

PENN RELAYS



RON CORTES / Inquirer Staff Photographer

Justin Gatlin goes off in pursuit of a rival at the start of the anchor leg that brought him from several yards behind to victory in the 4x100-meter relay.

Gatlin goes flying at Franklin Field

The Olympic 100-meter champion anchored a blazing relay victory before departing for Pennsylvania Avenue.

By Jeff McLane
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Justin Gatlin is swiftly becoming the face of American track and field.

When you're the so-called "Fastest Human on Earth," you don't take your time doing things.

Which is why only a half hour or so after zooming the USA Red team to a come-from-behind win in the "USA vs. the World" 4x100-meter relay yesterday, Gat-

lin had to run down a flight to Washington.

So what's the hurry?

"I don't know. ... Nah, I'm just playing," Gatlin said. "There's a dinner for the outstanding athletes of 2004" at the White House.

Oh. There's a certain glow that accompanies an American Olympic gold medalist in the 100 meters (see: Carl Lewis) that even Presidents are drawn to.

Gatlin, the Athens 2004 version, didn't tone down that glow in the 11th Penn Relays yesterday, as the 23-year-old delivered a blistering anchor leg in the Carnival's main attraction.

Saturdays at Franklin Field have become a series of show-stopping championships from high school to Olympic-level, and the six popular USA vs. the World events sent the announced 44,612 in attendance into a frenzy.

The Americans were looking to sweep the six events for a third straight year, but a trip-and-fall in See RELAYS on D8

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ONLINE EXTRA

For more on the Penn Relays, go to <http://go.philly.com/pennrelays>. Meet some of the high school athletes in video interviews at <http://go.philly.com/video>.

Lifetime ban for steroids proposed

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig wants players banned for a third positive test. The union will respond.

By Jim Salisbury and Todd Zolecki
INQUIRER STAFF WRITERS

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig has officially asked the players' association to accept a tougher, three-strikes-you're-out penalty system for using performance-enhancing substances.

In a memorandum sent to union chief Donald Fehr, Selig proposed that players who test positive for steroids or amphetamines be suspended for 50 games.

Second-time offenders would be suspended for 100 games, and third-time offenders would receive a lifetime ban.

After much criticism, baseball toughened its steroid policy this winter to include a 10-day suspension for first-time offenders. Critics, including lawmakers on Capitol Hill, have called that plan weak because it takes four positive tests to receive a year's suspension.

Selig's new plan addresses amphetamine use in the major leagues for the first time.

Selig sent the memo to Fehr on Monday, and it went to team presidents on Friday. The Inquirer obtained a copy yesterday.

In the memo, Selig acknowledged that his plan was subject to union approval. However, for the See STEROIDS on D4

McNabb still must deal with T.O. sideshow

For the first time, for the last time — at least if he gets his druthers — Donovan McNabb replayed exactly what happened near the end of the Super Bowl, and neither the game nor the explanation turned out much differently than before.

Apparently, McNabb didn't retch, was able to call the plays, didn't run out of gas, and wasn't particularly tired. That's his side of the story, as he told it during the Eagles' first minicamp this weekend, and he's sticking to it.

"If you say I was winded ... that's fine. But to be tired and pretty much dropping to a knee or whatever, that didn't happen," McNabb said. "I left everything out on the field."

According to others who were there, McNabb might have also left some stuff on the field that you wouldn't want to track inside the house, but maybe those finer points no longer matter. See EAGLES on D2



Bob Ford

Smarty's owners survive end of the whirl

A year later, a mostly fond look back at a crazy run.

By Mike Jensen
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

BOCA GRANDE, Fla. — Their Ford minivan has a magnetized sign on the side with the words *Someday Farm*. For the longest time last year, Roy and Pat Chapman kept the name of their old farm off their van, preferring to drive around the Philadelphia suburbs anonymously.

