

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## PAPPAS, STORMS RAGE OVER INDY

### 4-time champ has 1st Day Lead, Clay Withdraws

**Hello Again.....**All week the Indy weather had been postcardlike...,sunny and prevailing (read: west to east) winds. But, on early Friday morning, June 22, storms and high winds ravaged Central and Southern Indiana. By 8 am most of the rain had stopped. But the track was drenched and slippery, the winds had reversed from east to west, and more storms threatened. A dreary scene greeted 17 decathletes who arrived for the 88<sup>th</sup> USA national decathlon title meet (initial meet in 1915). For several hours it seemed that the second day of summer (June 22) would be one of those rainy, inconvenient and bothersome summer days. Conditions did brighten up but the rainy weather early and withdrawal of Bryan Clay late in the afternoon left the meet a bit empty. But, by day's end Tom Pappas held a 160 point lead over Paul Terek as 14 of the original 16 athletes were still around.



**88<sup>th</sup> USA National Decathlon**  
**Michael A. Carroll Stadium**  
**IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN**  
**June 22-23, 2007**

**100 Meters:** [10:30 – 10:40 pm]

It was not well understood why the 100 meters ran west to east on the home straight instead of with the wind on the back straight where a second camera and timing device had been set up. Although



30 year old Tom Pappas, put himself into position to win a 5<sup>th</sup> USA national decathlon title with 5 solid first day marks and a 4394 score.



the seeding certainly helped here, running into the wind did not. In the first section (better sprinters) Bryan Clay dashed off to a smooth 10.58 clocking, easily equivalent to his recent 10.40 in Götzis. Head winds (-0.5 mps) and wet track slowed the runners. Mustafa Abdur-Rahim was out fastest but Clay caught him at 25 meters as did Ryan Olkowski at 70 meters, but there times (10.58, 10.73, 10.84) were the only sub-11 second clockings in spite of ten (of 17) having sub 11 PRs. Tom Pappas was a solid 4<sup>th</sup> in 11.00 in his first meet in exactly a year.

In section #2 Jake Arnold, fresh (or perhaps not) from his NCAA defense, won in a fine 11.23. Chris Boyles was second at 11.35. More headwinds. The final race was a dilly as Wisconsin's Joe Detmer leaned too early and was pipped by Long Beach's

Chris Richardson (II) 11.28 to 11.29. Headwind, -2.0mps!! Roughly 400 were on hand to watch. *After One: Clay 956, Olko 922, Abdu 897....Papp 861.*

**Long Jump:** [11:15 – 11:45 am]

Officials turned the long jump around and the decathletes jumped east to west, with the wind. It was still cloudy and overcast when Tom Pappas opened Flight #1 with a fine 7.50m/24-7¼ leap that stood up as a winner. He passed his final two attempts. Bryan Clay fouled on his first attempt and his next two efforts resulted in 7.04m/23-1¼ and 7.18m/23-6¾ marks, well below expectations. Paul Terek (wearing a bright lime colored body suit) blasted a 7.26m/23-10 first round leap. Although the event started like gangbusters, it limped in like a wet noodle. There were unexplained delays (I timed one at 2 minutes a 12 seconds) as athletes waited and waited to compete. And ten fouls (of 22 efforts or 45%) put a damper on an already wet event.

In Flight #2 Abdur-Rahim opened with a 6.93m/22-9 effort that, like Pappas's initial effort, stood up as a winner. Only Jake Arnold was remotely close (8cm) to a lifetime best.

*After Two: Clay 1813, Papp 1796, Tere 1730.*

**Shot Put:** [12:30-12:52pm, 1:10-1:32pm]

Cloudy, cool conditions prevailed as the decathletes used the SW corner circle. In Flight #1 Chris Richardson (14.72m/48-7½ and the win), Chris Randolph (13.69m/44-11) and Mike Marsh (13.89m/45-7) all managed lifetime bests

Flight #2 was even more exciting. Clay opened at 15.18m/49-9¾ but Pappas took his overall lead away with a fine 15.66m/51-4½ toss. In the second round Bryan got the lead back with a 15.74m/51-7½ effort. Terek heaved 15.27m/50-1¼, then Harlan took the event lead with a

15.76m/51-8½ toss. Chris Boyles managed a huge PR, 15.33m/50-3½.



Paul Terek punched a 15.27m/50-1 to place him solidly in 2<sup>nd</sup> after day one with 4234 points.

In round #3 Clay passed but Pappas was not finished and his iron shot traveled 16.43m/53-11 of Indiana real estate, 10cm shy of his PR and good for the overall lead again. Arnold too was in good form and his 3<sup>rd</sup> round effort landed at 14.93m/48-11½, 8cm shy of his PR. That brought up Harlan whose 16.58m/54-4¾ bomb won the event but missed a PR by 3cm. This was some event!

*After Three: Papp 2674, Clay 2646, Tere 2536.*

**High Jump:** [2:10 – 3:12 pm]

The west end of Carroll Stadium resembled a circus (perhaps taking a cue from Sacramento) as 5 field events were conducted simultaneously, all tucked into the limited space. Resembling sardines, a pair of high jump pits and a pair of adjacent throwing circles were used with the javelin runway dividing the area also in use. When a 6<sup>th</sup> event, a triple jump, started nearby officials ran out of infield indicator boards to keep track of this three ring circus. All that was missing was a Big Top. Since some of the boards also failed it was near impossible to keep track of the high jumpers. Here is what happened.

First, amazingly, the weather improved and most of the clouds headed

east while the major thunderstorms passed to the south of Indy.

