



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Audrey Werro and a host of champions

Athletissima will bring together 9 reigning Olympic champions, 11 world champions and 14 European champions this Friday in Lausanne, as well as at the City Event on Thursday. The year's top performers will be competing across every discipline, chasing qualification places for the Diamond League Final. Spectators will also have the chance to see all of Switzerland's medallists from the European Championships.

The evening will reach a spectacular climax at 21:32, when Swiss star **Audrey Werro**, now firmly established on the international stage, takes to the track for a thrilling 800m, one week after her memorable race at the European Championships in Birmingham. She will once again face **Femke Broeders-Bol**, the bronze medallist in England, with **Jarmila Kratochvilova's** world record (1:53.28, set in 1983) inevitably somewhere in the back of her mind.

The men's 800m will feature the very best in the world, led by **Emmanuel Wanyonyi** (KEN), **Marco Arop** (CAN) and **Brandon Miller** (USA). Two years ago in Lausanne, **Wanyonyi** came within two tenths of a second of **David Rudisha's** world record.

In the sprints, the headline names over 200m will be **Shericka Jackson** (JAM), **Amy Hunt** (GBR) and **Letsile Tebogo** (BOT). The hurdles promise to be particularly competitive, with **Ja'Kobe Tharp** (USA) and **Jamal Britt** (USA) in the 110m hurdles, **Masai Russell** (USA) and **Alaysha Johnson** (USA), in the 100m hurdles, and **Emma Zapletalova** (SVK) and **Anna Cockrell** (USA) in the 400m hurdles all set to challenge the clock.

Tharp has held the world record of 12.75 since this spring and will be making one of his rare appearances in Europe.

The last-minute addition of **Rai Benjamin** to the 400m hurdles is another major highlight. In this additional event, the world champion will contest his one and only race of the season in his specialist discipline. This year, he has focused primarily on the flat 400m, including an

 ATHLETISSIMA
LAUSANNE

impressive victory in London. Can he challenge **Alison dos Santos'** world-leading 46.48 in the 400m hurdles?

Ambitious Swiss athletes

In the 5000m, no athlete has yet secured a place in the Brussels Final. A tremendous battle is looming, with five athletes on the start line who have run under 12:50 this season: **Birhanu Balew** (BRN), **Graham Blanks** (USA), **Grant Fisher** (USA), **Parker Wolfe** (USA) and **Mathew Kipsang** (KEN).

In the women's 3000m steeplechase, **Winfred Yavi** (BRN) will attempt to close in on the 2026 world-leading mark of 8:51.06, held by **Peruth Chemutai**.

Two outstanding field events are also in store. The men's triple jump will be led by **Andy Diaz Hernandez**. The Italian became the fourth-best performer in history in Birmingham with 18.15m and showed that **Jonathan Edwards'** world record of 18.29m could be within his reach. In the javelin, 2026 world No. 1 **Rumesh Pathirage** (SRI), the latest revelation from the subcontinent, will face strong pressure from **Neeraj Chopra** (IND), among others.

Switzerland's Birmingham medallists are certain to set the crowd alight. At least three of them have every chance of victory: Werro, of course, but also **Angelica Moser** in the pole vault, where she will face Olympic champion **Nina Kennedy** (AUS), among others, and **Simon Ehammer** in the long jump, up against world No. 1 **Miltiadis Tentoglou** (GRE). **Dominic Lobalu** is also expected to be among the leading contenders in the 5000m.

To round off the evening, Switzerland's women's 4x100m relay team, fresh from their historic European silver medal, will be aiming for victory — and a seriously fast time.

The meeting is sold out, but the men's pole vault at the City Event in Ouchy, on the lakeside, will be open to everyone on Thursday, with free admission. **Armand Duplantis** (SWE) will take aim at his meeting record of 6.15m and face **Emmanouil Karalis** (GRE), **Sam Kendricks** (USA) and a host of other champions.

Athletissima/Media Service

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About Athletissima

Athletissima, now a fixture of Lausanne's summer season, was first held on 8 July 1977 at the Pierre-de-Coubertin Stadium, spearheaded by former 800m runner Jacky Delapierre. Over the years, it has become a renowned international meeting, attracting the biggest stars in athletics to the Olympic capital. Now based at the La Pontaise Olympic Stadium, Athletissima has been part of the Wanda Diamond League circuit since 2010, establishing itself as one of the world's most prestigious athletics meetings.

About the Wanda Diamond League

 ATHLETISSIMA
LAUSANNE

The Wanda Diamond League is the elite one-day meeting series in athletics. It comprises 15 of the most prestigious events in global track and field, delivering world-class competitions for fans and athletes in all four corners of the world.

The series provides a unique opportunity for athletes across the full diversity of track and field to compete regularly at the highest level throughout the outdoor season. In 32 different disciplines, athletes compete for points at the 14 series meetings in a bid to qualify for the two-day Wanda Diamond League Final.

With events in 13 different countries across four different continents, the Diamond League is one of the most truly global series in world sport.

In 2025, it welcomed 400,000 spectators to some of the planet's most iconic arenas and was broadcast on television in 170 different countries. It also reached an online fanbase of five million social media followers worldwide, notching up more than one billion impressions and more than 900 million video views across all platforms.

The 2026 Diamond League season will begin in Shanghai/Keqiao on May 16 and culminate at the two-day series final in Brussels on September 4-5.

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