

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## A MISCELLANY

### Sebrle Retires

**Hello Again...**With the recent NCAA and USA nationals behind us here is a miscellany of useful news.

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#### The Decathlon Was Roman's Empire

While we were in Des Moines word came that former world record holder and 2004 Olympic champ Roman Sebrle/CZE had announced his retirement from the sport. Few have had as big an impact on our event as Sebrle and his 22 year career record is awe-inspiring. Consider: an Olympic title (2004), a world title (2007), 2 Euro champs (2002, 2005), 3 Euro indoor titles (2002, 2005, 2007), two world indoor titles (2001, 2004), and a world record (9026 points, Götzis, 2001).

He scored over 8800 on six occasions, over 8500 on twenty two occasions and over 8000 forty-nine times, all records. He had 22 6000+ indoor heptathlon score! He finished 73 of 80 decathlons and 30 of 32 heptathlons. Whew! Roman made our event his empire and he'll be missed not only for his competitiveness but for his will and integrity. He was one true gentleman. His retirement announcement can be found at the following website: <http://www.iaaf.org/news/news/decathlon-legend-roman-sebrle-retires>

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**Roman Sebrle/CZE, 38, held the world record (9026 points, Götzis) from 2001 to 2012.**

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#### Rosters of USA Teams

IAAF World Champs, Moscow, RUS  
8/10-11

Trey Hardee  
Ashton Eaton  
Gunnar Nixon  
Jeremy Taiwo

Thorpe Cup (USA vs GER), Chula Vista  
7/27-28

Gray Horn  
Isaac Murphy  
Dakotah Keys  
Wesley Bray

Austin Bahner  
Dan Gooris  
Pan American Junior, Medellin, COL  
7/23-25  
Wolf Mahler  
Devon Williams

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### Upcoming Meets

All likely to have current/former US collegiate decathletes:

- 6/20-30 Mediterranean Games, Mersin, TUR (decathlon cancelled)
- 6/29-30 French Nationals, Cognac
- 6/29-30 Euro Cup, Super League, Tallin, EST
- 6/29-30 Euro Cup, 1<sup>st</sup> League, Nottwil, SUI
- 6/29-30 Euro Cup, 2<sup>nd</sup> League, Riberia Brava, POR
- 7/7-12 Universiade, Kazan, RUS
- 7/11-14 Euro Champs, u 23, Tampere, FIN

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### -That Recent USA 1-2-3-4 Finish or Who's Headed to Moscow?



The finish of the recent USA nationals decathlon provided some confusion of who had and had not made the World Championship team which will compete in Moscow on August. All of the confusion dealt with who had reached, in Des Moines or during the qualifying period (Jan 1, 2012 thru July 29, 2013) either the "A" (8200) or "B" (8000) standards. Placing in the top 3 at the national meet was primary as long as athletes held the standard scores. Ignoring Wild Card considerations (Trey Hardee, by virtue of winning in Daegu in 2011 gets an automatic bye which is why he was using the USA meet to gauge his fitness), to send a decathletes to Moscow (aside from Hardee) they had to

place AAA, ABA or AAB. A 1-2-3 finish of ABB would allow the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher to chase a qualifier until July 20th. Otherwise, the 4<sup>th</sup> place finisher, in the event he had an A, would go to Moscow. Understand?



Gray Horn was 7 points out of 3<sup>rd</sup> at the USA Nationals in Des Moines.

And so what happened? Ashton Eaton won and he already had an A (world record 9039) so he was in. Runner-up Gunnar Nixon dashed frantically to the finish line looking for his A (he had a B, 8136 at Götzis) but came up 3/10 of a second short managing 8198 points. O boy. Unknowingly he created a puzzling situation. Nixon himself, by virtue of 2<sup>nd</sup> place and a B, was in. But the state of affairs for Jeremy Taiwo (who had an A) and Gray Horn (who had neither A nor B) changed by the second. They were closely locked with one lap to go but Horn held a 131 point lead (@20 seconds) and was in the driver's seat for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. With 400 meters remaining Taiwo bolted while Horn struggled. The gap grew to ...5 seconds, ...10 seconds, ...15 seconds. Coming down the final straight Taiwo got into a sprint with Dan Gooris and the former crossed the finish in 4:20.29. Eleven seconds later came Nixon's mad dash. But Horn had run out of gas, stumbled and fell. He regained his feet but had lost precious seconds and when he crossed in 4:41.35. Taiwo had his 20 second margin and a 7925 to 7918 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish over Horn. Since the finish was ABA the team was set. Had Nixon scored 8200 and had

Horn maintained his balance and not stumbled the finish would have been AAB and he would have had until July 20<sup>th</sup> to chase a “B” qualifying score. As it was he would need an A qualifier had he held on for 3<sup>rd</sup>.. But the stumble cost him dearly and since Taiwo already had the A (an 8239 at the recent NCAAs) the actual finish was ABA and the team was set

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year Horn was the odd man out having placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at last year’s Olympic Trials in a driving rainstorm that cost him several hundred points. There was no London in 2012 and no Moscow in 2013 for the 23 year old from Wapakoneta, OH. I’m taking bets he’ll finally get that big score at the Thorpe Cup in Chula Vista next month.

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The **Results Page** has been updated.....see latest post.