

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## WES BRAY WINS THORPE CUP

### Germans Stop Team USA for 5th Straight Team Win

**Hello Again....**Germany's Team Zehnkampf put up 5 solid totals and came away with their 5th consecutive Thorpe Cup team victory in Marburg, Germany today. Yet the major story was the heroic work of Wesley Bray, 27, Houston, TX who ran himself onto the top podium step with a 3 second 1500m PR and a winning 7862 total, 33 and 44 points better than Martin Brugger, 21, Ulm, and Rene Stauß, 26, Ratingen, who had traded the overall lead since the 3rd event.

Bray found himself down 82 points on Brugger before the final event, a margin of 13 ½ seconds. Given the latter's 4:31 PR making up the differential seemed unlikely. But no one told that to Bray who pushed the 1500m pace without any help and sprinted home with an eye-opening 4:23.62 clocking, a 3 second PR and more than 23 seconds up on Brugger who was still had not hit the final straight when Wes crossed the finish line. One former German Olympian called it "one of the bravest things I've ever seen." Enough said. Bray becomes the 13th USA individual winner since the series started in 1993. Way to go, Wes!!

Brugger finished at 7829, 11 up on Stauss with Zach Ziemek, who held on to 4th (7667) in spite of a first day ankle injury.

A determined Team USA simply ran out of firepower, damaged by long jump step problems, a hurdle snafu and a vault no height. Without the misfortunes, all part of the decathlon, this might have been a very close affair.



Wesley Bray put together 10 solid events including a dramatic rush in the 10th to win the 21st USA vs Germany dual decathlon (Thorpe Cup) in Marburg, Germany.

At any rate, the host nation ran its victory streak to 5 in a row and the team ledger, after 21 tries, now reads USA 13, Germany 8.

**21st Thorpe Cup**  
**USA vs Germany team Decathlon**  
**Marburg, GER**  
**July 26-27, 2014**



**110m Hurdles:** [11:00 am]

More fine weather and some tailwinds greeted the athletes on day 2.

Patrick Spinner captured the first section in 15.22 seconds and Wes Bray won the 2nd race in a fine 14.62 over Julius Sommer, an ex Razorback.



Ziemek/USA (5th), Brugger/GER (3rd), McCune/USA (2nd) and Kai Kazmirek/GER (1st) over the final barrier in the 3rd hurdle section.

In the seeded race Kai Kazmirek ran a nice (except for a sloppy final barrier) 14.23 stamping him a one of, if not THE favorite for the European crown next month in Zurich. Patrick Scherfose outlegged Alex McCune for 2nd, 14.41PR to 14.59. Zach Ziemek, suffering from a rolled ankle on day one, was 5th in 15.15. Team Zehnkamps lead expanded to 794 points.

*After Six: Brug 4983, Stau 4940, Wann 4862, Bray 4853, ZZ 4810.*

*Team Scores: USA 23,376, Germany 24,170; - 794*

**Discus:** [11:45 am]

Chase Dalton got the first US outright



BYU's Chase Dalton won the event with a nice 45.23m/148-4 toss to help the American cause.

event win since the 100m with a 45.23m/148-4 victory. Stauss edged Ziemek by 2 inches for runner-up honors, 44.43m/145-5 to 44.38m/145-3. Team USA made up a scant 20 points. It was an uphill battle.

*After Seven: Brug 5709, Stau 5695, ZZ 5564, Bray 5523*  
*Team Scores: USA 26,866; Germany 27640, -774*

**Pole Vault:** [1:30 pm]



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800 spectators were on hand during the vault,

With bar in the books for each of the hosts, the team competition was essentially over. Only Thomas FitzSimons nh'd. Yet the vaulting was topnotch as Max Wannamacher won at 4.91m/16-1¼. Ziemek, Bray (a 1cm PR) and McCune all cleared 4.81m/15-9¼. The USA team deficit was now 1112 points.

*After Eight: Brug 6561, Stau 6517, ZZ 6416, Wann 6403, Bray 6375*

*Team Scores: USA 30,790, Germany 31,902, - 1112*

**Javelin:** [3:45 pm]

Predictably Patrick Spinner won here with a fine 66.32m/217-7 mark but the Americans continued to fight as Chase Dalton speared 59.87m/196-5 and given jav history, Bray 57.47m/188-7 and McCune 57.10/187-4 were near lifetime bests. ZZ's 56.98m/186-11 was career best as he remained in 3rd overall, 82 points out of the lead co-held by Stauss and Brugger at 7191.

*After Nine: Stau 7191, Brug 7191, ZZ 7271, Bray 7075.*  
*Team Scores: USA 34,277, Germany 35,064, - 787*

**1500 Meters:** [5:00 pm]

There was nothing elaborate in the 1500m tactics for Wes Bray. He needed about an 80 meter margin over Mathias Brugger (13 ½ seconds) for the win. And he did it, and then some, steadily stretching his margin lap after lap. A frenetic sprint brought him in at 4:23.62, 3 seconds up on his PR and 23 seconds ahead of the nearest runner. He did it w/o help, a brave effort. Everything else was anti-climatic.

