if I was going to make it or not," she said. "I have summer school starting in a week."

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Then again, maybe not.

Kipp will be joining college teammate and training partner Emma Coburn — both run at Colorado — on the Olympic team, a prospect Kipp acknowledged "would be pretty cool." The NCAA champion last year, Coburn won the event easily in 9:32.78 after redshirting this past college track season to be prepared for it, followed by Bridget Franek in 9:35.62.

"When I saw Emma cross at 9:32 I think it was, I thought, 'I am going to get it,' " said Kipp, who did not redshirt the college track season and competed instead, because she said she "needed to get used to the pressure."

Kipp might have some local company in London, too.

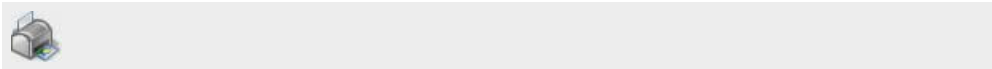
Sandy's Miles Batty, a Jordan High School graduate who starred at Brigham Young University, reached the final of the men's 1,500 on Sunday.

Batty qualified by finishing fifth in his semifinal heat on Friday, clocking 3:42.33. To join Kipp at the Olympics, he will have to finish in the top three in the final and run faster than the qualifying standard of 3:35.5.

story continues below



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S.L. native Shalaya Kipp makes Olympics

By [Doug Robinson](#), Deseret News

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Published: Friday, June 29 2012 9:46 p.m. MDT

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Bridget Franek, right, and Shalaya Kipp make the water jump in the women's 3000 meter steeplechase final at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials Friday, June 29, 2012, in Eugene, Ore. Franek finished second and Kipp finished third. (AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

Charlie Riedel, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Summary

Shalaya Kipp, a Salt Lake native, became the first Utahn to make the U.S. Olympic track and field team by placing third in the 3,000-meter steeplechase Friday at the Olympic trials in Eugene, Ore.

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Shalaya Kipp, a Salt Lake native, became the first Utahn to make the U.S. Olympic track and field team by placing third in the 3,000-meter steeplechase Friday at the Olympic trials in Eugene, Ore.

Kipp, a junior at the University of Colorado and a graduate of Skyline High, made the team by running the race of her life.

Entering the Olympic trials, her best time was the 9:43.09 she produced at the Cardinal Invitational on April 29 — a time that left her nine-hundredths of a

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second from meeting the Olympic qualifying standard. In winning the NCAA championships a couple of weeks ago, she finished in 9:49.91, still short of the Olympic A standard.

That meant Kipp not only faced the stress of having to place in the top three at the trials to punch her ticket to the London Olympics, she also had to achieve an Olympic qualifying time. She clocked 9:35.73, finishing behind Colorado teammate Emma Coburn (9:32.78) and Bridget Franek (9:35.61).

Kipp was battling Franek for second place when she made an awkward two-footed landing on the final water jump, allowing Franek to open a lead. Kipp rallied late in the race and almost caught Franek at the finish line.

Like Kipp, Coburn is a University of Colorado student who redshirted this spring. She owns the sixth-fastest time in the world this year, 9:25.28.

Of the 10 athletes with Utah connections who have competed in the trials, Kipp is the only one to make the team, although Miles Batty, a graduate of BYU and Jordan High, still has a chance. Batty, the college record holder for the indoor mile and the 2011 NCAA indoor champion, had the fifth fastest time in Friday's semifinals. He will compete in the finals on Sunday.

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From David Monti
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EUGENE, Ore. (29-Jun) -- Only six women have ever made USA Olympic steeplechase teams, and after today's final at [the Olympic Trials](#) here today half of them have come from the [University of Colorado](#) under the coaching of Mark Wetmore.

Emma Coburn, the redshirt Colorado senior from Crested [Butte](#) who had run 15 seconds faster than any other American woman this season, breezed to her second national consecutive title and her first [Olympic team](#) berth. Moving to the lead from the gun, Coburn was never seriously challenged, crossing the finish line at Hayward Field in 9:32.78.

Facing reporters in the mixed zone after her post-race press conference, Coburn tried to speak, but suddenly stopped, covering her face with her hands as tears of joy started to flow. Wiping her eyes she said, "It didn't sink in until this moment. This is our dream and it came true."

Coburn, 21, acted as a pacemaker of sorts for her teammate, NCAA champion Shalaya Kipp, who needed to achieve the IAAF "A" standard of 9:43.00 in today's race in order to make the team. Kipp, also 21, from Salt [Lake City](#), stayed within the top five throughout the race, then made a determined run for the podium in the final lap, nearly catching the more experienced Bridget Franek in the final 200 meters. Kipp said she was primarily running for place, even though she needed the "A" standard.

"I wasn't aware of the time until the last 100 meters," she explained. "(But), when I was

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sprinting, I was looking at the clock every second."

Kipp almost caught Franek, who finished second in 9:35.62 to Kipp's personal best 9:35.73. "A" standards in hand, both women made the team.

