

35th Hypo-Meeting
[30-05-2009 / 31-05-2009]

Götzis AUT

Saturday, 30 May 2009

Kasyanov and Yosipenko the overnight leaders in Gotzis - IAAF World Combined Events Challenge



Surprise Day 1 leader Lyudmila Yosipenko in Gotzis (Lorenzo Sampaolo)

Ukrainians Oleksiy Kasyanov and Lyudmila Yosipenko are the overnight leaders after Day One at the 35th edition of the Hypo Meeting in Götzis, the second leg of the IAAF World Combined Events Challenge.

Kasyanov, this winter's European Indoor silver medallist in the Heptathlon, finished the first day with 4461 points to lead the Decathlon competition. In the women's Heptathlon, a battle has developed between Yosipenko, who tallied 3840 points, and her compatriots Hanna Melnichenko (3773 points) and Olympic champion Nataliya Dobrynska (3751 points).

Trey Hardee of the USA ended day one in runner-up position with 4391 points, 70 points behind Kasyanov. Propelled by an impression Long Jump PB of 8.05m, German Michael Schrader ended the day in third with 4341 points.

Consistent Kasyanov – Decathlon

Hardee, the 2005 NCAA champion, got off to a flying start winning the 100m in a superb 10.48 (980 points) on a sunny morning, setting the fifth best time ever in the event at the Mösle Stadium. Kasyanov showed very good shape as well clocking a new PB with 10.51 (973p). Schrader, last year's German Decathlon revelation, also lowered his PB with 10.64 (942p).. Jamaican Maurice Smith, the 2007 World silver medallist, finished fourth in 10.77 (912p).

Hardee and Kasyanov continued to impress in the Long Jump where very good performances were produced. Kasyanov, who entered the Götzis meeting with a PB of 7.72m, leapt to a highly impressive 7.88m aided by a tail wind of +2.1 m/s (1030 points). This leap was not enough to win though because Schrader broke the eight-metre barrier with his 8.05m to tally 1073 points. Schrader, 10th at the Olympic Games in Beijing, nailed the third best Long Jump performance at the Mösle Stadium.



Oleksiy Kasyanov

World record holder Roman Sebrle, a five-time winner at the Hypo Meeting and Long Jump stadium record holder with 8.11m, jumped 7.86m (1025 points) for third. Hardee missed his long jump PB by one cm with 7.74m. Schrader took the overall lead with 2015 points ahead of Kasyanov (2003 points), Hardee (1975 points), Dutchman Eelco Sintnicolas (1885 points after 10.89 in the 100m and 7.76m in the Long

Jump) and Sebrle (1855 points). But disaster struck Smith who produced three fouls to exit the competition early.

Kasyanov reached 14.95m. in the Shot Put (787 points) and moved into the lead with 2790 points overtaking Schrader (2764 points) who put 14.33m (749 points). Hardee put just 13.93m but stayed in third place with 2699 points. Sebrle (fourth with 2670 points) and Germany's Pascal Behrenbruch, winner in the Shot Put with a good 16.37m for fifth overall (2592) rounded out the top five after three events.

Kasyanov cleared 1.97m in the High Jump to increase his lead over Schrader (1.94m) to 53 points (3566-3513). Hardee cleared 2.00m to stay in third, while Swede Nicklas Wiberg won the event with a 2.12m leap to move into fourth overall (3436) ahead of Sebrle who cleared 1.94m.

Kasyanov ran 48.29 in the 400m, the third fastest on the day, to back up his overall lead with 4461 points. Hardee ran 48.42 to overtake Schrader for second place (4391), 50 points ahead of Schrader who clocked 49.71. Wiberg ran 48.71 for a total overnight score of 4311, while Sebrle (4257) rounded out the top five.

"I set new PBs in the 100metres and the Long Jump which were my best events today," said Kasyanov, who tallied his 8238 career best in Beijing last year and is competing in Gotzis for the first time. "The only disappointing result was the 400m. It was too windy and I couldn't run very well. But I am happy with today."

Schrader, a 21-year-old from Duisburg, was one of the revelations of the first day. "I hoped to jump 7.90, so 8.05 is a big bonus for me," said Schrader, who is coached by 1987 World Decathlon champion Torsten Voss. "I hope to score 4000 points during the second day."

