

2007 Season Underway

Clay leads Rankings- O'Brien Hall of Famer

Hello Again.....as we start our 32nd year of newsletters, most of the news is off the track. 40 year old Dan O'Brien, the 1996 Olympic Decathlon Champion and former world record holder was inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in early December, 2006.

Representing the University of Idaho, Reebok, Footlocker and Nike, O'Brien captured a record five USA national decathlon titles, three IAAF world titles, and a pair of Goodwill Games crowns, all in the 1990s. In fact, one could call the '90s Dan's decade. He led the world rankings on six occasions and was credited with one world and two American decathlon marks as well as an indoor world heptathlon record.

O'Brien becomes the 12th American decathlete to achieve the honor, following in the footsteps of Olympic gold medalists Jim Thorpe, Harold Osborn, Glenn Morris, Bob Mathias, Milt Campbell, Rafer Johnson, Bill Toomey and Bruce Jenner. The Hall also includes decathletes Bob Richards, Brutus Hamilton and Ken Doherty, the later two Olympic medalists.

O'Brien's entire decathlon career is posted separately on our site.

In other news *Track and Field News* recently released their 2006 world and US rankings and Bryan Clay leads both lists. Clay bounced a good field at Götzis with what ended as the world's top score. Those who saw it know there was much more gas in the tank and he bested Kazak (no *Borat* joke's please) Dmitry Karpov by 384 points. Karpov came back



Bryan Clay, l, ended up ranked #1 in the world for the 2nd consecutive year. Dan O'Brien (r) was inducted into the USA National Track and Field Hall of Fame.

to win at Ratingen, DecaStar and the Asian Games, all with fine scores. Karpov easily won the IAAF Combined events challenge title, Czech Roman Sebrle, who dnf'd in Götzis, but who came back with wins in Arles and the Euro Champs, finished 3rd. Come-backing Tom Pappas, the USA champ, was ranked 7th, his 6th world ranking. Former Kansas Stater Attila Zsivoczky/HUN was 4th and Auburn grad Maurice Smith/JAM, was 5th. Clay is the first top repeater since Dan' O'Brien in 1995-96. It was Bryan's 4th world ranking. On the national level four of the top nine were collegians.

2006 Rankings

[Track and field News]

World: [with 2006 best score]

1. Bryan Clay/USA 8677
2. Dmitry Karpov/KAZ 8438
3. Roman Sebrle/CZE 8526
4. Attila Zsivoczky/HUN 8390
5. Maurice Smith/JAM 8349

6. Aleksey Drozdov/RUS 8350
7. Tom Pappas/USA 8319
8. Aleksandr Pogorelov/RUS 8245
9. Romain Barras/FRA 8416w
10. Andre Nicklaus/GER 8239

USA:

1. Brian Clay/Nike 8677
2. Tom Pappas/Nike 8319
3. Ryan Harlan/unat 8022
4. Jake Arnold/Arizona 7870
5. Trey Hardee/Texas 8465
6. Chris Boyles/unat 7855
7. Paul Terek/Asics 7884
8. Chris Helwick/Tenn 7772
9. Donovan Klimartin/Texas 7897w
10. Joe Cebulski/Bell 7649

Results of early season meets have trickled in. Liberty's Dan Newell won the season's initial affair by scoring 5020 in a home win on December 2. Chris Caine of Kent State posted a 5403 a week later in Kent, Ohio. The first meet of 2007 (January 6th) was won by Mustafa Abdul-Rahim, despite a vault nh. He needed a 2:36.02 1000m to turn back defending Tim Wunderlich to capture the Dartmouth Relays.

We will be making some changes on our website in 2007 so bear with us. In 2006 we posted 19 newsletter, a dozen other notices, and provided scheduling info and results for 280 meets. Our service provider tells us that <http://www.decathlonusa.org/> received over 2.2 million hits during the past season. Our goal this year is to provide even ore info in a slightly altered format. Please bear with us and stay tuned.