NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Nora Courtney - Customer Service Co-ordinator

Lynx President, Doug DeAngelis, had a vision when he started Lynx back in 1992; to make available to everyone the technology that is used at the highest levels. This summer, Lynx truly came full circle as the provider of results technology to schools across world, and to the Olympic Trials in many sports across many nations.

Lynx showcased a number of new products at the US Track and Field Trials in Sacramento. Read on for details of the latest innovations that you can build on to your Lynx system. You already have the basis of an Olympic-caliber results production and distribution system.

Nora

OLYMPIC TRIALS 2000 IN ROWING, CYCLING *(TRACK & FIELD ON CENTER PAGES)*

Lynx was on hand for the Rowing Trials in Camden, NJ in June.

The Lynx operators at the US Olympic Rowing Trials were joined by the newest member of the Event Services team, Lucia Wade. Wade, a former collegiate rower, joins Lynx as an Event Staffer and Technical Writer and adds a new area of sporting experience to the company.

Event management and numerous athletes expressed their pleasure at knowing that the Lynx crew and technology were in place for this high-profile and high-stakes event. One group of athletes told our staff that they were confident of fair and accurate results, even in the closest of races, after seeing the finish line images posted on the results board.

Five full days of competition spilled over

Photo: Don Smith and Aquil Abdullah competing in the final race of the Men's Single Sculls.

into a sixth as the final spot on the Olympic team needed to be determined in an extra tie-breaking race on the Monday.

Wade reported, "The lead switched between veteran rower Don Smith and the young Aquil Abdullah for four minutes of racing. As the athletes strained toward the finish line, Don Smith captured the lead and did not let it go. Don Smith will return to the Olympics for a second time, and…we have not seen the last of Aquil Abdullah."

No news is good news at the US Olympic Cycling Trials

USCF Fred Patton of Phoenix Sports Technologies relayed to Lynx that, "The news from the Cycling Olympic Trials is that there was really no news! Lynx is so readily accepted at all levels of Cycling competition that the road and track events in Jackson, MS and Frisco, TX respectively went off without further comment."

You can check out results and FinishLynx images on the official results site of the United States Cycling Federation at www.veloresults.com.

COMPLETING THE CIRCLE

George Mangicaro and his crew make the most of Lynx at their State Meet.

Not six weeks before the Olympic Trials in Sacramento, the New York High School Outdoor State Championships were held in Liverpool, NY. Using components of the same technology that was used at the

Trials, a local high school staged an event of the highest quality.

In a small-scale prequel to what would occur in California, the operators from Liverpool and neighboring Cicero North High Schools used their recently purchased two camera system to produce fast, accurate results, and drive their scoreboards. All the while keeping the crowd in on the action, without any extra effort on the part of the Lynx operators.

ON THE TOUR

Another success for Lynx and Matsport at the Tour de France.

For the third consecutive year, Matsport timed the Tour de France using FinishLynx. After last year's success, organizers decided to go further with the capabilities of the Lynx technology in the year 2000. Gérald Chalamet of Matsport reports:

"We timed the ascent for each of the 180 cyclists on the famous hills of this year's Tour. Utilizing the flexibility of FinishLynx, we installed a camera on the roof of two of our cars and placed one at the bottom and the second at top of every hill. We proved the first to the top is not always the one who has the fastest climb."

After the success of this innovation, organizers are now considering using the same set up for the intermediate sprints in next year's race.

The Next Generation

The 2000 Olympic Trials in Track and Field saw the major event debut of several new Lynx products: Wireless ReacTime, AirLynx, SeriaLynx, VCPD (Virtual Com Port Driver), and the incredibly powerful multi-porting version of FieldLynx 1.2. Other Lynx products also contributed to the results production package: FinishLynx 3.0, ResulTV, Lynx infield displays and CyberScoreboard.

The total package was so powerful that Tony Basile, the Chief Information Officer for the United States Olympic Committee, said after the Trials,

"I was totally impressed. The way official results appeared on the scoreboard seconds after the end of a race was impressive; the way spectators were able to follow the progress of the field events on the infield displays was impressive; the way field event rankings were sent wirelessly to the stadium scoreboard between rounds was impressive. I don't know how else to say it...frankly, the Lynx technology was simply impressive."

FinishLynx

FinishLynx was, of course, at the heart of the Track competition. Many races were decided by margins that would have eluded other systems. However, the real breakthrough for FinishLynx was the whole new level of connectivity that was made possible by VCPD and SeriaLynx. These same two products also facilitated the effortless link up between FinishLynx and the wireless ReacTime technology.

With VCPD, the FinishLynx computer could communicate with a practically unlimited number of serial devices, over both wired and wireless connections. FinishLynx was receiving data from ReacTime and wind gauges, and sending data to individually addressable scoreboards, to the announcers booth, and to the Internet.

One benefit of this was that the Lynx display clocks at the corners of the stadium were showing running times and the huge stadium scoreboards - running ResulTV - were displaying results at the same time and without any operator intervention.

