

Athletic season 2023

Expect another battle royale between defending champion Kevin Mayer and Olympic champion Damian Warner. But the decathlon in Budapest will be a lot more than just that. World record-holder Mayer hasn't contested a decathlon so far this year, which isn't too unusual for the 31-year-old; the last time the French all-rounder completed more than one decathlon in a single season was back in 2016.

He is clearly in good form, though, as shown by his 6348 victory at the European Indoor Championships, followed by some solid performances in selected disciplines outdoors. Warner, meanwhile, has recovered from the injury that caused him to withdraw from the decathlon 400m at last year's World Championships, but he suffered a rare defeat at the Hypo Meeting to fellow Canadian Pierce LePage, the world silver medalist. Warner still scored a highly respectable 8619 to LePage's 8700, and there's every chance both men could make it on to the podium in Budapest.

Many combined events fans will be eager to see what Leo Neugebauer won in the NCAA title with a world-leading collegiate record of 8836, breaking the long-standing German record in the process. Neugebauer enjoyed the competition of his life, setting five individual PBs within that series and adding more than 350 points to his PB in one fell swoop. He hasn't competed since then, but he is no stranger to the World Championships, having finished 10th in Oregon last year.

The top six finishers from last year's World Championships will be in action in Budapest, including 2019 world champion Niklas Kaul. After placing sixth in Oregon, the German went on to win the European title on home soil in Munich with 8545 – his best score since winning the world title three years prior. He won in Ratingen in June with 8484, his highest score outside of a championships, which bodes well leading into Budapest.

USA's Zachery Ziemek, Puerto Rico's Ayden Owens-Delerme and Grenada's Lindon Victor finished third, fourth and fifth respectively in Oregon, and all have the ability to place in the top five again in Budapest.

Norwegian duo Markus Rooth and Sander Skotheim may have something to say about that, though.

Skotheim set a Norwegian record of 6318 to take silver at the European Indoor Championships earlier this year, finishing just 30 points shy of Mayer. His improvement continued outdoors and, still aged just 20 at the time, he smashed his PB to set a Norwegian record of 8590 when placing third in Götztis behind LePage and Warner.

That record stood for just seven weeks, though, because teammate Markus Rooth excelled to win the European U23 title in Espoo with 8608. Skotheim still performed well and took silver with 8561.

Unlike Skotheim, Rooth has never competed at a global championships before, but both men are on an upward trajectory and could help propel one another to a world medal – if not in Budapest then sometime in the near future.

Ashley Moloney has battled injuries since earning Olympic bronze in 2021, but the Australian has shown some glimmers of promise this season, including competing in the first nine disciplines of the decathlon in Götztis. Teammates Cedric Dubler and Daniel Golubovic are no stranger to the championship arena, either, and both will be targeting a top-10 finish.

Estonia, as ever, will field a strong contingent. Their decathlon squad for Budapest comprises European bronze medalist Janek Oiglane, Multistars winner Karel Tilga and national champion Johannes Erm.

Kyle Garland, who took silver at the NCAA Championships behind Neugebauer with 8630, also features on the US team alongside national champion Harrison Williams. Garland's PB of 8720 is the fourth-best of the entire field, so he could certainly challenge for medals on a good day.

Whatever unfolds, two things are almost certain: this will be one of the highest quality decathlons in World Championships history. And the medals most likely won't be decided until the final stages of the contest.

