

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## FINISH RAZOR-THIN at DECASTAR

### Alteration in Name, Rules for Webb Cup



**HELLO AGAIN.....**The international season rang down the 2016 curtain in southwestern French wine country over the weekend with the 40th edition of *DecaStar* in the Bordeaux suburb of Talence. 20 year old Pierce LePage/CAN was on fire, especially on day one when he rang up an impressive 4452 point score. He still led the veteran field by 138 points after nine events but could not hold off the challenge of veteran Oleksiy Kasyanov/IKR and NCAA runner-up Maicel Uibo/EST, both of whom were exactly tied before the 1500 meters. Their challenge was to finish just a step ahead of one another for the win as long as they were 23 seconds ahead of LePage. When the latter faded early in the race and the victory came down to the final yards (sorry, meters) where Kasyanov's leg speed proved decisive and he won by a second, 4:28.42 to 4:29.37 and by a scant 6 points, 8077 to 8071. And one can't fault the Canadian youngster, who improved his PR by 968 points (!) to claim third, at 8027. Whew.

LePage almost upset a veteran field, many of whom were looking the complete an IAAF CE Challenge payoff. Pre-meet favorite and local hero Kevin Mayer appeared to be a lock for both the victory and the IAAF's \$30,000 top 3 score prize. But he underperformed in the high jump (just 1.90m/6-2¾) and eventually withdrew. Meanwhile 20 year old Canadian Pierce LePage (pronounced 'La Podge,' because you'll be hearing much more from him) was on fire from the opening gun.

Cloudy conditions greeted an 18 man



20 year old Canadian Pierce LePage added more than 900 points to his career best (now 8027) to notch 3rd in Talence

field when LePage posted an eye-opening 10.46 century, a PR by 17/100ths, and a 7.75m/25-5, another PR by 9 inches, and a marginal 14.18m/46-6¼ shot PR and was never headed.

Mayer was one of 4 starters who were attempting to move into the top 8 of the CE standings (Niels Pittomils/BEL, Kurt Felix/GRN and Lars Rise/NOR the others) as all had a pair of qualifying scores. With Mayer's withdrawal all three were in for a payday providing they finished. All did, getting 5th, 6th and 8th in the CE Challenge standings.

#### Results:

#### 9/17-18 DecaStar, Stade de Thouars, Talence, FRA

8077	Kasyanov, Oleksiy/UKR	10.65+2.7	742+1.1	1482	199	49.19	14.08+0.5	4526	446	4794	4:28.42
8071	Uibo, Maicel/EST	11.24+1.3	727+3.8	1396	214	51.62	14.87+0.7	4350	496	5991	4:29.37
8027	LePage, Pierce/CAN	10.46+2.7	775+1.3	1418	202	48.01	14.69+0.2	4079	486	4888	4:58.77

7936	Pittomvils, Niels/BEL	11.16+1.3	735+2.6
	1326 193 49.94 14.71+0.2	4234 536 5500	4:38.46
7908	Auziel, Bastien/FRA	11.18+1.3	687+1.6
	1458 196 50.18 14.57+0.2	4417 506 5977	4:48.33
7879	Coertzen, Willem/RSA	10.90+2.7	725+2.0
	1318 190 49.50 14.62+0.5	4157 446 6525	4:31.56
7878	Felix, Kurt/GRN	11.22+2.7	727+3.3
	1441 199 49.72 15.21+0.2	4282 446 6588	4:35.64
7837	Suarez, Leonel/CUB	11.18+1.3	707+2.7
	1347 196 50.22 14.94+0.2	4288 476 6200	4:31.65
7800	Helcelet, Adam-Seb/CZE	11.03+1.3	705+0.3
	1421 199 50.79 14.44+0.5	4322 486 6222	5:07.21
7628	Martin, Romain/FRA	11.08+1.1	717+1.8
	1392 196 50.61 15.22+0.7	3758 496 5730	4:49.54
7621	Gado, Ruben/FRA	10.83+2.7	727+1.3
	1205 193 49.65 15.56+0.7	3848 516 4877	4:34.17
	7566 Querin, Gael/FRA, 7511 Martin, Axel/FRA,		
	7372 Rise, Lars/NOR[11.57+1.1 671+3.9 1498 187		
	50.07 15.62+0.7 4191 446 5763 4:37.56], 5793		
	Joseph-Parfaite, Pierre/FRA, dnf Mayer,		
	Kevin/FRA[10.82+2.7 733+1.1 1429 190 66.61 dnf		
	4480 nh withdrew], Nilsson,		
	Marcus/SWE[11.39+1.1 701+1.5 1376 196 50.97		
	dnf 4439], 18s,15f		

### Final IAAF CE Challenge Standings

1...	Kai Kazmirek	GER	25,221	u=8,407	\$30,000
2.	Jeremy Taiwo	USA	24,928		20,000
3.	A-Seb Helcelet	CZE	24,498		15,000
4.	Ashley Bryant	GBR	23,811		10,000
5.	Niels Pittomvils	BEL	23,652		8,000
6.	Kurt Felix	GRN	23,341		7,000
7.	Martin Roe	NOR	23,316		6,000
8.	Lar Rise	NOR	23,165		5,000
9.	Brent Newdick	NZL	21,875		
10.	Ashton Eaton	USA	17,643	(2 meet u=8,821+)	

----127 athletes from 34 nations participated----

### A Rule Modification for Webb Cup



After talking with coach Webb and all of the past winning Cup coaches and with lots of soul searching we will offer a few changes to our regulations and format for the Webb Cup starting in 2017. The first is the name of the annual award. In the future this award, which recognizes the top USA college/ university will be referred to as the ‘DECA U- Webb Cup.’

Other sports, principally football use the “ \_\_\_\_ U” designation (e.g. ‘Linebacker

U’, or ‘Quarterback U’) to designate a particular proficiency or reputation for a school. We thought it appropriate to refer to the annual winning school as ‘Deca U,’ meaning they are the nation’s top decathlon institution for a particular year. The new designation will go on the annual coaches’ crystal award.

Our second alteration will be in the scoring. Beginning in 2017 schools will be allowed to count one foreign born national in their scoring.

There was a good deal of discussion during the past collegiate season about the general influence and influx of foreign born decathletes....see NCAA I and II results. The initial scoring system makes no mention of national affiliations. Only collegiate ones.

Webb Cup suggestions by coaches ranged from no change in the scoring rubric to disallowing all foreign decathletes in the computations. The decision is a compromise that I hope will not penalize a college with a top foreign decathlete nor honor them for recruiting a team of same. Remember, the original and underlying intention of the award was to promote U.S. decathlon fortunes.

No one recognizes more than I do the value of foreign students on a college campus. And no one ever recruited more foreign decathletes than I did while at Mount St. Mary’s in the 1970s and 1980s....a dozen from 6 nations, a group that spawned four Olympians. Yet, as I look back, I’m hesitant to say how much this effort improved US decathlon fortunes.

We will count, of course, any athlete who has dual citizenship. A number of U.S. born decathletes (who grow up and prep here) have, for a variety of reasons, dual citizenship (e.g. Paul Tonnesen/Arizona-Spain today, in the old days- Rob Muzzio/George Mason-Germany and John Warkentin/Fresno St-India). The intention of our rule modification is not to penalize, but just to recognize the fundamental purpose of the award.

