

USA dominates athletics

The USA were virtually unopposed in landing the platinum winners trophy on a final tally of 219 points

AFP | London

The United States of America recorded a comprehensive victory in the inaugural edition of the Athletics World Cup after dominating the second day of the event in London on Sunday.

It might have lacked the prestige and visibility of football's World Cup final earlier in Moscow, hindered by the absence of many of track and field's most recognisable names and an unfortunate clash of dates with the final of the greatest sporting show on the planet.

Yet reasonable crowds, compared to much of the Diamond League circuit, and a rapid format with audience appeal, is worth extending, according to IAAF president Sebastian Coe, with three nations understood to have expressed interest in staging the next scheduled edition in 2020.

"I've been very clear that I want new things to be tried," he said.

"They are not always going to work out from the word go but that can't inhibit us from going 'we tried, it didn't do everything so we go back to the same old thing'.

"There is a lot of work being done on the calendar and the Diamond Leagues. But while we're working that out, I didn't want the sport just to stop doing creative things.

"We will figure things out. They've already had interest in this from other cities. But I'm



The US team celebrate their win in the women's 4x400m relay during the Athletics World Cup team competition at the London Stadium in London

really pleased UK Athletics have taken up the challenge."

The USA were virtually unopposed in landing the platinum winners trophy on a final tally of 219 points.

They were well clear of Poland in second on 162 with the hosts consigned to third place when their men's 4x400 relay team were disqualified prior to the concluding event when first leg runner Cameron Chalmers pulled a hamstring in the warm-up.

Holding a 24-point advantage overnight, the Americans kept

extending their margin with Paul Dedewo running a personal best of 44.48 seconds to win the men's 400m.

Kenny Selmon took the men's 400m hurdles and Vashti Cunningham leapt to a season's best of 1.96m to reign in the women's high jump before their triumph was rounded off in the men's 4x400.

Elsewhere, Jamaica's Tyquendo Tracey recorded a lifetime best of 10.03 seconds to win the men's 100m with South Africa's world champion Luvo Manyonga taking victory in the men's

Final standings

1. USA, 219 points,
2. Poland 162,
3. Great Britain and Northern Ireland 155,
4. Jamaica 153,
5. France 146,
6. Germany 137,
7. South Africa 135,
8. China 81

long jump with a leading effort of 8.51m.

However at the conclusion, it was the Americans who took a lap of honour amid the fireworks at the London Stadium which will also host the next leg of the Diamond League circuit next weekend.

And among those in action, there appeared to be a consensus that the Athletics World Cup is an idea that could be replicated or extended in the future.

"This sport needs one thing and that's more exciting events and this was certainly that," said Hendricks.

"I know it conflicted with the soccer World Cup but to have this chance to come together as a national team is really cool.

"Because what is great to have is competition when you have people in different vests competing against one another rather than just individuals in identical vests out there.

"And I think in future editions, you'll see this grow and more people will want to be there. And I know I'd want to be a part of it."



We will figure things out. They've already had interest in this from other cities. But I'm really pleased UK Athletics have taken up the challenge

SEBASTIAN COE, IAAF PRESIDENT



Vladimir Putin

Russia targeted by 25 million cyber-attacks: Putin

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia was the target of almost 25 million cyber-attacks during the World Cup, President Vladimir Putin said, though he did not indicate who may have been behind the attacks.

"During the period of the World Cup, almost 25 million cyber-attacks and other criminal acts on the information structures in Russia, linked in one way or another to the World Cup, were neutralised," Putin said during a meeting on Sunday with security services.

The president, whose comments were reported by the Kremlin on Monday, gave no information on the nature or possible origins of the cyber-attacks.

"Behind this (World Cup) success lies huge preparatory, operational, analytical and information work, we operated at maximum capacity and concentration," said Putin.

Russia, which hosted the World Cup from June 14 to July 15 in 11 cities and 12 stadiums, has been repeatedly accused by Western countries of conducting cyber-attacks.



Fadhel Ateya Ebrahim



Dr Geetha Praveena Nair



Yohan Kudala

The Daily Tribune World Cup predict and win contest prizes were distributed yesterday at DT office in Zinj Pizza Hut Building (Ibrahim Plaza). The winners are Arif Iqbal Hossain, Yohan Kudala, GM Nicholas, Fadhel Ateya Ebrahim, Dr Geetha and Sameer Parker

Kim wins John Deere in record-setting style



Michael Kim

Los Angeles, United States

Michael Kim made his long-awaited first US PGA Tour triumph a record-breaker Sunday, winning the John Deere Classic by eight strokes with a final-round 66.

The South Korean-born American finished with a 27-under total of 257 -- one stroke better than the previous tournament record set by Steve Stricker in 2010.

Kim also posted the tournament's largest margin of victory -- by four strokes -- since it moved to TPC Deere Run in 2000.

"I'm just really thankful and proud," said Kim. "I feel like I've been running on fumes the entire back nine. I'm just super-thankful, thankful to my parents, my team, my coaches ..."

A day after celebrating his 25th birthday, Kim punched his ticket to next week's Open Championship at Carnoustie. Italy's Francesco Molinari and Americans Joel Dahmen, Sam Ryder and Bronson Burgoon shared second on 265.

It's 'just the beginning' for Mbappe-led France

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Kylian Mbappe and another supremely talented generation of French players may just be getting started after overcoming Croatia to win the World Cup in Russia.

While the 19-year-old is the poster boy for France's new crop of talent, the make-up of the squad suggests they have the youth and firepower to dominate international football for years to come.

The average age of a fine back four of Benjamin Pavard, Raphael Varane, Samuel Umtiti and Lucas Hernandez is just 23.

Ousmane Dembele, who cost Barcelona 105 million euros



France's forward Kylian Mbappe kisses the World Cup trophy after winning the Russia 2018 World Cup final football match between France and Croatia

(\$123 million), played for just two minutes in the knockout stages, while France's other goalscorers on Sunday, Antoine Griezmann, 27, and Paul Pogba, 25, are in their prime.

In scoring his fourth goal of the tournament and France's fourth of a 4-2 win in the World Cup final in Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium, Mbappe -- named young player of tournament -- became the youngest player since Pele to score in football's biggest match.

"I have a story to write, this is just the beginning," Mbappe warned the world. "I intend to go even further."

It is not the first time in Russia the lightning-quick Paris

Saint-Germain forward has drawn comparisons with the Brazilian great. In scoring twice against Argentina in the last 16, Mbappe became the first teenager since Pele to score multiple goals in a World Cup game.

After starring as a 17-year-old in 1958, Pele went on to win two more World Cups, and while Mbappe has much to do to match those feats, there is no telling how dominant a young French squad littered with world-class players can become.

Only Nigeria sent a younger group than Didier Deschamps's 23 to Russia yet France can boast serial winners at club level in Varane, Mbappe, Pogba and N'Golo Kante.