

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXII

Number 27

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NEW WEBSITE INFORMATION

Coaching Questionnaire

Thorpe Cup, BellaDeca Dates Set

Hello Again... There are a few announcements and this is likely final newsletter of the 2007 season... **First**, our new website is virtually up and

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running. It took us most of the current year to change over to a **blog** format. Our hope is that the information we normally provide will be easier to find and more useful. First, you'll need to type: www.decathlonusa.typepad.com to gain access to the site. Bookmark that so you won't have to look it up frequently. I am unsure how much longer we'll be able to use the current name/address, but we still own the rights to it. The home page is organized somewhat similarly to the old site. You have sections (on the right side) for: the decathlon, history, rules, .meet schedules, records, order books, links and contacts. The history, rules and record sections have all been updated. The most often used part of our website is found under "Categories:" where we post both the *DECA Newsletters* and the *Results* pages. You will also be able to view the "Most Recent Post," as well as any "Archived" information, all listed on the right side of the home page.

The most altered part of the site is our Meet Schedule section. Web providers have told us this is the most often used section we have, apparently coaches and athletes who are looking for meet information. Here we have expanded the content to include not only contact information, but we provide the results from the year earlier meeting. And, because we are using *Google*, they provide a map and directions to the site. Just click on *map*.

My goal is to provide as much information as possible. The new format is user friendly and updated. For awhile you can continue internet search for our website (incidentally, 2.2 million hits this year!!) you can, for the time being, use www.decathlonusa.org. BUT, it would be a useful idea to get used to using www.decathlonusa.typepad.com which will be the new address. **Bookmark it!**

Second: Cliff Rovelto, head track and field coach at Kansas State U, has asked if I would attach a new questionnaire to this Newsletter. He now heads the USATF Coaches Advisory Committee (for Combined Events). It deals with both the conduct of the USATF national champs (I assume this means both indoor



and outdoors) and a new coaching mentoring program. All coaches and athletes who have an interest in the nationals or coaching **SHOULD** respond to Cliff. My suggestion would be to download or print out the questionnaire and mail to Cliff. His address is at the bottom of the Questionnaire. TO allow more space I have placed this questionnaire at the end of the newsletter.

Third: Some dates have been set for major meets. After lots of discussion and emails, the 2007 Thorpe Cup (USA vs



Germany dual CE) will be held on August 2-3 (Sat-Sun) at Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS. Cliff and Koral

Rovelto will serve as meet directors. This will be the 12th meet in the current series. Mustafa Abdur-Rahim is the defending champion. Paul Meier, head of the German Team Zehnkampf, had laid out some scheduling issues for his national team. Germany has more international commitments than does the USA...they are committed, for example, to European Champs every four years, World University Games, and annual European Cup meetings. It takes a pretty large stable of decathletes to meet those commitments and those of Olympic Games and IAAF World Champs, which they will soon host. After much discussion, it was agreed to keep the current rotation system (USA hosts in even number years, Germany in odd numbered years). For American decathletes in 2008, places 4-10 from Olympic Trials/USA Champs are eligible for the Thorpe Cup meeting.

A history of this meeting is available in our media Guide Post, offered on the new site two weeks prior to the

2007 meeting. It is archived and easily retrieved.

Finally, Dan Steel, assistant coach at University of Oregon, has announced a new Women's Decathlon" invitational, the Belladeca meeting, August 30-31, 2008 at University of Oregon. Those interested can contact Dan at [dsteale@uoregon.edu]



4. Would you be willing to serve as a coaching mentor? Or, would a coaching mentor program be of value to you?

Contact information for our database:

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Phone:

School/Club:

Please return to:

**Cliff Rovelto
Kansas State University Track & Field
106 Ahearn Field House
Manhattan, KS 66506
785-532-7071 (o)
785-532-7358 (fax)
cliff@ksu.edu**

USA Track & Field Combined Event Mentoring Program

Name:

Will mentor

Would like a mentor

Address:

E-mail:

Phone:

School/Club:

Brief Biography (years of experience, hep/dec, athletes, scores, etc):

Please return to:

**Cliff Rovelto
Kansas State University Track & Field
106 Ahearn Field House
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785-532-7358 (fax)**