Medal winners				Relevant records			
2012 Olympic				WR	9126 Kevin MAYER	FRA Talence (FRA)	16 SEP 2018
1	Ashton EATON	USA	8869	(10.55/+0.3 - 7.80/+1.2 - 16.00 - 2.05 - 48.42 / 13.75/-1.1 - 50.54 - 5.45 - 71.90 - 4:36.11)			
2	Trey HARDEE	USA	8671	EUR	9026 Roman Sebrle	CZE Götztis	27 MAY 2001
3	Leonel SUÁREZ	CUB	8523	(10.64/0.0 - 8.11/1.9 - 15.33 - 2.12 - 47.79 / 13.92/-0.2 - 47.92 - 4.80 - 70.16 - 4:21.98)			
2013 Europe indoor				WJR	8397 Torsten Voss	GDR Erfurt	07 07 1982
1	Elco Sintnicolaas	NED	6372	EIR	6479 Kevin MAYER	FRA Beograd	5 Mar 2017
2	Kevin Mayer	FRA	6297	WIR	6645 Ashton Eaton	USA Istanbul	10 Mar 2012
3	Mihail Dudaš	SRB	6099	(6.79 8.16 14.56 2.03 7.68 5.20 2:32.77)			
2013 World				All-time list			
1	Ashton EATON	USA	8809 WL	1	9126 Kevin MAYER	FRA Talence (FRA)	16 SEP 2018
2	Michael SCHRADER	GER	8670 PB	(10.55/+0.3 - 7.80/+1.2 - 16.00 - 2.05 - 48.42 / 13.75/-1.1 - 50.54 - 5.45 - 71.90 - 4:36.11)			
3	Damian WARNER	CAN	8512 PB	2	9045 Ashton EATON	USA Beijing (CHN)	29 AUG 2015
2014 World indoor				(10.23/-0.4 - 7.88/0.0 - 14.52 - 2.01 - 45.00 / 13.69/-0.2 - 43.34 - 5.20 - 63.63 - 4:17.52)			
1	Ashton EATON	USA	6632 WL	9039 Ashton EATON	USA Eugene, OR (USA)		23 JUN 2012
2	Andrei KRAUCHANKA	BLR	6303 NIR	(10.21/+0.4 - 8.23/+0.8 - 14.20 - 2.05 - 46.70 / 13.70/-0.8 - 42.81 - 5.30 - 58.87 - 4:14.48)			
3	Thomas VAN DER PLAET	BEL	6259 NIR	3	9026 Roman ŠEBRLE	CZE Götztis (AUT)	27 MAY 2001
2014 Europe				(10.64/0.0 - 8.11/+1.9 - 15.33 - 2.12 - 47.79 / 13.92/-0.2 - 47.92 - 4.80 - 70.16 - 4:21.98)			
1	Andrei Krauchanka	BLR	8616	4	9018 Damian WARNER	CAN Tokyo (JPN)	05 AUG 2021
2	Kevin Mayer	FRA	8521	(10.12/+0.2 - 8.24/+0.2 - 14.80 - 2.02 - 47.48 / 13.46/-1.0 - 48.67 - 4.90 - 63.44 - 4:31.08)			
3	Ilya Shkurenov	RUS	8498	8995 Damian WARNER	CAN Götztis (AUT)		30 MAY 2021
2015 Europe indoor				(10.14/+0.7 - 8.28/+1.2 - 14.31 - 2.09 - 47.90 / 13.36/+0.9 - 48.43 - 4.80 - 59.46 - 4:25.19)			
1	Ilya Shkurenov	RUS	6353	5	8994 Tomáš DVOŘÁK	CZE Praha (CZE)	04 JUL 1999
2	Arthur Abele	GER	6279	(10.54/-0.1 - 7.90/+1.1 - 16.78 - 2.04 - 48.08 / 13.73/0.0 - 48.33 - 4.90 - 72.32 - 4:37.20)			
3	Elco Sintnicolaas	NED	6185	8902 Tomáš DVOŘÁK	CZE Edmonton (CAN)		07 AUG 2001
2015 World				(10.62/+1.5 - 8.07/+0.9 - 16.57 - 2.00 - 47.74 / 13.80/-0.4 - 45.51 - 5.00 - 68.53 - 4:35.13)			
1	Ashton Eaton	USA	9045	8900 Tomáš DVOŘÁK	CZE Götztis (AUT)		04 JUN 2000
2	Damian Warner	CAN	8695	(10.54/+1.3 - 8.03/0.0 - 16.68 - 2.09 - 48.36 / 13.89/-1.0 - 47.89 - 4.85 - 67.21 - 4:42.33)			
3	Rico Freimuth	GER	8561	8893 Roman ŠEBRLE	CZE Athina (GRE)		24 AUG 2004
2016 World indoor				(10.85/+1.5 - 7.84/+0.3 - 16.36 - 2.12 - 48.36 / 14.05/+1.5 - 48.72 - 5.00 - 70.52 - 4:40.01)			
