

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## 41st GÖTZIS PREVIEW

### Weather may be a factor

**Hello Again.....** I'm going to sit back and enjoy this one. In two days the 41st edition of the Hypo-Bank Meeting in the village of Götzis, Austria will be underway with an exceptional decathlon field. As I sit in the empty Mosle Stadium in the Voralberg province, watching athletes do a final shake-out, I can only wonder if *this is the year?* Yank Ashton Eaton had a solid preparatory season competing in every event (sans 1500m) with outstanding results and appears healthy and focused. Yet one should never promise a new record (in fact there has just been too much talk of a record attempt) since any number of uncontrollable factors enter into the equation ....with weather conditions most prominent.

I can recall that it was not that many years ago that Americans began to show up regularly here to display their ten-event wares to the world's best. Scheduling was always an issue. But in the past 15 years the efforts of Tom Pappas, Bryan Clay and Trey Hardee created a buzz stateside resulting in Götzis becoming a necessary stop on the decathlon's annual train ride. So here we are again, in this idyllic corner of Austria awaiting Ashton Eaton's first try at Mosle. O boy. Just keep your god-damned finger crossed. There will be extensive DECA Newsletter posts after each days action, but mostly, I'm going to sit back and enjoy this one.

#### Where to go for results:

Go to the meet website:



For two days the eyes of the CE world and the nation of Austria will be on tiny Mosle Stadium in Götzis.

<http://www.meeting-goetzis.at/> and look for Ergebnis (Results). Results are usually posted quickly but remember there is a 6 hour time difference b/w Götzis and the USA east coast.

#### A Gotzis Feature on Track-Stats

A preview of the Götzis decathlon (courtesy of Mathew Hanratty) is now offered on the *Track-Stats* website:

<http://track-stats.com/gotzis-decathlon-preview/>.

And it makes up a portion of a Götzis decathlon briefing. It can be found here:

<http://track-stats.com/gotzis-decathlon-briefing/>

#### Weather forecast

OK, this is the most important news....Saturday's forecast calls for temps in the high 60s and light rain (60% chance) in

the afternoon and evening. Winds moderate 4mph from NW. Partly cloudy on Sunday, high temp at 73 F°. Winds from NNW (5mps). Just keep you fingers crossed. Incidentally, NW winds means tailwinds for 100m and 110m hurdles.



2014 heptathlon winner Katrina Johnson-Thompson /GBR was featured in pre-meet promotions. Injured, she withdrew last week, as did last year's decathlon winner Trey Hardee.

### Rookie of the Meet

Each year organizers also bestow a "Rookie of the Meet" award to an athlete 25 years of age or under who is making his first start in Götzis. The athlete must be without a major international victory on his resume. In 2013 Gunnar Nixon took home this prize. It appears that the likely candidates this time around include Sykora, Brugger and Taiwo.

### See my Media Guide

A *Media Guide* for the USA representatives, including bios of Ashton Eaton and Jeremy Taiwo, was posted on our site earlier in the week.

### The Field

Thru several weeks of entrants and withdrawals the field has been whittled down to 29 starters including 19 with 8000 point credentials. Although most of the pre-meet chatter has been about Olympic champ/world record holder Ashton Eaton, the remainder of the Hypo-Bank field is just as spectacular. Consider: the top three from the last world champs in Moscow (Eaton, Germany's

Michael Schrader and Canada's Damian Williams), 7 of the top nine from Moscow, last year's runner-up Kai Kazmirek/GER, '12 winner comebacking Hans Van Alphen/BEL, Euro indoor champ Iiya Shkurenev of Russia and the reigning world junior champ, Jiri Sykora/ CZE. Of world notables only Trey Hardee/USA and Euro champ Andrei Krauchanka/BLR are missing. Hardee, a 2 x winner here, is dinged up enough (ankle/hamstring) to make starting chancy. The meet also gives us the opportunity to watch some of the emerging talent. Former NCAA runner-up Jeremy Taiwo, Japan's new hero Keisuke Ushiro, Multis-Stars recent winner Pawel Wiesiolek/POL and Germany's youth hopeful Mathias Brugger will all be at the starting line. It is one terrific field.

---The starters alphabetically, with career best totals---

Auziel, Bastien/FRA	8022
Braun, Pieter/NED	7892
Brugger, Mathias/GER	7942
Cairolì, Simone/ITA	7611
Coewrtzen, Willem/RSA	8343
Deuber, Jan/SUI	7413
Eaton, Ashton/USA	9039
Freimuth, Rico/GER	8382
Fringeli, Jonas/SUI	7829
Garcia, Yordani /CUB	8496
Geffrouais, Florian/FRA	8164
Kazmirek, Kai/GER	8471
Lane, John/GBR	7922
Loosli, Christian/SUI	7523
Mikhan, Eduard/BLR	8152
Pittomvils, Niels/BEL	8000
Prey, Mathias/GER	8215
Querin, Gael/FRA	8194
Schrader, Michael/GER	8670
Shkurenev, Iiya/RUS	8498
Siedlaczek, Dominik/AUT	7430
Sintnicolaas, Eelco/NED	8506
Sykora, Jiri/CZE	7927
Taiwo, Jeremy/USA	8239
Ushiro, Keisuke/JPN	8308
Van Alpen, Hans/BEL	8519
Vos, Ingmar/NED	8224
Warner, Damian/CAN	8512
Wiesiolek, Pawel/POL	7863