

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXXI

Number 40

July (4), 2016



FILIP HOLDS 1st DAY LEAD

Americans Dominate Thorpe Cup in Fayetteville

Hello Again.... The last time an American team won the annual Thorpe Cup (USA vs Germany) decathlon the US economy was mired in the Great Recession, the Dow Jones Industrial Average stood at 14,000, Hillary Clinton was still Secretary of State and Donald Trump was hit with a class action law suit over something claiming to be a “university.” That was 2009. In the intervening years American decathlon teams have lost every annual team affair to Germany, at time by as few as 13 points, and on other occasions, by as much as 3000.

When Tom Pappas set a meet record 8569 points in Marburg in 2009 Team USA held a 13-3 won-lost record. The last half-dozen seasons have not been kind and there’s been much finger pointing. The 2016 affair held at McDonnell Stadium on the University of Arkansas campus was yet another chance at redemption and was uppermost on observer’s minds. Could we end this streak?

A second concern was a puzzle....where were America’s 8000 pointers who spurned invitations to compete here? Where was the commitment to this event? It’s a question that deserved some vetting. Yet it was a third concern that was dominant here..... the searing heat. It seemed the entire nation was suffering from a dangerous heatwave..... temps ranging from 90° to 105° from the Atlantic to the Pacific. While the US Olympic team headed for Rio, we sweltered and our decathlon fortunes held center stage in Fayetteville. We were not that far removed from the 2006 collapse of a pair



Rice redshirt junior Scott Filip ran up an eye-opening 4298 score at the 23rd Thorpe Cup to lead 186 points at the break

of German heptathletes in the final 800m lap (which essentially donated the team win to the USA) Thorpe Cup held in Manhattan, Kansas

A competitor in that very meet and the meet director here was Travis Geopfert, the Razorback assistant coach. He wisely scheduled an evening program to minimize the high temperature concerns. So here’s the

first day tale.



**23rd Thorpe Cup
USA vs Germany
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR
July 29-30, 2016**



DAY ONE

100 Meters: [5:12 – 5:17 pm]

With an early evening start the temps were in the low 90s (very high humidity!!) with slight breezes from the SW. Yet 30 minutes before the schedule start the wind

changed direction and meet officials moved the sprint to the back straight to take advantage. 280 spectators were on hand as the event got underway. The opposing coaches had seeded the races. Coaches Steve Rainbolt and Ed Fye seemed ready. In the first race Oregon's Mitch Modin returned to sprinting form, took command at 50 meters and eased away to clock a nifty 10.72 seconds, the fastest non-Hayward time of his career. Doane senior Kale Wolken (11.05 in 4th) and Kurtis Brondyke (2/100ths back) were solid and sandwiched Germans Felix Hepperle (=PR 10.92) and Dennis Hutterer (PR 10.99). Conditions were optimal with a +1.2mps wind. Good start!

| <i>Pl</i> | <i>name</i> | <i>nation</i> | <i>lane</i> | <i>time</i> | <i>points</i> |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. | Modin | USA | 5 | 10.72 | 924 |
| 2. | Hepperle | GER | 4 | 10.92 | 878 |
| 3. | Hutterer | GER | 6 | 10.99 | 863 |
| 4. | Wolken | USA | 3 | 11.05 | 850 |
| 5. | Brondyke | USA | 7 | 11.07 | 845 |
| 6. | Bollinger | GER | 8 | 11.09 | 841 |
| 7. | Stauss | GER | 2 | 11.19 | 819 |



This 100m section from the US Olympic Trials, l-r: Sol Simmons, Scott Filip and Harrison Williams, was virtually duplicated in Fayetteville.

In the 2nd (seeded) section Team USA used the broom....Harrison Williams, Scott Filip, Solomon Simmons and Austin Bahner, all of whom had raced one another in Eugene to the tune of 10.71...75...79 and84 respectively, virtually repeated the feat here. Rice junior Scott Filip zipped away for a 10.63 win (wind +1.1mps) with Bahner (10.74), Simmons (10.75) and Williams (10.81) in tow for a Yank sweep. Tall Nils Merten of the guest

club PR'd for 5th at 10.82. The meet was off to a terrific start.

| <i>Pl</i> | <i>name</i> | <i>nation</i> | <i>lane</i> | <i>time</i> | <i>points</i> |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. | Simmons | USA | 2 | 10.75 | 917 |
| 2. | Scherfose | GER | 3 | 11.06 | 847 |
| 3. | Williams | USA | 4 | 10.81 | 903 |
| 4. | Merten | GER | 5 | 10.82 | 901 |
| 5. | Filip | USA | 6 | 10.63 | 945 |
| 6. | Nowak | GER | 7 | 11.16 | 825 |
| 7. | Bahner | USA | 8 | 10.74 | 919 |

Team USA established a 278 point lead.

