



## **Athletics Ireland announce team for European Championships**

Athletics Ireland has announced a 30-strong team for the 20<sup>th</sup> European Athletics Championships in Barcelona from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August. The team consists of 30 athletes and includes three relay teams. Final selection for the team will be announced on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

The squad was selected following last weekend's Woodie's DIY AAI Senior Track and Field Championships in Santry. The team will feature all of Ireland's top athletes including David Gillick, who will run in the 400m, Derval O'Rourke, who will compete in the 100m Hurdles and Paul Hession in the 100m and 200m.

World silver medallist Olive Loughnane is also listed in the squad despite having to pull out of the National Championships on medical advice, as a precaution. She is now cleared to compete and is optimistic ahead of the championships.

Gordon Kennedy is also listed in the team and will compete in the 400m after he achieved the qualification time in Santry yesterday. Paralympian Jason Smyth is also named in the squad and will compete in the 100m pending medical clearance on a minor injury. A new addition to the Irish team is Pole Vaulter, Tori Pena, who won the event at the National Championships on Saturday.

Irish team manager Patsy McGonagle is confident of bringing home some medals from Barcelona. *"We are delighted with the initial team selection for Barcelona. We targeted improvements from Gothenburg 2 years ago and this now seems to be coming to fruition. This strength of athletics in Ireland was clearly evident at this year's European Team Championships where we dominated on the track and maintained our Division 1 status. All the signs look positive as the clock ticks down towards London 2012. A major bonus this year is the inclusion of 3 relay teams. This clearly indicates that our sprinters are prepared to step and make their presence felt."* McGonagle said.

Liam Hennessy, President of Athletics Ireland, is looking forward to the Championships. *"The European Championships have been the focus for all*

*these athletes since last year's World Championships. They have been training towards this all year and they are in great condition from what we saw at Santry over the weekend. Barcelona is a fantastic venue for the event and we should see some really exciting performances from the Irish team."*

The European Championships take place in Olympic Stadium in Barcelona from the 27<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August. For more information log on to [www.athleticsireland.ie](http://www.athleticsireland.ie) .

Athletics Ireland – Irish Team  
European Championships – Barcelona – 27<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August

<u>Men</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Club</u>
Jason Smyth *	City of Derry AC	<u>100m</u>		
Paul Hession	Athenry AC			
Paul Hession		<u>200m</u>	Niamh Whelan	Ferrybank AC
			Joanne Cuddihy	KCH
David Gillick	DSD	<u>400m</u>	Joanne Cuddihy	KCH
Gordon Kennedy	Tullamore Harriers			
Brian Gregan	Clonliffe AC			
David McCarthy	Le Cheile AC	<u>800m</u>	Roseanne Galligan	Newbridge AC
Thomas Chamney	Crusaders AC			
Thomas Chamney	Crusaders AC	<u>1500m</u>		
Alistair Cragg	Clonliffe AC			
Alistair Cragg	Clonliffe AC	<u>5000m</u>		
Mark Christie	Mullingar Harriers			
		<u>100m</u>	Derval O'Rourke	Leevale AC

Hurdles

400m  
Hurdles

Michelle Carey Dublin Striders  
Justine Kinney Loughborough  
Brona Furlong Slaney Olympic

3000SC

Fionnuala Britton Sli Chulainn  
Stephanie Reilly Sli Chulainn

High Jump

Deirdre Ryan DSD

Long Jump

Kelly Proper Ferrybank AC

Pole Vault

Tori Pena † Finn Valley AC

Robert Heffernan Togher AC

20K Walk

Olive Loughnane Loughrea AC

Jamie Costin West Waterford AC

Robert Heffernan Togher AC

50k Walk

4x100m  
Relay

Ailis McSweeney Leevale AC  
Amy Foster  
Claire Brady Celbridge AC  
Derval O'Rourke Leevale AC  
Niamh Whelan Ferrybank AC  
Kelly Proper Ferrybank AC

David Gillick DSD

4x400m  
Relay

Joanne Cuddihy KCH  
Michelle Carey

Gordon Kennedy Tullamore

	Harriers		
Brian Gregan	Clonliffe AC	Justine Kinney	
	UCC AC		Slaney
Brian Murphy		Brona Furlong	Olympic
David McCarthy	Le Cheile AC	Marian Heffernan	Togher AC
		Claire Bergin	DSD

† subject to IAAF clarification under rule 5