

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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MAURICE SMITH is PAN-AM CHAMP Harlan, Boyles 5th and 6th

Hello Again.....The Pan American games in Rio de Janeiro came off with few hitches on July 23-24 (Mon-Tues) and, as expected Maurice Smith, the Jamaican and 2003 NCAA medalist from Auburn pasted a fine field with a meet record 8278 score.

Cuban Yordan Garcia, 4 months shy of his 19th birthday, was a solid runner-up with a PR 8113 score. The battle for third was in doubt until the last lap of the 1500 meters. Brazilian Carlos Chinin needed a PR in the 1500 meters to hold onto the bronze medal (7977).

Once the playground for American decathletes, who had won 11 of the previous 13 gold medals and 19 of the previous 39 medals, The Pan American Games are now one tough decathlon! Lionel Suarez's 7936 score, then the 9th best score in meet history, did not place here.

Yanks Ryan Harlan, 26, Hewitt, Texas (7687) and Chris Boyles, 27, Carlisle, PA (7666) were 5th and 6th respectively.

**15th Pan American Games
João Havelange Stadium
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
July 23-24, 2007**

100 meters:



Jamaican Maurice Smith, former NCAA indoor heptathlon champion & SEC decathlon champ from Auburn, won the Pan-Am title with 8278 points



Cuba's 18 year old Yordan Garcia got this meet off *quickly*, reacting fastest to the starter's pistol (0.147 seconds) and clocking a snappy 10.67 in the first race, 2 steps up on Jamaica's Maurice Smith.

Back were Americans Ryan Harlan, 4th at 11.15 and Chris Boyles, 6th at 11.29. Slight headwind (-0.8 mps).

Adolphus Jones/St Kitts & Nevis, won the second race I 11.17 (tailwind (+0.2mps)).

After One: Garc 935, Smit 897, Chin 888.....Harl 827...Boyl 797

Long Jump:

22 year old Brazilian Carlo Chinin took one jump and erased Bill Toomey's 40 year old meet record with a remarkable 7.76m/25-5½ to move to the lead. Boyles got a 7.07m/23-2 ½ in the second round

but Harlan never did get untracked and managed only 6.78m/22-3.

After Two: Chin 1888, Garc 1782, Smit 1775.....Boyl 1627,Harl 1589.

Shot Put:

Russ Hodge's 36 year old meet record was also a casualty here as Maurice Smith banged out a 16.93m/55-6½ in round #1 then fouled twice going for broke. He moved to the overall lead. Harlan improved each toss eventually getting credit for 15.96m/52-4½ while Boyles got a near PR 14.97m/49-1½ as the Yanks went 2-3. The impressive Garcia managed 14.57m/47-9½ to hold onto 3rd.

After Three: Smit 2684, Chin 2582, Garc 2545.....Harl 2438, Boyl 2415.

High Jump:

The Americans acquitted themselves well here. Boyles leaped 2.06m/6-9 to move to 4th overall while Harlan cleared 2.03m/6-8. The leaders gave up little. Chinin, the new South American champion, won the event at 2.09m/6-10¼ while Garcia (2.03m/6-8) and Smith (1.97m/6-5½) posted solid marks.

After Four: Chin 3469, Smit 3460, Garc 3376, Boyl 3274, Harl 3269

400 meters:

The seeding here was as good as it gets in combined events. As a matter of fact, the seeding for the entire decathlon as virtually perfect...well done!

In section#1 (faster runners) Smith blasted a PR 47.99 to regain to regain the lead at the break. Harlan was 5th in a fine 49.85 while Jones, who narrowly avoided a disaster in the long jump (2 fouls) was 'DQ'd' for running inside his lane line. Garcia won section #2 in 49.96 with Boyles second in 51.36. The top five had separated themselves from the rest of the 12 man field.

After Five: Smit 4370, Chin 4361, Garc 4192, Harl 4091, Boyl 4017

Second Day

110m Hurdles:



18 year old Yordan Garcia showed he was for real with a 14.01 highs and 8113 score for the silver medal.

The first section was terrific as Garcia, who had run 14.40 in his early season 8k score, nipped Smith at the tape, 14.01 (PR) to 14.06. Harlan was a solid 3rd at 14.33.

In section #2 Leonel Suarez/CUB was a half-step winner (14.47) over Chinin (14.52) as Boyles was 3rd in 14.98 in a race marred by three false starts. Again, the seeding was terrific and resulted in athletes of comparable ability in both races.