*After One: Fili 945, Modi 924, Bahn 919, Simm 917.
Team: USA 4608-Germany 4330, + 278.*

Long Jump: [5:54 – 6:16 pm]

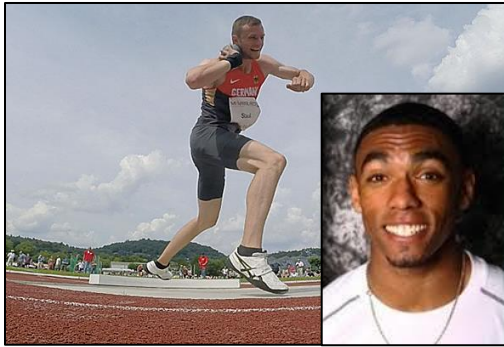
The 100m had been run north to south and the long jump started in the same direction. Yet as soon as the event got underway the wind did an abrupt 180° and most of the competitors had a hard time handling it. Step problems dominated and nearly 1/3rd of all attempts were toe board fouls. It was a disappointing event for most. Consider: No one in Group #2 cleared 7 meters! In Group #1 Wolken popped a pair of big jumps only to lose them at the board and settled for a 6.88m/22-7 mark. The field's best jumper, Rene Stauss (PR 7.59m/24-11) managed but 7.10m/23-3½, the lone German to surpass 7 meters. Can you say "so....where are your long jumpers?" The wind swirled and ranged from +1.7 to -3.8 mps, the latter bedeviling Simmons.

The event's defining moment came on the last attempt...where Filip finally figured out the wind issue and hit the board with NO room to spare, then covered 7.57m/24-10 of University real estate (a PR by 3 inches) to win the event and push his overall lead to 116 points. He was ecstatic and the USA team lead expanded to a whopping 612 points. Team USA was 'rollin!'

*After Two: Fili 1897, Bahn 1781, Modi 1762, Simm 1714.
Team: USA 8798, Germany 8186, +612.*

Shot Put: [6:40 – 7:05 pm]

As coaches Rainbolt (Wichita State) and Fye (Doane) placed between the two circles urging/encouraging their throwers, team USA responded....In group #1 Simmons, still smarting from the long jump wind issues, launched a bomb measuring 15.40m/50-6¼ (nearly a foot career best) immediately after Kurtis Brondyke pushed 14.96m49-1.



Most observers expected a big shot toss from *Team Zehnkampf* vet Rene Stauss (above) but the surprise came from Eastern Michigan senior Solomon Simmons (insert) who left no doubt who owned this event.

The event ended, believe it or not, with the Americans going 1-2!

In Group #2 Filip fashioned more heroics nailing 13.88m/45-6½ on his 3rd try, missing a PR by two inches, but solidifying his overall lead, now 90 over Simmons and 162 over Modin. The latter's 13.44m/44-1¼ and Wolken's 13.43m/44-¾ were solid marks. Here the guest team made up a bit of the differential, and were now 529 in arrears. But the host squad stood 1-2-3-4-5. Yikes!

After Three: Filip 2618, Simm 2528, Modi 2456, Bahn 2451. Team: USA: 12,477, 11,848, +529.

High Jump: [7:30 – 8:59 pm]

The day's defining moment came in early in Group #1 (east pit) where Scott Filip (a 2.08m/6-9¾ prep jumper) failed on his initial pair of attempts at his opening bar, 1.90m/6-2¾. With his overall lead and the team score in the balance he barely scraped over on his 3rd try... whew! A clutch effort. He eventually went on to clear 2.02m/6-7½. But what a moment as nearly 400 spectators sat on the infield grass or in the stands watching the action. The crowd size itself may have been a Thorpe Cup record when the meet has been in the States. Crowds of 4000 are now uncommon in Germany. But we'll take 400 any day as the evening turned almost pleasant with temps dipping to high 70s. Thank goodness. As a matter of fact someone

in Fayetteville must be living right because two significant storms passed thru northwest Arkansas earlier in the day, one 70 miles to the north and the out 80 miles to the south. Neither affected the meet.

In group #2 Brondyke held center stage dispensing his competitors early and eventually clearing 2.02m/6-7½.

In group #1 20 year old lanky Dennis Hutterer (pronounced 'who-ta-rah') won at 2.08m/6-9¾ but Rene Stauss, who holds the meet record at 2.16m/7-1 could manage only 1.99m/6-6¾ here. From the guest's standpoint, the meet was slipping away.

After Four: Fili 3440, Modi 3250, Bron 3246, Stau 3190. Team: USA: 1t6,212, Germany 15,607, +551.

