

Saturday, 28 May 2011

World champions Hardee and Ennis in the driving seat overnight in Götzis - the IAAF Combined Events Challenge



Trey Hardee on day one of the 2011 Götzis (Lorenzo Sampaolo)

Götzis, Austria - World champions Trey Hardee and Jessica Ennis are the overnight leaders of the 37th edition of the **Hypo Meeting** in Götzis in the Austrian region of Vorarlberg, the second individual permit meet leg of the **IAAF Combined Events Challenge**. Hardee leads with 4553 points over Oleksy Kasyanov (4290 points). Ennis scored 4097 points and leads over Jessica Zelinka from Canada by 300 points.

MEN – Decathlon

Trey Hardee got off to a flying start in the 100 metres crossing the finish-line in a super-fast 10.44 sec (989 points) into a headwind of -0.7 m/s to defeat Ukraine's Oleksiy Kasyanov, second in 10.75 (917 points) in the fifth heat. Rico Freimuth, the son of 1985 and 1988 Götzis meeting winner Uwe Freimuth, clocked 10.79 to take the win in the fourth heat.

Hardee continued to produce great results in the Long Jump where he set his PB of 7.88m (1030 points) in the second attempt after leaping to 7.62 in the opening round. In the third attempt the USA's reigning World champion backed up his lifetime best with another impressive jump to 7.80. Matthias Prey from Germany jumped 7.65 to finish second in the Long Jump ahead of local Dominik Distelberger (7.62). The Austrian decathlete was second in the overall ranking with 1873 points after two events. Kasyanov was ranked in third overall position with 1822 points after leaping to 7.38 m.

Also in the Shot Put Hardee set a new PB with 15.63 (828 points) in the first attempt. The US star, second two years ago with 8516 points, led after three attempts with 2847 points with a gap of 277 points over 2009 European Indoor champion Mikk Pahapill from Estonia who produced a best release of 15.48 m. Kasyanov put the shot to 14.08 and kept the third overall place with 2555 points. The Shot Put win went to German Pascal Behrenbruch who took overall sixth place with 2524 points thanks to his 16.44 in the shot put.

The overall ranking did not change after the high jump where Hardee cleared 2.00 metres to finish fifth in this discipline won by Belgium's Thomas Van der Plaetzen with 2.09. Hardee led Pahapill by 249 points with 3650 to 3401 points. Kasyanov finished fourth in the high jump with 2.03 to defend his overall third place with 3386 points.

Hardee capped the first day with a solid 48.12 in the 400 metres, the third fastest time behind Yunior Diaz from Cuba and Oleksiy Kasyanov who were faster in the following heat respectively with 47.53 and 48.11.

Hardee finished day one with 4553 points with a comfortable cushion of 263 points over Kasyanov who overtook Pahapill. The Ukrainian scored 4290 points to Pahapill's 4172 points. Reigning Commonwealth champion Jamie Adjetey Nelson followed in the overall ranking just one point behind Pahapill. Rico Freimuth had a solid first day in which he finished overnight fifth with 4164 ahead of compatriot Norman Muller (4154 points) and Eelco Sintnicolaas (4153 points). The Dutchman, European outdoor silver medallist, has good chances to fight for the podium as he can rely on his strong Pole Vault where he holds an outdoor PB of 5.45m. World silver medallist Leonel Suarez is ninth after the first five events with 4135 points but he is very strong in the Javelin Throw and in the 1500 metres and can still make up ground and battle for top-three positions. Everything can happen with just 54 points separating the third ranked athlete from the ninth placer.

"I do not feel tired after the first day. It was not a perfect day but it was good. I just cramped in the High Jump. I am pleased with my long jump PB and the High Jump where my goal was to clear 2.00 metres. My goal is just to do my best and enjoy the experience. It was fun when I crossed the finish-line after the 400 metres and I saw the time," said a delighted Trey Hardee.

WOMEN - Heptathlon

Reigning World outdoor and indoor champion and last year's Gotzis winner Jessica Ennis cruised to an easy 13.03 in the 100 metres Hurdles (1120 points) beating Olympic fourth placer Jessica Zelinka from Canada, who finished second in the fourth heat in 13.21 (1093 points) ahead of Paris European Indoor champion Antoinette Nana Djimou who clocked 13.48 (1053 points).

