

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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CLAY 11th AMERICAN TO WIN GOLD 8791 Score Tops Krauchanka, Saurez

Hello Again.....When Bryan Clay cleared his opening height in Group B of 4.70/15-5 (incidentally, also in an empty stadium, ala Bruce Jenner in 1976 in Montreal) the gold medal was assured. He would just need to stay on his feet for the final two events. He did that and became the 11th American to capture the Olympic decathlon gold medal (12x-Mathias twice). Clay, 28, Glendora, CA never trailed from the opening gun on Thursday. Way to Go Bryan!

Youth was served for the remaining medals as 22 year old Andrei Krauchanka/BLR and 21 year old Leonel Suarez/CUB took home the silver and bronze. It was the first ever Olympic decathlon medal for both BelaRussia and Cuba....23rd for USA since Jim Thorpe won in Stockholm in 1912. Here's the final three events.

**Games of the 29th Olympiad
Beijing, China
August 21-22, 2008**



Pole Vault: (1:15 pm)

Strange seeding assigned Aleksey Drozdov (who has a PR of 5.20m/17-³/₄) with the group (B) of weaker vaultes. Predictably he won the pit at 5.10m/16-⁸/₄. Marrice Smith got over 4.60m/15-1 and Jangy Addy's



Bryan Clay's 5.00m/16-4 ³/₄ vault helped on the way to the Olympic gold medal and final score of 8791 points.

4.20m/13-9¹/₄ was a national record. This was the first time Addy, a senior at Tennessee, competed for Liberia. Spain's David Gomez and Finland's Mikko Halvari no-heighted.

No heights marred Group A as well, most notably Trey Hardee (at 4.70m/15-5) a medal contender to this point took himself out of contention here. Gonzalo Barroihlet/CHI also no marked. But the story was Clay who went on the clear, all on initial efforts, 4.80m/15-9, 4.90m/16-³/₄, and 5.00m/16-4³/₄, the latter equaling a seasonal best. German Andre Niklaus was well off form but still won the pit at 5.20m/17-³/₄.

Of the three remaining medal contenders Andrei Krauchanka got over 5 meters as well, but Roman Sebrle lost some ground when he managed but 4.80m/15-9 and Cuba's Leonel Suarez lost even more ground managing 4.70m/15-5. At this point it

appeared that Krauchanka had a lock on the silver and the bronze would likely be settled between the defending champ, whose conditioning was suspect, and the 21 year old Cuban, who has terrific jav and 1500m skills. *After Eight: Clay 7365, Krau 7049, Pogo 6979, Kasy 6874, Smit 6860, Suar 6827, Sebr 6823.*

Javelin: (7:00 pm)

Tall Yordani Garcia won group A with a nice 65.60m/215-3 spear. Addy's 52.50m/172-2 effort was another Liberian record. The major disappointment was Smith's 51.52m/169-0 toss. For the 2007 world champs silver medalist, Beijing was a disappointment as he let the meet slip away in the long jump and shot.

Group B was more arresting. Suarez showed why he is a coming star, gunning a PR 73.98m/242-8 in round #1. Bryan speared 68.71m/225-5, then improved in round #2 to 70.97m/232-10. He passed his final throw.



Jangy Addy/Tennessee-LBR, as he does so here in the javelin, kept setting national records for Liberia,

Both Sebrle and Krauchanka struggled at this point. The world record holder could only come up with a 63.93m/209-8 mark while the 22 year old BelaRussian's 60.23m/197-7 was 4 meters below his PR. Although, with a 64.01m/210-0 mark, it appeared that Pogorelov was in the medal mix, his chances, given his endurance record, could not be taken seriously.

26 of the original 40 starters made it thru 9 events.

After Nine: Clay 8269, Krau 7790, Pogo 7777, Suar 7777, Sebr 7620.

1500 Meters: (9:40 pm)

At this point Bryan's quest for a gold medal was a lock. He needed a 4:48.53 to better Roman Sebrle's meet record (8893 in Athens) and 4:48.86 for Dan O'Brien's American Record. Both were well within reach.

The silver medal would be contested between Krauchanka and Suarez as only 13 points (2 seconds) separated them. Suarez posted an eye-opening 4:16 at Götzis earlier in the season. Krauchanka's PR was 4:24.

In the first race 21 year old Michael Schrader/GER, leading all the way, breezed in 4:27.77. In the final race Krauchanka pulled away from Suarez in final straight (4:27.47 to



Andrei Krauchanka/BLR (l) hung on to win the silver medal over Leonel Suarez/CUB (r).

4:29.17) to hold onto the silver. Clay, content (ala Daley Thompson) to enjoy the experience, sauntered along crossing in 5:06.59, his 240 point margin of victory (8791 to Krauchanka's 8551) the biggest since Nikolay Avilov avalanched the Olympic field in Munich in 1972, winning by a gaudy 419 points.

