

1st DAY THORPE CUP

Kazmirek, Horn Shine



Hello Again....The 2012 and 19th edition of the annual Thorpe Cup was triply (?) significant this year. First, the event and site provided the backdrop for the 100th decathlon anniversary with 20 of the 30 living Olympic medalists in attendance. Having Milt Campbell ('56 winner in Melbourne), Bill Toomey ('68 winner in Mexico City) and Bruce Jenner ('76 winner in Montreal) in the corner for the Yank's team made this meet special.

Second, the meeting at Marburg's city stadion also served as a final test for USA Olympians Ashton Eaton and Trey Hardee who have a date to keep in London 3 weeks hence. They would contest individual events here.

And finally, there is the team meet itself where the American team would attempt to break their first ever two-meet losing streak (Marburg '10, Chula Vista '11). The host Team Zehnkampf returned four from the previous year's winning club. Veteran American coach Fred Samara selected a team which included reigning Olympic kingpin Bryan Clay, a pair of previous Cup winners (Ryan Harlan and Joe Detmer), '10 USA national champ Jake Arnold, and a trio of former collegiate conference winners, Gray Horn (SEC), Isaac Murphy (Big 12) and Mat Clark (Missouri Valley).

At noon on Saturday, June 21, 2012, exactly 100 years and 6 days after Jim Thorpe captured the very first Olympic decathlon contest in Stockholm, America's decathlon



At 11:00 am there were already several hundred zehnkampf fans already at the Marburg city stadium.

team was on the Marburg battlefield with their German counterparts. Coolish temps (in high 60s), north breezes and several thousand of the local zehnkampf faithful greeted the pair of 7 man (score 5) national teams.

19th Thorpe Cup USA vs Germany Team Meet Marburg, Germany July 21-22, 2012



Day One:

100 meters: [Noon – 12:08 pm]

What a sight ! A 600 year old castle overlooking the city stadion as the Star Spangled Banner and Deutschland Lied rang out. After an impressive opening ceremony that lasted 9 minutes and included a happy birthday to asst coach Jamie Cook the sprinters headed to the start line.

Running north to south, the breezes were trailing (☺). I counted the crowd at just under 2000.

Recent add Mortitz Cleve, the former Big 12 champ from Kansas State, was in lane 2 facing USA boys Jake Arnold (lane 3), Mat Clark (lane 5) and Ryan Harlan (lane 7). Veteran Lars Albert (in his 6th Thorpe Cup) had replaced (in lane 6) Germany's Stafan Kahlert the day before.

USA athletes were reminded by coaches Fred Samara (Princeton) and Jamie Cook (new IAAF false start rule for Combined



Moritc Cleve won the first race (left) but this photo of a photo finds 5 others leaning into the finish, all clocking 11.28 seconds.

Events (the first by anyone is charged to the entire field, gone on the 2nd).

A second before the gun a child in the stands to the left of the starting line fired a small horn and the runners reacted to that horn. So no false start was charged. Cleve was last out on the 2nd gun but caught the field at 90 meters and won in 11.20 over 5 (!!--5!!!) timed in 10.28. The finish photo actually showed *all* five (Arnold, Prey, Clark, Harlan and Gilde) caught in 11.28. This is called seeding and its advantages have never been more obvious. The statistical probability of 5 leaning at the finish and all recording identical tiems must be in the millions! This must be our year for ties!

In the 2nd (and seeded race) Ashton Eaton was the only guest so he was added to the quicker section (II). After a Clay false start Eaton and Clay were away well and Ashton eased away after 20 meters and was a significant winner. Horn and Murphy raced the second half of their sprint well closing on Clay. Isaac and Bryan were given the same clocking. At the finish it was Easton at 10.46 to 10.82 and 10.82

<u>Place:</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>points</u>
1...Ashton Eaton USA-g	10.46	---
2. Bryan Clay USA	10.82	901
3. Isaac Murphy USA	10.82	901
4. Kai Kazmirek GER	10.86	892
5. Lars Heinke GER	11.00	861
6.. Gray Horn USA	10.86	856
7. Joe Detmer USA	11.16	825
8. Patrick Spinner GER	11.16	825

*After One: Clay 901, Murp 901, Kazm 892, Hein 861.
Team Score: USA 4282, GER 4194, +88*

Long Jump: [1:00 – 1:42 pm]

Of the Americans only tall Gray Horn/Florida posted a significant mark in round #1. He led at 7.38m/24-2½. But Team Zehnkamp took the team lead away from the Americans after round one and stretched it in succeeding rounds.

