

OnTrack *NEWS RELEASE*

For Immediate Release:

Contact:

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Columbia, South Carolina Coach Wins Trip To National Pole Vault Summit in Reno, Nevada

(Burbank, Calif.) — OnTrack and Field, Inc. (“OnTrack”)—the Burbank, California-based track and field equipment supply company—will host the winner of the company’s 2013 pole vault coaches’ competition during a free trip to the National Pole Vault Summit in Reno, Nevada. Rusty Shealy, a resident of Columbia, South Carolina, was selected from among nominees from around the country to receive the award—the Jeff Truman Memorial Pole Vault Summit-ship—which will send the popular coach to the two-day convention (January 18–19) offering intensive workshops and exhibitions for instructors and athletes focusing exclusively on the pole vault event.

“Coach Shealy’s impressive coaching career, his level of commitment to his athletes and the event, and his great enthusiasm for constantly enhancing his coaching skills made him the obvious choice for our tenth awarding of the Summit-ship,” says Ron Morris, OnTrack’s President. “We are thrilled to honor Rusty as a representative of all those dedicated pole vault coaches around the nation who keep this event going for our country’s young track and field athletes.”

The Summit-ship is named for Jeff Truman, a former OnTrack employee, athlete and pole vault coach who suffered an untimely death in 2002, at the age of 27. “When we lost Jeff, we felt compelled to keep his positive spirit and coaching legacy alive to inspire other pole vault coaches and athletes. We decided to do this by selecting someone who embodied similar qualities that we could celebrate as exemplary, and at the same time, encourage that person to persevere in their efforts and give them an opportunity to continue their coaching education,” says Mr. Morris. “We feel that sending our honoree to the Pole Vault Summit is a great way to accomplish these goals.”

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Shealy Wins Pole Vault Summit-Ship

Coach Shealy was nominated by veteran international pole vault “guru” David “DJ” Johnston, who gets right to the point: “His record for taking TOTAL beginners to national champions is unprecedented.”

This is the second time Coach Shealy has been nominated for this honor. The Pole Vault Summit–Ship will cover the cost of his participation at the Pole Vault Summit in Reno, Nev., the annual development clinic sponsored by the North American Pole Vault Association (NAPVA) and UCS/Spirit. Coach Shealy will be presented to his peers at the Association’s Hall of Fame dinner, with his travel and accommodations courtesy of OnTrack, and Summit registration underwritten by Summit organizers.

Like so many past Summit–Ship winners, Coach Shealy feels an early lack of solid pole vault instruction held him back from realizing his full competitive potential. He hung up his spikes with a 14’11”P.R., but instead of dwelling on what might have been a successful collegiate athletic career, Coach Shealy has turned the experience around, providing coaching support where there once was a void.

As a self–coached prep athlete out of Brookland Cayce High School who set his school’s pole vault record at 13’7”(’78), Coach Shealy returned to the runway to coach for his alma mater in 1998. In doing so, he had the pleasure of helping his son, Chase, to break his own record, and raise the school’s top PV mark to 15’7” in 2001. Chase would go on to be the first high school vaulter in his state to clear 17’ in 2003, and his father would have the opportunity to go on to coach at the University of South Carolina (2004-’07).

A specialist in residential real estate since the early 1980’s, Coach Shealy says he found himself evaluating the back yards of homes he toured as potential vaulting pit locations. Eventually, his dream of establishing a home–based training facility began to take shape, and now, as owner and director of Rusty Shealy Pole Vault, he hosts clinics on his wooded 4.5–acre property, where he meets weekly with up to 50 young athletes from around the state and beyond. (Future plans for an indoor “vault barn” are in the works, now that zoning issues have been resolved.)

Among his most notable coaching successes, Coach Shealy includes: USATF Junior Olympic National Champion Spencer Stephens (1999, 15’11” and 2000, 16’6”); Mitch Greeley, S.C.H.S. state meet record setter (16’9”), USATF Junior Olympic National champ (2002), 2008 Olympic Trials qualifier, and current

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Shealy Wins Pole Vault Summit-Ship

elite vaulter now training in Europe; and Sandi Morris, 2010 USATF Junior Olympic National Champion (13'3.5"), currently vaulting at the University of Arkansas.

"I would not be where I am today without the confidence that other coaches have placed in me to develop their vaulters. I have athletes for a few hours each week. The other coaches have them the rest of the time," observes Coach Shealy. "This collaboration with coaches allows each of us to do what we do best... When everyone is unselfish and focused on the athletes first, it's win-win for everyone."

While his organization's website claims 69 South Carolina State Champions, 10 National Champions and three members of "Team U.S.A.", the World Junior Championship and World Youth Championship teams, Coach Shealy takes particular pride in having helped student athletes garner nearly \$1 million in scholarships to study at academic institutions around the country.

"Focus on the athletes first, and then... inch by inch, it's a cinch!"

To find out more about Coach Shealy and Shealy Athletics visit www.shealyathletics.com.

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Celebrating 35 years in business this year, OnTrack and Field, Inc. is operated by Ron Morris, 1960 Olympic silver medalist in the pole vault (USA). The Burbank, California-based company offers a complete line of track and field athletic equipment, accessories and apparel for purchase by teams and individuals looking for quality merchandise, affordably priced. OnTrack's staff of experienced athletes and coaches are available for consultation weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Pacific time.

Primarily a mail-order catalog business, OnTrack can also be found online at www.ontrackandfield.com. When in the Los Angeles area, track and field enthusiasts are invited to visit OnTrack at 2901 Winona Avenue in Burbank. For more information about OnTrack or the Jeff Truman Memorial Pole Vault Summit-ship, please call (800) 697-2999.

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Shealy Wins Pole Vault Summit-Ship

The National Pole Vault Summit is a grassroots developmental clinic established and continued to promote safety and encourage the advancement of pole vaulting at all levels through constant education. The Summit structure is designed to meet the needs of all ability levels including athlete, coaches, and parent break-out sessions, learn-by-doing instruction and roundtable discussion with the world's best athletes and coaches. Sponsored by UCS/Spirit, manufacturer of pole vaulting poles, landing systems and other track and field equipment, and led by National and Regional Staff influenced by National Men's and Women's Pole Vault Developmental chairmen, organizers assemble the most experienced and extensive staff to bring a truly unique experience for their attendees.

For more information about the National Pole Vault Summit, please contact Pole Vault Summit Co-Directors Lane Maestretti and/or Steve Chappell at UCS Spirit at (800) 537-7117, or visit www.polevaultsummit.com.

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