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26 Wales hold off Australia with thrilling 29-25 victory in Rugby World Cup



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Coleman withdraws from 200m

Coleman roars to 100m title, race walkers tame heat



DOHA: USA's Christian Coleman (L) crosses the finish line ahead of USA's Justin Gatlin (C) and Italy's Filippo Tortu to win the Men's 100m final at the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships at the Khalifa International stadium in Doha. — AFP

DOHA: Newly crowned world 100m champion Christian Coleman has withdrawn from the 200m at the World Championships, the United States Track and Field Federation confirmed yesterday. US sprinter Coleman, who blasted to a brilliant gold medal in the 100m on Saturday, had been due to take part in the heats of the 200m.

However a revised start list for the event at the Khalifa Stadium showed the American's name absent. A USA Track & Field spokesman later confirmed Coleman was not racing the event but would be available for the relays. No reason for his 200m withdrawal was given.

Earlier, Coleman stamped his mark on world sprinting with a dominant performance to sweep to the global 100 metres title and suggest the heir to retired Jamaican icon Usain Bolt has arrived. The 23-year-old American, who escaped a doping ban earlier this month on a technicality, swept over the finish line in a world-leading personal best of 9.76sec to claim his first major outdoor championship gold medal.

Defending champion Justin Gatlin took silver in

9.89sec at the age of 37 while Canada's Andre De Grasse claimed bronze in 9.90sec. It completed a flawless championship campaign for Coleman, who had been the only man to duck under 10 seconds in both Friday's opening rounds and Saturday's semi-finals.

Coleman has angrily denied any suggestion he is guilty of taking performance-enhancing drugs. Coleman let out a roar of triumph as he crossed the line before punching the air in jubilation after a performance which makes him the sixth fastest man in history.

"It is an incredible time, it is a PR for me. I think the sky's the limit, I think I still have a lot of things I can work on and improve, I think I can keep dropping my time," the indoor 60 metres world record holder said.

Coleman may be just starting to accrue titles but Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce suggested a fourth 100m women's world crown is on the cards.

The 32-year-old two-time Olympic champion timed an impressive 10.80sec, the fastest women's 100m heat in world championship history. There were also first world titles for Ethiopia-born naturalised Dutch distance

runner Sifan Hassan in the 10,000m and DeAnna Price of the United States, who celebrated victory in the women's hammer.

Price, 26, has only one kidney and suffered several serious injuries down the years. "I didn't even think I was going to compete this year," Price said after her win. "I was in a lot of pain. I couldn't even throw over 70 metres." Jamaica's Tajay Gayle upset the form book to strike men's long jump gold, producing the leap of his life to defeat favourite Juan Miguel Echevarria. The 23-year-old Gayle launched himself 8.69m with his fourth attempt while Cuba's Echevarria only managed 8.34m for bronze.

Day two concluded with all eyes on the men's and women's 50km walk races, with organisers nervously monitoring the progress of athletes chasing medals in sweltering conditions.

The walks took place 24 hours after a casualty-filled women's marathon, where 28 of 68 starters failed to finish. However despite steamy conditions on Qatar's waterfront course, the two races largely passed off without the sort of scenes that dogged the marathon, where

several exhausted athletes were taken away from the course on stretchers.

The men's race was won by Yusuke Suzuki, who became the first Japanese athlete to win the 50km men's race. Suzuki's pillar was almost outshone by Portugal's silver medalist Joao Vieira who at 43 became the oldest male athlete to win a medal at the world championships. Canada's Evan Dunfee took bronze.

The women's race saw a Chinese 1-2 with Liang Rui taking gold in 4hr 23min 26sec and Li Maoouo the silver. Italy's Eleonora Giorgi took the bronze — defending champion Ines Henriques failed to finish.

The IAAF's decision to award the championships to Doha came under renewed scrutiny following the marathon carnage, with French decathlon world champion Kevin Mayer adding his voice to the criticism on Saturday. "Clearly by organising the championship here, they (the IAAF) didn't put the athletes first, they've mostly put them in jeopardy," said Mayer. "Even if people aren't saying it out loud, it's obvious it's a catastrophe." —AFP

Bekele wins Berlin marathon, misses record by two seconds

BERLIN: Ethiopian Kenenisa Bekele won his second Berlin Marathon yesterday in a time of two hours one minute and 41 seconds, just two seconds short of the world record. Bekele left it late to hit the lead, overtaking countryman Birhanu Legese on the 38th kilometre before hitting top speed as he chased the world record of 2:01:39 set in Berlin last year

by Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge.

Bekele was more than a minute behind the world record time with 10 kilometres to go, but finished in a flurry to better his personal best of 2:03:03 set at the 2016 Berlin Marathon. Legese finished second with fellow Ethiopian Sisay Lemma in third.

Ashete Bekere, also from Ethiopia, was the fastest of the women, finishing just eight seconds ahead of countrywoman Mare Dibaba in a time of 2:20:14, highlighting the African nation's dominance in the sport. Bekere and Dibaba were elbow to elbow as they ran through the Brandenburg Gate with just a few hundred metres to go, before Bekere pulled away with the finish line in sight.

Bekele was more than a minute behind the world record time with 10 kilometres to go, but finished in a flurry to better his personal best of 2:03:03 set in 2016. Bekele put his

slow start down to a hamstring complaint.

"I felt something in my hamstring early on and of course I am coming back from injury, I was still in rehab two or three months ago," he said. "My preparation wasn't 100 percent. I feel sorry to have missed the world record, it is painful."

"I'm not lucky, but I know my potential and I know I can do this." Women's winner Bekere was thrilled with her victory, saying she put her performance down to intuition rather than tactics. "I am especially delighted to have managed it. I didn't prepare especially for this race, tactics wise, I just ran my own race today."

While Bekele was favourite for the men's event, women's pre-race favourite Gladys Cherono left in tears with half of the course completed due to an apparent muscle problem. —AFP



BERLIN: Winners Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia (L) and Ethiopia's Ashete Bekere celebrate during the winner's ceremony of the 46th Berlin Marathon yesterday. —AFP