

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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USA INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

Rules, European Results

Hello Again.....here is a catch-up letter on odds, ends, and issues we did not have time for in May/June as we covered the Hypo-Bank meeting in Götzis, Austria, the NCAAs in Sacramento and the USATF nationals in Indianapolis.

First, I've attached some USATF quotes from Indy. Second, I've made a list of the international meetings for USA decathletes, self chosen by their nationals' performances. Third, there were a number of rules and procedural questions that came up in Indy that are addressed/explained here. Finally, lots has been happening in the rest of the world, including Roman Sebrle's fine score in the Czech Republic, the IAAF CE Challenge meetings in Arles, France and Ratingen, Germany, and the South American championships.

A Meet a Week!

Also, has anyone noticed that, in the space of 25 days, French decathlete Romain Barras was 10th at Götzis (8064), won Arles (8147) and was 3rd in Kladno (8298). He is also scheduled for Euro Cup next week, the World Champs in Osaka and DecaStar in Talence in September.

Quotes from Decathlon Placers at USATF

Tom Pappas - Men's Decathlon Champ

"Physically I know I have the ability to score more. I'm trying to get back to the



Dan O'Brien (r) interviews the newest member of the five time USA decathlon champion club, Tom Pappas (l) in Indianapolis.

level I was at. The biggest thing for me this week was to qualify. To get in company with guys like Dan O'Brien is really special."

Paul Terek - Men's Decathlon 2nd

"This feels really good since I have had a lot of stuff going on. Sometimes it's tough to get up that second day. It feels great to get back to the world stage. Now I am going to take a week off and start getting ready for Osaka (World Champs)."

Jake Arnold - Men's Decathlon 3rd - I

knew I had to run close to my PR in the 1,500 (to qualify for World Champs). Looking up at the scoreboard and being third took all the pain away. To come up with third I'm ecstatic. Making the transition from NCAA to the pros, it's the best you can do.

2007 USA International Decathlon Lineup

Pan American Juniors São Paulo, Brazil

July, 6-7 [Fri-Sat]
Standard : 6500 points
USA entry:

Nick Adcock/Missouri

To follow: www.usatf.org/events/2007 and follow prompts

World Youth Championships Ostrava, Czech Republic

July 11-12 [Wed-Thur]
Ages 15-17-
Octathlon:

Day 1: 100m/lj/sp(5kg)/400m
Day 2: 110mH(39')/hj/jav(700g)/1000m
USA entry:

Curtis Beach/Albuquerque, NM

To follow: www.iaaf.org/WYC07/

Pan American Games Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

July 23-24 [Mon-Tue]
Standard 6750 points
USA entries



***Ryan Harlan/unat-Houston
Chris Boyles/CBO-Carlisle,PA***

To follow: www.rio2007.org.br/pan2007

Note: there may be problems with this site

Jim Thorpe Cup- USA vs Germany

***Team Match
Bernhausen, GER***

August 18-19 [Sat-Sun]
Selected at USA Nationals
USA entries:



***Chris Randolph/CNW
Chris Helwick/Tennessee
Mustafa Abdur-Rahim/ASC-Elite
Chris Richardson/Vs Athletics
Joe Detmer/Wisconsin***

***Alts: Raven Cepeda/Northern Iowa
Ryan Olkowski/unat
RavenCepeda/Northern Iowa***

To follow: check with www.decathlonusa.org

IAAF World Champs Osaka, JPN

Aug 31, Sept 1 [Fri-Sat]
Standards:

'A' 8000, 'B' 7700.

USA entries:

***Bryan Clay/Nike
(defending)***

Tom Pappas/Nike

Paul Terek/Asics

Jake Arnold/Arizona

To follow: www.iaaf.org/WCH07/



Just a Reminder.....

Standards for 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing are:

'A' 8000; 'B' 7700

And qualification period is: Sept 1, 2006 to July 23, 2008.

RULES-PROCEDURES- INDY



Allow me to say that the recent USA National Decathlon in Indianapolis was a terrific meet and (mostly) well conducted. Yet several rules and procedural issues came up in the conduct of the meet. Allow some comments and explanations.

