



# FINISH LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR OPERATORS OF TECHNOLOGY FROM LYNX SYSTEM DEVELOPERS, INC.

Number 18, February 2000

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

*Nora Courtney - Customer Service Co-ordinator*

I am happy to write that I have just returned from my first Short Track Speed Skating event, the European Championships, held in Bormio, Italy. I came home just in time to enter the latest information on Lynx and Short Track into this issue of the newsletter.

Hundreds will receive this newsletter in the mail, and many hundreds more by email. Anyone who is not already receiving the newsletter and e-news updates over the Internet, please send your email address to me at [nora@finishlynx.com](mailto:nora@finishlynx.com). I will be happy to add you to the list of electronic subscribers.

Nora

## ON HAND FOR THE OLYMPIC TRIALS

*Lynx will cover all the action at this summer's Track and Field Trials.*



*Flash Results draws a crowd at USATF XC*

Flash Results, Inc. ([www.flashresults.com](http://www.flashresults.com)) has been selected as the timing and results provider for the Olympic Trials. The Trials, held July 14-23, 2000, at Hornet Stadium, California State University, Sacramento will be a showcase of Lynx equipment: EtherLynx and SCSI cameras, FinishLynx software, FieldLynx driving 16 in-field displays and ReacTime at the start.

Reached for comment on the awarding of the trials to Flash Results, Roger Jennings said, "We are very excited to be timing this event and CSU, Sacramento is a great venue."

## REACTIME PATENT ISSUED

*We are very, very close to 6,000,000.*

ReacTime was issued US patent number 6,002,336 on December 14<sup>th</sup>. "The present invention provides a reaction time measurement system that includes a hard-wired or battery-powered sensor module attached to a starting block or platform to detect acceleration when a contestant moves."



This product is, of course, far more exciting than the description supplied to the U.S. Patent Office! For full details you can visit the ReacTime area of our web site, or the Patent Office at <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/>.

## BENOIT DE CHASSEY JOINS LYNX

*A new member in the global Lynx team.*

Benoît de Chassey, VP of International Business Development, was founder and CEO of the Promatec Group, an IT services company which he grew to 160 staff members and 10 offices before selling the company. Following this, he was Information Systems Director for the 1992 Olympics Games in Albertville and more recently the Executive Director of the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Benoit will be responsible for developing

and maintaining relationships with major clients in the international sports community.

## MAKE YOUR LYNX PURCHASES ON-LINE



The Lynx On-Line Store is open for business. Not only does it carry the new Lynx clothing line, banners and a cuddly toy Lynx(!), you can also find software, hardware, cabling, and more.

The on-line store is a secure site. Once you have selected your item(s) proceed to our Secure Check Out Area to enter shipping and credit card information. Worried about ordering over the web? Just call and we will be happy to process your credit card order over the phone.

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## EXTENDED WARRANTIES

*Lynx now offers Extended Warranties to its customers.*

Would you like the ease of repairs and "hot swaps" to continue past the one year warranty period on your original purchase? You can now purchase an extended warranty for your Lynx manufactured products. One, two or three year extended warranties are now available.

No more waiting for a Purchase Order or a reimbursement for a repair. The cost? Call us and we will calculate the price of a warranty for your equipment.

What is it worth to you for continuing 24 hour a day, 7 day a week, toll free technical support? Whenever and wherever you need us, we can be there for you.

## OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE AT LYNX

*Mobile Event Expert Wanted.*

We are once again looking for a Mobile Event Expert to join our staff. Simon Goldschmidt has recently returned to Australia after a year and a half with Lynx, and is now training for the Olympic Trials in swimming.

Many of you know Simon from speaking with him on tech support calls and seeing him in the field at events around the globe. He contributed much to the company and will be missed. A full description of the position follows:

### MOBILE EVENT EXPERT

**Responsibilities:** This individual will be responsible for the setup, operation, and maintenance of Lynx data collection, organization and distribution technology at various events in the field, as well as training of others to perform these tasks. Involves a large amount of international travel. Also involves in-house organization and testing of all field equipment to assure readiness of the equipment when it is required in the field. To include backup support of our in-house computer network and servers. A more technical (EE or CS) person could be involved in software development when not on the road, but it should be understood that this is NOT primarily a development position.

**Qualifications:** Must be an "event person" as well as a team player; this means a person who is generally cool headed and capable of performing under stress without negatively affecting those around them. Must have a thorough understanding of all forms of 32-bit Windows operating systems. Prior experience with

FinishLynx an obvious plus. Rabid interest in sports or any foreign language proficiencies are a bonus and should be noted by the applicant.

**Schedule:** Position will involve significant weekend travel. Depending on applicant's requirements and work load, this may mean taking certain weekdays off or being paid a flat daily rate for weekend event days.

