

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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VAN ALPHEN OVER SINTINICOLAAS Tulip nations Reign in Götzis

Hello Again...day two turned out to be a similar to day one...warm and sunny with shifting breezes, but overcast. As churchbells rang for Sunday services the 23 athletes returned to this cathedral called Mosle for their own type of creed. Their challenge would be as daunting as any religion. 2000 faithful were in their pews or surrounding aisles when high priest Walter Weber began the service with the 110m hurdles.

But when the day was over the crowd (another 2800) were referring to it as 'tulip time' in Götzis since the top spots went to athletes from Belgium and Holland. Here's what happened.



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

Day Two

110m Hurdles: [10:05-11:00 am]

Condition were excellent for the hurdles event.

Belgium's Hans van Alphen continued his hot streak with a career best 14.64 for the win in the first race. Igmarr Vos won the 2nd race in 14.36 seconds. Sebrle continued and clocked 14.88 for 4th. (wind: +1.4). In the 3rd race Dutchman Eelco Sintnicolaas charged to a huge 14.10 PR win



30 year old Hans van Alphen ruled the 38th Götzis meeting with a narrow victory and national record for Belgium.

Adam Sebastien Helcelet was charged with a rare false start in the 3rd race and then knocked down the final barrier, while unbalanced, with his hands and was dq'd.

In the final section an obvious false start by Yordani Garcia/CUB (in lane 4) went without a call back. Only German Michael Schrader (in lane 2) halted and then began to run again. Non one else in the race was influenced. Canadian Damian Warner won in a fin3 13.78 seconds with Rico Freimuth/GER on his shoulder getting a big PR 13.

The jury handled the protest by setting up a section (15 minutes later) with just Garcia again (since his false started time was not legitimate, and Schrader (who was influenced by it.) In that race Garcia won in 14.37 to 14.91. Their original times were 14.07 and 14.91!!!!

After Six: Frei 5255, vAlp 5239, Sint 5204, Behr 5197, Mikh 5144.

Discus: [11:35-12:10 am]

New Zealand's Scott McClaren won Group B held outside Mosle stadium with a 43.43m/142-6 toss as only 4 surpassed 40 meters.

In the stadium infield Eduard Mikhan opened with a 48.61m/159-5 toss that held up as a winner of the gold coin (awarded to each event winner). Pascal Behrenbruch expected more than his 47.99m/157-5 2nd place effort.

The battle for first place overall was shaped here as van Alphen slipped a bit (45.45m/149-1) while Sintinicolass (42.81m/140-5) and the tall Freimuth (47.26m/155-1) came up with near lifetime bests. Freimuth kept the leader bib.

After Seven: Frei 6068, Behr 6026, vAlp6015, Mikh 5985.

Pole vault: [1:00- 3: 49 pm]

It was here that Sintinicolaas expected to make his move. He needed @ 6 bars (180 points to take the lead away from the 24 year old German. Yet Behrenbruch, Schrader and van Alphen were still in the mix

But not all was well at the pole vault pits. The event saw three early casualties: Brazilian Carloc Chinin was seriously injured at his opening attempt (head injury on metal standard in pit B), and a pair of no heights in "A" from two of three contenders (Eduard Mikhan/BLR at 4.66m/15-3½ and Michael



Elco Sintinicolaas/NED could have used one more vault bar clearance.

Schrader at 4.76m/15-7¼. The latter was still a victim of severe calf cramps. He was stoic about the incident afterwards." We

are decathletes," he explained. "It goes with the territory."

As well the Cubans arrived w/o poles and notified meet organizers of such during the warmups!?!?

In Group A Freimuth PR'd at 4.86m/15-11¼ as did van Alphen on a 3rd try (and barely). Then the 30 year old Belgium surprisingly skied over 4.96m/16-3¼.

There were still 3 vaulters left at 5.06m/16-7¼...Müller, van Alphen and Sinti who intended to start at 5.16m/16-11 and did so successfully. Afterwards he vaulted alone and looked good thru 5.36m/17-7 but could go no higher. Another bar would have stood him in good stead for the win...but in decathlon there are a lot of 'what ifs. Regardless, he literally vaulted himself into to overall lead, but his margin over Freimuth was just 13 points, with van Alphen another 23 in arrears. And lurking was Behrenbruch, a skilled javelin thrower.

Ironically the higher seeded vault section (A) was completed well before section B where Querin was still vaulting at 5.06m/16-7¼. But no one saw his attempts since they occurred simultaneously with the women's heptathlon 800 that had a lot of local flavor. *After Eight: Sint 6949, Frei 6936, vAlp 6913, Behr 6894, Vos 6711*

Javelin: [4:00 and - 5:00- 5:36 pm]

Group B (early eliminees from the vault) was won handily by Brit Ashley Bryant with a PR 69.26m/227-2. Group A had all of the drama. With overcast skies but rather pleasant temps, Sintinicolass opened round #1 with a 59.80m/196-2 effort. Freimuth could not respond managing just 56.02m/183-9 with his right elbow bandaged. Van Alphen speared just 59.62m/195-7 but it was Behrenbruch, still wearing his removable advertising gimmick on his right shoulder, who responded with a 66.72m/218-11 spear to take over the lead.

In round #2 Sinti let go a career best 63.59m/208-7 to retake the lead. Freimuth did not improve and van Alphen fouled.

Behrenbruch also did not improve but Suarez awoke and let go a 71.89m/235-10 javelin. The mark moved him to 6th overall but he was so far back of the leaders that he did not get much consideration as a medalist.

