



National Pole Vault Summit Clears Two Decades Olympic Silver Medalist Toby Stevenson Retires In Style

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Reno, NV, February 4, 2010 -- The **20th Anniversary National Pole Vault Summit**, sponsored by UCS/Spirit, was truly a celebration for the ages. 2004 Olympic Silver Medalist and 6-meter vaulter, 33-year-old Toby "Crash" Stevenson, takes and makes the final vault of his career, while 10-year-old Armando "Mondo" Duplantis generated buzz setting an age group World record of 11'2".

More than 1,700 members of the Vaulting community came out to Reno to celebrate the 20th anniversary Summit including athletes and coaches from Jamaica, Brazil, Italy, Mexico, Germany, Canada and the tiny Caribbean island of St. Lucia. In all, 11 competition runways were built under one roof in this weekend's conclave facilitating the developmental pole vault clinic and competitions for vaulters of all ages and abilities.

Emerging stars took the spotlight in Friday night's "Elite" exhibition. Lacy Jansen of Nike captured the women's competition at 4.50m(14'9") and long time Pole Vault Summit attendee and former Summit High School Champion, Scott Roth now competing for the University of Washington, won the men's competition, clearing 5.50m(18'1/4").

In the same competition, ever the showman, Toby Stevenson finished his career on one final jump and one final make, bowing to the crowd, unlacing his spikes, laying his trademark helmet down and walking off the landing area. As he thanked the crowd with a heartfelt goodbye as an athlete he continues his influence in the pole vault community stepping into a new role in the event as a coach at his alma mater, Stanford University.

In line with the Summit's traditional focus on grassroots development, there were more than 80 true beginners, including over 50 vaulters who were age 13 or younger -- the largest group of beginners in Summit history. Summit records that were also set at the 2010 National Pole Vault Summit were the number of high school athletes and parents in attendance.

"When we started this educational venture 20 years ago, we never dreamed that the event would continue to grow as it has", said Steve Chappell, general manager of UCS/Spirit and co-founder of the National Pole Vault Summit. "We've been able to accomplish our original goals, which were to make the sport safer and more popular at every level. We are excited by the growth of the Pole Vault Summit and thank each and every one of our volunteers who make the Summit an event to look forward to every year." Chappell also noted that a testament to the popularity and prestige of the summit was the attendance by such pole vaulting luminaries as Billy Olson, Scott Huffman, Pat Manson, Nick Hysong, Stacy Dragila, Doug Fraley, Greg Duplantis, Tom Tellez, and Jeff Hartwig. **As a testament to the Summit, 2008 Olympian Derek Miles flew into Reno directly from competing at the Millrose Games in New York.** The positive support and mentoring influence has proven to be a highly valued and unique feature for the aspiring High School and Collegiate vaulters.

One encouraging statistic from the UCS/Spirit sponsored 2 day event, that had over 10,000 vaults in 59 competitions, is that there were 0 broken vaulting poles.

For more information about the National Pole Vault Summit visit www.PoleVaultSummit.com.