**Compensation:** Competitive salary with full benefits. Location: Woburn, MA, an industrial suburb about 10 miles north of Boston.

**Contact:** Doug DeAngelis at (781) 935-6959 or [recruitment@finishlynx.com](mailto:recruitment@finishlynx.com)

## SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING



*The ISU and Lynx team up to enhance the sport.*

In September, Lynx signed a long-term services agreement with the International Skating Union in the sport of Short Track Speed Skating. Lynx will be developing an end-to-end data management solution for the sport.

The first component of this, real-time calculation of the world rankings from the remote competition venue, has been implemented as an extension of the CyberScoreboard results system. This extension allows CyberScoreboard to effectively calculate higher-level reports that take into account results from multiple competitions contained in its database.

This season has seen new World Records at the European Championships and at the Chan Chun World Cup event. Read on for details.

## EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



*Italians notch up another World Record in front of their home crowd...*

1. Katia Zini ITA 44.551 (New WR)
2. Evgenia Radanova BUL 44.563



For the second year in a row, Evgenia Radanova broke the existing world record - and still lost the final of the 500 meters to an Italian skater. This year Radanova was beaten into second place by Katia Zini, Italy's latest speed skating sensation. However, unlike last year, Radanova powered her way through the other individual events to secure her position as European Champion.

The finishline image, with athlete's names and times were available on CyberScoreboard immediately after the image was evaluated. This is not news to those who have "watched" an event on CyberScoreboard before. What is new is that world rankings are being calculated and recalculated as the event moves toward its conclusion.

## ISU WORLD CUP, CHINA

*Dong-Sung Kim still setting World Records.*

Another world record was set at the World Cup in Chang Chun, China this past December. Like the Zini - Radanova contest in Bormio, The young US skater, Apolo Anton Ohno, skated a world record breaking race only to come in second to Dong-Sung Kim of Korea.



## Tech Corner

*Good Start: From Roger Jennings of Flash Results, Inc.*

Attach the sound of your voice saying "Good Start" to the action of FinishLynx receiving a start signal from the Gun Sensor.

One thing to note before you do this. You will be replacing the sound you normally hear for any error you make while using FinishLynx. If you click on a dialog box incorrectly, you will hear "Good Start".

1. Find a computer that has a working sound card and a microphone.
2. Use Windows Sound Recorder to record your voice saying "good start" as a .wav file.
3. Save your .wav file in the Lynx directory using the Save As option in the File menu.
4. Go to Settings, Control Panel, Sounds in Windows.
5. Click on Default Sound, then click Browse.
6. Browse to your Lynx directory and double-click on your .wav file. This will replace the ding.wav with your "Good Start" .wav file.
7. Click on OK.

## NEW PRODUCT FROM LYNX



*The introduction of Exchange.*

Exchange, a new software tool from Lynx, allows a meet manager program to send text files from a computer to FieldLynx and results back to the computer. Exchange adds the functionality that has always been available to FinishLynx users – the ability to write your own athlete listing.

Using a database program, or even a standard text editor, such as Notepad, you create lynx.evt files. These files can be uploaded to your FieldLynx unit via the standard Palm cradle supplied with FieldLynx and attached to an available Com port on your computer.

When you send the data back after competition is complete, Exchange will upload back to your computer the \*.lff file, or result file, for each field event.

All FieldLynx units sold after Jan. 31, 2000 will include the software. For existing FieldLynx customers, Exchange is available at no cost on our web site at <http://www.finishlynx.com/products/fieldlynx/features.htm>

## FEEDBACK - LYNX OPERATORS ON THE MOVE

*How far can Lynx take you? Sue Belger of UNM went all the way to Nigeria in West Africa for the Nigerian National Games.*

“Earlier this summer, Tony Osheku was at our track working with wife Fali Ogunkoya. In conversation, he mentioned that he would be returning to Nigeria and using the FinishLynx system. I teased a bit and said I'd go run it for him. He took me seriously and said he would pay my expenses if I did! Next thing I knew, I was running around obtaining my passport, application for visa, etc.

“I made an extra effort to train the crew on set-up, operation, and troubleshooting. By the finals, they had it all down! I merely sat and observed them, and actually got to watch most of the races! They did an excellent job!

“The officials were impressed with the beautiful color finishes! Because there is often confusion and several protests with hand timing, there were no questions as to who finished where and with what times. My experience was awesome.”

## LYNX TECH SUPPORT – 24/7

*Our technical support team continues to bring in rave reviews.*

Ray MacNeil sent this via email. “The technician was not only knowledgeable, but patient, polite and all the other things a person in that position needs to be. I would say that he provided probably the best technical support I have ever had from a hardware/software company. I really can't say enough about how helpful he was.”

