

# PACIFIC ISLANDS ATHLETICS STATISTICS # 5/96

July / August, 1996 - The Olympic Issue

## PRE-OLYMPIC TRAINING CAMP NORTH CAROLINA

The city of Raleigh in North Carolina played host to many Olympic Track & Field Teams in the final stages of their preparation for the Atlanta Olympics. In residence were teams from Australia, Germany, Jamaica, New Zealand, Norway and Oceania.

The Oceania athletes were -

Tonga	Siulolo Liku Toluta'u Koula
Western Samoa	Christopher Mene Iloai Suaniu
Cook Islands	Mark Sherwin
Guam	David Wilson
Solomon Islands	Selwyn Kole Nester Geniwala'a
Vanuatu	Mary-Estelle Kapalu Tawai Keiruan
Fiji	Rachel Rogers Vaciseva Tavaga Isireli Naikelekelevesi
	Solomone Bole Soloveni Koroi Aminiasi Babitu Jone Delai Jovesa Naivalu Henry Rogo James Goulding
Papua New Guinea	Peter Pulu Subul Babo Amos Ali Allan Akia Samuel Bai Terry Seph Ivan Wakit

Sincere thanks go to the people of Raleigh for making our stay so successful. The warmth of the local community's hospitality made all teams feel right at home and helped considerably in the final preparation of all teams for the Games.

(Vaciseva Tavaga (Fij) went home after the stay in Raleigh and James Goulding (Fij) returned three days before the athletics competition began).

After the move to the village the following island athletes also joined their teams

American Samoa	Lisa Misipeka Anthony Leiato
Vanuatu	Jack Laurence Tavakalo Kailes
Solomon Islands	Joseph Onika Primo Higa
Guam	Marie Benito

Joseph Onika, though, was not allowed to run in his event - the 100m - even though his entry was initially accepted. His rejection was discovered just two days before competition and it was not possible to adequately appeal his exclusion. Why was he invited if he was not allowed to run? It remains a mystery.

It was also sad to note the absence of Nauru. Fred Cannon had been in good form earlier in the year and certainly would not have been out of place at the Olympics. The South Pacific athletes look forward to seeing him and the others from Nauru at the Oceania Championships in Townsville.

## WARM-UP MEET - DUKE UNIVERSITY

At Duke University on Saturday 13th July all the teams in the Raleigh-Durham area participated in an Olympic Warm-Up Meet - *The Gold Rush*. The crowd was in excess of 28 000 people.

The highlights were provided by the Fiji Team.

Jone Delai was the third fastest over the 100m when he finished third in his race in 10.22 behind Mike Marsh (USA) 10.15 and Percival Spencer (JAM) 10.18. The wind reading was believed to be +2.3mps making Jone's time ineligible for NR & SPB

purposes. (We are still awaiting the official result sheet from the organisers).

Isireli Naikelekelevesi broke the NR & SPB in the 800m when he finished 6th in the 800m in 1:49.76. (It was inevitable that Isireli would break Rick Kermod's records, but it is surprising that the record run came so soon. What will he now finish the season with)?

Jovesa Naivalu finished 6th in the 110mH in 14.17 (+0.7) to break the SPB as well as the Fiji NR. (Albert Chambonnier (NC) had run a hand held 14.1 in 1990). He was outside the Olympic B Qualifying time of 14.14, but has an earlier 14.11 at Los Gatos to his credit. (We are awaiting full details of the 14.11 and it will gain NR status on confirmation of the legality of the wind reading).

Results were -

<u>Men</u>				
100m	Jone Delai	FIJ	3	10.22 (+2.3)
	Toluta'u Koula	TON		10.72
	Amos Ali	PNG		10.87
	Alan Akia	PNG		11.04
	Aminiasi Babitu	FIJ		11.06
	Terry Seph	PNG		11.19
	Mark Sherwin	CKI		11.32
200m	Jone Delai	FIJ	2	21.54 (+1.0)
	David Wilson	GUM	1	21.78 (+1.5)
	Amos Ali	PNG	3	21.99 (+1.0)
	Henry Rogo	FIJ	2	22.02 (+1.5)
	Aminiasi Babitu	FIJ	3	22.47 (+1.5)
400m	Soloveni Nakaunicina	FIJ	4	48.04
800m	Isireli Naikelekelevesi	FIJ	6	1:49.76
1500m	Tawai Keiruan	VAN	6	4:04.58
	Selwyn Kole	VAN	7	4:07.07
110mH	Jovesa Naivalu	FIJ	6	14.17 (+0.7)
DT	Chris Mene	WS	3	51.78
FJ	James Goulding	FIJ	3	66.72
4 x 400	Fiji		5	3:14.35

