

RECORDS FALL IN 30 MINUTE DECATHLON

Back in 1971 California school teacher Dave Thoreson got bored with his training routine. And so he invented a challenging and looney event for decathletes who don't like to wait for two days.....The 30 minute decathlon. The rules are simple. All ten events must be contested in order. The athlete must begin the 1500 meter run within 30 minutes of the start of the 100 meters. In August of '71 Dave claimed the WR with 6233. It did not take the twm-event community long to catch on to Thoreson's idea and in 1974 Swede Inge Hermansson took Dave's record away.

30 minute action picked up this summer with Santa Barbara's John Warkentin giving it a crack in August at UCSB. He came away with the WR 6747 points. John corresponds that "we had about 10 spectators, and after it was over, everyone agreed that it was one of the most exciting events they had witnesses, myself including." John's marks included: 11.2 632 1407 192 58.2 15.3 4602 396 5960 6:00.3.

Six weeks later came the news that WUG champ Josep Zeilbauer took a crack at the 30 minute affair in Vienna as a special TV exhibition. His 6854 made Warkentin only the American record holder. Rooney Magnusson notes Sepp went to 200 hj after 190 and also thought he'd cleared 420 in the pole vault. It was remeasured at 417. His marks (10/3/77) 10.8 647 1489 190 57.2 15.8 4000 417 5762 5:48.0.

We now await the first 7000 half-hour decathlon.