

LETS GET CAUGHT UP

IAAF CE Challenge, USA Juniors, Team Lineups

Hello Again... This Newsletter provides some catch-up information coming out of the 98th National decathlon held last week at California Sate University-Sacramento.

IAAF Combined Events Challenge

One bantered about topic was the subject of why the USA national CE meet was *NOT* included in this year's IAAF



Combined Events Challenge? For the first time since the concept was adopted in 1998 the USA CE nationals did not appear on the IAAF list of eligible meets. My one month effort of contacting as many people as I know within USATF produced quizzical looks and responses like "I just don't know," or "I've never seen any paperwork from the IAAF." It's a frustrating exercise because the costs to USA combined event athletes is pretty high.

Background: Each year the IAAF provides \$202,000 in prize money for CE athletes (men/women split) on the basis of a 3 meet point tally. The eligible meets are designated by the IAAF include:

Olympic Games/World Championships,
Major Invitationals

Hypo Bank at Götzis,

DecaStar at Talence,

Ratingen,

TNT Express at Kladno

MultiStars at Firenze, IT,

Regional Champs like Pan Am Games and Pan Am Cup, European Cup, Continental Champs)

And

The USATF National Championships.

This has all been document in my *DECA Newsletter* as far back as 1997.

But paperwork to the IAAF must be filed each year by the eligible meets to be included. The rubberstamp is automatic. As best as I can determine on both sides of the Atlantic is that the paperwork for the USATF champs went unfiled this year. I can't find a reason nor answer.

To American CE athletes this is an important issue. Why? Because the IAAF CE Challenge is one of the few chances for CE athlete to earn a living....to earn income. They compete, by definition, infrequently. In the past a dozen of our best athletes have participated in the CE Challenge and earned income.....Chris Huffins, Tom Pappas, Trey Hardee, Jake Arnold, Bryan Clay, Sharon Day-Monroe, Hyleas Fountain and others going back to '98. OK, it's not a ton of money, but it is enough to keep them in the sport. For example, last season Jeremy Taiwo placed 2nd on the men's side (3 meets—Götzis, USATF, Olympic Games) and Barbara Nwaba placed 3rd on the women's side (same three meets) earning \$20,000 and \$15,000 respectively.

Why no outcry at the beginning of the season? I don't think most athletes realized it this had happened and many of the American athletes who would have been in the mix were inactive, retired or injured in 2017 minimizing the damage. For example, Ashton Eaton retired, Taiwo was injured, Nwaba took a year off. Zach Ziemek curtailed his season to a minimum of meets,

and so on. But everyone was not so lucky in this, well, what should we call it...snafu? oversight?

On the women's side Erica Bougaard, who produced two big scores (Gotzis and USAs) finds that the later does not count! She's on the world champs team to London but even with another big score she will find herself one score shy of a payday. Now this may elongate her season to late September (Talence). Even more important, since the annual CE Challenge winner earns an auto spot at the following year's IAAF indoor world meet, she'll have to alter training plans and qualify another way.

I don't know what the answer is but this situation certainly did not help US CE athletes nor do anything for our reputation. One coach in Sacramento offered an interesting and (I think) fair USATF solution for 2017.... Pay the athlete what they would have earned counting the USA champs score. And guarantee that this does not happen again. In a litigious society (and as a labor economist) the athletes have what the courts call 'demonstrable damages' (that is, their opportunity costs---what they would have earned had this mistake not happened). This is a straightforward 'lost wages' case.

I'm not trying to point fingers, only trying to find out what happened. No one is talking. I can only hope that our athletes won't be left high and dry in 2018.



USA Teams....International Lineup

Half as dozen international decathlon meets are on the horizon As best we can

assemble, here are the lineups for Americans and other US college students.

July 1-2 European Cup

Super League, Tallinn, Estonia

Marcus Leemet EST S Carolina '18
Karl Robt Saluri EST Georgia '18

First & Second League, Monzon, Spain

Tommy Barrineau FIN ex Georgia
Marcus Nilsson SWE ex UCLA

Also: in women's heptathlon, 37 year old Austras Skyute/LTH, ex Kansas State star who is world record holder in women's decathlon.

