

Derek Miles, Team Pacer, honored with Jim Thorpe Award

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CHAMPAIGN IL-For Immediate Release. At this year's annual USA Track & Field Convention, Derek Miles, Team Pacer Pole Vaulter, was honored with the Jim Thorpe Award. This award is presented annually to the outstanding male athlete in the field events category and is named for the legendary multi-event athlete and winner of the 1912 Olympic decathlon. Of the award, Miles says, "It is a true honor to have been given the Jim Thorpe Award as its past recipients have embodied excellence in the sport of Track and Field for 25 years".

Derek Miles is the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials Champion and went on to place fourth at the Beijing Olympics. About Miles, David Hodge, President and CEO, Gill Athletics, says "Derek is a tremendous athlete who has persevered through injury and adversity and is now fully realizing his potential."

Gill Athletics Field Athlete of the Year Award

At the same banquet the first annual Gill Athletics Field Athlete of the Year was awarded to Hyleas Fountain. This award honors a high performance athlete with a distinguished record and is named in tribute to Harry Gill, founder of Gill Athletics.

Hyleas Fountain is the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials Champion and went on to win the silver medal in the heptathlon at the Beijing Games. Fountain joins Jackie Joyner-Kersey as the only other American woman to win an Olympic medal in the seven-discipline event. Presenting the award at the December 6 banquet, David Hodge comments "Hyleas is an extraordinary woman both on and off the field of competition. She embodies the values of our found Harry Gill of hard work and determination coupled with God given ability."

About Harry Gill

Harry Gill was not only an exceptional track and field athlete in the "all-around" event, known today as the decathlon; he was also a highly decorated coach at the University of Illinois, leading his team to 19 Big Ten Championship titles. As a revolutionary inventor and a successful equipment manufacturer, Gill made notable discoveries and contributions to today's quality products.

About Gill Athletics, Inc.

Gill Athletics, founded in 1918, is the world's oldest and largest manufacturer of Track & Field equipment. Gill equipment is used all over the world including all levels of competition in America from colleges to high schools to masters' competitions. For more information about Gill Athletics, call 800-637-3090 or visit www.gillathletics.com.