(Delai, Rogo, Bole, J. Naivalu)

## Women

100m	Vaciseva Tavaga	FIJ	1	12.05
	Siulolo Liku	TON		12.42
	Nester Geniwala'a	SOL		13.97
400m	Mary-Estelle Kapalu	VAN	5	55.11
100mH	Rachel Rogers	FIJ	3	14.42 (+0.5)
400mH	Mary-Estelle Kapalu	VAN	6	60.07
LJ	Siulolo Liku	TON	6	5.64w
JT	Iloai Suaniu	WS	6	41.84

## WARM-UP MEET - LIFE UNIVERSITY

After entering the Games Village the first Atlanta Warm-Up Meet was held on 17th July.

Only a few events were held before a severe electrical storm caused the meeting to be suspended, and then eventually abandoned.

110mH	Jovesa Naivalu	FIJ	14.32
100m	Nester Geniwala'a	SOL	13.84
JT	Iloai Suaniu	WS	41.39

## WARM-UP MEET - LIFE UNIVERSITY

The second Atlanta Warm-Up Meet was held on 21st July, two days after the Opening Ceremony. Over thirty countries participated in what was billed as *The Final Tune Up*.

While the rain proved to be a significant factor again, the meet was not suspended and the full programme was completed. I was of the impression that the sprint times were a few tenths slower than expected. Wind readings were not available for all events, but the runs were almost certainly legal.

## Men's Events

100m	Jone Delai	FIJ	4	10.53
	Toluta'u Koula	TON	8	10.84
	Jack Laurence	VAN	2	11.01
	Aminiasi Babitu	FIJ	4	11.05

	Allan Akia	PNG	7	11.09
	Terry Seph	PNG	7	11.18
	Joseph Onika	SOL	8	11.43
200m	David Wilson	GUM	6	22.06
300m	Henry Rogo	FIJ	2	33.92
	Soloveni Koroi	FIJ	3	33.92
	Solomone Bole	FIJ	4	34.50
400m	Samuel Bai	PNG	6	48.65
	Amos Ali	PNG	7	49.25
600m	Isireli Naikelekelevesi	FIJ	5	1:18.69 NR
	Tavakalo Kailes	VAN	7	1:21.29
1200m	Tawai Keiruan	VAN	7	3:08.37
	Selwyn Kole	SOL	8	3:08.62
1500m	Primo Higa	SOL	8	4:25.23
110mH	Jovesa Naivalu	FIJ	4	14.52 (+0.3)
400mH	Ivan Wakit	PNG	6	52.09 NR
DT	Chris Mene	WS	6	50.08
JT	James Goulding	FIJ		68m +*
4 x 100m	Fiji		4	40.54

(Bole, Delai, Naivalu, Koroi)

\* exact distance not known

#### Women's Events -

100m	Nester Geniwala'a	SOL	8	13.78
100mH	Rachel Rogers	FIJ	6	14.09 (+0.5)
LJ	Siulolo Liku	TON	7	5.86
SP	Lisa Misipeka	AMS	3	13.87

#### ISLAND OLYMPIC PERFORMANCES

##### Day One - Friday 26th July 1996

First into action in the morning session were the competitors in the Women's 100m. The only South Pacific athlete here was

Nester Geniwala'a SOL 13.74 (+0.2) 8th Ht 6

This is yet another personal best for Nester who had the honour to run in the lane alongside Gwen Torrence.

American Samoa had two throwers in the Games. The first of the two to have their Games experience was Anthony Leiato in the Shot Putt qualifying round.

