

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

### Outdoor Season Off to Slow Start

**Hello Again.....** The first Olympic decathlon was conducted in July, 1912. It actually was a 3 day affair b/c of the size of the field-each nation was allowed 11 entries! and American native Jim Thorpe, Carlisle (PA) Indian School was a dominating victor. His final score was a world record by nearly 1000 points. So impressive was Thorpe in Stockholm that, during the final day awards ceremony (all awards given on the same day) Gustav V, king of the host nation, is reported to have remarked to Thorpe, "you sir are the world's greatest athlete." A century later this appellation is still used for champions of the event.

To celebrate the event's birthday and America's overwhelming success ever since the Oregon Track Club will conduct a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration as part of the Opening ceremonies at the US Olympic Trials in Eugene. "We expect our opening ceremonies to feature the decathlon," says Vin Lananna, U of Oregon coach. Gold medalists Milt Campbell, Rafer Johnson, Bill Toomey, Bruce Jenner and Dan O'Brien will be on hand. And, of course '08 champion Bryan Clay will be on the field attempting to make a 3<sup>rd</sup> US Olympic decathlon team. Families of Jim Thorpe and Bob Mathias will be also be on hand.

As part of the preparations the University Art Museum (about a 3 block walk from Hayward Field) will feature US decathlon displays for the duration of the Trials. This newsletter will keep the decathlon



Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus will serve as the site for the 2012 US Olympic Track and Field team trials. Decathlon set for June 22-23 (Friday-Saturday). UofO Art Museum @ 3 blocks to 4 o'clock of photo.

family updated with information for any additional activities. My hope is that there will be some sort of gathering of all former decathletes.....sort of a tail-gate party or get-together. After all, we only get to be 100 years old once. The decathlon will be conducted on days one-two at the Trials....(June 22-23) ...100m gun goes off at 1 pm. Try to be there.

Marburg, Germany will also offer a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration during the annual USA vs. Germany Thorpe Cup. With the support of the German government, the host federal department of Interior and the IOC, all living Olympic decathlon medalists have been invited. All 32 of them! Milt Campbell, who won a silver in 1952, is the senior citizen of this group.

The Thorpe Cup competition will be held July 21-22, just before the opening of the



London Games and the USA Olympic decathlon members will also be in Marburg for tune-up as final preparation. More on this celebration as we get closer.

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The 2012 outdoor season is off to a sluggish start with 20 meets conducted so far in March. Over the past two weekends the top scores were posted by vet Keith Baker who won the Alabama Relays with a 7320 effort, and by D-II stalwart Darius Walker/Central Missouri, who won at Trinity University with a 7264 score. Austin Bahner/Wichita St, has the top D-I score at 7188. As always, check the posted Results Page.

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## A final reminder....about “Wind”



I know this issue will come up this spring so lets be clear: wind-assisted performances **will not** be accepted for 2012 U.S.

Olympic Trials qualifying. The rule that applies for 2012 US Olympic Trials qualifying is IAAF Rule 260.27 (World Record in CEs) as it appeared in 2009 IAAF rule book. It is:

**For a decathlon mark to be considered legal (for world record purposes), that is, not “wind aided,” at least one of the following conditions shall be satisfied:**

**a) The velocity of any individual event shall not exceed plus 4 meters per second**

**b) The average velocity (based on the sum of wind velocities, as measured for each individual event, divided by the number of such events) shall not exceed plus 2 meters per second.**

This is not the recent 2.0 average. That rule that applies only to world records. Just to be clear.....if you have a score that has one or more >4.0 mps marks but the average is 2.0 mps or below, you are OK. As well, if you have an average > than 2.0 mps but no individual marks over 4.0 mps you are ok.