After Six: Smit 5337, Chin 5269, Garc 5165, Harl 5023, Boyl 4879

Discus:

Maurice Smith settled this meet in the first round with a meet record 52.56m/172-5 effort. The gold medal was decided. His 3rd round improvement to 53.24m/174-8 was icing on the cake. Garcia kept his hot streak going with a PR 45.93m/150-8 while Harlan and Boyles were consistent at 42.79m/140-5 and 42.67m/140-0 efforts. Smith's lead grew to 324 points.

After Seven: Smit 6275, Garc 5951, Chin 5873, Harl 5744, Boyl 5598.

Pole Vault:

Ryan Harlan moved to 3rd in the overall standings during the vault winning the event with a 4.80m/15-9 clearance, a height Chilean Gonzalo Barroilmet also made. But the latter passed 4.90m/16-¾ and could not negotiate 5.00m/16-4¾. Boyles managed 4.60m/15-1, but the vault

was a major disappointment for both Garcia (4.50m/14-9) –3 bars below his PR--, and Smith, 4.40m/14-5¼. Yet their leads were so safe it made no difference in the final placings.

After Eight: Smit 7006, Garc 6711, Harl 6593, Chin6575, Boyl 6388.

Javelin:

A major surprise was the first round toss by Cuban Leonel Suarez which covered 71.39m/234-2 of Brazilian real estate, a meet record. The spear moved him into 5th, ahead of Boyles and 5 points out of fourth

Place. Garcia –sporting a 215-3 PR-- managed 63.75m/209-2 in the first round.

Smith elbow, not fully recovered from Götzis, had but one fair effort, 50.23m/164-9 and his lead over Garcia shrunk to 93 points, still safe enough. Harlan and Boyles were again consistent bookends: 55.99m/183-8 and 55.52m/182-1 respectively.

After Nine: Smit 7598, Garc 7505, Harl 7271, Chin 7192, Suar 7187, Boyl 7059.

1500 meters

Ryan’s margin over Chinin was now 79



22 year old Carlos Chinin, the South American champ, used a PR 1500 meters to grab the bronze medal.

points (13 seconds in the 1500m) and 84 points over Suarez (14 seconds in 1500m). Chinin, 22, the South American champ, had clocked 4:32.82 earlier in the season. The bronze would go to one of these three. The other two medals appeared safe at this point.

At the starter’s pistol Suarez went right to the lead attempting to run the other two off there feet. He led at 69, 2;23 and 3:34 before Chinin jumped him on the backstretch and eased away for the win (4:23.99) and the bronze medal. Suarez clocked 4:29.32.

Harlan trotted home in 5:26.59. Smith was never in trouble and cruised a 4:40.12 for the gold medal and an 8278 score. Garcia’s 4:51.74, a step ahead of Boyles, earned him 100 point PR, 8113, at age 18! Boyles held onto 6th place by a single point over Ivan Silva/BRA.

Results:



7/23-24 15th Pan

American Games, Rio de Janierio, BRA

8278 Smith, Maurice/JAM 10.84-0.8
 727+0.8 1693 197 47.99 14.06-0.2 5324 440 5023
 4:40.12
 8113 Garcia, Yordan/CUB 10.67-0.8
 714+0.6 1457 203 49.96 14.01-0.2 4593 450 6375
 4:51.74
 7977 Chinin, Carlos/BRA 10.88-0.8
 776+0.5 1344 209 48.36 14.52-0.3 3701 430 5195
 4:23.99
 7936 Suarez, Leonel/CUB 11.20+0.2 732-
 0.4 1278 188 49.09 14.47-0.3 4107 450 7139
 4:29.32

7687 Harlan, Ryan/USA 11.15-0.8 678
 0.0 1596 203 49.85 14.33-0.2 4279 480 5599
 5:26.59
 7667 Silva, Ivan/BRA 11.21+0.2
 705+0.9 1357 197 49.85 14.84-0.2 4151 460 5857
 4:44.03
 7666 Boyles, Chris/USA 11.29-0.8
 707+0.6 1497 206 51.36 14.98-0.3 4267 460 5552
 4:52.00
 7193 Barroilmet, Gonzalo/CHI 11.45+0.2
 679+0.4 1338 191 52.53 14.65-0.2 4178 480 5280
 5:14.47
 6821 Gillespie, Octavious/GUA 11.82+0.2
 677+0.1 1231 197 53.76 15.98-0.2 3935 400 6039
 4:57.19

6661 Canale, Geraldo/ARG 11.65+0.2
684+0.9 1234 200 52.43 15.71-0.3 3608 400 4495
5:02.33
6209 Colon, Darwin/HON 11.19-0.8
634+0.2 1182 173 52.72 15.08-0.3 4019 300 4363
5:08.587
dnf Jones, Adolphus/SKN 11.17+0.2 675-
0.2 1119 203 dsq dsq withdrew