Anthony Leiato AMS 13.02 16th Gp A

In the Men's 100m there was some expectation of a couple qualifying for the Second Round, but that was not to be. The results were -

Jone Delai	FIJ	10.42 (-0.2)	4th Ht 10
Toluta'u Koula	TON	10.71 (+2.2)	8th Ht 4
Peter Pulu	PNG	10.76 (+0.1)	9th Ht 9
Mark Sherwin	CKI	11.41 (-0.8)	9th Ht 12

Jone Delai missed qualifying by 4/100th of a second. The final qualifier was Raymond Stewart (JAM) with 10.38. (Fastest heat winner was Davidson Ezinwa (NGR) in 10.03 from Ato Boldon (TR) 10.06 and Jon Drummond (USA) 10.08.

Peter Pulu ran alongside Linford Christie in his heat and got a lot of coverage on the huge scoreboard screen. He was not at his best, though, because of a hamstring injury that prevented him from competing in the important warm-up meets in North Carolina and Atlanta.

The morning session started with Nester, the least experienced athlete of the Islands' group, and the evening session started with the most experienced - Subul Babo (PNG). Like Peter Pulu he had injured his hamstring in Raleigh and had not raced since leaving home many weeks ago. Despite that, Subul returned his fastest 400m time of the year.

Subul Babo PNG 48.15 7th Ht 3

The only other evening event with Island athletes was the Women's Javelin.

Iloai Suaniu WS 38.08 16th Gp A

In the morning session there was a packed house (80 000+) and this was repeated in the evening session. The Games had a great first day with a tremendous atmosphere. The huge crowds continued for all sessions for the rest of the Games.

##### Day Two - Saturday 27th July 1996

With no Island action today the main interest was the 100m Finals. Once again capacity crowds ensured that the athletes were able to compete in front of 80 000 people, plus the world wide audience on TV.

How was Donovan Bailey able to win gold after being so far behind? It was a privilege for us to witness the World Record.

How long will it be before Merlene Ottey is on the right side of a close call in the Olympics? She lost to Gail Devers by the smallest of margins and many observers thought that she had actually won.

Australia's Louise McPaul had a superb last throw in the Javelin to get the silver medal. Congratulations Louise.

##### Day Three - Sunday 28th July

The Islanders came back into action today. The highlight was provided by Mary-Estelle Kapalu (Van). She had been bitterly disappointed when told by the organisers that she was not allowed to run the 400m and had to run the 400mH. Her last outing in the hurdles had not been a good run technically, but a fast time had resulted (60.07 - at the Gold Rush Meeting in Durham). If she could get her stride pattern worked out then she could get another NR. This she did and the result was a massive pb, new NR and SPB.

Mary-Estelle Kapalu VAN 58.68 7th Ht 1

The other hurdler in action was Jovesa Naivalu from Fiji who had run very well in Durham to also break the Fiji NR and claim the SPB. Today he ran close to his personal best of 14.17.

Jovesa Naivalu FIJ 14.23 (-0.1) 6th Ht 4

In the 800m Tavakalo Kailes from Vanuatu ran up against David Kiptoo from Kenya, who was the fastest qualifier.

Tavakalo Kailes VAN 1:55.07 7th Ht 4

Two Pacific women were in action in the Marathon. Nadia Prasad, representing France, had bursitis and found it impossible to give of her best. She did say later, though, that this is the Olympics and she wanted to finish, no matter what the time.

Marie Benito from Guam had the misfortune to come back to the stadium just two minutes after the cut-off time and had to finish her race at the warm-up track at Cheney Stadium. Twenty members of her family were in the Olympic Stadium to see her finish and they were sadly denied the opportunity to do so. To make matters worse Marie was badly dehydrated and had to undergo medical treatment for many hours after the race.

Nadia Prasad FRA 2:50:05 56th  
Marie Benito GUM 3:27:28 65th

In all a total of 21 athletes failed to finish the race, including Biktagirova, Gradus, Meyer, Ondieki and Pipig.

(It was a pity that Marie was not an hour slower and then perhaps the authorities would have allowed her to finish in the stadium as they did for A. Baser Wasiqi (Afghanistan) who finished 111th in the Men's Marathon in 4:24:17)!

A late addition to the Solomon Island team, Primo Higa, had to run against the eventual gold medal winner in the 3000m Steeplechase - Joseph Keter. Primo was injured, though, and withdrew during the race.

Primo Higa SOL dnf

##### Day Four - Sunday 29th July

New Zealand based Western Samoan, Christopher Mene, was in action in the Discus Throw in the morning session.