ReacTime

No wires! Eight lanes without wires and with powerful high-quality audio communication from the starter. Athletes and starters alike both loved the new levels of clarity for the starter's commands, and the security of accurate false-start detection.

There has never been a false-start detection and analysis system that was so easy to set up, so easy to use, and so affordable. In less time than it took the men to run the 400m, the data of the race start was stored on the ReacTime computer, communicated over the wireless SeriaLynx network to the FinishLynx computer, and sent to the internet for the world to see. And the volunteers on the block team loved not having to negotiate the handling of a hundred meters of mission-critical spaghetti as they cleared the track for the finish of the race.

(One Starter liked the system so much that he bought his own to use at other competitions!)

Prior to the first day's competition, Lynx set-up a training system at the 100 meter start. It wasn't long before a crowd of interested athletes and coaches had gathered around to watch the system in operation.

Over the next few hours, the digitized voice of the on-board Virtual Starter in the Block Sensor propelled many of the world's top sprinters down the track – and brought appreciative comments from coaches and athletes alike about how the unit could become an integral part of their training schedule.

FieldLynx

As the athletes, spectators, and meet announcers followed the progress of the field events on the Lynx infield displays and the huge stadium scoreboards, some of them may have wondered how difficult the system was to use. It is perhaps easy to understand this concern as they watched FieldLynx handle last minute flight changes, five-alive groupings, jump-offs, Metric-English measurement system conversions, information display on scoreboards, and wireless data transfers to the administration booth.

However, the truth is this: all of the FieldLynx units were operated by volunteers who had never touched one until the day before competition started. This adds new emphasis to Tony Basile's comment: *"The way spectators were able to follow the progress of the field events on the infield displays was impressive."*

The new multi-porting abilities of FieldLynx, coupled with the wireless connectivity of the AirLynx network made instant communication with the database, wind gauges and scoreboards possible.

VCPD-SeriaLynx-AirLynx

One key to the rapidity with which results were generated and shared was a consequence of the implementation of a totally new kind of data network that distributed information between components.

To think about how this new Lynx

> ## "...the Lynx technology was simply impressive."
> -Tony Basile, Chief Information Officer for the US Olympic Committee

technology works, consider what happens when you make a telephone call: you are connected to another *specific* telephone either over a cabled or over a wireless connection. With SeriaLynx there are no telephones involved, but thanks to this Lynx technology, serial data devices are now as uniquely addressable, and as easily accessible as telephones.

This instant wired, or wireless, connection is easy with VCPD (Virtual Com Port Driver) running on the computers, and with AirLynx units attached to peripheral devices like scoreboards, wind-gauges, and even Chyron graphics generators in the Television Broadcast facilities.

ResulTV-CyberScoreboard – and the World

ResulTV was linked directly to FinishLynx and the Event Database and displayed flawlessly-accurate start lists, event results, and standings on the stadium scoreboards and also in the television and stadium announcers' booth.

David Tomasula of Sports Link, the company responsible for the big scoreboards at Sacramento, had this to say: *"Thank you for your help in setting things up between your company and our video boards. Displaying results although often taken for granted has never been easier."*

Results and photos were automatically uploaded at the conclusion of every event to CyberScoreboard. This data was accessed from several sites: NBC Olympics, the Sacramento Bee, and CyberScoreboard itself. Cyber-Scoreboard alone was handling upwards of 80,000 requests for pages a day.

One Internet commentator had this to say: *"The Olympic Trials in Sacramento became the first U.S. Olympic Trials or U.S. outdoor national championship to be able to [make results available online in a timely manner]. Thank you very much to all those involved. It appears that the credit for the official site goes to FinishLynx."*

The broadcast graphics generation equipment at the onsite television production facility was also fed data directly from FinishLynx, and this was used to provide start lists and results for transmission across the US and around the globe.

FINISHLYNX HALL OF FRAMES

FINISHLYNX AND REGINA JACOBS - A WINNING COMBINATION

5000m and 1500m double winner, Regina Jacobs, sets another new American record.

Photo Courtesy Matthew Linde, Runners World.

Regina crushed her own American Record with a time of 14:45.35 in the 5000M in Sacramento. Regretfully, we will not see this amazing athlete perform in Sydney. Due to the deleterious effects of a viral respiratory infection, Jacobs withdrew from the 1500M. Jacobs plans to travel to Sydney in support of the US team.

FIELDLYNX RECORDS A WORLD RECORD

A first for this Lynx product.

With a tap of the stylus, the volunteer operating the Field-Lynx units sent the information about the last jump to the infield display boards and the announcers booth…

As she did this the operator confirmed what the crowd had just seen: Stacy Dragila vaulting to a new World Record height at the Trials with a winning leap of 15 feet 2¼ inches.

DEVERS DELIVERS

Gail Devers sets a new American Record

The USA's top sprint hurdler will go for Gold in Sydney in September after setting a new American record by running 12.33 for the 100M Hurdles on the final day of the Trials.

Special Edition

Olympic Trials

2000