

Van ALPHEN is DECA STAR Wins in Talence, CE Challenge

Hello Again...DecaStar 2012 rang down the curtain on the current decathlon season with another international win and fine performance from 30 year old Hans van Alphen of Belgium. Turning back a small field (only 11 starters) the balanced van Alphen used his javelin prowess (65.76m/ 215-9) to finally overcome Oleksiy Kasyanov/ UKR and take a 25 point lead into the final event. His 4:30.22 sealed the deal and the winning total, 7 digits shy of 8300, was 75 points better than Kasyanov.

The only other 8k performer was Adam Helcelet of the Czech Republic. One of the pre-meet favorites, Dutchman Eelco Sintinicolaas, was never a factor. He was 7th at the break and used a 5.32m/17-5½ winning vault to move to 4th overall. He finished with a disappointing 7941 points, half-a-dozen more than France's prodigy Kevin Mayer. Thorpe Cup winner Kai Kazmirek/GER was 6th, 7797. Russian Vasily Kharlamov was in contention until a vault 'nh.'

Attendance on day #2 was announced at 10,000, outstanding for a late season affair w/o the top stars. Attendance was near perfect on both days, with temps reaching 82^F on Sunday.

At stake in Talence was a payday as part of the IAAF Combined Events Challenge (total of top three scores in pre-designated meets) and van Alphen proved an easy victor.

"It was a crazy season. I could not predict this before the season," said Van Alphen. Van Alphen's average performance



Belgium's Hans van Alphen used a 2.01m/6-7 high jump in Talence on the way to a meet win and IAAF Combined Events Challenge victory.

was quite good in 2012, 8419 pts, yet the depth of previous years disappeared. In spite of 95 athletes finishing at least one meet, only 11 performers worldwide even finished 3 meets making Ashton Eaton and Trey Hardee 12th and 13th in the overall standings. See table below.

This will be one of the season's last Newsletters (there were 55 of them!!) yet an occasional post my pop up. Regular newsletters will resume with the beginning of the 2012-2013 indoor campaign in December.

RESULTS

9/15-16 DecaStar, Talence, FRA

8293	van Alphen, Hans/BEL	11.09+0.9
727+0.1	1529 201 49.06 14.96-0.8 4892 472 6576	4:30.22
8218	Kasyanov, Oleksiy/UKR	10.66+0.9
754+0.3	1495 195 49.76 14.41-0.5 4751 482 5259	4:38.03
8064	Helcelet, Adam/CZE	11.10+0.8
726+0.3	1428 207 49.09 14.48-0.8 4133 482 6046	4:40.98
7941	Sintnicolaas, Eelco/NED	11.06+0.9
737+0.6	1382 192 50.13 14.73-0.8 4115 532 5523	4:38.85
7935	Mayer, Kevin/FRA	11.44+0.8
704+0.5	1329 207 49.87 14.80-0.8 4205 502 5888	4:27.47
7797	Kazmirek, Kai/GER	10.95+0.9
715+0.5	1278 204 47.56 14.84-0.5 3588 462 5939	4:40.86
7610	Newdick, Brent/NZL	11.18+0.9
719+1.3	1428 189 51.73 15.22-0.8 4308 472 5668	4:40.02
	7558 Bourguignon, Rudy/FRA, 7282 Lelievre, Jeremy/FRA, 6704 Compaore, Benjamin/FRA, dnf Kharlamov, Vasily/RUS, 11s, 10f.	

Final 2012 IAAF Combined Events Challenge Results



1..	Hans van Alphen	Belgian	25,259
	(8519 1st Gotzis, 8477 4 th at OG in London, 8293 1st Talence)		
	[Average = 8419+]		
2..	Pascal Behrenbruch	Germany	25,117
3.	Oleksiy Kasyanov	Ukraine	24,822
4.	Eelco Sintnicolaas	Netherlands	24,481
5.	Dmitry Karpov	Kazakhstan	24,271
6.	Adam S. Helcelet	Czech Rep	24,106
7.	Yordani Garcia	Cuba	24,022
8.	Ashley Bryant	Great Britain	23,194