

2006 European Athletics Science Awards

Christina Hunneshagen (GER) has won the fifth edition of the European Athletics Science Awards with her project entitled *"Coaches' Eye" – Technical analysis and fault finding as an internet application for coaching high jump*. Her paper, the first by a woman to take the overall award, beat 25 other entries from 14 European countries for the 10,000 Swiss Franc prize.

"We were very impressed with the project's innovative approach to coach education using information technology," said the chairman of the awards jury Agoston Schulek, who is a Vice President of the European Athletic Association. "As a distance-learning tool it has great potential to bring theory and practice together and support the development of coaches wherever they might be."

Pointing out that this year's entries covered a broad range of topics in fields such as physiology, biomechanics, sport psychology and sociology, Schulek said the jury's first place selection reflected its feeling about the importance of coach education. "Our selection demonstrates our belief that coaches have a key role to play in athletics and that improvements in coach education will lead to further development of the sport."

Hunneshagen, who now works as a lecturer at the German Sport University in Cologne, received her prize from Schulek and EAA President Hansjörg Wirz in a ceremony at the 2006 European Athletics Calendar Conference in Varna, Bulgaria, on 13 October 2006.

Developed as her project work and final thesis for her university studies, Hunneshagen's winning entry is an online multi-media learning platform designed to supplement coach education systems. Her paper outlines the process of developing the application, gives a description of the application and concludes with a discussion of the uses of the application and the next steps in the project,



(l to r) Agoston Schulek, Christina Hunneshagen, Hansjörg Wirz

which include the creation of similar tools for other events. The application developed in the project can be accessed free of charge at: www.coaches-eye.com.

In addition to Hunneshagen, the authors of the next four placed projects received cash awards from the 20,000 Swiss Franc prize fund and three projects received Honourable Mention recognition (see table).

Prize Winners

1st Place

"Coaches eye" – Technical analysis and fault finding as an internet application for coaching high jump

Author: Christina HUNNESHAGEN (GER)

2nd Place

The interaction of goal orientation and perceived competence in predicting sustained participation in competitive sports: a longitudinal study of track and field youth athletes

Authors: Niilo KONTTINEN (FIN), Antero TOSKALA (FIN), Lauri LAAKSO (FIN), Raimo KONTTINEN (FIN)

3th Place (Equal)

Performance development of the finalists of the athletics youth world championships 1999

Author: Martin GRUND (GER)

Shoulder muscle activity during pushing, pulling, elevation and overhead throw at professional athletes

Authors: Árpád ILLYÉS (HUN), Rita M.KISS (HUN)

5th Place

New aspects in perfecting the long jump technique

Author: Ognyan MILADINOV (BUL)

Honourable Mention

Training effect on performance, substrate balance and blood lactate concentration at maximal lactate steady state in master endurance runners

Authors: Veronique BILLAT (FRA), Pascal SIRVENT (FRA) Pierre-Marie LEPRETRE (FRA), Jean Pierre KORALSZTEIN (FRA)

W.A.I.S. - Wireless athletic information system

Authors: Carlos GALÍNDEZ (ESP), Pere GUILLAUMES (ESP),

Spring – Mass model characteristics during sprint running: correlation with performance and fatigue-induced changes

Authors: Jean-Benoît MORIN (FRA), Benjamin CHEVALLIER (FRA), Thibault JEANIN (FRA), Alain BELLI (FRA)

The biennial European Athletics Science Awards were established in 1998 to encourage scientific work that leads to the promotion and development of athletics. Projects are judged by an EAA appointed jury, of which one member is nominated by the European Athletic Coaches Association. In addition to Schulek, this year's jury members were Dr Jikta Vinduskova (CZE), Mr Peter Thompson (GBR) and Dr Wolfgang Rizdorf (GER). The jury's evaluation criteria were scientific quality and practical applicability to coaching,

athletics education and the organisation/administration of the sport.

The next edition of the European Athletics Science Awards will be in 2008. For further information, see www.european-athletics.org.

Reported by Bill Glad

Editor's note: Christina Hunneshagen's winning paper and the fifth place paper by Ognyan Miladinov are included in this issue of NSA.