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**07.02.2025**

Europahalle Karlsruhe  
[meeting-karlsruhe.de](http://meeting-karlsruhe.de)

## INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe 2025: 40th anniversary with numerous records

**Malaika Mihambo jumps to the meeting record / Sarah Mitton improves the meeting record in the shot put by over a metre / No one has ever run the 400 metres in Karlsruhe faster than Brian Faust / Eight national records / Two world-leading performances / Live broadcast from Karlsruhe in over 120 countries**

On Friday evening, 3,500 enthusiastic spectators witnessed exciting competitions at the highest level at the sensational return of the INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe in the sold-out Karlsruhe Europahalle. The international top athletes showed themselves in top form in 11 disciplines at the anniversary meeting and set meeting records, national records and world-year bests.

With a giant leap of 7.07 metres, **Malaika Mihambo**, the silver medallist at the 2024 Olympics in Paris, broke the long jump meeting record of long jump legend Heike Drechsler, which had been in place for 31 years. The athlete from LG Kurpfalz jumped one centimetre further than Drechsler in 1994 in the evening in the Europahalle and also set a world-leading performance for the year. 'I was very happy, I hadn't expected to set my personal best here and to jump to a world-leading distance,' said the visibly satisfied Malaika Mihambo after the competition. Second place went to local favourite Mikaelle Assani (SCL Heel Baden-Baden) with 6.79 metres, ahead of Plamena Mitkova (6.69 metres, Bulgaria).

The previous meeting record was also broken in the second event of the evening: American **Brian Faust** sprinted the men's 400 metres in 46.03 seconds, thereby equalling Thomas Schönlebe's meeting record from 1990 and relegating Italy's Luca Sito (46.27) and South Africa's Zakithi Nene (46.58) to second and third place. Three new national records were set by the women over the same distance: Italian **Alice Mangione** won in 51.75 seconds (national record) ahead of Lina Nielsen (Great Britain, 51.93) and Bassant Hemida from Egypt (national record, 52.17). Martina Weil, who came in fourth, set a new Chilean national record of 52.40.

In the women's shot put, the Karlsruhe meeting record was improved several times: After Jessica Schilder (Netherlands) surpassed the existing record of Auriol Dongmo (Portugal) with 19.72 metres in her first attempt, the US American Chase Jackson followed suit just a few minutes later and became the first woman in Karlsruhe to throw further than 20 metres: with 20.06 metres, she

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nevertheless ended up 'only' second place, because the Canadian **Sarah Mitton** heaved the shot to a fantastic 20.68 metres in her last attempt – meeting victory, meeting record, world's best performance of the year, Canadian record and the furthest throw under the roof of an arena since 2013!

The winner praised the fantastic atmosphere in the Karlsruhe Europahalle: 'I loved the crowd! This is an amazing meet. The crowd was so engaged, surely because of Yemi, the Olympic champion. You can no longer just come out and throw 19.50 and expect to win.' Jessica Schilder, who held the meet record for a few minutes, took third place ahead of Olympic champion Yemisi Ogunleye from GERMERSHEIM, who came in fourth with a throw of 19.49 metres.

The Swede **Samuel Pihlström** won the first middle-distance race of the evening, running the 1,500 metres in 3:35.62 minutes, ahead of Federico Riva (Italy, 3:36.78) and Romain Mornet (France, 3:37.03). **Stefan Nillessen** won the men's 3,000 metres in a new Dutch record time of 7:37.10 minutes, ahead of Kenyan Mathew Kipchumba Kipsang (7:38.00) and his compatriot Mike Foppen (7:38.20). Nillessen, who had only arrived in Karlsruhe from South Africa the day before, praised the atmosphere in Karlsruhe: 'The crowd is amazing. Because of the four lanes the public is so close and you just can feel the energy'. In a fast race, the Norwegian Narve Gilje Nordås finished fifth to set a new national record of 7:39.05.

**Prudence Sekgodiso** won the women's 800 metres with a new South African national record of 1:59.88, leaving Majtie Kohlberg (LG Kreis Ahrweiler, 2:00.84) and Habitam Alemu (ETH, 2:01.34) behind her. 'I enjoyed it very much. (...) The atmosphere is really amazing, I would love to come back next year!' said Sekgodiso after her victorious race. **Lomi Muleta** from Ethiopia won the 3,000-metre race in 8:57.54 minutes, ahead of Mariana Machado from Portugal (8:57.77) and Federica Del Buono from Italy (8:57.88).

The women's pole vault was exciting right up until the last attempt. In a neck-and-neck race, Britain's **Molly Caudery** finally won with a jump of 4.75 metres, ahead of Slovenia's Tina Šutej, who cleared 4.70 metres, and France's Marie-Julie Bonnin, who stopped at 4.65 metres. Caudery was full of enthusiasm for the atmosphere and the Karlsruhe crowd: 'The crowd was amazing; they kept me going. You don't get tired when all the lights are in your eyes. It was a great atmosphere'.

The last two events of the evening were the short-distance races: the men's 60-metre hurdles and the women's 60 metres. **Wilhem Belocian** (France) won the men's 60m hurdles final in 7.53 seconds, ahead of Manuel Mordi (Hamburger SV, 7.62) and Asier Martinez (ESP, 7.66). Belocian said of his

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next meeting: 'My next race is in Paris on Sunday. I will be happy to run in front of a home crowd, but I love this crowd, too!' As in the preliminary round, the Egyptian Yousuf Badawi set a new national record of 7.71 seconds, finishing sixth in the final. **Patrizia van der Weken** from Luxembourg won the women's sprint in 7.13 seconds, ahead of Gémima Joseph from France (7.15) and Géraldine Frey from Switzerland (7.16). The German Olympic bronze medallists Gina Lückenkemper and Lisa Mayer finished in 5th and 8th place.

'We had an exceptionally high-quality starting field, with many Olympic participants and medal winners coming to Karlsruhe – and that paid off tonight. The performances of the athletes were truly world class,' said Sports Director Alain Blondel, who is responsible for signing the competing athletes.

'The incredible atmosphere in the Europahalle with our fantastic audience literally pushed the athletes to peak performances today,' said a delighted Meeting Director Martin Wacker. 'Three meeting records and eight national records are a fantastic result – and a wonderful birthday present for the 40th anniversary of the Karlsruhe Indoor Meeting! The sports city of Karlsruhe has shown itself from its best, internationally absolutely competitive side in the reopened Europahalle,' said Wacker in the evening.

The World Indoor Tour Gold continues on the other side of the Atlantic tomorrow, Saturday: Then the athletes will compete at the Milrose Games in New York before the overall winners of the tour are crowned in Madrid after the other stops in Liévin and Torun.

For more information about the INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe, please visit [www.meeting-karlsruhe.de](http://www.meeting-karlsruhe.de).

***Please find attached four photos that you are welcome to use for your coverage. Please credit all images as 'Andreas Arndt'.***