

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## THORPE CUP BROUHAHA

### Patrick, Garland Sweep Pam-Am Juniors

**Hello Again...** On Friday-Saturday (21-22) a pair of young Americans swept the Pan-American Junior decathlon in the Pacific coast city of Trujillo, on the northwest corner of Peru. Scant attendance did not influence Texas soph George Patrick nor prep star Kyle Garland as they ran up totals of 7514 and a PR 7212 to go 1-2. They were not challenged and both recorded a trio of PRs.

#### Results:

#### 7/21-22 Pan American Junior Champs, Trujillo, PER

<b>7514</b>	Patrick, George/USA-Texas'20	11.16-0.1	734+0.4	1459	193	49.74	14.32-0.2	3909	440	5202	5:05.09		
<b>7212</b>	Garland, Kyle/USA-Germantown AC'18	11.33	+0.9	691	0.0	1426	202	50.10	14.32-0.2	3898	380	4530	4:53.83
<b>7036</b>	Santos de Souza, Jordan/BRA	10.98+0.9	649	0.0	1159	196	48.66	14.92-0.2	3798	410	4231	4:45.43	
<b>6577</b>	Worrell, Aaron/BAR	10.84-0.1	696	0.0	1107	202	49.65	15.38-0.2	3394	300	4342	5:14.95	
<b>6089</b>	Gordillo Bermello, Anderson/ECU	11.93-0.1	613	0.0	1089	172	51.98	16.21-0.2	3494	400	4021	4:44.77	
<b>4927</b>	Qasem Franco, Youssef/GUA	12.62+0.9	562-0.5	980	163	53.65	16.53-0.2	2938	nh	4424	4:46.38		
<b>dnf</b>	Shirimoto, Yoshiaki/PER	11.84+0.9	563-0.8	1005	169	52.54	18.29-0.2	2891	withdrew				
<b>dnf</b>	Thomsen, Ryan/CAN	11.86+0.9	599	0.0	1281	190	dns						
<b>dnf</b>	Sanchez, Bringas/Ignacio/PER	11.66-0.1	556+1.0	1076	dns	9s,6f.							



Decathletes of recent interest: George Patrick (left) and Kyle Garland (center) went 1-2 at the Pan American Juniors in Peru. Nigerian-German Ituah Enahoro (right) is a topic of discussion at the upcoming Thorpe Cup in Germany.

annual USA vs Germany team meeting set for Dusseldorf July 29-30 (Sat-Sun) with the visitors riding a one meet win streak.



The German team roster came into question as soon as it was announced 14 days ago because it included **Ituah Enahoro**, a Nigerian national who also maintains German citizenship. In fact Enahoro, 19 (whose DOB is either Dec. 15, 1997 or Aug 26, 1997, depending on the source) is Nigerian born and competed for Nigeria at 2015 Junior African Champs in decathlon (2nd). He has lived in the Netherlands since 2007 competing for Dutch Club AV 34 and coached by Hidde Egbers—the mentor of Elco Sintiniciaas. In 2014 he switched to Nigeria and represented same at the 2017 African Junior champs. Earlier this season he Enahoro joined German based Team Zehnkamp.

It was all a curious nomination to me in light of:



The next USA major international will be the 24th Thorpe Cup, the

- 1).....he is still listed by IAAF as representing Nigeria;
- 2).....he represented Nigeria at the 2015 African Junior champs in Addis Ababa;
- 3).... According IAAF rule of eligibility of representing a new member federation an athlete may not represent a new country within **3 years after competing at in international championship.**
- A 4).....and, most telling, at the IAAF council meeting of February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the Council decided with immediate effect from that date that it has frozen all new transfers of allegiance requests.

It all seemed cut and dried to me. He has not requested a change of eligibility from the IAAF. I recommended that he be allowed to compete, but as a guest, but not be included in the team scoring. The Thorpe Cup has always accommodated guests in the past and eliminates the mercenary question.

A few years back Ituah told the *Guardian* at the World Youth meet in Donetysk, Ukraine... "*I want to be Nigeria's Magic Boy at the Olympics*" and the article further expanded .... "*The young Enahoro will have nothing to do with such idea of donning the colours of another country to compete against his fatherland.*" Yikes!

On the other hand, the host nation insists that since Enahoro is a German citizen (actually a dual citizen) and a member of a German club (Team Zehnkampf) he should be allowed to represent Germany since, after all, this was not a dual meet between nations but a USA meet with a German club., something that flies in the face of all their promotions for 24 years. Common guys!

Consider that there are numerous American decathletes who have dual citizenship. This same issue came up in 2009 for US born Jangy Addy who changed national affiliation to Liberia in 2008 but who is a US citizen who lived and trained at Tennessee. US officials/coaches never considered nominating Jangy for the Thorpe

Cup...is was an issue of IAAF regulations and basic fairness...."no man can serve two countries." The very same argument applies today to athletes like Tim Duckworth (Kentucky/ GBR) and Pau Tonneson (Arizona/ESP), both of whom would love to be considered on occasion for the Thorpe Cup but understand that they cannot serve two nations.

At any rate, the US coaches graciously agreed to allow Enahoro to compete *and represent Germany*. So next Saturday, in the eyes of the IAAF, the German Thorpe Cup team will be made up of one Nigerian athlete and six Germans. Go figure. Stay tuned.

In the middle of this 'eligibility' discussion an interesting suggestion came up from a European observer....change the Thorpe Cup to a USA vs Europe (or EU) dual. Logistics aside....interesting.

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