Chris Mene WS 51.28 19th GpB

First on the track today was Fiji's Rachel Rogers in the 100mH, followed by PNG's Ivan Wakit in the 400mH. Rachel ran close to her best, but Ivan was in lane 5 with eventual gold medal winner Derrick Adkins (USA) in lane 6. Ivan was drawn out to a too-fast first 200m and suffered in the straight. He hobbled over the line with his ankle injury further aggravated. (It was eventually diagnosed as a stress fracture and he returned home with a cast on his leg and on crutches).

Rachel Rogers FIJ 14.07 (+0.2) 6th Ht5  
Ivan Wakit PNG 53.42 8th Ht7

During the one month tour of NC & GA Selwyn Kole from the Solomons and Tawai Keiruan from Vanuatu had good, close races in the middle distance events. Here, though they were

drawn in different heats and they could not benefit from head to head competition.

Tawai Keiruan	VAN	4:02.78	11th Ht1
Selwyn Kole	SOL	4:03.44	12th Ht5

Selwyn did get a Solomon Islands National Record with this run, but had they been up against each other I feel both would have gone under 4 minutes.

#### Day Five - Monday 30th July

Today was a rest day in the athletics programme.

#### Day Six - Tuesday 31st July

Three Island 200m men were in action today - David Wilson (GUM), Amos Ali (PNG) and Jack Laurence (VAN). The best performance of the three was returned by Amos Ali who moved to #2 on the PNG All Time Best List with his effort and headed the South Pacific Ranking Lists for the year.

Amos Ali	PNG	21.37 (+0.8)	6th Ht8
David Wilson	GUM	21.85 (+1.4)	7th Ht2
Jack Laurence	VAN	21.94 (+0.8)	7th Ht8

Lisa Misipeka, from American Samoa had created two SP Best Performances so far this year - in the Hammer Throw and the Shot Putt. Here she was putting the shot. Since her good throwing in the NCAA Meet in Eugene in May she has lost some of her form and must have been disappointed with her distance.

We look forward to seeing her on home soil in Pago Pago next year in the Mini Games. Will the Hammer Throw be on the programme? We hope so.

Lisa Misipeka	AMS	13.74	13th Gp B
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#### Day Seven - Wednesday 1st August

In the morning session Siulolo Liku from Tonga was the only Islander competing. She had two fouls, but managed to get a legal third jump. In all 8 women in her group had three fouls, including TJ gold medallist Inessa Kraverts. The conditions were very trying.

Siulolo Liku	TON	6.06 (+1.4)	12th Gr B
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(Overall she finished 29th out of 38 with legal jumps and out of 50 who competed in the two groups).

#### Day Eight - Thursday 2nd August

Relay day and the last day of action for the South Pacific Islanders.

It can be summarised as a great day for Fiji and a day PNG would like to forget.

In the Men's 4 x 100m the Fiji Team showed at Life College that they were in good form. PNG with its two main sprinters injured and not able to compete until the Games, was not nearly so well prepared. The results reflected the preparation.

In Heat 2 the PNG Team dropped the baton at the first exchange and joined what was to become a large group of nations that had dnf alongside them in the record book. (A total of 6 dnf's in all three rounds plus an additional 5 who had dq to their credit).

Fiji were in the next heat and ran brilliantly to take 6/100ths of a second off PNG's SPB Time.

Fiji	40.23	5th Ht3
(Official splits - Bole 11.15, Delai 9.38, Rogo 10.05, Koroi 9.65)		dnf
PNG		
(Official splits - Akia 11.26)		

In the 4 x 400m Fiji's good form continued, and the injury plagued PNG Team ran 9 seconds slower than they did in Tahiti.

They key runners to influence the respective performances were firstly Soloveni Koroi from Fiji who ran a fantastic 46.77 to start the Fiji Team's campaign. This time cannot be counted as a pb because it was a relay run, but he was the first runner and did not have the benefit of a "flying start". This time is the same as Subul Babo's gold medal performance in the 1991 SPG. It is the equal second fastest time ever in the South Pacific - but unfortunately not permitted to enter the All Time Best Lists for the 400m

For PNG the key runner was Ivan Wakit who was running with a stress fracture. He started off well, but was in great pain coming

into the home straight and could only hobble over the line in the very slow time of 52.07, putting a fast time out of the question.