"I wasn't sure if I would make it or not," Kipp revealed later.

Jenny Barringer (now Simpson), also a University of Colorado product, finished third at these Trials in 2008 here, setting the stage for Coburn and Kipp to make the team today.

"Emma followed Jenny; I followed Emma," Kipp marveled.



With a world class personal best of 9:25.28 and the looks of a fashion model, Coburn said that while she had considered turning professional, she planned to use up her NCAA eligibility next season out of a sense of duty to her school and coach Wetmore.

"It's a discussion I have had several times," Coburn told reporters. "But I'm very comfortable being at the University of Colorado. I feel like I owe it to my school to finish out my eligibility."

As for Franek, 24, also a first-time Olympian, getting second place on her home track in Eugene was particularly sweet, considering she left her family in Ohio some two years ago to come here and train with the Oregon Track Club Elite under coach Mark Rowland.

"I don't think it's fully sunk in that I've made the Olympic team going to London," the former Penn State Nittany Lion said. She continued: "I definitely gave more today than I have in any race this season."

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Tactical Races For 1500M Semi-Finals

Only one "A" standard woman, Alice Schmidt, was eliminated in today's semi-finals of the 1500m. She was edged by Sarah Bowman in the second heat to finish sixth, and her mark of 4:10.94 did not allow her to advance on time. Shannon Rowbury, the 2009 world championships bronze medalist (4:09.96), and Gabriele Anderson (4:10.08), a cancer survivor, finished 1-2 to lead that heat. Anderson still needs the "A" standard of 4:06.00 if she hopes to make the team. Oregon's Jordan Hasay had an off day, finishing 11th.

In the first heat, the two best athletes --2011 Diamond League champion Morgan Uceny and 2011 world champion Jenny Simpson-- ran from the front to avoid trouble, finishing 1-2 in 4:08.90 and 4:09.12, respectively. Anna Pierce, Uceny's Mammoth Track Club training partner, finished fourth and also advanced.

The first of the men's semi-finals was a painfully slow affair until the last lap when Will Leer unleashed a 51.99-second circuit to clinch the win in 3:51.27. Andrew Wheating, the former Oregon Duck, took second and David Torrence third. Russell Brown, Wheating's training partner who had achieved the Olympic "A" standard in Doha last May, limped to the finish in last place, his left Achilles braced with black supportive tape. Leer was pleased.

"It was a very successful day and I'm definitely happy with the outcome," said Leer, who still needs the "A" standard of 3:35.50 in order to claim an Olympic team berth in the final.

The second heat went faster, led by Matthew Centrowitz and Leo Manzano who were both timed in 3:41.90. Robby Andrews, who was running second to last just a few meters before the bell, ran 53.64 the final lap to finish third and advance. Oklahoma State's German Fernandez finished 11th and was eliminated.

There are no middle or long distance events on the penultimate day of these Trials tomorrow, but the 1500m finals for both men and women will be held on Sunday.



PHOTO: Shalaya Kipp, Bridget Franek and Emma Coburn who will represent the United States in the 3000m steeplechase at the 2012 London Olympics (photo by David Monti for Race Results Weekly).



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Pifer misses out on making Olympic finals

By [DAN TOMLIN](#)

2012-06-29 21:01:36



EUGENE, Ore. — Sitting and waiting for the second semifinal, Stephen Pifer knew what he had to do.

The first semifinal was annoyingly slow, with the winning time running a pedestrian 3 minutes, 51 seconds. That meant, as long as the second heat was quick enough, seven of the 12 runners would make it to Sunday's final.

Unfortunately for Pifer, he finished last in his heat, and ironically still faster than the winner of the first heat.

Pifer made sure the race was honest though, getting out front and challenging the pace throughout. However, it was that same aggression that made the former Edwardsville state champ fade at the end.

"It was just poor racing on my part," Pifer said. "I needed to keep saving gears and saving gears, and I kept trying to fight Leo (Manzano) to get to the front and I just needed to chill out and let him do it if he wanted to lead. But I just kept pushing.

"It was my own fault."

Manzano finished second in the heat as the Olympian ran 3:41.90, the same time as World Championships bronze medalist Matt Centrowitz.

Pifer led for part of the race, and then conceded to Manzano with 600 meters to go. As they came around to the bell, Pifer was visibly trying to psych himself up and prepare for the upcoming kick.

When they hit the backstretch, things started to fall apart. Five runners went past Pifer in a group, then two more on the curve, and when he came to the finish line, disappointment lined Pifer's face.

"I kept thinking 'I got this, I got this,' but then those five guys went around me and my confidence just went down," Pifer said. "It's about controlling the emotions and I didn't do that well today."

Pifer, running for the company he works for, Newton Running, will continue training and racing at an elite level, trying to win national championships and get on U.S. teams.

"It's about getting out here and having fun and competing," said Pifer, who was a long shot for London. "I wanted to come in here and run hard, and you gotta live with the results. Some days you're on, some days you're off, and today wasn't my day."

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