

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXIX

Number 39

July (4), 2014

GERMANS LEAD 1st DAY THORPE CUP Margin is 395 Points

Hello Again.... 82 Degrees and sunny weather greeted 1000 spectators and 14 starters for the 21st Thorpe Cup. After day one Team USA finds itself nearly 400 points on the short side of the team score as a pair from the host team stepped up with PR first day tallies.

Rene Stauss, 23, Ratingen, holds a 111 point margin over Mathias Brugger, 21, Ulm, 4196 to 4085. Stauss, who was 10th a year ago in Chula Vista, won both the shot put and high jump with marks just off career bests, then ran a huge 400 PR to end day one.

Team USA is led by Wisconsin's Zach Ziemek, 21, Itasca, IL (3979 points, 4th) and Wesley Bray, 27, Houston, (3957, 5th).

Team Zehnkampf did not seem to suffer the effects from the last minute loss of 2008 winner Norman Müller, an 8295 performer. He was replaced by Max Wannamacher, 22, a rookie in international waters who stood 3rd at the break (3981). The host delegation also withstood an injury to Steffan Fricke, 31, an 7825 performer who was 5th a year ago. He was injured during the 100 meters and withdrew.

Team USA took the first 5 places in the sprint and led by 111 points. The team lead was extended to 273 during the long jump but modest performances in both the shot and high jump dropped them 321.

Team USA faces a daunting task of making up @80 points in each of the 2nd day's technical and endurance events. Stay tuned.

Big Ten champ Zach Ziemek was the leading American at the break at the 21st Thorpe Cup in Marburg. ... 4th with 3979 points. He tied for the long jump win at 7.38m/24-2½.



21st Thorpe Cup USA vs Germany Team Decathlon Georg Gaßmann Stadion Marburg, GER July 26-27, 2014

100 Meters: [Noon]

The weather prediction called for winds from the south and German forecasts often seem to be more accurate than American counterparts. Sprints at Georg Gaßmann Stadion are frequently known as "TripleGs," that is, for their "Gegenwind" (headwinds). Social media from Marburg (read: Twitter, Facebook, et. al.) screamed "Gegenwind." Both races faced stiff breezes and the clockings were sluggish. The scores may suffer BUT the Americans dominated here. Vet Wesley Bray, 27, Houston, got the meet started with a win in the first race in 11.05 seconds (-0.6 mps) and Akron's Alex

McCune was next at 11.13. Rene Strauss/GER a tenth behind the winner.

The second section included Kai Kazmirek, 23, the 2012 winner who was tuning up for the Euro Champs next month.



The first 100m section found Americans Thomas FitzSimons (lane 8), Alex McCune (lane 6), Wesley Bray (lane 4) and Chase Dalton (lane 2). Bray won in 11.05.

Double K (*I hope his middle name is not Karl*) won comfortably in 10.89 seconds with Wisconsin's Big Ten champ 'Double Z' Zach Ziemek, 2nd in 11.05. Akron's Alex McCune was next at 11.13. Headwind: -1.3mps. Crucial here were the next 2 places came from US collegians: Austin Bahner of Wichita State and J. Patrick Smith of Chico State, both caught in 11.13. Sans Kazmirek the USA team went 1-2-3-4-5 in the sprint, a welcoming sign.

After One: Bray & ZZ 850, Bahn & Smit 832.

Team: USA 4196; GER 4085: +111

Long Jump: [1:00 pm]

Temps warmed to @82 degrees F. Kazmirek continued his fine tune-up leaping 7.59m/24-11 into a headwind. But he had no intention of doing all ten events and attention turned to the scorers.

Both ZZ and Patrick Spinner [above], 28, and 3rd last year in Chula Vista, tied at 7.38m/24-2½, with Bray just a cm back. Again fine



efforts from Bahner (7.29m/23-11) and D-II champ Smith (7.26m/23-10) pushed the USA team advantage to 273 points. At this point Team USA appeared on a roll.

