

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## COERTZEN WINS DECASTAR .... as Challenge Season Ends

**Hello Again.....** The IAAF CE Challenge season came to an end this weekend in Talence, France with the 39th edition of DecaStar. A little light rain arrived on day one, otherwise conditions had little influence on the decathlon performances. 32 year old vet Willem Coertzen of South Africa stayed within sight of the leaders for seven events and then used a PR 4.65m/15-3 vault and 67.21m/220-6 javelin (he made up 303 points!) to take a 119 point lead after nine over first day Oleksiy Kasyanov/UKR and cruised to a 8187 score and a 144 point win.

Meet favorite Ilya Shurhenev/RUS, suffered thru a weak first day and found himself down 466 points on Kasyanov after seven events. He was but 9th after day one. His frenetic late rush (5.25m/ 17-2½ vault – making up 7 bars-- and 60.09/ 197-2 jav) brought him within 177 points of the lead and he eventually finished 3rd with 7933 points.

The 1500 meters was anticlimatic with Akihiko Nakamura/JPN winning in 4:22.10 but few places altered.

“On a the pleasant wine country Sunday afternoon Coertzen said “Usually the javelin is my strong event and I know Kasyanov’s is not the best so I was waiting and waiting in anticipation for the javelin.” He became the first African winner at Decastar. “And then the 1500m – I can run a lot quicker than that but I just had to do what I needed to do. Basically I just took a nice little jog around the track.”

The 39th edition of DecStar had plenty of name recognition. Yet it was a bad



32 year old Willem Coertzen became the first African winner at DecaStar with a 8187 victory Sunday.

day for continental champions. Former European Champs Pascal Behrenbruch/GER and Romain Barras/FRA were never factors and Asian champ Nakamura vaulted. Former Gotzis winner Hans Van Alpen/ BEL was well off form.

There were no American entries but 2012 NCAA champ Kurt Felix/GRN-ex Boise State was in the hunt, standing second, 199 down on leader Kasyanov, after seven events. Yet a vault no-height ended his day with a