Results:

21-22 29th Olympic Games, National Stadium, Beijing, China

8791	Clay, Bryan/USA	10.44+0.3	778	0.0	1627	199	48.92	13.93-0.5	5379	500	7097	506.59
8551	Krauchanka, Andrei/BLR	10.96-0.2	761-0.2	1439	211	47.30	14.21-0.5	4458	500	6023	4:27.47	
8527NR	Suàrez, Leonel/CUB	10.90-0.6	733+0.8	1449	205	47.91	14.15-0.5	4445	470	7398	4:29.17	
8328	Pogorelov, Aleksandr/RUS	11.06-0.6	737+0.6	1653	208	50.91	14.47-0.2	5004	500	6401	5:01.56	
8253	Barras, Romain/FRA	11.26-0.1	708+1.0	1542	196	49.51	14.21-0.2	4517	500	6540	4:29.29	
8241	Šebrle, Roman/CZE	11.21-0.6	768+0.8	1478	211	49.54	14.71-0.4	4550	480	6393	4:49.63	
8238	Kasyanov, Olexsiy/UKR	10.53+0.3	756+1.2	1515	196	47.70	14.37-0.2	4839	430	5159	4:28.94	
8220	Niklaus, Andre/GER	11.12-0.6	729+1.4	1436	205	49.65	14.37-0.2	4539	520	6021	4:32.90	
8205	Smith, Maurice/JAM	10.85-0.2	704-0.8	1509	199	47.96	14.08-0.5	5091	460	5152	4:31.62	
8194	Schrader, Michael/GER	10.80+0.3	770-0.1	1367	199	48.47	14.71-0.4	4041	480	6027	4:26.77	
8178	Pahapill, Mikk/EST	11.15-0.6	704+0.6	1436	211	50.90	14.51-0.2	4935	480	6707	4:47.03	
8154	Drozdov, Aleksey/RUS	11.02-0.1	723-0.1	1626	202	51.56	15.51-0.4	4743	510	6257	4:41.34	
8118	Raja, Andres/EST	10.89-0.2	729+0.2	1479	196	48.98	14.06-0.5	3983	480	6716	4:49.60	
8055	Martineau, Eugene/NED	11.19-0.4	719+0.6	1378	199	49.99	14.73-0.2	4409	470	7144	4:37.96	
7992	Garcia, Yordani/CUB	10.64-0.2	7707+0.3	1582	196	49.66	13.90-0.4	3673	470	6560	5:00.49	
7906	Shubianok, Mikalai/BLR	11.31-0.2	686+0.6	1488	199	50.02	14.52-0.2	4580	460	6210	4:38.14	
7838	Parkhomenka, Aliaksandr/BLR	11.29-0.4	699	0.0	1549	193	50.71	15.06-0.4	4527	470	6460	4:45.17
7835	Qi Haifeng /CHN	11.15-0.4	722+1.6	1340	193	49.39	14.60-0.4	4646	430	6309	4:39.32	
7714	Bertocchi, Massimo/CAN	11.00+0.3	705-0.8	1410	190	48.72	14.32-0.5	4491	470	4533	4:42.26	
7665	Addy, Jangy/LBR	10.76+0.3	738+0.9	1491	193	48.51	14.31-0.5	4230	420	5250	5:12.22	
7516	Awde, Daniel/GBR	11.06-0.2	712+0.3	1203	178	47.16	14.69-0.4	3712	490	5318	4:44.80	
7483	Sepehrad, Hadi/IRI	10.92-0.1	680+1.0	1602	190	50.75	14.64-0.4	5032	400	4956	5:06.67	
7336	Sitar, Damjan/SLO	11.21-0.6	725-0.1	1241	205	50.10	15.03-0.4	3925	400	4723	4:37.37	
7021	Dizdarevic, Slaven/SVK	11.16-0.1	702+0.3	1397	196	52.02	15.61-0.4	3986	400	4358	4:52.42	
6876	Gómez, Daniel/ESP	11.12-0.4	685+0.9	1358	181	49.27	14.61-0.2	4017	nh	6222	4:30.74	
6486	Halvari, Mikko/FIN	11.18-0.6	688-0.2	1372	193	50.60	16.25-0.4	4771	nh	5511	5:20.26	
dnf	Hardee, Trey/USA	10.52+0.3	772-0.2	1349	205	47.75	14.20-0.5	4355	nh	withdrew		
dnf	Barroilhet, Gonzalo/CHI	11.33-0.4	708+1.9	1323	193	51.91	14.26-0.5	4607	nh	withdrew		
dnf	Karlivans, Janis/LAT	11.36-0.6	726+1.3	1485	184	51.61	15.28-0.4	4454	withdrew			
dnf	Sysoyev, Alexey/RUS	11.03-0.2	677+0.3	1542	211	50.71	dnf	withdrew				
dnf	Chinin, Carlon/BRA	10.99-0.2	694	0.0	nm	199	49.21	withdrew				
dnf	Andreev, Pavel/UZB	11.47-0.4	662-0.3	1415	199	dnf						
dnf	Covalenco, Victor/MDA	11.87-0.1	650+0.7	1344	181	dnf	withdrew					
dnf	Xhonneux, Frédéric/BEL	11.41-0.1	694+0.5	1399	190	withdrew						
dnf	Van Alphen, Hans/BEL	11.28-0.4	655+0.3	1486	184	withdrew						
dnf	Abele, Arthur/GER	10.90+0.3	647+0.3	1355	190	withdrew						
dnf	Smirnov, Vitalit/UZB	11.56-0.4	nm	1351	withdrew							
dnf	Pappas, Tom/USA	11.12-0.2	741+1.3	withdrew								
dnf	Zsivóczky, Attila/HUN	11.86-0.1	withdrew									
dnf	Karpov, Dmitri/KAZ	11.83+0.3										

40 starters, 26 finishers.

