

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## GERMANS WIN SQUEAKER Horn is Thorpe Cup Runner-up



**Hello Again.....**Oh, it was ever so close and a game USA decathlon team, down by as many 358 points, fought their way back only to lose a squeaker by a razor thin 58 at the 20th annual Thorpe Cup in Chula Vista, CA. To add insult to injury 24 year old Mattias Prey, Hamburg, GER outlasted 23 year old Grey Horn, Wapakoneta, OH for the gold medal. Horn himself may be the unluckiest decathlete on the track today. He was 3rd at last year's US Olympic Trials but did not go to London b/c he did not have the prerequisite mark. But that was chalked up to the atrocious weather in Eugene last year. A month ago he fell on the final lap of the 1500m at the USA nationals in Des Moines that cost him 3rd place and any chance to chase the A standard for the world champs in Moscow. Here he simply ran out of gas in the final 50 meters of the 1500m and surrendered first place to Prey, an 8215 performer earlier in the year.

Yet one can take some solace in the way the American team battled back from a large deficit: the PR score by UNI's Dan Gooris; the awesome latent talent in Austin Bahner and the bravery of Wesley Bray who soldiered thru the second day on one leg. The American battled and, unlike the past two Thorpe Cups where Team USA lost by huge margins, this was one that was not settled until the final lap of the final event. Any number of Americans came away understanding they have a terrific future in this sport. The German team won the Cup for the 4th



Gray Horn was unlucky once again, coming up just 6 points shy of winning the annual Thorpe Cup competition.

consecutive year, but that Cup is coming back. OK, maybe not in 2013, but the writing is on the wall. It's coming back.

Here is what happened on a sunny day at the USOC Training Center.

**20th Annual Thorpe Cup  
USA vs Germany Team Decathlon  
Chula Vista, CA  
July 27-28, 2013**



**Day Two:  
110 m Hurdles [11:03 – 11:09 am]**

The weather was excellent for day two's 11 am start. There was a question dealing with the health of Wes Bray's right hamstring but he went to the start line and gutted out a 15.09 clocking in the first race, surprisingly won by teammate Dan Gooris in 14.86 seconds. A nice tail wind helped (+2.4 mps). First day leader Rena Stauss/Germany faded to 6th, 15.67.

In the 2nd race, with the fastest hurdlers, (always run last at Thorpe Cups) Gray Horn and Ryan Harlan both got away well and had daylight on the field at 5 hurdles. Horn held on and clocked a nifty 14.41 to take the meet's overall lead but Harlan faded a bit and was caught with 10 meters left by Germany's Mattias Prey, 14.58 to 14.63. The team deficit was still significant, 328 points.

*After Six: Horn 5046, Stau 4974, Spin 4942, Prey 4940.*

**Discus:** [11:51 – 12:29 pm]

The event started flat with 4 consecutive fouls (of all sorts) and, as a matter of fact 7 of the first eleven efforts were negated by every sort of foul. Both teams appeared nervous, almost afraid to make a mistake. Ryan Harlan woke up the event with a PR 47.16m/154-9 toss at the end of the round. Wichita State junior Austin Bahner whipped a nice 47.42m/155-6 platter in round #2 that won the event.

Round #3 provided drama as Dakota Keys, facing a pair of fouls, decided to safe his 3rd throw with a stand from the front of the circle. After leaving the circle with what he thought (and actually was!!!) a solid and safe mark he saw the red flag indicating the most marginal (read: imaginery) of fouls and he 'no marked.' The decision turned the meet's team scoring on its head. Prey, a 50m thrower who managed 10 meters less in the first two rounds, then lofted 45.25m/148-5 and that turnaround proved to be critical. The American team chipped away at the German lead which was now down to 230 points.

*After Seven: Horn 5724, Prey 5712, Stau 5647, Fric 5623.*

**Pole Vault:** [1:40 – 3:05 pm]

A crowd of about 300 was on hand for the vault, in two pits. The major story in the North pit (lower vaulters) was the double PR by 1st day leader Stauss, first at 4.55m/14-11 and then at 4.65m/15-3.

Bahner managed 4.55m/14-11, just off a PR and Bray, limping but game, got over 4.45m/14-7¼. Prey struggled getting but



UNI's Dan Gooris dominated the Thorpe Cup vault just missing a new meet record 5.35m/17-6½

4.25m/13-11¼.

In the South pit Max Gilde, who eventually did not figure in the team scores, got a PR at 4.85m/15-11 after Dakota Keys and Isaac Murphy both were eliminated after clearing 4.65m/15-3. Harlan and Horn both competed well here, managing 4.85m/15-11 and 4.75m/15-7. Harlan's early broken pole attempt had awakened the crowd.

Yet this event belonged to Northern Iowa's Dan Gooris who opened (and won the event at 4.95m/16-2¾ and then cleared 5.05m/16-6¾, 5.15m/16-10¾ and 5.25m/17-2¾, all in very quick succession, and earned the right to challenge the meet record co-held by Americans Mario Sategna (1997) and David Lemen (2003). His final attempt was ever so close, but no cigar. The American team had vaulted well enough to wipe out the German team point margin and took a 185 point advantage to the javelin.