First, the **rules**:

A. Then first dealt with Tom Pappas' attempt to pass just the first attempt at 5.10m in the pole vault, then take a second/third attempt. I didn't know the rule but the head vault official did and correctly reminded us of:

USATF (2007) Rule 181.5 states "A competitor shall have the discretion to commence jumping or vaulting at the starting height or at any other subsequent height. A competitor who forgoes a trial at a height thereby forfeits the right to jump again at that height. Such competitor may, however, jump at that height in a jump-off to break a tie for first place." Thanks to Margaret Sheehan for the reminder.

This rule is clear that you can pass a height but not a first attempt. But one can pass a 2nd or 3rd attempt and go to another height, being eliminated after three consecutive failures at one or more than one height.

B. The second issue dealt with false starts. There appeared to be, in the second section of the 100 meters, a false start. When no false start was charged officials rightly offered a *green* card to the entire field. The green card signals no one is charged. In open events entire fields are occasionally charged with a false start in which case the entire field is shown a *yellow* card. In combined events yellow

cards are offered *only* to individuals, but never to the entire field.

USATF (2007) Rule 200.3c reminds us that, for combined events, "False starts are called on individuals, not the entire field."

Several CE **procedural** issues were discussed in the stands, press box and athletes tents.

C. The first dealt with seeding of the races which was generally applauded and which resulted in some exciting match-ups (the 400m race between Terek and Abdur-Rahim, both racing to PRs in adjacent lanes, or the Harlan/Pappas hurdle race are cases in point). The required seeding worked well. Now if we can get the Juniors to do it. Enough said.

D. The issue of wind direction came up, and here officials went two-for three. The long jump and hurdles were correctly directed, yet it seemed obvious to all, hours before the start of the 100 meters, that the wind was prevailing from East to West (flowing a storm), and not the main straight direction of West to East. And so the decathletes ran into strong headwinds in the 100m. The cost was 50-70 points per athlete. "Why do they do that," complained Bryan Clay. "I ran the same race in Götzis (10.40) as I ran here (10.59). It's frustrating. Why do they do that? The direction of the long jump was correct, the sprint was not."

E. The layout of the throwing areas, like the decision on the winds, was two for three. Shot and javelin landing areas had adequate indicator lines within the throwing sectors. The discus area did not (first line set at 50m) and no indicator boards on sideline before 50m. This may be what caused confusion halfway thru the

discus event as athletes had little idea of the distances of their marks and asked for verification with a steel tape (1cm off). It's well known that adequate measurement markers aid both the athletes and the spectators.

F. One can wonder why there is a need to shutdown a runway when a rule/procedural question arises. In Indy every time a question arose Chris Boyles seemed to be on a runway, waiting to jump. At times he waited and waited while officials held discussions on the runway. I timed one at 2 minutes and 12 seconds during the long jump. The question is whether or not an event needs to be stopped.

G. This concern does not seem to apply to the senior meet as much as it does the juniors, where athletes are entered and declared, then do not show up for the first event. In the combined events that leaves holes (empty lanes) in the running events, and occasionally, some non-competitive races. With 8 lane tracks (and nine on the straight) it is silly to have half the lanes empty. I don't know what the answer is. Perhaps a monetary fine can be levied on coaches who enter and declare athletes with little or no intention of competing. It got to be a persistent problem in Indy. As I said, I don't know what the answer is.

H. Finally, a reminder that the USA Sr. National Combined Events is part of the IAAF CE Challenge, where athletes earn a living on the basis of their scores, so we must do what we can, within the rules and common sense, to allow our CE athletes to achieve their optimal scores. After all, it's their career.

As I said, the USA Nationals was one terrific decathlon. We could not do

anything about the weather. But there were a few holes and we need to think about those procedures.

