

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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SUAREZ WINS PAN-AMERICAN TITLE

Long Season Ends

Hello Again.....Apologies for the delay in getting this Newsletter posted.....publishing obligations and a freakish east coast snowstorm that knocked out local power for two days caused the delay. At any rate this is likely to be the last Newsletter of the current season which was so long that the next (indoor) season begins in just 4 weeks. Soon enough I'll post the 2011 USA annual list. And please see note that the *2011 CE Annual* by Hans van Kuijen which is already available. More about that soon.

The longest outdoor season in recent memory ultimately ended in the final week of October with the Pan-American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico (Oct. 24-25). There Cuban vet Leonel Suarez, the IAAF World Champs bronze medalist, won over a 14 man field. Interestingly, the victory and 8373 score had no influence on the IAAF CE Challenge standings since Suarez already had an insurmountable lead and a lock on the \$30,000 first place prize money. (ed note: Suarez's 5 meet season included:

8440 2nd at Götzis
8231 1st at Kladno
8501 3rd at IAAF WC;
7989 7th at Talence
8373 1st at Pan Am

A pair of Americans suffered vertical calamities. On day one Matt Johnson, a 22 year old rising senior at Sam Houston State,



Leonel Suarez (right) won the Pan-American crown in Guadalajara with a 8373 effort.



nh'd in the high jump (at 1.81m/5-11¼) while on the way to fashioning a score that would have pushed past his PR of 7686. He was 5th overall at the time. Only a 1.87m/6-1½ would have been necessary to surpass 7700 and 6th place. As it was he finished 10th with a 6929 score and a significant 400m lifetime best of 48.80. A long season...Johnson's first meet of 2011 was January indoor heptathlon in Houston ... a 9 month season!!

On the following day teammate Mark Jellison nh'd in the vault (at 4.40m/14-5¼). He ultimately finished 11th at 6550.

For the medal contenders, this was one interesting decathlon. Ex-NCAA indoor champ Maurice Smith/JAM held an 89 point lead after the vault, and then surrendered it to Suarez in the first round of the javelin.



Matt Johnson (left) and Mark Jellison (right) both suffered from vertical no-heights and placed 10th and 11th overall.

Suarez's best effort (in round #2) of 72.19m/236-10 was more than 12 meters better than Smith's 59.57m/195-5. The medal places had been determined by then and the 1500m was anti-climatic. Suarez's 4:45.78 brought him in with a 159 point victory. Smith was 2nd at 8214, his seasonal best and Cuban Yordani Garcia's 8074 was good for the bronze medal.

More significantly, Florida State senior Gonzalo Barroilhet, another former NCAA indoor champ who had failed to qualify for the NCAA outdoor decathlon at a last chance meet at Wake Forest, ran up a PR 7986 score for 4th. It represented the 4th best score by an American collegian in 2011. He won the vault at 5.30m/17-4¾.

Results:

10/24-25 Pan American Games, Guadalupe, MEX

8373	Suarez, Leonel/CUB	11.01+1.6	739+0.1
	1464 208 49.76 14.26+1.4	4554 480 7219	4:45.78
8214	Smith, Maurice/JAM	10.86+1.6	736-2.3
	1735 199 49.26 14.20+1.4	4879 440 5957	4:55.18
8074	Garcia, Yordani/CUB	10.68+1.6	678-1.0
	1481 205 48.84 14.22+1.4	4020 480 6381	4:49.29
7986	Barroilhet/Gonzalo/CHI-FIS	11.06+0.5	705-0.2
	1421 205 51.08 14.23+1.4	4340 530 5624	4:54.34
7826	Gastaldi, Roman/ARG	10.65+1.6	737-0.7
	1401 199 49.54 14.71+1.7	4308 420 5587	4:42.95
7679	Jaramillo, Geormi/VEN	10.85+1.6	741-1.4
	1496 184 48.30 14.22+1.4	4199 390 5635	4:52.26
7288	Sagaon, Rodrigo/MEX	10.69+1.6	655 0.0
	1240 169 47.61 15.23+1.7	4080 440 5333	4:39.84
7246	Bernard, Claston/JAM	11.16+0.5	709-1.9
	1355 196 52.00 14.92+1.4	4379 420 5549	5:20.11
7007	Zarate, Alberto/MEX	11.58+0.5	674-2.7
	1271 184 51.02 16.71+1.7	3787 450 5772	4:37.03
6929	Johnson, Matt/USA-SHSU	10.68+1.6	728-0.3
	1323 nh 48.80 14.77+1.7	4148 430 5920	4:59.60
6550	Jellison, Mark/USA-unat	11.42+0.5	730 0.0
	1380 196 53.17 14.49+1.7	3869 nh 5131	4
	dnf: Marrero, Steven/PUR, Sanchez, Marcos/PUR, Araujo, Luiz/BRA, 14s,11f.		
