

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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VAN ALPHEN LEAD 1stDAY at GÖTZIS

Logjam for 2 thur 6



Hello Again....The day broke sunny and mild in the Austrian Alps. Beautiful weather and the field Walter Weber had assembled included the world's bests sans Americans and Russians. World champ bronze medalist Leonel Suarez was favored but the German Federation made this meet part of their selection process and a large crowd of Germans were on hand (with horns) watching Jan Felix Knobel, Michael Schrader, Rico Freimuth, Pascal Behrbruch and others. This promised to be one fine affair. 2800 were on hand as day one began.

30 year old journeyman Hans van Alphen/Bel was the first day leader (4334) 213 pts ahead of PR pace. But at least 5 others are close enough to challenge for the win tomorrow. Here is what happened.

38th Hypo-Bank Meeting Mosle Stadium Götzis, Austria May 26-27, 2012

100 Meter: [11:40-11:55 am]

Races in Götzis are seeded and sections are presented slowest to fastest (are you listening meet directors?). Ironically the first race found world record holder Roman Sebrle/CZE (still at it) and '08 Olympic bronze medalist Andre Krauchka/BLR side by side in lanes 2 and 3. The race was won by New Zealander Scott McLaren in 11.18. Jan Felix Knobel/GER was 2nd in 11.25 with Krauchanka and Sebrle

posting sluggish 11.31 and 11.38 clocking. Modest headwind -0.1mps.

In the second race German Norman Muller ran away from Hans van Alpen/BEL over the final 45 meters and clocked a nice 10.90 to 10.96.



Aerial view of Mosle Stadium during the 47th Bank meeting in Götzis, Austria.

The third section featured Cuban Leonel Suarez who always seems to make it to the podium in big meets and 2010 winner Michael Schrader, coming back from 2 seasons of injuries (lanes 2-3).

At 60 meters Schrader put it into overdrive and zoomed away to win in 10.84 while Suarez faded badly over the final 30 meters getting 11.35. Early leader Pascal Behrbruch also faded to 4th in 11.11. Wind -0.5mps.

The 4th race found Cuban Yunior Diaz



Götzis sprinters Freimuth, Vos, Warner and Sintnicolaas.

(wearing green) but he was outlegged to the finish by a forceful looking Eduard Mikhan/BLR in a nifty 10.68. Sebrle's national heir apparent Adam Sebastien Helcelet was runner-up in 10.90. (wind:+1.5 mps.)

The fifth race (seeded section drew lots of attention because local Dominic Disterlberger/AUT found himself in lane 2. But it was Canadian Damian Warner (in lane 4) who took control mid-way while keeping a watchful eye over his right shoulder on the fast charging Rico Freimuth/GER. It was Warner in 10.59 to 10.62. Dutchman Eelco Sintinicolaas was lost in lane 6 but his 10.77 said volumes. (wind -0.7mps). Most pleased of all was Van Alpen, although in 11th overall, was looking like the real deal.

After One: Warn 954, Frei 947, Mikh 933, Sint 912, Schr 897.

Long Jump: [12:40-1:40 pm]

As always 2 groups were used. In Group B, closest to the Tribune (one might call this the unseeded section), most of the Germans found themselves here and Michael Schrader continued his successful comeback with a 2nd round 7.61m/24-11¾. Knobel, Freimuth, Behrenbruch and Warner all were well off bests. In round #3 Schrader missed the board badly and only Dutchman Igmarr Vos improved 7.36m/24-1¾.

In Group A Suarez led off with a 6.85m/22-5¾ leap and fouled on his 2nd attempt (@7.25m).

The Cubans may have arrived too late (less than 36 hours before meet time) to get their legs underthem since and, out of 9 jumps, the best was 7.19m/23-7¼ by Yunior Diaz. Meanwhile Hans Van Alpen was putting together a nice score. His 7.62m/25-0 led thru 2 rounds ahead of '11 Thopre Cup winner Simon Hechler/GER and Krauchanka, at 7.41m/24-3¾ and 7.34m/24-1. In round #3 Suarez had no pop and aborted his jump while in flight. Van Alpen fouled at the toe-board on an improved leap. A blanket of pessimism coved the infield pit as athlete after athlete were unable to adjust the the shifting breezes and came up with fouls. A pall settled over the group and no one improved but Diaz (7.33m/24-¾). Mercifully the event ended at after exactly one hout.

After Two: Schr 1859, vAlp 1835, Mikh 1816, Frei 1799, Hech 1798.

Shot Put: [2:20-3:12 pm]

Group B saw some impressive results from as Helcelet/CZE (14.99m/49-2¼) and Eduard Mikhan/BLR (14.64m/48-½), both produved career bests.

In Group A Suarez never got untracked managing just 13.95m/45-9½. The WC bronze medalist would end the event in 24th place (out of 26!). Behrenbruch saved a 16.19m/53-1½ to lead round #1. Garcia's

14.99m/49-2¼ had



Hans van Alphen/BEL held a 42 point lead after 3 events.

more height than length.

Freimuth PR'd in round #2 at 15.14m/49-8 and Van Alpen followed with the longest throw of his career, but it was out of bounds on the right line, in the 15.70m neighborhood. Behrenbruch improved to 16.26m/53-4, in what would be the winning toss.

Schrader never got untracked getting just 13.47m/44-2½ in round #1, cramping in round #2 for an embarrassing 12.04m/39-6 then backing off his last toss which was just as weak. In the final round Norman Müller escaped with an apparent foul that would have won an Emmy, and got credit for last round 14.55m/47-9 effort. The last toss by Van Alpen, 15.23m/49-11¾ moved him to the overall lead by 42 points over Freimuth with another 13 in arrears.