Fiji	3:10.67	6th Ht1
(Official splits - Koroi 46.77, Rogo 47.94, Bole 46.60, Naikelekelevesi 49.43)		
PNG	3:19.92	7th Ht 3
(Official splits - S. Bai 48.83, Wakit 52.07, Ali 51.32, Babo 47.70)		

For the rest of the Olympic Games we were able to concentrate on the superb performances by the world's best with 16 gold medals being decided after the last Islander competed.

#### IMPRESSIONS AND COMMENTS

The handling of the South Pacific Islands' entries was far from satisfactory. Wild-card entries had been requested early in the year and the decision on them was not made until the teams had already arrived in Atlanta. Why some countries got what they requested, and others did not, was never adequately explained.

Some countries initially had their athletes entered in two events and all seemed OK until final confirmations when they found that the organisers had entered each athlete in only one event, but had not consulted the teams to find out which was the preferred event. To get the situation straightened out required much work on the part of officials.

It is hoped that the IOC, IAAF and the Sydney Olympic Organising Committee can all work in accord to ensure that the same problems do not arise in the year 2000. One got the impression that the three bodies each had their own agenda on the issue of entries for non-qualified athletes.

I would have loved to see Isireli Naikelekelevesi run in the 800m and Soloveni Koroi & Mary Kapalu compete in the 400m. They were all in form good enough to do something special. (It is hoped that their good form continues and they will have the opportunity to show us what they can do in the near future).

Once the administrative problems were out of the way, though, we could fully enjoy a magnificently presented athletics meet.

The crowds created a superb atmosphere and the athletes rose to the occasion. Well over one million spectators attended the 15 sessions of track and field competition.

The way the announcers, working in conjunction with the electronic scoreboard, kept us up to date with what was happening in the field events brought those events to life as never before. Thanks a million for a job very well done.

One major disappointment was the large number of empty seats each night in the section reserved for non-competing athletes. Most of those there were coaches and team officials. There were not that many athletes interested enough to come to the track and see the greatest show on earth. The temptations of social life in the Village and in Atlanta as a whole proved to be too strong.

The Atlanta Olympics left me with many lasting impressions. Some of the more memorable are -

- \* Shaved heads.
- \* Look-alike competition uniforms all provided by the same sporting goods company. One race had four countries with virtually identical running uniforms.
- \* Transport "challenges".
- \* Shaved heads.
- \* Unexpectedly friendly weather - the really hot days were left in June.
- \* Friendly and extremely polite volunteers, police and security officers.
- \* Shaved heads.
- \* Southern hospitality is not a myth - it is a wonderful asset of the whole region.
- \* The fast Mondo track which helped to produce exceptionally fast times in the 100m, 200m and 400m.
- \* Bomb scares and tragically the real thing.
- \* The tight security, for which we were very thankful.
- \* The huge amount of shopping coming into the village each day courtesy of the grateful Atlanta retailers and the generous sporting goods companies.
- \* Evacuating our accommodation at 3.00am with the fire alarm causing some anxiety and panic. (I will not tell you which athlete raced out of the building with just a towel around his middle)!

- \* Compulsive pin trading - both inside and outside of the village.
- \* Living, eating, training and competing with the very best athletes in the world showed them to be just normal (but immensely talented) human beings.
- \* PNG's very special training venue - Emory University - one of best kept secrets of the Games. It was favoured by the island nations - Barbados, St Vincent, British Virgin Islands, Guam & PNG. (We shared the University with rhythmic gymnasts and synchronised swimmers)!
- \* The playing of *Also Sprach Zarathustra* at approximately the same time every evening in the Olympic Stadium. It was spine chilling and wonderful. The audience spontaneously burst into applause each time it boomed out over the speakers.
- \* The Village training track where the stars ensured they made the required number of appearances.
- \* The temptation to eat more Big Macs and fries than is sensible or good for the figure.
- \* The great Closing Ceremony with the excitement of the concert at the end. (I didn't get upset over the kangas on bikes and the folks from the Dominican Republic who sat behind us in the stands at least knew what they were - the waratahs were lost on them. The consensus was that they were passionfruit!).
- \* Of course - more shaved heads.