Yosipenko surprises, Dobrynska struggles – Heptathlon

Hanna Melnychenko, who is married to Italy's best Decathlon specialist William Frullani (sixth at the European Indoor Championships) took the win in the 100m Hurdles in 13.45, setting a new PB (1058 points) and holding off Germans Jennifer Oeser (13.53 -1046 points) and Christine Schulz (13.57-1040 points) and Russian Tatyana Chernova (13.69 -1023 points).

Lyudmila Yosipenko, who clocked 13.77 in the Hurdles for 1011 points, leaped a new PB in the High Jump, clearing 1.88m (1080) and beating Yana Maksimava of Belarus on countback and took the overall lead with 2091 points, 30 ahead of her compatriot Melnychenko who cleared 1.82m (1003). Chernova finished third with 1.82m and ranked third with 2026 points followed by Yana Maksimava (2009). Dobrynska, the Olympic champion, lagged behind in seventh place with 1963 points (13.87 in the 100m Hurdles and 1.79m in the High Jump).

Dobrynska was on verge of disaster after two fouls in the Shot Put but she managed to remain in contention with a 15.13m third round effort, which elevated her to the lead with 2833 points. The Ukraine took the first three spots in the overall ranking with Yosipenko second with 2828 points, just five points behind Dobrynska, and Melnychenko in third place with 2810. German Julia Mächtig took the win in the Shot with a 15.33m and moved into fifth.

The overall ranking was shaken up after the 200m where Yosipenko ran 23.68 to take the lead with a first day tally of 3840 points. Dobrynska clocked 24.66 and was overtaken by Melnychenko who went into second place with 3773 ahead of the Beijing Olympic champion, who was third with 3751 points.

Dobrynska boasts strong PBs in the Long Jump (6.63m) and in the javelin (48.60m) but she does not seem in the same form which propelled her to Beijing gold. Yvonne Wisse from the Netherlands ran 23.76 to end the day with 3740 points.

Chernova ended the first day back in sixth with 3701 points (13.89 in the 100 hurdles, 1.82 in the High Jump, 12.42 in the Shot Put and 23.95 in the 200m) but can rely on a better second day where she boasts the following PBs: 6.78m in the Long Jump, 54.49m in the javelin and 2:06.50 in the 800m.

Diego Sampaolo for the IAAF

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Götzis AUT

Sunday, 31 May 2009

Schrader and Dobrynska the winners in Gotzis – IAAF World Combined Events Challenge



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Gotzis, Austria – Germany's Michael Schrader sensationally won the 35th edition of the Hypo Meeting in Götzis with a new world seasonal best of 8522 points beating American Trey Hardee by just six points. Olympic champion Nataliya Dobrynska of Ukraine won the Heptathlon with 6558 points, the second best performance in the world this year.

Pascal Berenbruch completed a great day for Germany in third place with a new PB of 8374. World record holder and World champion Roman Sebrle from Czech Republic finished fourth with 8348 points beating overnight leader Oleksiy Kasyanov, fifth with 8266, a new career best. New lifetime bests were set by German Norman Müller (8272) and Nicklas Wiberg from Sweden (8213 points).

Behind Dobrynska, Ukraine claimed a podium sweep with Italian-based Hanna Melnychenko second with 6445, a new PB, and Lyudmila Yosypenko third with 6361, also a new career best. Then the top-three German heptathletes followed in the ranking: Lilli Schwarzkopf, fourth with 6337, and Julia Mächtig, fifth with a PB 6320. Jennifer Oeser also scored 6320 but finished sixth on countback because Mächtig produced better results in four out of seven events. Olympic bronze Tatyana Chernova was seventh with 6243 points.

Breakthrough for Schrader – Decathlon

The overall ranking did not undergo any major changes after the 110m Hurdles. Ukrainian overnight leader Oleksiy Kasyanov defended his lead with 5388 points with a gap of 37 points over American Trey Hardee (5351).

Hardee finished third in the hurdles in 14.11 behind Jamaican Maurice Smith (14.01), who decided to continue despite his three fouls in the Long Jump, and Germany's Behrenbruch, who set a new PB clocking 14.02. Schrader ran the fifth fastest time on the day with a PB of 14.21 stay in third (5289).