July 3-4 Pan-Am Capital Cup, Ottawa, ONT

USA team:

Robert Robinson unat
Solomon Simmons ex E Michigan
Taylor Sanderson ex Iowa St

others:

Thomas FitzSimons SBTC
Josh Mulder Kennesaw St '17
Keegan Cooke ZIM-ex Arizona
Adolphus Jones SKN-ex UT-Arlington

July 13-14 European u23 Champs, Bydgoszcz

Tim Duckworth GBR Kentucky '18

July 21-22 Pan American Junior, Lima, Peru

George Patrick Texas '20
Kyle Garland Germantown Academy

July 29-23 Thorpe Cup (vs GER), Dusseldorf

Steven Bastien Michigan '17
Kurtis Brondyke TheOthersGuys
Dan Golubovic Duke '17
Gabe Moore Arkansas '19
Steele Wasik Texas '19
Tim Wunderlick Shore AC
Scott Filip Rice '18

alternate:

Thoams FitzSimons SBTC

August 11-12 IAAF World Champs, London

Team USA


Trey Hardee Nike
Zach Ziemek Adidas
Devon Williams Georgia '17

others:

Lindon Victor GRN Texas A&M '17
Kurt Felix GRN Boise St '13
Pau Tonneson ESP Arizona '16
Miacel Uibo EST Georgia '16

August 20-21 World University Games,
Taipei, TPE
TBA

37th USA Junior Champs, Sacramento

 We gave scant attention to the USA Junior champs conducted concurrently with the senior affair at Sac State. No excuse.... except for the overwhelming heat.

From the opening gun this meet was



George Patrick, Brentwood, TN, a freshman at U of Texas, had no trouble at the USA Junior meet in Sacramento.

dominated by Texas frosh George Patrick, Brentwood, TN, who won the first two events convincingly and was never seriously challenged. He also won the 110H and javelin and cruised the 1500m and hi9s 7547 effort was a sort of vindication after snafus at both the Texas Relays and Big 12 meet made his outdoor freshman year in Austin forgettable.

Germantown Academy's Kyle Garland, 17, with the frame of a Milt Campbell, was runner-up with an eye-opening 7035 score. Booth will head to high altitude Lima, Peru for the Pan American Junior affair.

6/22-23 45th USA National Junior Champs, Alex G Spanos Complex, Sacramento, CA

7547	Patrick, George/Texas'20 10.75+1.8 744+1.1 1389 195 50.40 14.44-2.1 4006 430 5444 5:11.99
7035	Garland, Kyle/Germantown AC,PA 10.98+1.8 668+1.9 1393 192 51.20 15.02-1.8 4001 390 4233 4:46.80
6779	Ballengee, Markus/ Liberty'20 11.63+0.5 623+1.1 1292 198 52.98 15.02-2.1 3677 430 4852 4:57.65
6644	Ukkelberg, Tony/N Dakota St'20 11.46+0.5 675+1.3 1476 192 54.31 16.10-1.8 4310 340 4706 5:02.86
6639	Zandes, Nicholas/CS-Bakersfield'20 11.50+1.8 650+1.3 1255 183 53.63 15.39-1.8 3271 430 4985 4:47.75
6626	Gray, Hunter/UMass-Amherst'20 11.12+0.5 667+1.3 1083 186 51.43 14.88-1.5 3490 400 3944 4:50.80
6332	Top, Pieter/Westmont'20 11.16+0.5 626+0.3 1081 174 49.76 15.23-1.8 3089 350 3508 4:26.34
6177	Hampton, Luke/Arkansas St'20 11.35+1.8 649+1.2 1372 198 dsq 15.12-2.1 4467 390 4779 5:17.84
5577	Roth, Eric/Jets TC 11.19+1.8 582+0.8 957 171 50.29 15.77-1.5 2834 240 3757 4:56.60
dnf	Spotswood, Jacob/McG-Toolen, AL HS11.62+0.1 654+1.0 1054 195 52.47 15.67-1.5 3103 480 3412 dns
dnf	Martin/Isaiah/Hillsboro, MO HS 11.47+0.5 631+0.8 1210 177 dsq withdrew
11s,9f.	