RECENT FOREIGN RESULTS:

6/2-3 10th International, Arles, FRA

8147	Barras, Romain/FRA	10.99+7.1
	734+6.1 1500 201 50.64 14.16+0.6 4132	
	500 6215 4:40.80	
7925	Gourmet, Francois/BEL	10.70+6.8
	723+4.7 1415 186 48.69 15.29+0.9 3914	
	490 6013 4:28.92	
7838	Smirnov, Vitalv/UZB	10.90+7.1
	656+2.7 1489 195 50.59 14.90+0.9 4633	
	470 5656 4:28.63	
14 th 7317	Sommerfeldt, Knut-Harald/NOR-ex	
	Missouri [11.21+7.3 714+6.0 1403 183	
	54.30 15.29+1.6 4122 460 6032 4:51.65],	
	29s, 26f.	

6/8-9 South American Champs, Rio de Janeiro, BRA

7504	Barroilhet, Gonzalo/CHI	11.42 0.0 715-0.3 1259 193 51.93 14.0h 0.0 4014 530
	5281 5:05.17	
7288	Xavier, Danilo/BRA	11.23 0.0
	722+0.5 1199 187 49.47 14.5h 0.0 3740	
	420 5464 4:43.93	
7243	de Oliveira, Sinval/BRA	11.21 0.0
	711+0.1 1173 184 48.40 15.1h 0.0 3597	
	410 5208 4:22.90	
7088	Canale, Geraldo/ARG	11.69 0.0
	692+0.2 1231 205 51.60 15.1h 0.0 3695	
	450 5197 4:57.75	
	6994 Mantilla, Andres/COL, 6s,5f.	

6/16-17 11th Erdgas Decathlon, Ratingen, GER

8269	Abele, Arthur/GER	10.84+0.5
	742+1.1 1343 204 48.51 13.93+1.3 3795	
	460 6523 4:18.00	
8244	Muller, Norman/GER	10.89+0.5 40+0.7
	1444 186 47.30 14.56+1.3 4510 500 6154	
	4:32.35	
7998	Minah, Jacob/GER	10.69+0.5
	753+1.9 1354 198 47.53 14.39+1.3 4035	
	470 4956 4:35.35	
7795	Gourmet, Francois/BEL	10.63+1.2
	720+0.6 1389 189 47.93 15.21+1.3 3939	
	460 5575 4:35.59	
7740	Behrenbach, Pascal/GER	11.00+0.5
	680+0.2 1540 195 51.78 14.18+1.3 4991	
	440 6011 5:07.73	

7663 Schrader, Michael/GER 10.97+1.2
731+2.5 1250 195 48.92 14.93+1.3 3799
470 5333 4:35.56

7577 Hommel, Stefan/GER 10.98+1.2
732+1.1 1523 186 49.19 14.77+0.9 4556
430 4845 4:59.53

7484 Geisler, Marian/GER 11.37+1.4
723+0.5 1338 198 50.63 15.45+0.9 4045
450 5339 4:36.10
7324 Fricke, Steffen/GER, 7240 Spinner,
Patrick/GER, 7154 Büchele, Uwe/GER,
dnf: Albert, Lars/GER [11.24+1.2 724+1.3
1617], Frullani, William/ITA [1-.99+0.5]
14s,11f.

6/19-20 TNT Fortuna, Kladno, CZE

8697 Sebrle, Roman/CZE 10.94+0.6
784+1.4 1647 212 48.99 14.39-0.7 4766
480 6887 4:40.44

8553 Karpov, Dmitri/KAZ 10.90+0.6
754+1.4 1636 203 47.75 14.42-0.7 5224
500 5566 4:40.28

8298 Barras, Romain/FRA 11.17+0.6
710+0.6 1512 200 48.50 14.30-0.7 4539
500 6206 4:27.31

8020 Dvorak, Tomas/CZE 11.09-0.2
763+2.8 1670 191 50.60 14.98+0.8 4222
460 6656 4:47.87

7922 Karas, Josef/CZE-exKansasSt 11.04+0.6
742+0.7 1479 197 49.89 15.21+0.8 5005
450 5147 4:34.24
7649 Karlivans, Janis/LAT, 7292
Sommerfeldt, Knut-Harald/NOR-ex
Missouri [11.47-0.2 684+0.8 1386 182
m53.35 15/13+0.8 4061 450 6199 4:53.02]