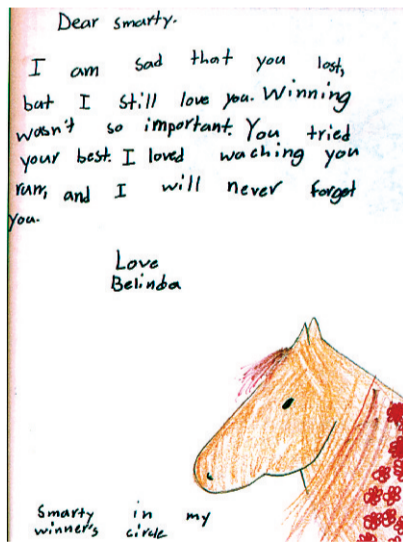
"For quite a while — for months," Pat Chapman said. "I didn't want rotten tomatoes thrown at it."

It was just last spring, of course, when their colt, Smarty Jones, was the sensation of horse racing and, for a brief time, became almost the national pet as he sought

the Triple Crown. But after he was retired to stud, Smarty's owners, Pat Chapman and her husband, Roy, found they were no longer being lionized. In a lot of horse-racing circles, they became outright villains. The sport's biggest star was retired without racing after the Belmont Stakes, finishing with career earnings of \$7,613,155, the fourth-highest ever in North America.

When Pat Chapman went to Los Angeles in January for the Eclipse Awards, where Smarty Jones was up for horse of the year, she remembers precisely how many interview requests she got: Zero. It was as if she were invisible.

See SMARTY on D14



A letter to Smarty Jones

from second grader Belinda von Breitenbach, one of 1.2 million received by owners Pat and Roy Chapman and trainer John Servis last year. Billy Valentine edited a collection of the letters into a book, "Dear Smarty." D14.

Back spasms bench Thome

By Todd Zolecki
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Phillies first baseman Jim Thome continues to struggle with his back, just as he continues to struggle at the plate.

Thome, who entered last night's game against the Florida Marlins at Citizens Bank Park hitting just .208 with one home run, 12 RBIs and 26 strikeouts in 77 at-bats, left in the bottom of the fourth inning because of back spasms.

Thome missed time in spring training because of back soreness. He didn't start the game on April 22 in Atlanta because the problem resurfaced.

Last night, Thome slid into second in the fourth inning and clearly had trouble after he got up. He took a few slow steps toward the dugout before he gingerly jogged back.

A short time later, Tomas Perez emerged from the dugout to take Thome's place at first base in the fifth inning.

Last night's game was delayed by rain for 45 See PHILS on D10



JERRY LODRIGUSS / Inquirer Staff Photographer

Chris Webber gives Allen Iverson a boost during the rejuvenated Sixers' 115-104 win in Game 3. The Pistons' Richard Hamilton is at right.

Pistons don't expect repeat performance

The Hall of Fame coach, still coaching like a Hall of Famer, turned around and starting laughing as defeat seemed imminent. Larry Brown may not be in Philadelphia any longer, nearly two years removed from a once-moribund franchise he resurrected to near-championship prominence, but he isn't blind to what occurs in the city he once loved. He isn't deaf to the pandemonium one big victory can create.

But after watching Friday's surreal 76ers performance against his Pistons, Larry Brown will live with what took place — probably because he knows there's no need to expect this again.

Allen Iverson may have recorded 37 points and 15 assists with just three turnovers Friday night at the Wachovia Center, but ... a show of hands from those who believe anything else that occurred qualifies as ordinary?

Thought so! The Sixers shot 55 percent from the field against one of the game's premier defenses. Their bench



Stephen A. Smith

NBA Playoffs

76ers vs. Pistons
Pistons lead series, 2-1.
Game 4: Pistons at 76ers, today at 1.
TV/Radio: CSN, ESPN; WIP-AM (610).

outscored Detroit's bench, 23-2. Rasheed Wallace — all 6-foot-11 of him — registered just one rebound in 34 minutes, which is about the number that Mini-Me character from one of those *Austin Powers* movies could provide — if paid well enough for such a role. And, oh, yes, the Pistons were forced into 14 turnovers on the evening.

"They just played great," Brown said, as calm as you'll ever see him after a loss. "[Iverson] was terrific. [The Sixers] made key See 76ERS on D12