Conditions were generally good with slight tailwinds as the athletes used the inside pit next to the west grandstand. Matt Clark got off a fine 7.11/23-4 leap in round two but then policeman Patrick Spinner of the host club started the fireworks with a 7.25m/23-9 ½ effort. It was followed by Kai Kazmirek's 7.40m/ Bryan Clay, with a sore hip, managed 7.09m/23-3¼ then would pass his last attempt. But Max Gilde (7.31m/23-11¼) and Mattias Prey (7.47m/24-6¼) woke up the crowd.

Round 3 was thrilling, but mostly for the home team. Lars-Niklas Heinke, facing a pair of fouls, went for broke and managed a huge PR, 7.40m/24-3½. The final 3 attempts were eye-opening as Gilde improved his career best by one foot!! (7.65m/25-1¼) just missing the meet record. Horn responded with a

7.46m/24-5¾ leap and Prey added a cm to his best.

Competing as a guest Trey Hardee opened with a 7.27m/23-10¼ and then followed with a toe-board foul around 7.45m and a walk-back foul @ 7.20m/

The German team jumped so well that they turned a 106 point deficit into a 258 point lead, the biggest one event turn-around in meet history.

So efficiently was this event officiated that the meet was actually running *ahead* of schedule. For instance, I timed, on 15 occasions, how long it took from the time the long jumper landed in the pit to when the result was communicated to the spectators, that is, posted on the manual scoreboardjust 14 seconds. That's the *average* time! No current automatic measuring system can even come close to that performance.

After Two: Kazm 1802, Horn 1781, Gild 1771, Hein 1771.

Team Scores: USA 8514, GER 8772, - 258/

Shot Put: [2:34 – 3:13 pm]

Nearly a 1000 people surrounded the shot put circle and officials smartly moved the event up, being ahead of schedule. The Olympic performers were also incorporated into the event in what was technically a separate but concurrent competition. The major story there was the 14.78m/48-6 3rd round effort by Ashton Eaton, missing his overall PR by just 6cm (2+ inches). He also had a 14.47m/47-5½ toss. Trey Hardee, training thru, got off a 14.95m/49-¾ toss.

In the Thorpe Cup team competition, the Americans got back 123 team points as Ryan Harlan won the event at 15.79m/51-9 ½ and Bryan Clay (although he lost a 15m 3rd round foul) managed 14.96m/49-1. Surprisingly it was 21 year old Kai Kazmirek, last year's German u23 champ, who came up with a 3 foot PR!(13.42/44-½). Mattias Prey moved to a one point 3 event score over Bryan Clay, 2524-2523.

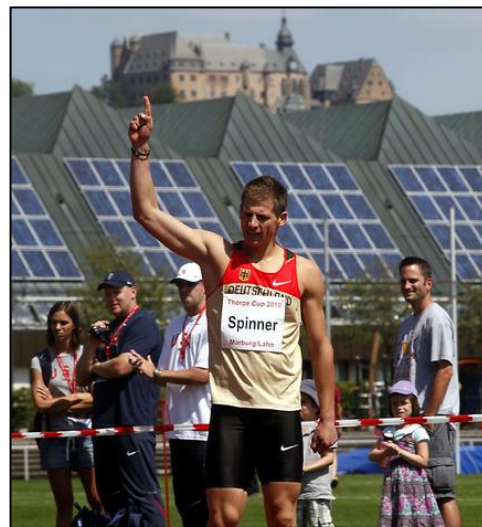
Another efficient event as 54 throws were conducted and measured in just 39 minutes.

After Three: Prey 2524, Clay 2523, Kazm 2495, Horn 2443.

Team Scores: USA 12,014, GER 12,149 -135.

High Jump: [3:40- 4:50 pm]

Ashton Eaton won the competition among the Olympic hopefuls with a 2.04m/6-8 ¼ clearance in Pit A. There Kazmirek kept up the pressure with a 2.07m/6-9 ½ in coolish conditions facing a slight headwind. The American team generally jumped well in 'A' as Harlan, Mat Clark and Horn all negotiated



Team Zehnkamp's Patrick Spinner was 5th after day one with 3896 points.

1.98m/6-6.

In pit 'B' (unseeded) Moritz Cleve and Joe Detmer tied at 1.98m/6-6. But the major story was the no-height by Bryan Clay in 'A' and the withdrawal of Lars Niklas Heinke. But this was no even swap as Team USA lost its top scorer while the hosts dropped a likely non-scorer. In essence, even though the USA jumped well they lost points in the team battle via the loss of Clay.

After Four: Kazm 3363, Horn 3228, Prey 3203, Harl 3177.

Team Scores: USA 15,540, GER 15, 837, -297.