Jessica Ennis in the 100m hurdles at the 37th edition of the Hypo Meeting in Götzis (Lorenzo Sampaolo)

After a clean sheet until 1.82, the British super-star had some problems in clearing the next height at 1.85 which she cleared at the second attempt. She needed three attempts to clear 1.88 and two attempts at 1.91 (1119 points) where she sealed the win in this event ahead Belarus Yana Maksimaya (PB 1.88) and Lithuania's European Indoor silver medallist Austra Skujite (1.85). In the overall ranking Ennis led with 2239 points ahead of Jessica Zelinka (1.79 in the High Jump) who totalled 2059 points. Maksimaya's PB in the High Jump propelled her to third overall place with 2032 points with a gap of 3 points over World silver medallist and European bronze medallist Jennifer Oeser from Germany.



Ennis did not go beyond the 14 metres barrier in the Shot Put but her best release to 13.94m was enough to keep a lead of 120 points with a total of 3029 points over Skujte who won the Shot Put with 16.23m as expected. Reigning Olympic champion Nataliya Dobrynska from Ukraine was sixth after two events (14.04 in the 100 metres Hurdles and 1.82 in the High Jump) but moved up into third following her 15.28m in the Shot Put.

In the 200 metres, Dutch rising star Dafne Schippers, IAAF World Junior champion in Moncton 2010, cruised to a very impressive PB of 22.90 (1089 points) showing her sprint gift (she clocked 7.28 in the 60 metres during the 2011 indoor season). Ennis set a new 200 metres PB clocking 23.11 (1068 points) for second place in the half-lap event. The Briton ended the first day of competitions in the lead with a gap of 300 points over Jessica Zelinka who finished fourth in the 200 metres with 23.71. The Canadian scored a total of 3797 points. Thanks to her fast 200 metres Schippers, who has not turned 19 yet, moved up from 11th after the High Jump to third with a total of 3767 points.

"I am pleased with my first day but I am disappointed with the hurdles and the shot put. The hurdles result is not due to my injury problems I had during the winter which forced me to miss some weeks of training. In the 200 metres I knew that Dafne Schippers was going to run quickly. She pushed me to a new PB and I am pleased with that", said Ennis.

Diego Sampaolo for the IAAF

Sunday, 29 May 2011

World champions Hardee and Ennis set world season leads in Götzis - IAAF Combined Events Challenge

Götzis, Austria - World seasonal best scores by reigning IAAF World Champions Trey Hardee and Jessica Ennis highlighted the 37th edition of the **Hypo Meeting** in Götzis, the second individual permit meeting leg of the **IAAF Combined Events Challenge**.

Hardee, second in Götzis 2009, added his name to the prestigious list of winners of the famous Austrian meeting by taking the honours with 8689 points to beat Cuban World silver medallist Leonel Suarez (8440 points) and Mikk Pahapill from Estonia (8398 points).

Jessica Ennis won the Hypo Meeting in Götzis for the second time in her career with the new world seasonal best of 6790 points beating Tatyana Chernova (6539 points) and European Indoor champion Antoinette Nana Djimou (6409 points).

Men – Decathlon

Trey Hardee picked up where he left off at the end of the first day with a fast 13.73, another strong performance in the 110 metres Hurdles which opened the second day of competitions in the Mosle Stadium in Götzis. The reigning World champion from Berlin 2009 increased his gap on Ukrainian Oleksiy Kasyanov (14.26 in the 110 metres hurdles) to 332 points (5563 to 5231 points). Rico Freimuth produced the major upset by climbing from fifth into third overall place with 5132 points after clocking 14.05. Yordanis Garcia, who led the world seasonal list with 8397 points set in Havana this spring, moved up into fourth place 50 points behind Freimuth.

The Discus Throw did not see any changes to the top-three in the overall ranking. Kasyanov (46.94m) slightly reduced his gap on Hardee to 296 points (6334 to 6038 points). Freimuth threw the discus to 46.25 m. and kept the third overall place with 5926 points. Estonia's former European Indoor champion Mikk Pahapill won the event with 48.79 m (845 points) and climbed into fourth place with 5903 points overtaking Cubans Leonel Suarez (5823 points) and Yordanis Garcia (5818 points).



Trey Hardee in the discus
(Lorenzo Sampaolo)

In the Pole Vault, Hardee needed two attempts to clear 4.76m (his opening height) and 4.96 before clearing 5.06 at the third time of asking and increased his lead over Kasyanov to 388 points (7263 to 6875 points). Eelco Sintnicolaas, who was eleventh after the Discus, predictably won the Pole Vault with 5.36 (1023 points) and went into fourth place with 6778 points, 55 points off Pahapill who kept the third place with 6832 points after his 5.06.

