

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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GERMAN DUAL NEXT

Terrific Junior Olympic Results

Hello Again.....The first weekend in August will provide the 15th USA vs Germany team dual meet (Thorpe Cup) in Manhattan, KS. Team coaches Claus Marek and Sheldon Blockburger promise another cliff hanger. The Team Zehnkampf club is the strongest in years. Team USA features those who placed 4th and beyond at the recent US Olympic Trials in Eugene. Defending champ Mustafa Abdur-Rahim/USA (who won in Bernhausen in 2007) returns as part of the 7 man American team. As always, the top 5 from each nation will score.

Weather forecasts for central Kansas for the Aug 2-3 weekend are for hot conditions with a chance of thunderstorms. We will post a report with results after each day.

There have been a number of alterations for team lineups. Team USA added Joe Cebulski to its roster last week. And Team Zehnkampf replaced Johannes Schwuchow (23) with Nils Bükler, 21, Dortmund (PR 7491) due to an injury. The Bükler file is attached to this newsletter and you should add it to the meet media guide which has been posted on our website.

Last week saw two significant decathlon developments. First, Northern Iowa University promoted Travis Geopfert to the head coaching position, replacing Chris Bucknam who took over the head job at the University of Arkansas, replacing legendary John McDonnell. Geopfert has turned UNI into a DivI deca powerhouse as an assistant



coach over the past 5 seasons. Most recently, UNI senior Raven Cepeda captured the NACAC u23 meet in Mexico. Geopfert brings a wealthy decathlon background: he was a 3x Missouri Valley Conf champ, 4x USA

Travis Geopfert/UNI

Nationals qualifier and 2x Drake Relays winner.

The second development was on the track. Late July is always "Junior Olympics" season and, although always confusing, provided some terrific scores. The US has dueling JO programs, one administered by USATF and the other by the AAU. They have wrestled in court over the right to the name "Junior Olympics," but what results are parallel programs providing decathlon competition for Young men (17-18) and Intermediate Boys (15-16).





Sweet Home's (OR) Dakotah Keys offered something unusual: a 7000 point effort from a 16 year old while winning the USATF JO in Omaha.

High School implements and hurdles are used. This year both meets boasted big fields and bigger scores.

On July 22-23 in Omaha, NE, Dakota Keys stepped up to the Young men's Division and posted a terrific 7204 score. He is a 16 year old sophomore from Sweet Home, Oregon. Dan Gooris, 18, Albuquerque, a senior who has been recruited to (you guessed it) Northern Iowa, posted a 7005 effort. Favorite Curtis Beach, 17, Albuquerque Academy, rolled an ankle in the warm-ups, but soldiered on and finished 3rd. Six exceeded 6000 points. Gunnar Nixon, Eastside Steppers, won the IB division with 5772. In all, 40 competed in Omaha.

Three days later the AAU Junior Olympics Games began at Eastern Michigan U, Ypsilanti. There U of Florida recruit Ben Davies, 18, Brentwood, TN, won the YM division with an excellent 7240 effort as 5 exceeded 6000. Brentwood's Kevin Lazas, 16, was the IB winner with 6429. The AAU meet drew even bigger fields as 54 started and 51 finished. It may just be that the US needs two different JO programs to accommodate the large numbers of decathletes⁹⁴ in all at two levels (IB, YM) at two different nationals. That's a lot of decathletes.

Results:



7/22-23 USATF Jr Olympics, Omaha, NE (young men div.17-18)