Hardee slightly reduced his gap on Kasyanov to 34 points (6154 to 6120) after throwing 45.11m in the discus. Schrader threw 43.89m to stay in third (6017). The major changes came behind him, in third and fourth. Sebrle threw 46.71m and moved up from sixth into fourth with 5991 ahead of Behrenbruch who won the discus with 48.86m ahead of Smith (48.64m) and climbed into fifth place with 5972.

The Pole Vault produced a major change in the overall ranking. Hardee vaulted 5.10m (941 points) finishing second behind winner Eelco Sinticolaas (5.20m) and took the lead with 7061 points. Kasyanov vaulted in the B group in his weak event and cleared 4.50m and was overtaken by Schrader who, thanks to his 5.00m vault, clinched second place with 6927 points, 134 points behind Hardee. Sebrle (fourth with 6871) and Behrenbruch (fifth with 6791).

Hardee improved his javelin PB to 63.98m (798 points) and kept a margin of 133 points over Schrader who speared the javelin to 64.04m (7859 to 7726). Sebrle produced a best throw of 67.54m to move to third with 7723 points, just three points behind Schrader. Behrenbruch won the javelin with a very solid 70.24m and moved up by one place into fourth place with 7684. Kasyanov did not throw further than 50.55m and was overtaken by German Norman Müller, fading back into sixth with 7511 points.

It became a dramatic battle to the wire into the final event. Hardee, who has a PB of 4:44 in the 1500m, had to defend his lead from the attack of Schrader who boasts a good, by Decathlon standards, 4:19 PB. Schrader followed closely on the heels of front-runner Wiberg who took the event in 4:20.16. Schrader crossed the finish line in second place in 4:22.26. Hardee finished well back in 14th place in 4:43.92 and lost to Schrader by just six points.

Schrader scored 8522 points, a new world seasonal best and a new PB. It was a sensational improvement for the 21-year-old, who entered the Götzis meeting with a 8248 PB. Schrader now becomes one of the best medal hopes for host team Germany at this summer's IAAF World Championships in Berlin where he could follow in the footsteps of his coach Torsten Voss, the Decathlon World champion in Rome in 1987. Schrader became the first German to win in Götzis since Christian Schenk's 1990 victory.

"I did not think about winning in Götzis," said Schrader, who added that his pre-meet goal was 8400. "It is overwhelming to win in Götzis. I cannot describe my feeling. Yesterday I felt cramps during the 400 metres. Fortunately I felt well today without pain. I performed well apart from the high jump and the 400 metres."

Dobrynska comes through – Heptathlon

Nataliya Dobrynska jumped 6.73m (1082 points) aided by a tailwind of +2.8 m/s (backed up by a second best jump of 6.61m) and took the overall lead, overtaking first day leader Ludmila Yosipenko (6.40m) and Hanna Melnychenko who leapt to 6.52m which would have been a new long jump PB if the tailwind (+2.1 m/s) had not been too strong. At the end of the event Beijing Olympic champion Dobrynska led with 4833 with a gap of 28 points over Yosipenko (4815) with Melnychenko third (4787). Meanwhile the battle for spots on the German team for the World Championships heated up with Julia Mächtig (6.42m) fourth with 4673 ahead of her compatriot Jennifer Oeser (4648). Tatyana Chernova, last year's Olympic bronze medallist, scraped through a major upset in the Long Jump: after two fouls the 2008 Götzis winner managed to remain in contention with a safe leap to 6.30m before her favourite Javelin Throw event.

Dobrynska speared the javelin to 47.03m (803 points) in the third round and increased her overall lead to 83 points (5636 to 5553) over Melnychenko who set her PB in this event with 45.11m. Yosipenko fouled her first two attempts but remained focused with a safe 40.45m throw and remained in contention for third place with 5491, with a gap of 51 points over German Lilli Schwarzkopf who won the javelin (her strongest discipline) with 52.86m.

Dobrynska finished very strongly, winning her 800m heat in 2:12.96 (third best time in this event behind first heat winner Jessica Samuelson who clocked 2:09.52). After some ups and downs on the first day Dobrynska confirmed that the Olympic title was not a flash in the pan by winning the best Combined Events contest in the world with a 6558 point tally. However, this year Briton Jessica Ennis did better than Dobrynska with her 6587 points score in Desenzano del Garda.

