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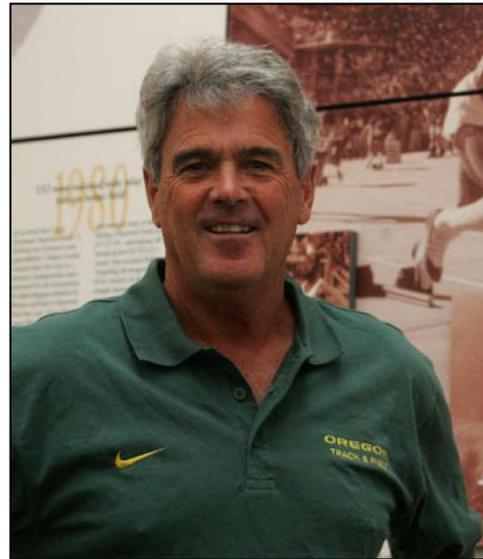
November (1), 2009

MARRA ADDED to OREGON STAFF

Decathlon Coached Play Musical Chairs

Hello Again.....Several of America's top decathlon coaches have been playing a game of musical chairs in the past two months. It started in June when successful Northern Iowa head coach Travis Geophert, 29, announced that he was moving to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Then in September Dan Steele, 38, the highly successful combined-events coach at the University of Oregon, moving closer to home, took the position at Northern Iowa. Finally, after an exhaustive search, Harry Marra, 62, the former USA national decathlon coach, has joined the staff at Oregon replacing Steele.

Geophert was the head coach for the USA national decathlon team this past summer which won the annual Thorpe Cup in Marburg, Germany. Steele became the first collegiate coach in history to have both the NCAA I decathlon champion (Ashton Eaton) and heptathlon champion (Brienne Theisen) in the same year. And Marra, one of the deans of American combined-events coaching, has been a top international coach for some time and was the USA VISA national coach for ten years. Geophert a Razorback, Steele a Panther, Marra a Duck. The change in the combined events landscape will be attention grabbing and motivating for all. Attached is an edited version of the press releases for each announcement.



Harra Marra, former USA national coach and founder of the VISA USA decathlon program in the 1990s, has moved to the University of Oregon.

Second, it appears that the letter writing campaign from many of our foreign CE colleagues has paid off and the IAAF will continue its Combined Events Challenge into 2010. That's wonderful news and the urging of Konrad Lerch/AUT, Rooney Magnusson/SWE and Paul Meier/GER proved has proved successful. We all owe them. Also, an announcement about a new technical device from former decathlete Dan McCown is attached. Check it out. And, not to worry, I will be working on the 2010 decathlon schedule soon. My fall term at Dartmouth has kept me overwhelmingly busy.

MARRA to OREGON

Nov. 4, 2009..Eugene, Oregon...

Harry Marra, who coached Team USA's national decathlon squad from 1990-2000, has been named assistant track and field coach, Oregon Associate Athletic Director Vin Lananna announced Wednesday. He will work primarily with the Ducks' combined athletes, including NCAA champions Ashton Eaton and Brienne Theisen, as well as the pole vaulters and high jumpers.

Marra, who coached Paul Terek to a 10th-place finish in the decathlon at the 2007 IAAF World Championships in Osaka, Japan, has more than 30 years experience coaching athletes at every level from high school to professional.

"Harry Marra has been a leader within the combined event community and has guided athletes to success in the biggest meets in our sport for over 30 years," said Lananna. "His passion, technical expertise, extensive experience coaching athletes to success at the Olympics and World Championships, unparalleled work ethic and enthusiasm, and his understanding of the special place that Oregon track and field occupies in the sporting world are valuable assets that he brings to our program.

"Our national search for Dan Steele's replacement was comprehensive and involved extensive conversations with many experts in the sport, including head coaches, Olympians, and leading technicians," said Lananna. "Those conversations reinforced my realization that, as one of those experts, Harry Marra will be an excellent addition to our program and help guide our teams to success."

Marra was Team USA's national decathlon coach from 1990-2000 and helped five different decathletes score 8,000 points. Among those competitors is Terek, a three-time national U.S. indoor champion and 2004 Olympian who ranks as the 14th-best decathlete in American history with 8,312

Eugene, Ore. Harry Marra, who coached points. Other Marra-coached decathletes who have eclipsed the 8,000-point mark are Bart Goodell (8,109), Paul Foxon (8,254), Brian Brophy (8,276), Sheldon Blockburger (8312) and Chris Wilcox (8,026).

"I'm thrilled to join a program with the stature and tradition of the University of Oregon and to have the opportunity to work with the outstanding student-athletes in the Duck program," said Marra, whose first day on the job was Wednesday. "Being able to coach at Hayward Field and in this community is truly something special. "Oregon has a long-standing tradition in the combined events, as well as the pole vault and high jump, and I'm looking forward to continuing that tradition," said Marra, who has been coaching Terek and a group of elite athletes privately for the last decade. Marra was the head track and field coach at San Francisco State for 12 years (1981-93) where he was twice named Northern California Athletic Conference coach of the year (1985, '90) and is also a member of that school's hall of fame. He coached one NCAA champion and 24 All-Americans while at SFSU. During that time, Marra was also a speed and fitness consultant for the San Francisco Giants. He previously served as head coach at Springfield College in Massachusetts for four years and as an assistant coach at UC Santa Barbara for two years before that.

He was a member of the United States' coaching staff at the IAAF World Championships in Paris (2003), Helsinki (2005) and Osaka (2007) and was an assistant coach for the 1999 Pan American Games, where U.S athletes won five gold medals, four silvers and a bronze and set a pair of meet records. He was also a coach for the 1981 and '82 U.S. Olympic Festivals. Marra resides with his wife Madeline in Atascadero, Calif.

