

# The Adrian Martinez Classic

## **The Tenth Annual Adrian Martinez Classic**

**Where:** Concord, MA

**When:** Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. All-comers races start at 4:30pm, High Performance sections begin at 6:50pm.

**Meet website:** [www.martinezclassic.com](http://www.martinezclassic.com)

**Livestream:** [www.baystaterunning.com](http://www.baystaterunning.com)

**Startlists:** (attached)

The Skip O'Connor Track at Emerson Playground in Concord, Massachusetts will once again host the Martinez Classic this Thursday evening, and the High Performance races feature a stable of familiar names running the 800m, Mile, and 3000m.

### **Men's 800m**

Ryan Martin is the defending champ and meet record holder, running 1:46.03 last year; however, his results this year (1:47 at Payton Jordan, and 1:49 at Music City) don't suggest the same level of fitness. Edose Ibadin of District TC, and HOKA NJ / NY's Chris Giesting are the other two returning podium finishers; Giesting won the 600m at Music City last weekend, while Ibadin ran a personal best 1:45.69 to finish 2nd in the 800m. They will be joined up front by Hassan Mead, fresh off a 3:38 at the USATF Distance Classic. Although Mead rarely ventures down the 800m, the race will likely come down to those three.

### **Women's 800m**

This seems to be the year of Ce'Aira Brown. After running 1:59 for the first time earlier this season, she won the USATF Distance Classic (nee Oxy Invitational), beating a solid field. Brown is also the defending champion here, and looks to be the one to chase. Her HOKA ONE ONE NJ / NY teammates, Kenyetta Iyevbele and Cecelia Barowski were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> last year, and should battle with District TC's Maddie Kopp – fresh of a 2:00.88 at Music City – for 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

### **Men's 3000m**

Here we will see a clash of Steeplers: The top 4 from the USATF Distance Classic – MJ Erb, Travis Mahoney, Brandon Doughty, and Jordan Mann – are entered, as is Donn Cabral. Cabral has raced sparingly this year, with only an 8:37 steeple last weekend to his credit, so his fitness is yet unknown. Australian Olympian Sam McEntee, with a 13:17 PR, may have the best flat speed of the field, and with the pacers set to go at 7:40 pace, the race could be his for the taking.

### **Women's 3000m**

Emily Sisson and Stephanie Garcia headline the field, with Katrina Coogan likely to be in the mix as well. Assuming they are all committed to a fast race, this should be an interesting test for all, as Aisling Cuffe is set to take the field out at 8:45 pace.

### **Men's Mile**

Neil Gourley is coming off a stirring win in the Music City 1500m (3:39.77 over Graham Crawford's 3:39.90). At Music City, Leo Manzano was in the mix through 1200m, and although he lacked the speed at the end, he posted a 3:42 – cause for some encouragement after a 3:49 two weeks before.

The 2018 Martinez Classic also marks the return of Princeton graduate Garrett O'Toole to Emerson. Four years ago at the Martinez Classic, he posted the U.S. #1 HS time (4:01.89) for 2014. Now an Ivy League champion in the 1500, with a 3:39 best, he makes his post-collegiate debut, looking for his first official sub-4 minute mile. And we would be remiss not to mention Kevin Greene of Battle Road Track Club, who is running the B heat of the mile and boasts a personal best of 4:00.00. May this be the meet he breaks through.

### **Women's Mile**

Marta Freitas of Portugal ran 4:05.69 in the 1500m to win at Music City, which makes her the clear favorite here. However, Claudia Saunders of District TC ran an equally impressive 2:00.75 in the 800m; if she can sustain for the mile, she will be in the mix. South Africa's Dom Scott has run 4:07 this year, and Sarah Brown (4:03 PR) certainly has the pedigree to challenge, but has done precious little on the track in 2018. Nicole Tully may be flying under the radar so far this season, but she is hard to bet against at this meet, as she won both in 2017 and 2015.