

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXVIII

Number 22

April (5), 2013

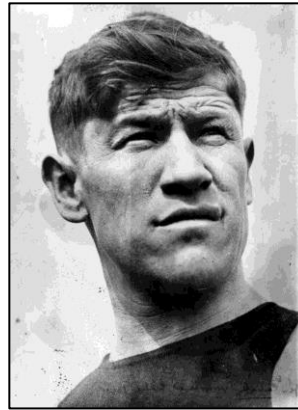
FEDERAL JUDGE SAYS.... “Return Jim Thorpe’s Body”

Hello Again....Sixty years after his death Jim Thorpe, the first Olympic decathlon champion, is still making headlines. On Friday, April 19, 2013 a federal judge in Pennsylvania ruled that proceedings should begin to return Jim Thorpe’s body, now lying in the northeastern Pennsylvania town that bears his name, to his home in Oklahoma. Legal observers view the ruling as a major step in a decades long battle that Thorpe’s sons and native American tribes have waged to return the body to the place where he grew up.

Thorpe is buried in Jim Thorpe, PA, a town, incidentally, that he never visited, but which renamed itself in hope that it would become a tourism attraction. Thorpe’s 3rd wife, Patsy and town officials signed as contract and the body (for a monetary sum) was delivered to Mauch Chunk, PA more than a year after his death in 1953. The body has lain in a granite mausoleum in a tiny park ever since. But the newly named town was far off the beaten track and the town never fulfilled the tourism promise.

Said a *Washington Post* story...”the 32 page ruling by U.S. District judge A. Richard Caputo rejected the city’s bid to keep their namesake, ruling that the federal Native American Graves and Repatriation Act mandated that the body be returned.

Caputo noted that his decision overriding the contract ‘may seem at odds with our common notions of commercial or contract law,’ but said that Congress passed



Jim Thorpe (1887-1953) won the initial Olympic decathlon in 1912 in Stockholm Games. His name was subsequently removed and then restored to the Olympic recordbook. It’s fair to say that the US decathlon community would prefer Oklahoma to rest in peace.

the law ‘against a history of exploitation of Native American artifacts and remains for commercial purposes.’

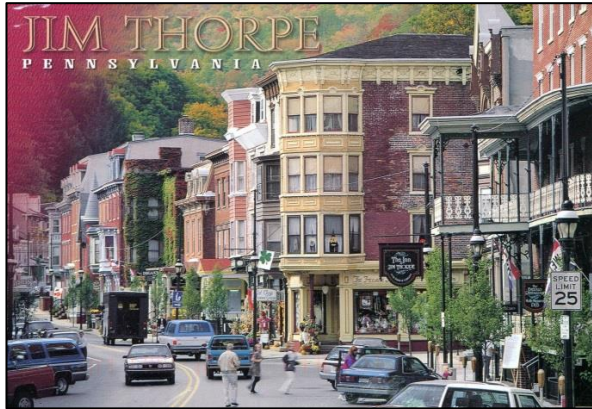
Thorpe, who was principally of Sac and Fox ancestry.....set [the]Olympic decathlon record (in 1912). In 1950 sportswriters named him the greatest athlete of the half century.

‘This decision vindicates the basic human rights of Bill and Richard Thorpe, and the Sac and Fox Nation,’ said Stephen R. Ward, the lawyer representing the family and the tribe. Sandra Massey, historic preservation



officer of the Sac and Fox Nation in Stroud,

OK, said she was ‘all emotion. Michael J. Sofranko, mayor of Jim Thorpe, said the city was “disappointed” but had not decided whether to appeal.”



As it appears today, the town of Jim Thorpe, PA.

My editorial comment- let’s hope this works. His body belongs in a final resting place at his home in Oklahoma.

The final days of the 3rd week of April were anti-climatic after the completion of the Mount Sac Relays. Yet several performances



Joe Hutchinson/UNC (left) and Tristan Faure/High Point (right) won the ACC and Big South meets with 7k PR efforts.

were noteworthy. At the Atlantic Coast Conference meet in Raleigh, North Carolina junior Joe Hutchinson, 20, won from a field which did not include Duke’s Curtis Beach (early seasonal leader and resting) nor his injured teammate Ian Rock. As a result the UNC Tar Heels entered 4 and went 1-2-3-5 with Hutchinson, a junior from the UK (Bowerhill, Melksham), prevailing with a PR

7103 score, nearly a 300 point PR. Heretofore his claim to fame had been participating in the Olympic torch relay before the London Games. Eye-opening was the 3rd place finish by 18 year old Carolina freshman Paul Haley who posted a 6735 score in his initial dec.

Also noteworthy was the nearly 400 point career best, 7002, by High Point’s Tristan Faure, a 20 year old junior from Averill, NY who won the Big South meet in Lynchburg, VA

18 meets were conducted during the week for 242 decathletes.

Open marks:

We are also following some open competitions of prominent American decathletes. At the Mount Sac Relays in Walnut world record holder **Ashton Eaton/Nike-eTC** posted a PR 200m winning his heat in 20.76 (+1.8mps), after tossing the shot 14.24m(46-8¾)...series..14.24m, foul, 14.00m, foul, 13.87m, foul....on Friday (4/19).

He then placed 3rd in the 110 highs on Saturday at 13.37 seconds (+2.7 mps wind).