Round # 3 provided fireworks...Sinti fouled and Freimuth improved to 58.05m/190-5. Clearly he has elbow issues. Van Alphen



Cuban Leonel Suarez was the javelin winner at 236-2.

then unleashed a near PR 64.15m/210-6 toss to move back into overall contention, 20 points behind Behrenbruch and 28 behind Sinti. Given that he had the best 1500m credentials this would be some finish. But Suarez was not done, and he improved 10cm (71.99m/236-2) in round 3 to capture the event.

After Nine: Sint 7741, Behr 7733, vAlp 7713, Frei 7645, Vos 7506, Suar 7500.

1500 meters: [6:09-6:14 pm]

The 9 event scores and 1.5k PRs before the final event read:

Sintincolaas	7741	4:22
Behrenbruch	7733	4:24
Van Alphen	7713	4:17
Freimuth	7635	4:35
Vos	7506	4:22
Suarez	7500	4:16

At @ 6pts per second in the 1500m, well, you can do the math. Sinti needed to stay within 4½ seconds of van Alphen to hang on for the win. At least that the way the cognozzi saw it at race time. It was Tulip time in Götzi.

And that's exactly how it played out. 17 started making this a very competitive race and after 800m of pacemaking by Helcelet Quernin took over and was unchallenged to the finish clocking a fine 4:18.76. Van Alphen opened up a 5 second lead on Sinti the final



A typical finish line scene after the 1500 meters.

backstretch and maintained tie to the finish. His 4:20.87 just over six seconds better than Sinti, as both PR's and both Belgium and the Netherlands had national records.

Suarez clocked a 4:23.26 and moved to 5th overall, behind Behrenbruch and Freimuth, the latter set a PR, the former missed by 6 points. In spite of the better known German and Cuban athletes, the 38th Götzi affair was all about the Benelux countries, not normally known for combined events. The tulip boys took away all the honors including, at the awards ceremony, a packet of roses for each. *After Ten: vAlp 8519, Sinti 8506, Behr 8433, Frei 8322, Suar 8289.*



Results:

5/26-27 Hypo-Bank Meeting, Götzi, AUT

8519	van Alpen, Hans/BEL	10.96+1.0	762+1.1	1523
	206 49.54 14.55+0.4	4545 496 6415	4:20.87	
8506	Sintincolaas, Eelco/NED	10.77-0.7	727-1.6	1420
	200 48.02 14.10+0.8	4281 536 6359	4:26.98	
8433	Behrenbruch, Pascal/GER	11.11-0.6	709-0.2	1626
	203 48.64 14.19+0.7	4799 486 6672	4:36.88	
8322	Freimuth, Rico/GER	10.62-0.7	716-0.7	1514
	191 47.51 13.79+0.7	4726 486 5805	4:40.55	
8289	Suarez, Leonel/CUB	11.35-0.6	685+0.2	1395
	206 49.33 14.34+0.7	4471 486 7199	4:23.26	
8224	Vos, Ingmar/NED	10.92-1.5	736-0.8	1414
	200 49.50 14.35+1.4	4331 476 6389	4:34.47	
8061	Garcia, Yordanis/CUB	10.94-0.7	656+0.9	1499
	206 49.30 14.37+0.7	4196 466 6239	4:33.10	
8034	Müller, Norman/GER	10.90+1.0	729+0.8	1455
	200 49.55 14.94+0.4	4038 506 5690	4:33.86	
7961	Warner, Damian/CAN	10.59-0.7	711-0.4	1296
	194 48.58 13.78+0.7	3959 456 5700	4:30.42	
7879	Hechler, Simon/GER	10.89-0.7	741-0.8	1313
	191 50.61 14.74+1.4	4199 476 6158	4:35.20	
7837	Bryant, Ashley/GBR	11.02+1.0	738+1.1	1342
	182 48.87 14.69+1.4	3970 456 6926	4:41.47	
7842	Querin, Gael/FRA	11.26+1.0	704+1.1	1280
	200 48.81 14.62+0.8	4002 496 5133	4:18.76	
7765	Diaz, Yunior/CUB	10.99-1.5	732+1.1	1417

191 47.16 14.97+1.4 4152 426 5282 4:3312
7657 McLaren, Scott/NZL 11.18-0.1 687+1.0 1445
188 50.03 15.14+0.4 4343 476 5045 4:34.63
7638 Nolf, Cedric/BEL 10.04-0.6 718+0.1 1319
191 50.08 14.69_0.4 3989 486 6264 5:06.80
6926 Distelberger, Dominik/AUT 10.99-0.7 711+0.9 1262
188 49.76 14.66+0.8 3899 476 5648 dnf
6415 Helcelet, Adam/CZE 10.90-1.5 734-0.9 1499
203 49.18-dsq/rule168.7a 3549 466 5888 dnf
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],
]Walter, Simon/SUI[11.34+1.0 679 0.0 1287 nh 50.67],
4063 Chinin, Carlos/BRA[11.04-1.5 724-0.2 1385 203
50.54 14.56+0.8 4325 406 inj], Newdick, Brent/NZL[11.10-
0.6 716-0.5 1379 191 50.52 14.97+1.4 4508 436 withdrew],
Mikhan, Eduard/BLR[10.68-1.5 729+0.4 1464 194 48.99
14.20+0.8 4861 nh] ,Schrader, Michael/GER[10.84-0.6
761+1.8 1347 197 48.53 14.40+0.7 4357 nh], Sebrle, Roman
/CZE [11.38-0.1 725+0.5 1441 200 dnf 14.88+1.4 4450
486 5848], 26s,18f