Born in Cohoes, N.Y., Marra graduated from Mount St. Mary's and holds a Master's Degree from Syracuse.

STEELE to UNI

September 29, 2009

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa -- Dan Steele has been named the

Head Men's and Women's Track and Field/Cross Country Coach at the University of Northern Iowa, as



announced

Dan Steele is the new head coach at Northern Iowa.

by UNI

Director of Athletics Troy Dannen. Steele, a native of Moline, Ill., recently finished his seventh season at the University of Oregon. Steele was instrumental in leading the combined men's and women's teams to unprecedented success in 2009, where the Duck men won the NCAA Indoor title, the Pac-10 Conference title and finished second at NCAA Outdoor meet. Not to be outdone, the Duck women won the 2009 Pac-10 Conference title and finished second at the NCAA Outdoor meet. Steele made history at the 2009 NCAA Outdoor Championships by coaching Ashton Eaton to his second Decathlon title and Brienne Theisen to her first Heptathlon title. This is the first time in NCAA history both multis winners came from the same school. For his efforts, Steele was voted the 2009 Indoor NCAA Coach of the Year. "My extraordinary experience at Oregon has prepared me well to take over the program at the University of Northern Iowa."

Steele said. "I had the great pleasure of working for and learning from two of the most brilliant head coaches in the business, Vin Lananna and Martin Smith. In that time, I have also enjoyed coaching some of the finest track and field athletes in America.

"Northern Iowa and I are a great fit. Originally from the Quad Cities, I also know Cedar Falls/Waterloo is the perfect place for raising a family. UNI's proud and impressive tradition of athletic and academic excellence falls in line with my professional standards and expectations. Coaching is teaching; I am a passionate teacher. With my modern vision and leadership, UNI will remain relevant at the NCAA level and be a perennial Missouri Valley Conference championship-caliber team."

As the Associate Director of Track and Field at Oregon, Steele was responsible for running the daily operations of the men's and women's track and field team. Overseeing the sprinters, hurdlers, pole vaulters, decathletes and heptathletes, Steele has coached eight NCAA champions, 13 Pac-10 champions, 30 All-Americans and helped Oregon student-athletes establish 22 new school records. As an athlete, Steele competed as the brakeman on the Olympic bronze medal four-man bobsled team for the United States at the 2002 Games.

Steele earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Eastern Illinois in 1992. As a collegiate student-athlete at EIU, Steele captured the 400-hurdles NCAA title as a senior, was a two-time All-American and two-time Drake Relays champion for the Panthers. He was inducted into the EIU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001.

He and his wife, Dusky, have two sons, Xander and Blake.

GEOPERT to ARKANSAS

July, 2009

Fayetteville, Arkansas,

Travis Geopfert comes to the University of Arkansas after a six-year stint at the University of Northern Iowa where he served



in various coaching positions. He was named the Panthers' head track and field and cross country coach on July 3, 2008 after serving as an assistant coach for four seasons and associate head coach for one season. Geopfert replaced Bucknam as

head coach when he accepted his current position at the University of Arkansas. As UNI's head coach in 2008-09, Geopfert led the Panthers to the Missouri Valley Conference Indoor and Outdoor team titles and was named the 2009 MVC Indoor and Outdoor Coach of the Year. During his time as head coach, Geopfert's student-athletes earned four All-America honors and captured 18 MVC event titles. In 2009, Geopfert coached eight NCAA and 15 regional qualifiers in addition to five student-athletes who competed at the 2009 USA Championships.

In total, Geopfert has coached 23 All-Americans, three Academic All-Americans, 52 MVC event champions, 85 all-conference performers, 36 NCAA qualifiers, 42 regional qualifiers, and 15 USA Championships qualifiers.

The UNI men's team swept the 2009 MVC Outdoor Awards with Geopfert winning Coach of the Year, Cory Goos winning Track Athlete of the Year, Mat Clark earning Field Event Athlete of the Year and Terrance Reid named the High Point Scorer. In 2008, Geopfert was named the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association

Midwest Region men's assistant coach of the year.

He was selected as the decathlon coach for the 2009 USA vs. Germany Thorpe Cup by USA Track and Field. Geopfert, with Mario Sategna of the University of Texas' men's track and field staff, lead Team USA's decathletes to a victory over Team Germany. Members of Team USA included three-time Olympian Tom Pappas, 2004 Olympian Paul Terek, former Wisconsin stand-out Joe Detmer and current Missouri Tiger Nick Adcock. Geopfert, himself, is a three-time participant in the Thorpe Cup (2003, 2005, 2006).

Additionally, Geopfert coached three of the 19 decathletes at the 2008 USA Olympic Trials in Cepeda, Mat Clark and Detmer. Prior to his return to UNI, Geopfert served as assistant track and field coach at Central Missouri

During his post-collegiate career as a decathlete, he was a two-time Drake Relays decathlon champion, a three-time member of the U.S. vs. Germany decathlon duel team and a six-time USA Championships qualifier. Originally from Panora, Iowa, Geopfert earned his bachelor's degree from UNI in 2002. He is married to the former Nicole Johnson

----- **DECATHLON SCORING I-POD**



Dan McCown is a former decathlete, now software developer, who has just written and published an

iPhone application for multi events. [iMulti](#) will calculate and keep record of points for the decathlon, heptathlon, and pentathlon. Given the popularity of the iPhone, he would like to spread the word of this application to as many multi events coaches and athletes as possible. DECA Newsletter concurs.

The application is only \$5, and he's looking to recover my costs with little expectation of profit. I Dan McCown

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