

William Polly becomes two-time World Sport Stacking champion

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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Courtesy Photo

William Polly defended his title in Butzbach, Germany, to become a two-time World Sport Stacking Champion.

Just three weeks after becoming the first-ever U.S. national sport stacking champion in Colorado Springs, Colo., 11-year-old William Polly, son of Kris and Laura Polly of Arlington, Va., and grandson of Karl and Judith Polly of Wauneta, was determined to remain the world champion—the title he earned at the 2011 World Sport Stacking Championships in Garland, Texas, last year—at the 2012 World Sport Stacking Championships.

This year marked the first time that the world championships were held outside the United States. A total of 230 stackers from 19 countries participated in the tournament, which was held April 14 and 15 in Butzbach, Germany, just north of Frankfurt.

Accompanying William to Germany were his biggest fans: his parents and sister, Caroline, and all four of his grandparents.

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William finished his individual event preliminaries, which were held on Saturday, April 14, in first place for his age division. Overall, regardless of age, he was ranked first in the 3-3-3 and cycle, and tied for third in the 3-6-3. His world record-setting relay team placed third in its age division (14 and under) in the preliminaries, which qualified it for finals on Sunday.

Also on Saturday, William competed with his relay team in 3-6-3 and cycle head-to-head double elimination relays. The relay team placed first in those races.

Because William is the current U.S. national champion, he was selected to represent the United States in the first-ever International Stack-Out, an event in which one representative from each country competed head-to-head in the cycle stack in a double-elimination format. William was victorious.

Finals were held on Sunday, April 15. Early in the day, William's relay team thought it had broken its own timed 3-6-3 overall world record of 13.96, set at nationals in Colorado in March, only to be told after video review that it was disqualified due to a foot fault. Moments later, Team Germany stepped up to the table and retook the world record from the Americans with a time of 13.81 seconds. Not to be outdone, William's relay team, representing the United States in the Speed Stacks International Challenge, a head-to-head cycle relay match in which each country enters its best relay team regardless of age, took home the top International Challenge honors. Great Britain came in second; Germany, third; and Canada, fourth.

At the end of finals, William had finished first in his age division and overall with times of 1.68 for the 3-3-3, 2.06 for the 3-6-3, and 6.00 for the cycle, which put him in the Stack of Champions. The Stack of Champions pits the top three overall stackers in each event against one another, giving each a chance to better his/her score and potentially rearrange the standings and the final outcome. Although William improved his time in the 3-3-3, shaving off 2/100ths of a second, he was bettered by his friend and USA teammate Chandler Miller, who pulled out a 1.58 in the Stack of Champions to place first overall in that event. William placed second. In the 3-6-3, William bettered his time of 2.06 considerably, clocking in a 1.97 (just 1/100ths of a second off his current world record time for this event) and placed first overall for the event. In the cycle, William lowered his 6.00 to a 5.71 (just 3/100ths of a second off the current world record of 5.68), and placed first overall for the event.

William took the Individual All-Around award with the fastest combined time of the day at 9.34 seconds (3-3-3, 1.66 seconds; 3-6-3, 1.97 seconds; and cycle, 5.71 seconds). In second place

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was 15-year-old Yann Weibel from Switzerland, with a combined time of 10.44 seconds (3-3-3, 1.81; 3-6-3, 2.30; and cycle, 6.33 seconds). Third place overall went to Germany's Nhi Son Nguyen, 14, with a combined time of 10.45 seconds (3-3-3, 1.75; 3-6-3, 2.30; and cycle, 6.40).

And what of that one event in which William has never held a world record: parent-child doubles? Despite mom's willingness to give it a go, William decided that defending his title and representing Team USA required his full attention.

William will be on "LIVE! with Kelly" Friday, May 4. The show begins at 8:00 am MT on CBS.

William will participate in the AAU Junior Olympics in Houston, Texas, July 25–27.