7204	Keys, Dakotah/unat, Home Sweet, OR	11.64nwi
662+0.6	1299 190 51.91 15.33+1.1 4085 455 5837	4:42.35
7005	Gooris, Dan/Albuquerque TC	12.06-0.7
646+0.9	1346 190 51.44 15.72+0.4 3906 470 4917	4:34.58
6376	Beach, Curtis/Albuquerque TC	11.57+0.6
604+1.5	1123 195 51.50 15.83+1.1 3184 425 3504	4:42.23
6262	York, Richard/Team Missouri	11.88-1.7
615+1.2	1130 185 52.54 16.43nwi	3100 410 4814 4:43.57
6223	McPherson, Mike/ Real Training	11.42+0.6
673+1.6	1016 180 50.84 15.68nwi	3228 350 3758 4:46.66
6160	Fleming, Dan/Angelic FlyersTC	11.38nwi
678+0.9	1174 180 51.79 16.38+0.9 2821 350 3659	5:08.88
5953	Schmidt, Thomas/Pacific NW, 5899 Clarke, Tyler/Ames TC, 5868 Perez, Robert/Victory Atl, 5800 Sementelli, Alexander/TexExpress, 5719 Short, Taylor/TexExpress, 5383 Culbreath, Grayson/Cerritos Blaze, 5370 Filer, Thomas/Bellevue Breeze, 5325 Higin, Brad/Norfolk, 5280 Bolligar, Michael/Ariz Puma, 5168 Beenken, Cory/Draft Pick Academy, 5016 Wilson, Shawn/Finger Lakes, 22s,22f.	

Intermediate Boys (15-16)

5772	Nixon, Gunnar/Eastside Steppers, 5749 Gross, Justin/Woodlawn, 5320 Jones, Ewrin/Phoenix Bobcats, 5169 Bello, William/PiiTC, 5096 Lindman, Ben/IA United TC, 5080 Walashek, Dylan/Ariz Puma, 5008 Rex, Kobi/Speed T/F, 18f.
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7/26-27 AAU Jr Olympics, E Mich U, Ypsilanti MI



7260	Davies, Ben/Brentwood, TN (18)	11.55-0.4 628nwi	1627 175 49.89 15.24+0.8 4228	438 6200 4:57.88
6462	Wise, Neamen/Altamonte Spgs,FL(17)	11.10-1.9	641nwi 1340 175 51.35 14.84+1.5 3381 378 4663	5:27.94
6221	Stephens, Nathan/Riverdale, GA (18)	11.85-1.9	640nwi 1188 180 52.59 15.12+1.5 3816 273 4109	4:32.66
6079	Schmidt, Kale/Stanwood,WA(17)	12.02-1.9	667nwi 1050 185 51.92 16.64+0.2 3079 348 4148	4:37.12
6029	Eckert, Jack/Sellesburg, IN(17)	12.24-0.9	570nwi 1211 175 52.45 18.04+0.8 3380 423 4504	4:30.70

5948 Ford, Dkorian/Bay City, TX(18), 5839
 Campbell, Kyle/Mishawaka, IN(18), 5777 Wallace,
 Cullen/ Houston, TX(18), 5646 Moragne,
 Kendric/Memphis, TN, 5520 Ada,s, Brad/Akron,
 OH (17), 5336 White, Tim/Knoxville, TN (17),
 5301 Halloran, Logann/Kansas City, MO(17), 5156
 Grob, Tyler/Whitmore Lake, MI(17), Klug,
 Charles/Seffner, FL (18), Bach, Christian/Belding,
 MI (18). 32s,29f

Intermediate Boys (15-16)

6429 Lazas, Kevin/Brentwood, TN (16) 11.62-0.1
 694nwi 1193 190 52.75 18.47+1.1 3720 393 5062 4:51.42
 5718 Davies, Josh/Brentwood, TN (16), 5159
 Kincade, Jack/Columbus, OH(15), 5089 Johnson,
 David/Spring, TX (15) dq-400m., 25s,23f.



Thorpe Cup Adenda:

Nils Bölker

DOB: December 12, 1986 (21)
 Ht/Wt: 185 / 80
 Hometown: Dortmund
 Club: TV Wattenscheid
 Occupation Student, Ruhr University
 PR score: 7491 (08)
 3rd, German Junior Champs, 2005

PR Meet: 5/18/08 7491 4 Bernhausen
 10.86 738 1351 199 49.34
 15.63 3686 430 5561 4:51.99
PRs: 10.86 738 1351 203 49.34
 15.28 3899 440 5969 4:28.97