The Village experienced a new, and poorly publicised demonstration sport - alighting from a moving tram. Many of the competitors ended up as dnf in the preliminaries and all of the successful jumpers, who survived the three preliminary rounds, were dns for the final.

I felt privileged to be allowed to join the PNG Team to Atlanta and experience my first Olympic Games.

I can't wait for Sydney 2000 - the first Games of the new millennium, or should it be the last Games of the current millennium?

#### A SALUTE TO OCEANIA ATHLETES IN THE TOP EIGHT

The following Oceania athletes finished in the top eight in their respective events and are to be congratulated for reaching such a high standard in the toughest competition of all. Many athletes failed to peak at the correct time and fell by the wayside, but the athletes below timed their run to perfection. Well done.

<u>Men</u>				
20KmW	Nick A'Hern	AUS	1:20:31	4th
110mH	Kyle Vander-Kuyp	AUS	13.40 (+0.6)	7th
400mH	Rohan Robinson	AUS	48.30	5th
HJ	Tim Forsyth	AUS	2.32	7th
Marathon	Steve Moneghetti	AUS	2:14:35	7th
<u>Women</u>				
400m	Cathy Freeman	AUS	48.63	2nd
800m	Toni Hodgkinson	NZL	2:00.54	8th
1500m	Margaret Crowley	AUS	4:03.79	5th
4 x 100m	Australia (Cripps, Hanigan, Hewitt, Lambert)		43.70	7th
LJ	Nicole Boegman	AUS	6.73 (+1.3)	8th
DT	Lisa-Marie Vizaniari	AUS	62.48	8th
JT	Louise McPaul	AUS	65.54	2nd

#### NATIONAL RECORDS

Since P.I.A.S. #4/96 new National Records which have been brought to my attention are as follows -

400mH	Paea Kokohu	TON	52.02
	Sacramento, Ca	5th May	
LJ	Fred Cannon	NAU	6.58
	Meneng	17th May	
LJ	Trudy Duburiya	NAU	3.94
	Meneng	17th May	
LJ	Del Salina Benjamin	NAU	3.94
	Meneng	17th May	
SP	Fononga Akaiy	NAU	9.90
	Meneng	17th May	
SP	Lisa Misipeka	AMS	15.82
	Eugene	30th May	
HT	Lisa Misipeka	AMS	60.94
	Eugene	1st June	
110mH	Jovesa Naivalu	FIJ	14.3
	Los Gatos	27th June	
(110mH)	Jovesa Naivalu	FIJ	14.11
	Los Gatos	date not known)*	
200m	Jack Laurence	VAN	21.6
	Suva	28th June	

HJ	Lorima Vunisa	FIJ	2.05
	Suva	28th June	
400mH	Avele Tanielu	WS	56.5
	Suva	28th June	
JT	Bina Ramesh	NC	59.02
	Reims	29th June	
100mH	Rachel Rogers	FIJ	13.8
	Santa Monica	5th July	
800m	Isireli Naikekelevesi	FIJ	1:49.76
	Durham	13th July	
110mH	Jovesa Naivalu	FIJ	14.17 (+0.7)
	Durham	13th July	
400mH	Ivan Wakit	PNG	52.09
	Marietta	21st July	
600m	Isireli Naikekelevesi	FIJ	1:18.69
	Marietta	21st July	
400mH	Mary-Estelle Kapalu	VAN	58.68
	Atlanta	28th July	
1500m	Selwyn Kole	SOL	4:03.44
	Atlanta	29th July	
4 x 100m	Fiji		40.23
	Atlanta	2nd August	
	(Bole, Delai, Rogo, Koroi)		
*	Performance yet to be confirmed		

#### SOUTH PACIFIC BEST

Lisa Misipeka (AMS) is continuing to improve the Hammer Throw record. On the day I posted P.I.A.S. #4/96 I received the results of the N.C.A.A. Championships in Eugene, Oregon. Here Lisa came second in the HT with a distance of 60.94 to create a new AMS NR and SPB (June 1st). This ranks her #2 on the US College Lists for the year.

Lisa has improved her SP NR & SPB to 15.82 when she finished 7th in the Shot in the same NCAA Meet in Eugene on May 30th.

