

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXII

Number 26

October, 2007

KRAUCHANKA TOPS at DECASTAR Terek 5th in IAAF CE Challenge

Hello Again.... Well, the 2007 decathlon season is in the books. And, if the books tell us anything, it is that things got crowded at the top. The international Big Three for the past three seasons –Roman Sebrle/CZE, Bryan Clay/USA and Dmitry Karpov/KAZ—were joined by a pair of newcomers and one returning veteran. The most surprising new star was BelaRussian Andrei Krauchanka, a 21 year old springboard who won both Gotzis and Talence meetings but false started twice in the Osaka (IAAF World Champs) 100m and was disqualified. He was joined by 26 year old Auburn U grad Maurice Smith/JAM, who ran up big scores for runner-up spots in Talence and Osaka, and who also captured the Pan American title. And 2003 IAAF world champ Tom Pappas captured another USA title, but injuries plagued him in Osaka. When one throws Krauchanka, Smith and Pappas into the mix with Sebrle, Clay and Karpov, any forecast for 2008 is hazardous.

A word about the BleaRussian's "identity crises." We continue to use the spelling "Krauchanka", which is also preferred by IAAF World champs site, Gotzis and by international decathlon record keeper Hans van Kuijen. The alternative "Kravchenko" has been used by Talence and IAAF web site. I'll settle

this in Gotzis next May when I next see Andrei.

Krauchanka won the year's final



Andrei Krauchanka/BLR improved hi vault PR to 5.15m/16-10 $\frac{3}{4}$ on the way to a win at DecaStar in Talence

international decathlon, DecaStar in Talence France in late September, in an attempt to redeem himself for the pair of false starts in Osaka. His 8553 was 255 points better than Smith. Roman Sebrle contested Talence to guarantee him the IAAF Combined Events Challenge win (and \$30,000). He was 4th in France with 8067. Krauchanka, Bryan Clay, Tom Pappas and Dmitry Karpov did not start/finish the 3 required meets for a ranking. Only 17 men worldwide did. The