After Two: ZZ 1755, Bray 1753, Bahn 1715, Smit 1708. Team ScoresL USA 8548; Germany 8275; +273

Shot Put: [2:45 pm]



Austin Bahner/USA (left) put 12.75m/41-10 while Rene Strauss/GER (right) won the event at 14.41m/47-3½

Here the Thorpe Cup, known for its competitive history, took an abrupt aboutface. Team Zehnkampf retook the team lead by taking 5 of the first 6 places in the shot. Stauss led at 14.41m/47-3½ over Martin Brugger, who PR'd at 14.23m/46-8.

BYU's Chase Dalton heaved 13.35m/43-9¾ for the best USA distance. Ziemek's 12.71m/41-8¼ toss kept him in the overall lead, but barely as Strauss moved to within 9 points.

After Three: ZZ 2405, Stra 2396, Brug 2393, Bray 2382.

Team: USA 11,761, Germany 11,878; - 67

High Jump: [4:15 pm]



Rene Stauss missed this 3rd try at a MR 2.17m/7-1½ but the host nation extended its lead to 321 team points.

Akron's Alex McCune, 21, Pittsburgh, who had step problems in the long jump and lost 300 points, soldiered on here and leaped 1.93m/6-4, a bar shy of a PR. Wes Bray cleared the same height and D-II champ J Patrick Smith negotiated 1.99m/6-6¼, a 2cm PR. But the attention belonged to Team Zehnkampf's Stauss skied 2.14/7-¼ while Brugger and the late addition Wannamacher both managed 2.05m/6-8¾. ZZ was 4th at 2.02m/6-7½ despite a sprained ankle. The host nation enlarged their team lead to 321 points.

After Four: Stau 3330, Brug 3243, ZZ 3227, Wann 3162

Team: USA, 14,491, Germany 15,812; -321

400 Meters: [6:15 m]

Stauss continued his first day heroics with a PR 50.07 clocking in the first 400m race finishing back of Wesley Bray who won in 49.55. Mathias Brugger edged Thomas FitzSimons to win the 2nd race, 49.28 to 49.32.



Rico Freimuth (left) watches as Mathias Brugger outleaps Thomas FitzSimons, 49.28 to 49.32 in the 400m.

Team USA finds itself down 395 at the end of day one, certainly not an insurmountable margin. But there is plenty of work to do.

After Five: Stau 4119, Brug 4091, Wann 3981, ZZ 3979.

Team: USA 19,436; Germany 19,831; - 395.

Results:



7/26-27 21st Thorpe Cup, USA vs Germany, Marburg, GER

4119	Strauss, Rene/GER	11.15-0.6	701-0.1	1441	214	50.07
4091	Brugger, Mathias/GER	11.17-1.3	706-1.7	1423	205	49.28
3981	Wannemacher, Max/GER	11.23-1.3	720+1.1	1255	205	49.91
3979	Ziemek, Zach/USA-Wisconsin	11.05-1.3	738-1.0	1271	202	51.39
3957	Bray, Wesley/USA-unat	11.05-0.6	737+0.1	1237	193	49.55
3908	Smith, J. Patrick/USA-Chico St	11.13-1.3	726-0.7	1178	199	50.03
3857	Bahner, Austin/USA-Wichita St	11.13-1.3	729+1.1	1275	187	50.26
3839	Spinner, Patrick/GER	11.47-1.3	738+1.7	1327	190	50.83
3801	Scherfose, Patrick/GER	11.19-0.6	705-1.9	1410	181	50.63
3748	Sommer, Julius/GER	11.25-0.6	674+0.1	1293	196	51.23
3735	Dalton, Chase/USA-BYU	11.33-0.6	706-0.4	1335	187	51.61
3714	FitzSimons, Thomas/USA-SBTC	11.39-0.6	683-0.3	1153	193	49.32
3384	McCune, Alex/USA-Akron	11.13-0.6	517-1.9	1232	193	50.95
dnf	Fricke, Steffan/GER	12.49-0.6	inj	withdrew		

Team Scores:

USA	4196	8548	11,761	15,491	19,436
Germany	4085	8275	11,878	15,812	19,831
USA +/-	+111	+273	- 67	-321	- 395