"Yesterday was very bad," Dobrynska said. "Perhaps I relaxed myself after my Olympic win in Beijing but I'm convinced that I could return to my best shape. After the first day I was very angry and determined to pick up where I left off last year. I managed to regain the power in the 800m where I set my new PB. My goal was to show my best in every event and I did that. My next competitions will be Kladno and then the World Championships.

Diego Sampaolo for the IAAF

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Dobrynska happy to celebrate confidence boost birthday victory in Gotzis – IAAF Online Diaries



After a solid Day 2, Nataliya Dobrynska bounces back to take the Gotzis title (Lorenzo Sampaolo)

Olympic Heptathlon champion Natalia Dobrynska in her latest diary entry talks about her recent win in Gotzis and shared the plans for the rest of the season.

“Hi everybody,

“To be honest, I feel a huge relief now, when I know that all my season preparations were not in vain. You know, the meet in Gotzis has always been special for me. After the Olympic Games and the World Champs, it is my first priority. To compete at the same meet with the legends like Roman Sebrle, Carolina Klufft and Eunice Barber – this is really special, and I’ve always tried to peak my shape for Gotzis.

“But still, somehow at this very meet before I had never been successful! I achieved my best result five years ago at my very first Gotzis meet, when Carolina Klufft won and I was third. After that I never managed to be in the best three here, although very much wanted to. I don’t know what the secret is, but in Gotzis I had always been either injured or not in best shape. Maybe because this meet is in the beginning of the season and it was hard for me to be in time with my training. Having won it this year, I am so happy to break this bad tradition, I just can’t describe!

“In Gotzis I always feel that the attitude to multiple events in Austria and Germany is different from the rest of the world. They consider it a “king discipline” in athletics, and the stadium is always full and so much supportive. It was the 35th edition this year and I know there are people who have been coming to Gotzis for 30 years running or more. This is just unthinkable! When you come there you feel that this is

the meet with the history and with long tradition, there are even special books and photo-retrospective. I think the meet organizer Konrad Lerch is number one in his business, it's just a pleasure to experience such perfect organization and huge respect to the athletes.

"The first day of the competition was not good for me. Maybe I was just a bit relaxed and was feeling too confident. I was really 100 percent sure in my high jump, shot put and sprints, and when these very events did not work out I just could not understand – how this could have happened?! I felt huge responsibility to prove that what had happened in the Bird's nest was not by chance. I wanted the world to know that I am not a leader for a day or so. I so much wanted to show everyone that I was ready to stay on the top for long.

"I did not manage my emotions in the first day. After the competition I went for a walk in town for about half an hour. Fresh air, beautiful town, so clean and neat... I thought everything over and pull myself together. I thought that I still had a chance and that I would do everything not to let it go. I was so nervous, but I returned from this short walk calm and relaxed and ready for the second day.

"It was a big surprise for me to set PB's in 800m and long jump. Maybe this is the law of life – where you feel confident, like I felt in high jump, shot put and sprints, you fail, and success comes from where you do not expect it. I think I just managed to show my character. I did not give up, I did not let the emotions spoil my performance, I showed my best results in the events where they were most needed.

"I was really happy for the two Ukrainian girls to be in the best three with me. They fought, they showed their best results at one of the most prestigious meets in the season. I think this is a special moment for Ukrainian multiple events – to have the entire podium to ourselves!

"What is our secret that we succeed in heptathlon? I think it is again a character of our women. Compared to other countries, we do not have the material conditions for success in Ukraine at all! But our women are so stubborn, in the good sense of this word; they have huge determination to accomplish something in sports. We have hard life but we like to say – the harder the better, and may be that's why we succeed in one of the hardest sports - multiple events. Moreover we have good traditions left from the Soviet times, and very good coaches.

"It has become a tradition for me already that I celebrate my birthday in Gotzis. It is on May 29, and comes usually either during or right before the meet. This year we, together with my husband and at the same time my coach Dmitry, celebrated it, just symbolically! I was just happy that Dmitry was there with me because we do everything together. I think my win in Gotzis cost him much nerves, he was so emotional and so much afraid that it would not work out!

"Now I am going to take a break from training for a couple of days, and then start getting ready for my next meet in Kladno on 23-24 of June. There is no time to relax. The meet in Gotzis was another proof to that!

Take care."

Natalia