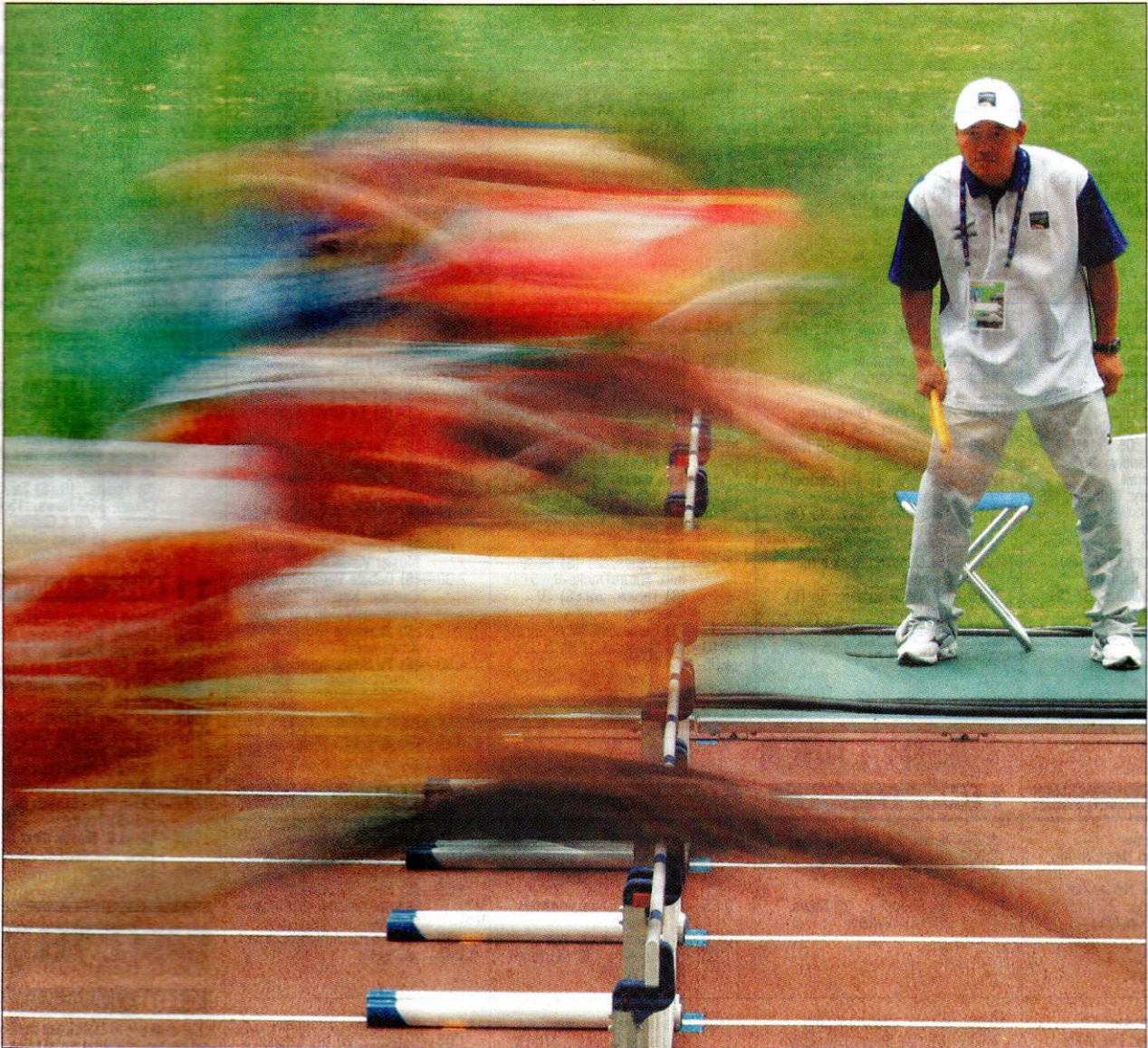


IAAF OSAKA 2007
世界陸上大阪

ATHLETICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



REUTERS

Athletes compete in the men's 110-meter hurdle heats at the 11th IAAF World Athletics Championships in Osaka on Wednesday.

America's Perry wins hurdles 100 gold

The Asahi Shimbun

OSAKA—It was supposed to be a showdown between a pair of Americans in the women's 100-meter hurdles Wednesday evening at Nagai Stadium.

While defending champion Michelle Perry came through for the victory in 12.46 seconds, her chief rival and training partner Ginny Powell finished out of the medals in fifth place.

Perry won by a head over another former world champion, Canadian Perdita Felicien, who took the World

Championship gold in Paris in 2003. Felicien clocked a personal season-best 12.49 to edge Jamaican Delloreen Ennis-London (12.50) for the silver medal on another hot, muggy night in Osaka.

European champion Susanna Kallur of Sweden finished fourth in a personal-best time of 12.51 seconds, with Powell clocking a disappointing 12.55.

The race was another close one and it wasn't until the times were posted that Perry realized she had won the gold. She then took an American flag and trotted

around the track waving to spectators.

Perry, 28, and Powell, her 23-year-old understudy and the reigning American champion, are both coached by Bob Kersee. At the Paris Golden League race, the pair collided in midrace, causing Powell to fall.

Perry, whose first love was soccer until she broke her leg playing that sport at age 14, and Powell have posted the top two times this year at 12.44 and 12.45, respectively.

In Tuesday's semifinals, Perry clocked 12.55 while

Powell was timed in 12.67.

"It was an extremely difficult race," Perry said afterward. "I'd rate it in the top three most difficult races of my career. I kept telling myself I could win the race and defend my title, just stay calm."

Elsewhere, defending champion Franka Dietzsch of Germany won her third world discus throw crown with a throw of 66.61 meters.

Dietzsch, 39, who also won the title in 1999, marked the winning throw on her first attempt, leaving the rest of the field trying hard to catch up.

—Rob Smaal