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# All eyes on Jones

Goal of five golds brings burden of expectations to U.S. sprinter

By Tom Weir **USA TODAY** 

SYDNEY - By now, even casual sports fans know Marion Jones has steadfastly and unabashedly promised the world she will leave the 2000 Summer Olympics with five gold medals.

Should she deliver on her promise, it would be an Olympic record for a female track and field athlete at one Games and

Cover

such a physical and psychological triumph that perhaps only a handful of other Olympic champions can fully appreciate its difficulty.

John Naber, winner of four gold medals and a silver in swimming for the USA at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. says, "The burden of expectations on Marion lones cannot be overstated."

The USA's Michael Johnson knows the feeling. He was in the same position at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, where his historymaking men's double in the 200 and 400 Long jump, Sept.27, 29 meters made him the runner everyone. wanted to beat. "If she's able to do it. it would make her the premier track and field athlete," Johnson says "These Olympics would become the Marion Jones Olympics."

Friday afternoon (Thursday right, ET), the quest begins. Jones will be competing in track and field's shortest, prost explosive events, but she also must survive a marathon of 10 races and two rounds of long jumping spread over pine days.

Every time she walks into Olympic Stadium, all eves and cameras will be focused on the 24-year-old from Apex, N.C. She will be

Her goals



100m, Fri.-Sat.



200m, Sept. 27/28





4x100, Sept. 30



4x400, Sept. 30

the competitor the rest of the field targets, and at times she might feel her Olympic ex-perience has boiled down to Marion Jones vs. the World.

Australia's national hero at these Games. lan Thorpe, learned how hard that can be when he was beaten in his third swimming event, the 200-meter freestyle, after two gold-medal performances had made him seem invincible.

"I gave the race my all, but I might have been a little flat, coming off the emotion of the night before," says Thorpe, 17. "I wish I could have gone a little bit faster, but you don't always get things your way."

John Naber calls Thorpe's letdown entirely prédictable.

In Ian Thorpe's case, Day 1 of swimming was a remarkable high that brings with it a rush of adrenaline that will carry you for a time," Naber says. "But there has to be an inevitable crash, which I think happened to him in the 200. When you're in that type of situation, you have to sustain it over a period of days, while your opposition only has to have it on the day they face you.'

In retrospect, Naber believes he benefited overall by placing second in an event early in the Montreal Olympics, the 100 freestyle, and losing his chance for a sweep of five golds.

"I did not consider myself to be the standard-bearer for the U.S. team." Naber says. "I never had to live up to anyone else's expectations."

Besides the unprecedented task Jones faces at the track, there will be endless media demands and no hope of going anywhere in Sydney without being recognized.

"You're always on the go. You're always in transit," Naber says. "There's no place to

Nuclear sites 21 made public

Firms did weapons work

By Peter Eisler USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Energy Department today will release the names and locations of more than 550 companies, research sites and other places across the nation where radioactive and toxic materials may have been secretly processed for the U.S. nuclear weapons program.

The list was obtained Wednesday by USA TO-DAY. Its publication follows a USA TODAY investigation that detailed the government's exten-

**Expoisoned** places

sive use of private companies for nuclear arms work. That investigation, published earlier this month. turned up about 300 private contractors that did weapons work. It also revealed that unwitting workers at many sites were exposed to extreme radiation and chemical hazards and that many companies dumped hazardous waste into surrounding communities.

While the federal plants and labs in the database have been publicly known for years, this is the first time the government has released a comprehensive list that includes commercial facilities.

The list is being released on the day of a House hearing on legislation that would for the first time provide government compensation to weapons workers with illnesses linked to exposure to radioactive and toxic material. It's likely to raise questions about whether the bill, which mainly promises aid to workers at federal sites, should provide more guarantees of coverage for workers at the private facilities.

Please see COVER STORY next page ▶ | ▶ DOE's complete list, 2A, and at USATODAY.com

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### Companies and research sites where radioactive and toxic materials might have been processed secretly

This is a list of more than 550 sites where the Department of Energy either knows there are questions about whether the conclusions reached at some sites during created on the DOEs Web site: www.doe.gov. The DOE provided no information work was performed for the nuclear weapons program or where questions have previous investigations are accurate. DOE is reexamining records at many sites. Offibeen raised about whether such work was done. At some of these sites, past investigations have concluded that no radioactive material was handled. At other sites, questions at many of the sites. As it becomes available, more information will be past investigations have concluded that weapons work was not done. However, posted on a public database that Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has ordered be

cials also say they are developing a plan to address worker safety and environmental

about Oklahoma and Vermont. The list was obtained by USA TODAY too late Wednesday to allow time to alphabetize it by location. Sites are presented in the order they appear on the DOE's list, (Story, 1A)

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