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First Person

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Final Lap

In the last week of my Thomas J. Watson Fellowship stay with the Girls Gotta Run Foundation in Bekoji, Ethiopia (also known as the ‘town of runners’), I had the great honor of being able to witness a regional athletics festival. Sports teams from all over the region came to this town to compete in soccer matches, volleyball tournaments, and my personal favorite, a track meet! This photo was taken during the bell lap of the 3,000-meter race. The pack was still incredibly tight, and the whole crowd was pushing into the outer lanes of the track fighting for a closer look. The energy and excitement surrounding this sport is something I have not witnessed anywhere else, and it’s something I will carry with me forever.

—Hannah Springhorn '19