History of Individual medal Winners:

	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>
	<i>Bronze</i>	
1993	Schmid/GER 8061 Blockburger/USA 7888	Janvrin/USA 8052
1994	Long/USA 7996 Gunter/GER 7741	Barker/USA 7871
1995	Barker/USA 8175 Janvrin/USA 8044	Muller/GER 8122
1996	Janvrin/USA 8462 Maczay/GER 8154	Kohnle/GER 8191
1997	Sategna/USA 8107 Otte/GER 7983	Rodgers/USA 7986
1998	Rodgers/USA 8128 Smith/USA 8019	Janvrin/USA 8053
1999	Maczay/GER 8264 Janvrin/USA 8017	Moore/USA 8037
2000	Janvrin/USA 8029 GER7912	Isekenmeier/ Schonbeck/GER 7827
2001	Maczey/GER 8139 8036 Mewes/GER 7820	Goedicke/GER
2002	Pappas/USA 8431 Moore/USA 7878	Smith/USA 7880
2003	Lemen/USA 7748 Geophert/USA 7575	Geisler/USA 7617
2005	Harlan/USA 7919 GER7842	Behrenbruch/ Kilmartin/USA 7794
2006	Abele/GER 7834 Boyles/USA 7672	Albert/GER 7824
2007	Abdur-Rahim/USA 7760 Detmer/USA 7616	Harlan/USA 7736
2008	Müller/GER 8199 Abdur-Rahim/USA 8175	Arnold/USA 8191
2009	Pappas/USA 8569 Knoebel/GER 7758	Detmer/USA 7892
2010	Detmer/USA 8090 Freimuth/GER 7789	Helwick/USA 7799
2011	Hechler/GER 8062 Fricke/GER 7845	Detmer/USA 7846

400 meters: [5:40 – 5:50 pm]

The real winners of day one were the officials who moved the meet along smartly and conducted the final event 60 minutes early without rushing the athletes. Everyone would be home in time for supper and the British Open.

In the first of 3 races Clay did not start and the race belonged to Gray Horn, last year's SEC champ, as he ran conservatively for 200m, than gunned it and caught early leader Patrick Spinner with 90 meters

remaining and ran away in 50.78. Ryan Harlan was 3rd in 52.58 seconds.

In the second section (seeded and conducted from slower to faster) Mat Clark and Max Gilde led early but Jake Arnold ran a strong final 200 and held off fast charging Mattias Prey, 50.46 to 50.64.

The 3rd race featured overall leader Kai Kazmirek who had run



Ex Big 12 champ Moritz Cleve (Kansas State) on left and ex Big 10 champ Joe Detmer (Wisconsin) on right found themselves on opposing teams.

46.75 a year ago, sandwiched between Detmer (on his left in #2) and Murphy (on his right in #4) as well as Trey Hardee in lane 6.

Kazmirek zipped by Murphy at 190 meters and ran a hard turn so that Detmer could never challenge. He ran strongly down the stretch netting a nifty 47.52 to Detmer's 48.87.

Hardee ran a conservative 200 then turned it on in the final half and clocked 48.99 seconds.

After Five: Kazm 4295, Horn 4007, Prey 3988, Murp 3925.

Team Scores: USA19, 498, GER 19,894 -396.

Results:

7/21-22 19th Thorpe Cup, USA vs Germany, Marburg, GER

4295	Kazmirek, Kai/GER	10.86+1.4	740+1.1	1342	207	47.53
4007	Horn, Gray/USA	11.02+1.4	746+3.5	1292	198	50.78
3988	Prey, Mattias/GER	11.28+1.1	748+1.9	1508	186	50.64
3925	Murphy, Isaac/USA	10.82+1.4	711+0.6	1269	186	49.09
3896	Spinner, Patrick/GER	11.16+1.4	725+0.9	1348	192	51.00



3877 Harlan, Ryan/USA
 11.28+1.1 663+0.8 1579 201 52.58
 3868 Gilde, Mamillian/GER
 11.28+1.1 765+1.9 1167 192 50.76
 3854 Detmer, Joe/USA
 11.16+1.4 691+0.3 1165 198 48.87
 3847 Cleve, Moritz/GER
 11.20+1.1 655+1.4 1395 198 50.07
 3835 Clark, Mat/USA
 11.28+1.1 711+1.3 1282 198 51.32
 3685 Albert, Lars/GER
 11.50+1.1 720+1.8 1455 186 54.26
 3674 Arnold, Jake/USA
 11.28+1.1 631+0.3 1346 192 50.46
 dnf Clay, Bryan/USA
 10.82+1.4 709+1.5 1496 nh
 dnf Heinke, Lars/GER
 11.00+1.4 740 0.0 1110 withdrew
 Team Score: USA 19.498, Germany 19.894 -396.



Olympic hopefuls from l-r: Brianne Theisson (NCAA heptathlon champion who will represent Canada), Oregon TC coach Harry Marra, world record holder Ashton Eaton and world champion Trey Hardee were at the Thorpe Cup preparing for the London Games.

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