Second, the seeding appeared to work in favor of the athletes. In the North pit Chris Randolph and Paul Terek both negotiated 2.02m/6-7½, a mark unseen on Terek's score sheet in four years. A pair of no-heights (Brandon Hoskins and Joe Detmer) marred the event.



Chris Boyles won the high jump at 2.08m/6-9¾ and finished the first day in third place, 4094 points.

In the South pit Clay struggled looking as bad here as he looked good in Götzis. When he inexplicably missed 1.99m/6-6¼ on three occasions after passing the previous bar, the die was cast. In the meantime, the opposite scenario developed for Pappas whose meager 1.96m/6-5 effort a year ago was his poorest performance since 1999. (when, incidentally, he jumped off the opposite leg b/c of an injury). Determined to rectify that, he handled everything up to 2.05m/6-8¾ easily and his overall lead grew to 138 points. Boyles and Harlan won the group at 2.08m/6-9¾. 48 clearances in 122 jumps, in 62 minutes. Hoskins withdrew.

*After Four: Papp 3524, Clay 3386, Tere 3358.*

**400 Meters:** [4:02 – 4:11 pm]



Minutes before the first section Clay announced his withdrawal, not surprising since little was at stake for him here. That and Hoskins' withdrawal left some holes in the lane assignments.

Approximately 2300 fans were on hand for the 400m. In section #1 (seeded) Ryan Olkowski and Joe Detmer ran evenly for 300m until Detmer smoothly accelerated away to win in a fine 47.09. Olkowski's 48.22, Arnold's 48.70 and a 48.81 by Pappas were all fast marks.

Section #2 was a contest between the Big Green (Mustafa's alma mater,

### **Bryan Clay's Withdrawal**

Reporters threw a bevy of questions at Bryan Clay after his 400m withdrawal, but he calmly explained that, since he was already assured an invitation (as the defending champion) to the August IAAF World Championships in Osaka, discretion was the better part of valor at this point in the season. "I am still a little dinged up from Götzis," he explained. So I did not want to jeopardize my chances at Worlds since I have not had enough to recover from Götzis "(where he was 3<sup>rd</sup> in 8493). The meeting was 3½ weeks earlier. To Bryan the USATF meet was a bit anticlimactic. "I could have stayed in and gotten an 83-84 score. But that is pointless. I want to be ready at World's. I'll go home, heal, and do some prep meets, perhaps in Italy in July, to prepare."

The withdrawal may have cost the fans a fine duel between Clay and Pappas, but for the latter, the door is now open for a little bit of history. Only Bill Toomey and Dan O'Brien have won 5 national titles. Tomorrow Tom Pappas (who won in 2000, '02, '03 and '06) could add his name to that list as only the third 5x champion.

Dartmouth) and the lime green, the florescent uniform of Paul Terek. Running side-by-side it was dead even for 250m when Moose stepped on the accelerator. It took Terek another 100 meters to react and begin to reel his adversary in. But too late, as the Big Green hung on for a significant

PR, 48.32 and lime green runner equaled his at 48.70. It was the day's best race.

In the day's final race Richardson edged Tennessee's Chris Helwick, 50.39 to 50.54. When the race finished it was warm and sunny. Go figure. A 4 pm start would have been perfect. Ah, the best laid plans.

The 30 year old Pappas was pleased with his first day saying "I'm still standing." He is 52 points up on his 2006 pace here when he won with 8319, Terek too was fashioning a fine meet, just 8 digits off his 2004 Olympic Trials pace when he PR'd (at the right time I might add) in 8312. Arnold was 17 off his recent 8215 NCAA pace. The three, barring bad luck or weather, appeared locks for the 3 additional American berth on the World Championship team

*After Five: Papp 4394, Tere 4234, Boye 4094.*

### ***First Day Results***

#### **6/22-23 88<sup>th</sup> USA National Championships, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN**

4394	Pappas, Tom/Nike	11.00-0.5	
	750+0.3 1643 205	48.81	
4234	Terek, Paul/Asics	11.03-0.5	
	726+1.4 1527 202	48.70	
4094	Boyles, Chris/CBO-E	11.35+0.3	
	718+2.3 1533 208	51.09	
4078	Harlan, Ryan/unat	11.35-2.0	
	677+1.5 1658 208	51.01	
4066	Olkowski, Ryan	10.73-0.5	
	706+1.9 1272 196	48.22	
4053	Arnold, Jake/Arizona	11,23+0.3	
	689+2.9 1493 199	48.70	
3943	Abdur-Rahim, Mustafa	10.84-0.5	693 0.0 1385 181 48.32
3905	Richardson, Chris/VS At	11.28-2.0	
	704+2.6 1472 190	50.39	
3871	Randolph, Chris/CNW	11.59+0.3	
	679+1.2 1369 202	49.40	
3830	Marsh, Mike/ChampNuit	11.11-0.5	
	691+2.0 1389 190	51.06	
3783	Helwick, Chris/Tenn	11.43+0.3	
	668+1.5 1343 199	50.54	
3705	Cebulski, Joe/TigerBar	11.80-2.0	
	671+1.0 1321 199	50.44	
3613	Cepeda, Raven/N Iowa	11.40+0.3	
	545+1.8 1437 187	52.22	
3110	Detmer, Joe/Wisconsin	11.29-2.0	
	676+2.5 1193 nh	47.09	

dnf Clay, Bryan/Nike 10.58-0.5  
718+1.6 1574 193 withdrew  
dnf Hoskins, Brandon/Liberty 11.42-2.0 641  
0.0 1292 nh withdrew

**Weather:** Day 1: rainy and cool in morning, light rain and headwinds during 100m. Weather steadily improved during day, mostly cloudy, and 75.8 degrees by 4 pm (400m).