After Eight: Horn 6589, Harl 6456, Stau 6451, Prey 6400.

**Javelin:** [4:00- 4:41 pm]



**Mattias Prey** managed a solid 61.81m/202-10 spear that moved him to 3rd place and gave him a chance to win the overall met

The decathletes had to wait until the women's heptathlon was completed on an adjacent field.

Dakotah Keys unloaded at the end of the 1st round and won the event with a fine 64.59m/211-11 toss. Ryan Harlan waited until the 3rd round to manage 64.50m/211-7. Bahner came up with a quality toss (59.20m/193-3 PR). But the German team tossed the spear a bit better than the Yanks (Pat Spinner's 63.83m/209-5 final throw was decisive) and turned to 185 point disadvantage into a 55 point leading margin, a razor thin difference by Cup standards. Going into the final event the meet was a virtual tie.  
After Nine: Harl 7262, Horn 7205, 7165 Prey, 7161 Spin.

**1500 meters:** [5:20 – 5:25 pm]

The team battle was everything although Gray Horn had a legit opportunity to win the individual title. The USA team ran predictably, with Keys as pacer and Gooris, Bray and Murphy in tow. The German team ran conservatively as did Ryan Harlan. Gooris rocketed at the bell (3:18) while Harlan and Horn faded on the final lap. The UNI senior covered the final lap in 63 seconds and won convincingly in 4:21.11. Then Bray (a PR!) and Murphy poured in. Prey sprinted in at 4:36.02

In spite of a hamstring injury that left him limping the entire day, Wesley Bray (right) soldiered to a brave 1500m PR and 7718 score.



while Horn faded to 4:43.28 and the latter lost the gold by a scant 6 points (7871 to 7865).

Harlan fade was more dramatic and, even though Keys tried to pick him up on the final go around, the 32 year old vet could only muster a 5:20.42 clocking, falling from 1st to 9th in the final event. And, when the dust cleared, the Germans had won, 38,899 to 38, 841, a meager 58 points and the 4th time in 14 years that this meet was decided by less than triple figures. Oh, it was so close, but one could see the Cup slipping away on that final lap in spite of Gooris' heroics. A great competition and a tough one to loose. Whew.

After Ten: Prey 7871, Horn 7865, Spin 7830, Goor 7804.



**Results:**

**7/27-28 20th Thorpe Cup (USA vs Germany Team), Chula Vista, CA**

7871	Prey, Mattias/GER	11.15+0.7
740+3.5	1514 189 50.33 14.58+1.0	4525 425 6181 4:36.02
7865	Horn, Gray/USA	10.85+0.7
738+2.0	1371 201 50.29 14.41+1.0	4068 485 5187 4:43.28
7830	Spinner, Patrick/GER	10.87+2.5
753+3.1	1399 189 50.02 14.89+2.4	4061 445 6383 4:41.75
7804	Gooris, Dan/USA	11.30+2.5
688+1.6	1390 195 51.09 14.86+2.4	4126 525 5277 4:21.11
7756	Fricke, Steffen/GER	11.43+2.5
704+1.1	1451 210 49.85 15.10+2.4	4262 435 5733 4:34.00
7748	Hechler, Simon/GER	10.83+0.7
757+2.8	1380 192 51.13 14.70+1.0	3885 445 5950 4:39.46
7744	Bahner, Austin/USA	10.87+0.7
766+2.0	1284 183 49.70 16.02+2.4	4742 455 5920 4:37.96

7718 Bray, Wesley/USA 10.99+0.7  
 751+2.6 1265 195 49.90 15.09+2.4 4036 445 5622 4:28.06  
 7710 Harlan, Ryan/USA 11.26+2.5  
 669+1.5 1602 201 52.42 14.63+1.0 4716 475 6450 5:20.42  
 7694 Stauss, Rene/GER 11.05+0.7  
 759+1.8 1435 216 52.70 15.67+2.4 4040 465 5454 4:55.33  
 7653 Gilde, Maximilian/GER 11.15+2.5  
 726+2.7 1288 195 50.95 14.78+1.0 3990 485 5885 4:47.14  
 7627 Murphy, Isaac/USA 10.75+0.7  
 706+3.4 1328 192 48.65 14.70+1.0 3707 465 4878 4:33.30  
 7075 Bechert, Tom/GER 11.54+2.5  
 667+1.9 1218 195 51.42 15.04+2.4 4064 485 4358 4:55.21  
 6792 Keys, Dakotah/USA 11.10+2.5  
 707 0.0 1300 198 51.59 14.80+1.0 nm 465 6459 5:21.09

14s,14f

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10		
Team Scores:						
USA:	4402	8877	12,304	16,072	20,104	24,380
	27,959	33,073	35,479	38,841		
Germany:	4293	8930	12,880	26,430	20,451	24,708
	28,189	32,888	35,534	38,899		
diff:	+109	-53	-276	-358	-347	-328
	-230	+185	-55	-58		

