

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## FIRST DAY at GÖTZIS

### Karpov Leads with 4382 Points

**Hello Again.....**In May, 1988 I came to Götzis, Austria for the first time to view the already legendary May multis. Then East German Uwe Freimuth pasted a good field. In those days the East Germans were dominate, having won the IAAF World Championships in Rome 9 months earlier. 15 weeks later they went 1-2 at the Olympic decathlon in Seoul, Korea.

Lots of things have changed in the decathlon world in the intervening 20 years: walls have come down, athletes are openly professional and testing is mandatory. Czechs and Yanks have taken turns conquering the sport. Yet the Hypo-Bank meeting itself is little changed. The setting is bucolic, the management super-efficient and the fields are simply top-notch.

In twenty years I've seen nearly everything imaginable here from sunshine and rain to the first 9K world record to an injured Olympic champ throwing the javelin left-handed, to a world record-holder with a dizzying numbers of false starts, to a broken rib after a javelin effort, to a red-white and blue victory and to an incredible five meet win streak by a Roman who made Götzis part of his empire.

Set within the shadow of the Alps and 11 weeks before the Beijing Games, the 34<sup>th</sup> edition of Hypo-Bank is the planet's top invitational. All of the top

athletes are invited, but, at times, they don't always appear. Being cautious about the timing of the US Olympic Trials, Americans (Bryan Clay, Tom Pappas, Trey Hardee) eschewed the 2008 meeting. WR holder Roman Sebrle/CZE has not fully recovered from an indoor pull, and Belarusian Andrei Krauchanka came down with a mysterious stomach virus and lost ten pounds.

But everyone else was here:



**Jamaican Maurice Smith/ex-Auburn '05 NCAA indoor heptathlon champ, was 4<sup>th</sup> after day one in Götzis with 4279 points, 246 back of his '07 Osaka pace where his PR 8644 earned the silver medal.**

including Mo Smith who claimed “I didn’t need an elbow operation, I just needed technique work;” a hungry looking Dmitri Karpov (even the coaching staff looked hungry) and all the top Germans. The field included a pair of NCAA champions (Smith/Auburn and fellow Jamaican Claston Bernard/LSU), a former Kansas Stater, Josef Karas/CZE, and Canadian Massimo Bertocchi, the Big Green in the *Desert* winner from March.

In all 17 starters with PRs over 8000 points toed the starting line at Götzis on Saturday, May 31, 2008.

**Hypo-Bank Meeting  
Mosle Stadium  
Götzis, Austria  
May 31-June 1, 2008**

**100 Meters:** [11:40 am – 12:02 pm]

Day #1 broke rainy but cleared by 11 am. Skies were overcast and temps between 68-72 degrees. A crowd of @3000 was subdued (no rollicking Erki Nool Fans in Sektor F). Times in the women’s 100m hurdles race, which are often a harbinger of fast sprint times (since the men’s 100m is set 40 minutes later), were sluggish. Winds were slight and rotating during the four sections.

All races were seeded. The initial section was captured by Sweden’s Nicklas Wiberg in 11.05 seconds, just ahead of fast charging Alex Pogrelov/RUS. Headwind of -0.8mps.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> race former Kansas Stater Josef Karas was out fastest, lost the lead to bulky Russian Alex Drozdov, and regained it in the last few steps to win in 11.11 seconds. German Andre Niklaus ran a disappointing 11.24 for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Wind +0.2mps.

Dmitri Karpov, who has the fastest lifetime best of the entire field (10.50) but

who has not sprinted well in a year, was demoted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> section. It was a prescient move since he did not win here either, getting 10.85 seconds (perfect sprint conditions and fast gun) while stocky German Arthur Abele won in 10.83. The big Kazak was coming hard and would have won if the distance was 102 meters.

In the seeded (4<sup>th</sup>) section, the middle lanes looked like the Pan-American Games lineup (lanes 2-3-4) with Yordanis Garcia/Cuba, Maurice Smith/Jamaica, Canadian Massimo Bertocchi who was caught napping (very fast gun) at the gun. German Jacob Minah won raising his hand in triumph at 98 meters(?) in 10.78 over Russian Alex Sysoyev’s (is everyone named Alex in Russia?) 10.86, the same time recorded by Smith. Wind-0.7mps.