After Three: vAlp 2639, Frei 2597, Mikh 2584, Helc 2568, Schr 2555.

High Jump: [3:35-5:21 pm]

The Germans experienced leg problems here. Knobel withdrew with a bum knee and Schrader continued to experience a cramp in his left calf. He cleared only 1.97m/6-5 ½ in Group A (South or seeded pit). There the Cubans found their legs and after numerous misses at lower heights and 3rd attempt clearances both Garcia and Suarez managed 2.06m/6-9. They were joined at the next bar, 2.09m/6-10¼, by Vos and Van Alpen. Only Suarez, on his 3rd attempt did not dislodge the bar and only he went to 2.12m/6-11½ to no avail.



Cuban Leonel Suarez won the high jump at 2/9m/6-10¼

Van Alpen extended his already substantial lead to 199 and with his own PR at 2.00m/6-6

¾ Eelco Sintnicolas would be the challenger. Athletes from Belgium and Holland...the tulip boys were in control.

In Group B Sintnicolaas, Behrenbruch and Frenchman Gael Querin all cleared 2.00m/6-6-¾ but only the German (a PR) managed, with a short approach, 2.03m/6-8. When he missed at 2.06m/6-9 the event ended at 5:21 pm.

After Four: vAlp 3598, Helc 3399, behr 3369, Sint 3334, Mikh 3333, Schr 3332.

400 meters: [5:55-6:15 pm]



Pascal Behrenbruch (right) won the first of 5 400m races in 48.64, while Leonel Suarez clocked 49.33 in the 4th race.

The crowd of 2800 stayed throughout. Tall Roland Schwartzel/AUT withdrew before the first race and Roman Sebrle ran only the first 200 meters. That left Behrenbruch who ran strongly in the stretch to clock 48.64.

Hans van Alphen drew lane 3. Andrei Krauchanka had also withdrawn (is this the passing of the guard?). HvA passed 200m in 23.8 and ran down Scott McClaren in the stretch to clock 49.54 seconds and record a first day score of 4334, 213 up on his PR 8200 score.

In the 3rd race Schrader appeared with both calves extensively taped vertically. He ran conservatively, caught the field at 250m and raced Damian Warner/CAN for 100 meters, getting the nod 48.53 to 48.58.

Suarez drew lane 8 and saw no one for 250 meters when passed by Helcelet. Young Brit Ashley Bryant caught them both 30 meters from the finish in 48.87.

In the final section Cuban Yunior Diaz drew the seeded lane 3. He ran down the field

including Rico Freimuth on the outside and his 47.16 opened eyes. Freimuth's 47.51 was a PR.

After Five: vAlp 4334, Frei 4253, Helc 4252, Behr 4247,



Results:

5/26-27 Hypo-Bank Meeting, Götzis, AUT

4334	Van Alpen, Hans/BEL	10.96+1.0	762+1.1	1523	206	49.54
4253	Freimuth, Rico/GER	10.62-0.7	716-0.7	1514	191	47.51
4252	Helcelet, Adam/CZE	10.90-1.5	734-0.9	1499	203	49.18
4247	Behrenbruch, Pascal/GER	11.11-0.6	709-0.2	1626	203	48.64
4242	Sintnicolaas, Eelco/NED	10.77-0.7	727-1.6	1420	200	48.02
4215	Schrader, Michael/GER	10.84-0.6	761+1.8	1347	197	48.53
4212	Vos, Ingmar/NED	10.92-1.5	736-0.8	1414	200	49.50
4195	Mikhan, Eduard/BLR	10.68-1.5	729+0.4	1464	194	48.99
4168	Diaz, Yunion/CUB	10.99-1.5	732+1.1	1417	191	47.16
4166	Müller, Norman/GER	10.90+1.0	729+0.8	1455	200	49.55
4089	Warner, Damian/CAN	10.59-0.7	711-0.4	1296	194	48.58
4080	Garcia, Yordanis/CUB	10.94-0.7	656+0.9	1499	206	49.30
4063	Chinin, Carlos/BRA	11.04-1.5	724-0.2	1385	203	50.54
4020	Suarez, Leonel/CUB	11.35-0.6	685+0.2	1395	206	49.33
3983	Hechler, Simon/GER	10.89-0.7	741-0.8	1313	191	50.61
3965	Bryant, Ashley/GBR	11.02+1.0	738+1.1	1342	182	48.87
3955	Querin, Gael/FRA	11.26+1.0	704+1.1	1280	200	48.81
3922	Nolf, Cedric/BEL	10.04-0.6	718+0.1	1319	191	50.08
3919	Newdick, Brent/NZL	11.10-0.6	716-0.5	1379	191	50.52
3869	Distelberger, Dominik/AUT	10.99-0.7	711+0.9	1262	188	49.76
3869	McLaren, Scott/NZL	11.18-0.1	687+1.0	1445	188	50.03
2999	Walter, Simon/SUI	11.34+1.0	679 0.0	1287	nh	50.67

dnf: Knobel, Jan Felix/GER[11.25-0.1 722+0.3 1537
withdrew], Krauchanka, Andrei/BLR[11.31-0.1 734+0.5 1455
194], Schwartzl, Roland/AUT [11.59-0.1 719-1.3 1374 191],
Sebrle, Roman/CZE[11.38-0.1 725+0.5 1441 200 dnf]

The highest scoring father –son duo in history was one hand. Father Uwe/East Germany (left), scored 8792 in 1984 and son Rico (8287 PR) will have a ways to go to get the family record.

Hello Again... Today is the 100th anniversary of the first decathlon

