



THE INAUGURAL
DOUG SPECK AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

An Incredible Influence on the Sport

Doug Speck

Doug Speck – One would be hard pressed to find anyone who has had more influence in as many different areas of high school track and field over the past 35 years.

Doug graduated from **Eagle Rock High** just outside of Los Angeles and went on to **Pasadena City College** and then **Cal Poly Pomona** before earning a master's degree from **Azusa Pacific University**. He started his career at **Hueneme High** in Oxnard, California in the early 1970s, coaching both cross country and track & field. From there he moved on to **Arcadia** where he again coached both cross country and track – qualifying teams for the Southern Section postseason in the fall and to the state meet in the spring.

In addition, Doug assisted in the development of the **Arcadia Invitational**, first as an assistant and then as the meet director. He was the driving force in the early 1980s that gave the meet a national focus. The Arcadia Invitational became the best in-season high school invitational in the United States, which it remains today. (Doug made good use of the experiences he had as a volunteer for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles and brought them to the high school level.)

Soon, Doug turned his attention to the national and international scenes. In 1987, the year after the U. S. failed to qualify for a number of events at the first-ever **World Junior Championships**, Doug became the USATF Consultant to Juniors (under age 20). Over the next twelve years (1987-99), he mailed over 50,000 invitations to high school athletes with information and entry forms for the **U. S. Junior Championships**. In doing so, he greatly increased the number and quality of athletes who advanced to the World Junior

Championships. Doug also has served on various state high school advisory committees for both cross country and track and field.

Doug has been influential in the world of track writing and announcing. From the time he became a coach he wrote extensively for *California Track and Running News*. Meanwhile, he developed his announcing skills to the point that he became widely recognized as the best high school announcer ... and one of the best track announcers, period. He pioneered the collection of bio information and fully-researched introductions at high school track and cross country meets. Many veteran observers have credited Doug's knowledgeable and enthusiastic race calls as being a key factor in helping high school athletes break dozens of national records over the years.

By the late 1980s, Doug began to master the Internet. He developed his own web site and transformed the way people found California track and cross country information. In an effort to broaden the scope of coverage, Doug and **Rich Gonzalez** teamed up to create **DyeStatCal**. Over the past 10 years, DyeStatCal and **DyeStat** – **John Dye's** original creation – have become the two most heavily visited web-based high school track resources in the nation.

Recognizing the heightened interest in video and never being one to rest, Doug also pioneered the use of video in the calling of races and personal interviews – a craft which he continues to this day.

Doug has been deeply involved with the NSSF over the years. He contributed significantly to getting the forerunners of the **Nike Indoor Nationals** up and running. He also has contributed generously over the decades as an announcer, and in many other ways, to the **Nike Outdoor Nationals**, **Nike Cross Nationals**, and **Kinney/Footlocker Nationals**.

Doug has been an incredible influence on the sport and on the NSSF. We are pleased to present Doug with the Inaugural **Doug Speck Award for Excellence and Innovation**. ■

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