World silver medallist Leonel Suarez was in the spotlight in the javelin throw where he set an impressive meeting record of 75.49 m. (973 points) to take overall third place with 7664 points, 50 points behind Pahapill. Germany's 2008 World Junior champion Jan Felix Knobel also produced a remarkable performance by producing a massive PB of 72.99

(935 points) to take fourth place with 7629 points. Hardee threw the Javelin to 63.33m. to lead with 8051 points ahead of Pahapill who improved his PB to 69.53 m (882 points) to move up into second place with 7714 points, 337 points behind Hardee.

With a such gap over the second placer Hardee's win was never under threat and for the US decathlon star the final time of 4:46.88 in the 1500 metres was enough to cap a nearly perfect week-end with 8689 points.

Suarez completed his catch-up race by clocking 4:25.33 to finish runner-up with 8440 points. Mikk Pahapill (4:39.41 in the 1500 metres) scored his new PB with 8398 points to hold off Sintricolaas whose strong 4:22.29 earned him the fourth place with 8304 points. In a competition where eleven men went over the 8000 points barrier, Jan Felix Knobel from Germany came to the fore as a potential star of the future finishing fifth with a new PB of 8288 points ahead of Oleksiy Kasyanov (8251 points) and German Rico Freimuth (8158 points).

"It was my first Decathlon in almost two years and my first test before Daegu. I am going fast but technically I need more work. Today was not perfect but overall I achieved a good score. Conditions were great and the crowd were fantastic", said Hardee.

Women – Heptathlon

The Heptathlon's Long Jump was highlighted by a superb leap to 6.82m. in the third attempt by Russian Olympic bronze medallist Tatyana Chernova who climbed into overall second place with 4820 points behind World champion and overnight leader who kept a solid gap of 242 points following her second place in the Long Jump with 6.37 in the second attempt. Ennis led with a total of 5062 points to Chernova's 4820 points. European Indoor champion Antoinette Nana Djimou took third place in the overall ranking with 4690 points after her best leap to 6.29 m to overhaul overnight second placer Jessica Zelinka (4674 points)- German World silver medallist Jennifer Oeser (4662 points) and overnight third placer Dafne Schippers from Netherlands (4657 points) completed the top six.

Jessica Ennis on her way to victory in the 37th edition of the Hypo Meeting in Götzis (Lorenzo Sampaolo)



Chernova reduced the distance between her and Ennis to 180 points by throwing 47.07m in the Javelin. Ennis produced a best release to 43.83 m and totalled 5803 points with only the 800 metres to be run. The Javelin win went to Antoinette Nana Djimou, who set a new event PB throwing 51.11 to beat German Lilli Schwarzkopf (50.24), and increased her margin over Oeser to 104 points.

In the final 800 metres, Jessica Ennis was pushed hard by Jessica Zelinka who led for most of the race. Only in the final straight Ennis edged Zelinka to cross the finish-line first in a new PB of 2:08:46. Zelinka finished second in 2:08:51.

Ennis clinched her second win in Götzis with 6790 points, the second best performance in her career. Only at the Barcelona European Championships has the Briton done better when she scored 6823 points missing the British record held by Denise Lewis by eight points. In the Mosle Stadium Ennis won three events (100 metres hurdles in 13.03, the high jump with 1.91 and the 800 metres in 2:08:46) and set her PB in the 200 metres with 23.11.

“I feel relieved and really surprised”, said a smiling Ennis. “I needed six weeks to get in top shape because of the ankle injury and to be ready. The Javelin was disappointing but overall I am pleased.” Ennis’s next race is scheduled on 11th June in the New York Diamond League meeting where she will run the 100 metres Hurdles.

Behind Ennis the Götzis Heptathlon produced the usual depth of results with twelve specialists over the 6000 points barrier. Tatyana Chernova finished the first day well with 23.51 in the 200 metres and enjoyed a strong second day highlighted by 6.82 in the long jump, 47.07 in the Javelin and 2:13.36 in the 800 metres and bounced back to move into second place with 6539 points. Antoinette Nana Djimou set her PB with 6409 points to take third place ahead Jennifer Oeser (6359 points), Jessica Zelinka (6353 points) and Olympic champion Natalya Dobrynska (6332 points). World Junior champion Dafne Schippers, who finished the first day in third place, scored her PB of 6172 points.

Diego Sampaolo for the IAAF