## UPDATE ON DOUG PADILLA

*After talking to Doug at the USATF convention, we are happy to write of his amazing comeback from the terrible injuries he sustained when he was hit by a car.*

“I am now employed at BYU as an administrator with the Women's Track team. It has been great. My main responsibilities are for our events, both cross country and track, though there are many other things. As for my health, the fixator was removed on Oct. 27! I spent the next 6 weeks on crutches and was cleared to walk on Dec. 14th. Dr. Scott is pleased with the progress and I can start to jog on Feb. 1...I'm kind of excited about that!

“I am not sure when I will be able to take full advantage of your generous offer to cover my entry fee for Mt. Sac. soon-to-be-created Gimp 5000, but I will let you know!! My plans are to run 1 full mile on 2-1-00 at 4:00 p.m. MST. If you would like, I would be most honored to have anyone who wishes join me from where ever you might be.”...I know there will be a group of us from Lynx headquarters that will run with Doug in spirit that day.

## WORKING ON THEIR FORMATION?

*Where do you put the hashline on these guys?*

Dino Adriano Palazzi in Buenos Aires writes: “Some days ago, in our national track and field championships, I was in the timing tower, and surprise, not only athletes crossed the finish line!”

## Clarinets Tie for 27<sup>th</sup> Place?



## ON THE CONVENTION CIRCUIT

*Highlights from our transcontinental travels.*

Lynx went on the road for the month of December, with the USAT&F Convention; M-F Athletic's Atlantic City Clinic, and the HS AD's Convention in New Orleans. We met many new people, and had a chance to display EtherLynx 2000, FieldLynx, ReacTime, etc. Bill Falk's M-F Clinic pulled in over 900 coaches in Atlantic City, and featured numerous top-notch speakers, including Vern Gambetta and Joe Vigil. This is surely one of the largest coaching clinics in the US.

It's not often that we have a customer walk up to our booth with a purchase order in his hand, but in New Orleans we sold a color camera system to a high school in Michigan from the convention floor. The system order was called back to the office and shipped within hours. Taking advantage of the convention discount we were offering, the school saved almost \$1500 on their purchase.

## LIVERPOOL HIGH SCHOOL GETS LYNX

*“George's Dream” in Syracuse, New York, raises the bar on fundraising.*

With Lynx's home based timing teams scattered across the globe and the US, a call for on-site training assistance was answered by Giles Norton, Director of Corporate Communication. This was remarkable in that Giles agreed to travel to the frozen shores of Lake Ontario in the middle of winter – he usually tries to finagle training sessions in Florida or the Caribbean at this time of year.

However, the trip was also remarkable for another reason. Under the leadership of their AD, George Mangicaro, Liverpool HS raised in excess of \$1 million dollars to finance their new multi-use athletic facility. Inside the 8 lane all-weather track is a football/soccer/field hockey field. Outside is the latest full-matrix scoreboard from Fairtron.

The 2000 state meet, hosted at Liverpool this summer, will feature a two camera FinishLynx system, backed by Hy-Tek meet management software – all linked seamlessly to a scoreboard capable of showing start-lists, results, running time AND FinishLynx images.

Kudos to George and his team.

# FinishLynx Hall of Frames

## ~ Racing Into the New Millennium ~

### MELBOURNE CUP 1999

*A dead heat for third place between Lahar and Zazabelle.*

The Melbourne Cup has never seen a DEAD HEAT for the win, and last saw one for third place in 1933. The final twentieth century running of this classic race featured the second ever dead heat in the race's history.

Win	Rogan Josh	
Place	Central Park	1/2 length
Show	Lahar (DH)	3/4 length
Show	Zazabelle (DH)	3/4 length

Thanks to Brad Fraumano and Amalgamated Photofinish for the FinishLynx image



### FIRST STEEPLECHASE OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM



**Snuggle** finishes the first Steeplechase of the new Millennium in Auckland, NZ with a time of 4:53.08.

Win	Snuggle
Place	Fair Brother
Show	Stacey Jones

FinishLynx image courtesy of Northern Digital Photofinish.

### FIRST RACE OF THE MILLENNIUM ON THE FLAT – TIMED WITH LYNX

*The Hong Kong Jockey Club staged the first flat race of the new millennium.*



FinishLynx image courtesy of Hong Kong Jockey Club

Part of the evening's celebration at the Happy Valley Racecourse, the Millennium Cup horse race was run at 12:45 a.m. Hong Kong time. The race, benefiting a charity, followed the countdown to midnight and a spectacular fireworks display. Floral Joy was first to cross the finish line in the Year 2000 with a time of 1:49.2985.

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