At the Duke University *Gold Rush* Meet on 13th July Isireli Naikekelevesi (FIJ) broke Rick Kermode's 1:49.81 that had stood since 1974. He ran 1:49.76. Still only 19 years of age, Isireli misses out on eligibility for the World Junior Championships by only 12 days.

Also at the same meet eighteen year-old Jovesa Naivalu (FIJ), in the process of making the transition from the 39" hurdles to the 42" hurdles, ran 14.17 (+0.7) to run a time superior to Albert Chambonnier's 1990 clocking of 14.1 hand timing. It is believed that Jovesa has an earlier clocking of 14.11 on the books and we are endeavouring to obtain confirmation of that time. (Until we have confirmation of the 14.11, I will give his *Gold Rush* performance SPB & NR status).

Bina Ramesh once again holds the JT SPB when she reclaimed the record from Rosemai Poilagi with a throw of 59.02 at Reims on 29th June. With her WJC campaign yet to come, we should see her go through the 60m barrier. (The Olympic A Qualifying distance was 60 metres).

#### WORLD RECORDS

HT	Mihaela Melinte	ROM	69.42*
	Cluj, Rom	12th May	
200m	Michael Johnson	USA	19.66 (+1.7)
	Atlanta	23rd June	
PV	Emma George	AUS	4.42
	Reims	29th June	
PV	Emma George	AUS	4.45
	Sapporo	14th July	
100m	Donovan Bailey	CAN	9.84 (+0.7)
	Atlanta	27th July	
200m	Michael Johnson	USA	19.32 (+0.4)
	Atlanta	1st August	

\*Kuzenkova's 69.46 earlier this year is not likely to be ratified.

#### 1996 PACIFIC ISLANDS' RANKING LISTS

The lists will be updated after the World Junior Athletics Championships held in Sydney from

#### PACIFIC ATHLETES IN THE USA

Fiji's and California's Jovesa Naivalu continues to get better and better. At the Cal State Men's Meet in Norwalk (May 31 - June 1) Jovesa won the 110mH in 13.68 (-0.5) and was second in the 300mH in 36.26 - finishing the month in #2 position on the US High School Ranking Lists for the two events. (From *T&FN*). Information has been received of a fast 400mH by Jovesa - 52.60 - and I am trying to receive confirmation as it is approaching the Fiji NR.

### PACIFIC ATHLETES IN FRANCE

In the French Championships held in Evry-Bondoufle (June 21-23), New Caledonian javelin throwers made their mark.

In the Men's event Gaetan Siakinuu-Schmidt was second with 74.28m and in the Women's Bina Ramesh was 2nd in 58.04 and Rosemai Poilagi 5th with 55.44.

I must await the latest edition of *Trajectoire* to give deeper results.

In Reims on 29th June, Bina Ramesh reclaimed her South Pacific Best from Rosemai Poilagi when she threw the javelin 59.02.

Earlier, on 8th June at Versailles, Gaetan had a 76.88 javelin throw - way over the Olympic Qualifying distance of 75.00m.

This brings to five the number of Pacific Island Olympic Qualifiers - Jone Delai, Peter Pulu, Bina Ramesh, Rosemai Poilagi and Gaetan Siakinuu-Schmidt. (If Naivalu's 14.11 is legal, then he makes it six).

(Information from *Athletics International*)

### PACIFIC ATHLETES IN AUSTRALIA

Just prior to going to the Olympics, Toluta'u Koula (TON) ran a great 100m in 10.3h. Once again, it was windy and cannot be counted as a NR. He has run many good times this year, but always has the bad luck to have an illegal wind behind him. (His 10.71 in the Olympics was also windy).

### TAHITI RESULTS

Thanks go to Daniel Vincente for sending details of competition from Tahiti. The outstanding performances are given below.

#### Tahiti 18th May

##### Senior Men

60m Abinera Tematahotoa 6.9

##### Boys 15 & 16

LJ Tuhiva Reva 6.05  
SP (5.0kg?) Steeve Mariteragi 13.95

In the Veteran division Daniel achieved the following

60m 7.6  
LJ 5.20  
SP 10.30

(I hope he doesn't mind me including these results).