*After Ten: Bray 7862, Brug 7829, Stau 7818, ZZ 7667*  
*Team Scores: USA 37,438 (ave=7487); Germany 38,084 (ave=7614); -656.*

## Results:

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



<b>7862</b>	Bray, Wesley/USA-unat	11.05-0.6
737+0.1	1237 193 49.55 14.62+0.8 4026 481 5749 4:23.62	
<b>7829</b>	Brugger, Mathias/GER	11.17-1.3
706-1.7	1423 205 49.28 14.65+1.6 4301 481 5281 4:46.79	
<b>7818</b>	Strauss, Rene/GER	11.15-0.6
701-0.1	1441 214 50.07 15.24+0.8 4443 471 5572 4:48.53	
<b>7667</b>	Ziemek, Zach/USA-Wisconsin	11.05-1.3
738-1.0	1271 202 51.39 15.15+1.6 4438 481 5698 5:00.25	
<b>7574</b>	Wannemacher, Max/GER	11.23-1.3
720+1.1	1255 205 49.91 14.74+1.7 3969 491 5070 4:57.93	
<b>7480</b>	Scherfose, Patrick/GER	11.19-0.6
705-1.9	1410 181 50.63 14.41+1.7 4077 471 5064 4:43.71	
<b>7445</b>	Dalton, Chase/USA-BYU	11.33-0.6
706-0.4	1335 187 51.61 15.32+0.8 4523 461 5987 4:53.41	
<b>7392</b>	Spinner, Patrick/GER	11.47-1.3
738+1.7	1327 190 50.83 15.22+0.8 3818 441 6632 5:04.31	
<b>7382</b>	Bahner, Austin/USA-Wichita St	11.13-1.3
729+1.1	1275 187 50.26 15.53+0.8 4195 441 5507 4:47.15	
<b>7221</b>	Sommer, Julius/GER	11.25-0.6
674+0.1	1293 196 51.23 14.70+1.7 4070 431 5757 5:10.21	
<b>7082</b>	McCune, Alex/USA-Akron	11.13-0.6
517-1.9	1232 193 50.95 14.59+1.6 4025 481 5710 4:56.19	
<b>5663</b>	Smith, J. Patrick/USA-Chico St	11.13-1.3
726-0.7	1178 199 50.03 dnf 3712 451 3610 dnf	
dnf	FitzSimons, Thomas/USA-SBTC 11.39-0.6	
683-0.3	1153 193 49.32 15.34+1.7 3630 nh withdrew	
dnf	Fricke, Steffan/GER 12.49-0.6 inj withdrew	
14s,12f.		
<b>Team Scores:</b>		
	USA 4196 8548 11,761 15,491	
	19,436 23,376 26,866 30,790 34,277	
<b>37,438</b>		
	Germany 4085 8275 11,878 15,812	
	19,831 24,170 27,640 31,902 35,064	
<b>38,094</b>		
	USA +/- +111 +273 -67 -321	
	-395 -794 -774 -1112 -787 -656	

The 6 event Euro Champs tune-up for Kai Kazmirek netted 5181 points (an average of 863!!!) He'll be the favorite in Zurich.

<b>100m:</b>	10.89-1.3	<b>110mH:</b>	14.23+1.6
<b>LJ:</b>	7.52m/-0.1	<b>PV:</b>	4.91m
<b>SP:</b>	14.34m	<b>Jav:</b>	62.75m

**One notable Stat:** If scored as the annual European Cup is scored (men+ women's scores) the combined USA team score (men and women who won heptathlon team battle by 748 points) reads:

USA	37,438 + 17,954 = 55,392
Germany	38,094 + 17,206 = 55,300

**USA! USA! USA!**



**German coach Lars Albert, a veteran of 6 Thorpe Cups, got his first victory as a coach.**

### Thorpe Cup Meet Records:



100m	10.44	Trafton Rodgers/USA	
		Lubbock (+3.3)	08/09/98
LJ	7.71m (25-3½)	Tom Gorz/GER	
		Ratingen	07/29/95
	windy 7.73m(25-4½)	Chad Smith/USA	
		Lubbock (+4.8)	08/09/98
SP	17.19m(56-4 ¾)	Norbert Demmel/GER	
		Ratingen	07/29/95
HJ	2.15m (7- ¾)	Tom Pappas/USA	
		Walnut	07/28/02
400m	47.08	Stefan Drews/GER	
		Bernhausen	07/22/01
110mH	13.92	Darwin Vande Hoef/USA	
		Edwardsville(+2.9)	7/17/96
Disc	54.78m (179-9)	Norbert Demmel/GER	
		Ratingen	07/30/95
PV	5.30m (17-4 ½)	Mario Sategna/USA	
		Kreutzal	07/27/97
		David Lemen/USA	
		Bernhausen	08/03/03
Jav	69.98m (229-7)	Stefan Schmid/GER	
		Aachen	08/08/93
1500m	4:09.07	Kip Janvrin/USA	
		Aachen	08/08/99
1 <sup>st</sup> day	4418	Tom Pappas/USA	
		Walnut	07/27/02
2 <sup>nd</sup> day	4166	Kip Janvrin/USA	
		Aachen	08/08/93
	4183w	Kip Janvrin/USA	
		Edwardsville	07/18/96
Total	8569	Tom Pappas/USA	
		Marburg	08/08-08/09
		[10.84+1.6 763+1.7 1682 207 49.49	
		14.19+0.3 5157 505 6170 5:00.77]	