

“Beyond Sport Track Club” 2021-2022 season report

Timeline:

- **September 2021:** Started building a network of more than 250 middle and high-school PE teachers throughout the city of Ouagadougou for talent ID for the club;
- **Mid-October 2021:** Started home visits with the identified athletes to introduce the club and seek parental consent for the athletes to sign up;
- **End of December 2021:** Fund-raised more than \$3000 online. Later added about \$1500 of personal funds for the purchase of equipment, etc., for the club;
- **Beginning of January 2022:** Started practices on sites close to the athletes' homes throughout the city of Ouagadougou;
- **Early March 2022:** Began competitions;
- **Early July 2022:** Ended competitions for the 2021-2022 season;
- **Early September 2022:** Completed athlete season debriefs and club and coach evaluations;
- **Early September 2022:** Made the official launch of the club.

Competition highlights:

- **Union of School and University Sports of Burkina Faso (USUS-BF) Track and Field Regional Championships, March 8th; a 1st place, a 2nd place and two 3rd places:**
 - ♦ **Oualid Abou** of Baasnere High School, **1st place in the U20 boys' Triple Jump** with a personal best of 13.44m (A 64cm improvement after only two months of training);
 - ♦ **Clarita Somda** of St Joseph High School, **2nd place in the U17 girls' Triple Jump** (Finished the season with a personal best of 10.40m, an improvement of almost 40cm in three and a half months of training) and **3rd place in the U17 girls 100m**;
 - ♦ **Stephanie Ouandaogo** of Azimuth High School, **3rd place in the U17 girls' Long Jump**.



**Club athletes Clarita Somda & Oualid Abou at the
at the USUS-BF Championships award ceremony**



Club coach Alex Samma (Left) with athletes Clarita Somda & Oualid Abou at the USUS-BF Championships award ceremony

- **U15 and U18 Regional Championships, April 10th and 18th; a 1st and a 2nd place:**
 - ♦ **Clarita Somda, 1st place in the girls' U18 100m;**
 - ♦ **Axelle Ouédraogo, 2nd place in the girls' U15 Triple Jump;**
- **U15 and U18 National Championships, April 30th and May 1st in the city of Bobo Dioulasso; two 2nd places and one 3rd place:**
 - ♦ **Clarita Somda, 3rd place in the U18 girls' High Jump and 2nd place in the U18 girls' 4x100m relay with her region's team;**
 - ♦ **Axelle Ouédraogo, 2nd place in the U15 girls' Triple Jump;**
- **First day of the U20 and Senior Regional Championships, June 12th; three 2nd places:**
 - ♦ **Fares Dene, 10.44m, 2nd place in the Senior Men's Shot Put;**
 - ♦ **Oualid Abou, 9.31m, 2nd place in the U20 Men's Shot Put;**
 - ♦ **Gilles Ouédraogo, 6.61m, 2nd place in the Senior Men's Long Jump** (An improvement of almost 61cm in less than three months of training).
- **Second day of the U20 and Senior Regional Championships, June 23rd; a 2nd place and a 3rd place in the Triple Jump:**
 - ♦ **Oualid Abou, 13.62m, 2nd place in the U20 Men's Triple Jump;**
 - ♦ **Gilles Ouédraogo, 14.53m, 3rd place in the Senior Men's Triple Jump** (An 83cm improvement after only three months of training);
- **U20 and Senior National Championships, July 2nd and 3rd in the city of Bobo Dioulasso; a 2nd place and two 3rd places:**
 - ♦ **Gilles Ouédraogo, 2nd place in the Senior Men's High Jump;**
 - ♦ **Oualid Abou, 13.78m, 3rd place in the U20 Men's Triple Jump** (A 98cm improvement after only six months of training) and 3rd place in the U20 Men's Long Jump.



Club coach Alex Samma (bottom) & athletes Fares Dene, Oualid Abou, Moise Yameogo & Francis Sia (Left to right) at U20 and Senior National Championships.

Academic highlights:

- Club athlete **Eulalie Zangré** graduated High School in July;
- Club athlete **Fares Dene** completed his Electrical Engineering Associate's Degree in September.

Other highlights:

The club **helped athlete Inès Zaksongo purchase a bike** she can ride to school and practice.



Club athlete Ines Zaksongo with her new bike

Some quotes from the athletes about their experiences:

- "The coach is very, very nice; he knows how to communicate with us; he's a good coach; if the training is hard for us, he gives us the courage to complete it; he's courageous; it's as if he was our 2nd father." **13 y.o., club athlete, Axelle Ouédraogo;**

- “Training with the club was a dream come true for me! On the first day, I was so happy to feel like a track athlete. My first practice, I was awestruck!” **club athlete Inès Zaksongo**;
- “My first months in the club were awesome; I felt comfortable with the coach and my teammates. I was happy to see that, for the most part, I could do the different exercises we were shown.” **club athlete Daouda Samandoulougou**.

A quote from another track club’s coach about the Beyond Sport Track Club:

- “What the Beyond Sport Track Club has accomplished, in such a short time, with medalists at all championships, in different event and age-groups, is phenomenal.” **A coach from another track club**

2022-2023 season start and overview:

- **July/August 2022:** Created the “Beyond Sport” sportswear company to sponsor the club/athletes and ensure long-term financial sustainability; Prepared sponsorship request letters to be sent to other local companies; Prepared online fundraising and shoe drive campaigns to be launched later in the year;
- **End of August 2022:** Worked on retaining all current club athletes, especially medalists from last year, and added some newly identified athletes, including club-less scholastic and youth national and international championships’ medalists;
- **Beginning of September 2022:** Realized athletes’ season goal setting and started pre-season practices;
- **End of November 2022:** Expected start of competitions potentially including international competitions such as U20 African Athletics Championships, World University Games and African Games for some club athletes;
- **Mid-August 2023:** Expected end of competitions for the 2022-2023 season.