*After One: Mina 910, Abele 899,,Karp 894, Syso 892, Smit 892.*

**Long Jump:** [12:40 – 1:22 pm]



**Maurice Smith’s Götzis long jump was 7.30m/**

23-11 ½, not bad for the swirling wind conditions.

Sunny conditions but the breezes were unpredictable. Of the 23 measured efforts in Group A, ten had tailwinds and 13 headwinds. The range was +1.6 to -2.2 mps. Many had difficulty adjusting resulting in 14 fouls out of 38 jumps (37%). In Group B (closer to the grandstand) only two fouls out of 27 efforts (range +0.7 to -1.9 mps).

Speedy German Jacob Minah led round one with a 7.35m/24-1 ½ effort. In round two Drozdov (7.78m/25-9¼) and Bertocchi (7.34m/24-1) figured out conditions and both PR'd. The remainder of the field was not as fortunate. Karpov, missing the toe-board, managed 7.23m/23-8¾, a distinct disappointment, while Smith improved to 7.30m/23-11½, barely getting his big toe on the board. Norbert Müller/GER never did get a fair effort resulting in a zero.

In Group B Dutch vet Eugene Martineau won with a 7.23m/23-8¾.  
*After Two: Droz 1837, Mina 1810, Pogo 1789, Smit 1778....Karp 1763.*  
**Shot Put:** [2:10 - 3:00 pm]



Dmitri Karpov (above) and Maurice Smith were upstaged by young German Pascal Behrenbruch and Russian Aleksandr Pogorelov in the shot put.

It got distinctly breezy and cloudy at the start. (aside: adidas shirt seen at the SP "impossible is nothing."- makes one think).

Karpov pumped a fine 16.49m/54-1¼ to lead after round #1 but never improved. Smith improved at the end of the second round to 16.07m/52-8¾, but all the fireworks came in round three after a ten minute Omega display breakdown postponed the event. After ten minutes meeting director Konrad Lerch finally instructed officials to measure with a tape and the event continued with some agitated athletes. The first to take advantage of the heightened delay was the 6-7 Rasputin looking Pogorelov who pumped a two foot PR, 16.54m/54-3½ to take the lead. On the very next effort Behrenbruch managed a PR himself, 16.58m/54-4¾ to win the event. The spinning Smith just missed the event victory getting 16.50m/54-1½ in the event's final effort.

In Group B Switzerland's David Gervasi got 14.72m/48-3½ in the final round to win.

*After Three: Droz 2686, Pogo 2674, Smit 2660, Karp 2645.*

**High Jump:** [3:40 – 5:26 pm]

The skies got more cloudy and the event became interesting after 2.06m/6-9. Before that the only notable moment came with Smith's early exit. He managed 1.94m/6-4¼

At 2.09m/6-10¼ six remained. Pogorelov cleared easily in the first round, as did the 'bouncin Brazilian,' Carlos Chinin who was 3<sup>rd</sup> at last season's Pan-American Games. In round #2 Drozdov and Cuba's Leonel Suarez cleared but Karpov settled for 2.06m/6-9.

At 2.12m/6-11½ both Russians missed so the 12 point differential remained. The event quickly ended when the confused Suarez, in a practice run-up, broke the plane of the bar (well to the left of the pit), and was correctly called for a miss. The rule had to be explained to him.

The concurrent Group B the pit was won, in a notable PR, by Pascal Behrenbruch, at.203m/6-8.

*After Four: Droz 3573, Pogo 3561, Karp 3504, Smit 3409.*

**400 Meters:** [5:50 – 6:05 pm]

Breezy with rain threatening. Headwinds on backstretch. In the first race Niklaus made up the stagger on the Russian pair, Drozdov and Pogorelov. Jsef karas led at 200 meters but Eugene Martineau/NED took over at 300 meters and was not headed, clocking 49.49. Neither Russian broke 51 seconds!

Cuban flags were seen in the crowd, which numbered about 1600 at this point. Russian Arkady Vasilyev forced the pace for the first furlong. Dead last at 200m, the slender Leonel Suarez, perhaps still grating at his high jump snafu, charged boldly and ran away for a 48.37 victory.