400 Meters: [9:30 – 9:35 pm]

The groups were reversed (the seeded section ran first) to allow Hutterer his 30 minute break. Harrison Williams, who appeared a bit rusty here, but who had chased Ashton Eaton with a 46.66 clocking at the US Olympic Trials, was looking for a sub 47 clocking. Running in lane 4 he chased Filip (in lane 6) down the back straight and caught him at 200 meters and smoothly pulled away coming off the "McDonnell Curve"(yes, there is a statue there and it is a foot taller than Bowerman's) with a 10 meter lead. He stretched it to 15 meters at the tape and *Flash Results* caught him in 47.51. Hepperle, Modin and Filip blanketed 2-3-4. The Stanford soph moved from 11th to 3rd by virtue of his splendid race.

| <i>Pl</i> | <i>name</i> | <i>nation</i> | <i>lane</i> | <i>time</i> | <i>points</i> |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. | Williams | USA | 4 | 47.51 | 933 |
| 2. | Hepperle | GER | 3 | 48.80 | 871 |
| 3. | Modin | USA | 8 | 48.99 | 862 |
| 4. | Filip | USA | 6 | 49.07 | 858 |
| 5. | Simmons | USA | 2 | 49.21 | 851 |
| 6. | Nowak | GER | 5 | 50.25 | 803 |
| 7. | Merten | GER | 7 | 50.74 | 781 |

The day ended with Team USA using another broom... a 1-2-3 sweep with Bahner, Wolken and Brondyke on top in the 2nd race (49.41, 49.56 and 50.85), all seasonal bests. So dominate here was Team USA that it stretched its lead to over 1000 points, a huge margin. "We had a good first day, were competitive in a lot of areas," said head coach

Steve Rainbolt. "But we have a lot of work to do tomorrow. But this is far from over. We'll just come out and compete."

After Five: Fili 4298, Modi 4112, Will 4028, Bron 4022.

Team: USA 20,475, Germany 19,434, +1,041.



1st Day Team Scores:

USA

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Filip</i> | <i>4298</i> |
| <i>Modin</i> | <i>4112</i> |
| <i>Williams</i> | <i>4028</i> |
| <i>Brondyke</i> | <i>4022</i> |
| <u><i>Simmons</i></u> | <u><i>4015</i></u> |
| <i>Total:</i> | <i>20,475</i> |

Germany

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Stauss</i> | <i>3935</i> |
| <i>Nowak</i> | <i>3914</i> |
| <i>Merten</i> | <i>3877</i> |
| <i>Scherfose</i> | <i>3873</i> |
| <u><i>Hutterer</i></u> | <u><i>3835</i></u> |
| <i>Total:</i> | <i>19,434</i> |

Differential: + 1,041

Results:

7/29-30 23rd Thorpe Cup (USA vs GER), McDonnell

Stadium, U of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR

| | | | | | | |
|------|---|-----------|---------|------|-----|-------|
| 4298 | Filip, Scott/USA- Rice U'18 | 10.63+1.1 | 757+1.2 | 1388 | 202 | 49.07 |
| 4112 | Modin, Mitch/USA/Oregon'17 | 10.72+1.2 | 710+0.9 | 1344 | 199 | 48.99 |
| 4028 | Williams, Harrison/USA- Stanford'18 | 10.81+1.1 | 669-1.4 | 1327 | 196 | 47.51 |
| 4022 | Brondyke, Kurtis/USA-TOG | 11.07+1.2 | 691-0.5 | 1496 | 202 | 50.85 |
| 4015 | Simmons, Solomon/USA- E Mich'16 | 10.75+1.1 | 693-3.8 | 1540 | 181 | 49.21 |
| 3954 | Bahner, Austin/USA-ShockerTC | 10.74+1.1 | 720-1.8 | 1540 | 181 | 49.21 |
| 3935 | Stauss, Rene/GER-LAV Tübingen | 11.19+1.2 | 710+1.9 | 1418 | 199 | 51.54 |
| 3914 | Nowak, Tim/GER-SSV Ulm 1846 | 11.16+1.1 | 698-2.6 | 1414 | 193 | 50.25 |
| 3877 | Merten, Nils/GER-LAV Tübingen | 10.82+1.1 | 666-1.7 | 1474 | 187 | 50.74 |
| 3873 | Scherfose, Patrick/GER-LG Weserbergland | 11.06+1.1 | 699+1.0 | 1442 | 190 | 51.49 |
| 3835 | Hutterer, Dennis/GER-AMC Darmstadt | 10.99+1.2 | 668+1.7 | 1285 | 208 | 52.65 |
| 3824 | Wolken, Kale/USA-Doane'16 | 11.05+1.2 | 688-0.8 | 1343 | 184 | 49.56 |
| 3800 | Hepperle, Felix/GER-LG Neckar-Enz | 10.92+1.2 | 657-1.3 | 1229 | 190 | 48.80 |
| 3749 | Bollinger, Marvin/GER- LG LAZ Saar | 11.09+1.2 | 671-1.5 | 1227 | 199 | 51.53 |

14s,14f.