#### Tahiti 5th June - Schools Championships

##### Girls 11 & 12

800m Sandrine Lau Fat 2:41  
TJ Marthe Papai 9.45  
LJ Mara Haring 4.46  
JT (400g) Justine Taraukau 34.70  
DT (600g) Sabrina Teahuitu 27.78

##### Boys 11 & 12

60m Christophe Lai 8.0  
800m Klit Vernaudo 2:26  
TJ Frederic Mare 10.00  
SP (3.0kg) Tuarii Doom 12.42

##### Girls 13 & 14

TJ Cecile Tiatia 10.11  
LJ Vaihiria Lintz 4.70  
LJ Belinda Boyle 4.65  
LJ Timeri Ariipeu 4.63  
DT (1.0kg) Elma Tau 28.44  
DT (1.0kg) Moerava Lehetet 24.69

##### Boys 13 & 14

80mH Theophile Hoata 11.2  
800m Maiarii Hunter 2:20  
LJ Theophile Hoata 5.97  
TJ Philippe Brander 11.75  
TJ Alvis Keck 11.55  
JT (600g) Teremoana Flores 50.62  
JT (600g) Theophile Hoata 49.66  
SP (4.0kg) Theophile Hoata 14.18

##### Girls 15 & 16

100m Heilani Teraimana 13.1  
80mH Christine Coquil 13.4  
LJ Laina Vahapata 14.80  
SP (3.0kg) Noella Flores 12.18  
DT (1.0kg) Noella Flores 43.38

##### Boys 15 & 16

100m Tuhiva Reva 11.2  
LJ Tuhiva Reva 6.44

JT (700g)	Fritz Hapairai	51.48
JT (700g)	Tuhiva Reva	50.58
SP (5.0kg)	Steeve Mariteragi	14.96
DT (1.5kg)	Jacques Antoine	38.40
DT (1.5kg)	Steeve Mariteragi	34.60

#### Tahiti 14th June

##### Girls 9 & 10 Years

100m Natasia Chailloux 13.6  
500m Diana Vernaudo 1:38.4

##### Girls 11 & 12

TJ Heumaitera Tetua 9.37

##### Girls 13 & 14

100m Cecile Tiatia 13.6  
300m Cecile Tiatia 44.1

##### Girls 15 & 16

100m Christine Coquil 13.4  
100m Heilanie Teraimana 13.4  
TJ Vaiana Teganahau 9.29  
3000m Vaite Bounhoure 12:37.4

##### Boys 9 & 10

500m Tunui Cowan 1:30.2

##### Boys 11 & 12

100m Christophe Lai 13.2

##### Boys 13 & 14

300m Heimana Taie 42.4  
500m Heimana Taie 1:22.8

##### Boys 15 & 16

100m Reva Tuhiva 11.8  
300m Heiava Varney 38.4

##### Senior Men

JT Veythe Vascoet 54.24  
3000m Olivier Huc 9:26.3  
3000m Eric Thibault 9:32.6

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1997

With a record 5 (or 6?) qualifiers for the OG this year, Pacific athletes must now set their sights on Athens in 1997.

Likely to join the group who qualified for the Olympics are two Fiji runners who are in superb form at present. Look for Soloveni Koroi Nakaunicina and Isireli Naikelekelevesi to make the breakthrough either later this year or in the early part of 1997.

When the Pacific athletes were told that they must qualify, or not attend, many felt that the task would be too difficult. Some have, though, risen to the challenge and paved the way for others to do so.

### WORLD JUNIORS RANKING LISTS

As the World Junior Championships approach it is interesting to note that three South Pacific athletes are ranked in the Top Ten in their respective events.

JT	Bina Ramesh	NC	59.02	3rd
110mH	Joevesa Naivalu	FIJ	14.17	10th
LJ	Bernard Chee	AUS/PNG	7.57	10th

### NEXT P.I.A.S. (#6 / 96)

I will be on the move again - this time to Sydney for the 6th IAAF World Junior Championships. There will be a full report on the performance by the Oceania Athletes at that meet.

After the WJC I will be updating the 1996 Ranking Lists and these will give us a good idea of who to look for in Townville in November.

I had only five days at home in Rabaul between the Olympics and the World Juniors and as a result I did not have enough time to carefully go through all of the results that awaited me. I may have missed some very good performances and will endeavour to include them in the next edition of this bulletin.

SEND ALL CONTRIBUTIONS, CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO -

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