**Russian Aleksey Drozdov lost his overall lead to Dmitri Karpov when he could only clock 51.61 in the 400 meters.**

In the third section, Karpov attempted to duplicate Suarez's maneuver, but he could not catch Germans Abele (in lane 2) and Müller (in lane 4) as all three leaned at the finish. It was Müller 48.47, Abele 48.51 and Karpov 48.64. Given the

sluggish times of the Russians, Karpov moved to the overall lead.

In the final race, Jacob Minah made up the stagger on Smith (lane 3) at 120m and the pair ran side-by-side for the next 200m. Minah answered the challenge on the homestretch and ran away for an event win, 48.05 to Smith's 48.82. Bertocchi was a close 3<sup>rd</sup> at 48.96.

Latvia's Edgars Erins finished 4 steps of the final race and walked away. 22 started, 21 finished day one and the sun returned immediately after the 400m. Smith remarked later, "the backstretch headwind was realllly strong."

*After Five: Karp 4382, Droz 4315, Pogo 4305, Smit 4279.*

### ***Individual Meet Records***

100	10.38	Chris Huffins/USA	'00
LJ:	8.11	Roman Sebrle/CZE	'01
SP:	17.45m	Michael Smith/CAN	'97
HJ:	2.23m	Christian Schench/GDR	'90
400:	46.53	Erki Nool/EST	'97
110H:	13.55	Frank Busemann/GER	'96
Dis:	55.14m	Norbert demmell/GER	'95
PV:	5.55m	Ereki Nool/EST	'00
Jav:	74.41m	Niklas Wiberg/SWE	'07
1500:	4:12.65	Jan Trefny/CZE	'88
Total:	9026 pts	Roman Sebrle/CZE	'01

### **Summary:**

Only a single athlete recorded a lifetime best first day score, and then by a single point. That was the 23 year old Pascal Behrenbruch who will be in the hunt tomorrow with Drozdov, Karpov, Smith and Pogorelov. The predicted winning score (I'm going out on the limb here) will be in the 8420-8470 range.



## *First Day Results:*

### 5/31-6/1 34<sup>th</sup> Hype-Bank Meeting, Mosle Stadium, Götzis, AUT

4382	Karpov, Dmitri/KAZ	10.85+0.6	723-0.7	1649	206	48.64
4315	Drozdov, Aleksey/RUS	11.13+0.2	778-0.3	1597	209	51.61
4305	Pogorelov, Aleksandr	11.06-0.8		753+0.2	1654	209 51.57
4279	Smith, Maurice/JAM	10.86-0.7	730	0.0	1650	194 48.82
4237	Minah, Jacob/GER	10.78-0.7	736-1.1	1426	197	48.05
4229	Behrenbruch, Pascal/GER	11.00+0.6		696+0.7	1658	203 49.32
4216	Sysoyev, Aleksey/RUS	10.86-0.7		701+0.5	1549	203 49.10
4164	Chinin, Carlos/BRA	10.98+0.6	737-0.1	1293	209	49.33
4162	Suarez, Leonel/CUB	11.23+0.6	716-1.0	1389	209	48.37
4109	Abele, Arthur/GER	10.83+0.6		724+0.8	1317	197 48.51
4079	Bertocchi, Massimo/CAN	10.99-0.7		734+1.3	1410	191 48.96
4073	Wiberg, Nicklas/SWE	11.05-0.8	706-0.3	1418	200	49.18
4047	Vasilyev, Arkady/RUS	11.25-0.8		720+0.4	1468	194 49.02
4019	Shubianok, Mikalai/BLR	11.38+0.2	681-1.9	1500	206	49.81
4008	Martineau, Eugene/NED	11.15-0.8	723-0.4	1395	194	49.49
3954	Niklaus, Andre/GER	11.24+0.2	724-0.2	1341	197	50.16
3942	Gervasi, David/SUI	11.30-0.8	694	0.0	1472	200 50.92
3930	Garcia, Yordani/CUB	10.91-0.7	666-1.7	1472	200	51.65
3893	Karas, Josef/CZE	11.11+0.2	724-1.1	1373	191	51.40
3872	Van Alphen, Hans/BEL	11.24+0.2	708-0.7	1419	182	49.30
3127	Müller, Norman/GER	11.16+0.6	nm	1384	188	48.45
2809	Erins, Edgars/LAT	11.26-0.7		656+0.7	1271	182 dnf