1	Ashton Eaton	USA	6470	8893 Ashton EATON	USA Rio de Janeiro (BRA)		18 AUG 2016
2	Oleksiy Kasyanov	UKR	6182	(10.46/-0.1 - 7.94/+1.7 - 14.73 - 2.01 - 46.07 / 13.80/+0.7 - 45.49 - 5.20 - 59.77 - 4:23.33)			
3	Mathias Brugger	GER	6126	World season list			
2016 Europe				1	8836 Leo Neugebauer	GER Austin TX	8 Jun
1	Thomas Van Der Plaetsr	BEL	8218	(10.61/-0.3 7.68w/+2.4 16.27 2.04 47.08 14.10w/+3.1 55.06 5.21 57.45 4:48.00)			
2	Adam Helcelet	CZE	8157	2	8700 Pierce LePage	CAN Götztis	28 May
3	Mihail Dudaš	SRB	8153	(10.28/+1.5 7.57/+0.1 15.05 2.03 48.01 13.87/+1.0 49.34 5.00 63.09 4:45.74)			
2016 Olympic				3	8630 Kyle Garland	USA Austin TX	8 Jun
1	Ashton Eaton	USA	8893	(10.63/+2.0 7.72/+0.4 16.39 2.04 47.78 13.54/+1.6 45.74 5.01 55.46 4:43.27)			
2	Kevin Mayer	FRA	8834	3	8630 Harrison Williams	USA Eugene OR	7 Jul
3	Damian Warner	CAN	8666	(10.65/0.0 7.48/+1.9 15.33 1.99 46.35 14.22/-0.2 47.26 5.20 59.07 4:35.30)			
2017 Europe indoor				5	8619 Damian Warner	CAN Götztis	28 May
1	Kevin Mayer	FRA	6479	(10.29/+1.5 7.75/+0.4 14.92 2.00 47.76 13.60/+1.0 46.32 5.00 59.92 4:26.16)			
2	Jorge Ureña	ESP	6227	6	8608 Markus Rooth	NOR Espoo	16 Jul
3	Adam Sebastian Helcelet	CZE	6110	(10.81/+1.3 7.61w/+3.6 15.31 2.03 49.05 14.43/-1.2 48.63 5.10 63.71 4:29.66)			
2017 World				7	8590 Sander Aae Skotheim	NOR Götztis	28 May
1	Kevin Mayer	FRA	8768	(10.76/+0.4 7.60/+0.5 13.74 2.15 47.64 14.16/-0.1 43.01 4.90 61.22 4:19.38)			
2	Kai Kazmirek	GER	8488	8	8508 Zach Ziemek	USA Eugene OR	7 Jul
3	Rico Freimuth	GER	8564	(10.75/0.0 7.51/+1.4 15.72 2.05 49.63 14.65/+0.8 49.23 5.30 61.28 4:48.04)			
2018 World indoor				9	8484 Niklas Kaul	GER Ratingen	18 Jun
1	Kevin Mayer	FRA	6348	(11.50/-1.7 7.34/-0.2 14.66 2.04 48.21 14.31/+0.6 48.57 4.80 67.44 4:14.19)			
2	Damian Warner	CAN	6343	10	8482 Karel Tilga	EST Desenzano del Garda	30 Apr
3	Maicel Uibo	EST	6265	(11.16/+0.7 7.66/-0.3 16.19 2.07 48.71 14.85/+0.9 45.46 4.75 64.05 4:21.91)			
2018 Europe				11	8436 Simon Ehammer	SUI Basel	18 Jun
1	Arthur Abele	GER	8431	(10.42/+0.2 8.19/-0.3 14.51 1.98 47.73 13.56/+1.1 39.44 5.20 50.24 4:50.44)			
2	Ilya Shkurenov	RUS	8321	12	8424 Johannes Erm	EST Tallinn	30 Jul
3	Vitali Zhuk	BLR	8290	(10.57w/+2.7 7.38w/+4.1 14.90 2.04 46.97 15.16/-1.6 45.75 4.83 60.11 4:26.83)			
2019 Europe indoor				World 22			
1	Jorge Ureña	ESP	6218	1	8867 Garrett Scantling	USA Fayetteville AR	7 May
2	Tim Duckworth	GBR	6156	(10.68/+0.9 7.68/+2.0 16.12 2.04 48.38 13.59/+1.0 51.04 5.15 67.16 4:46.37)			
3	Ilya Shkurenov	RUS	6145	2	8816 Kevin Mayer	FRA Eugene OR	24 Jul
2019 World				(10.62/+0.8 7.54/+1.1 14.98 2.05 49.40 13.92/+1.1 49.44 5.40 70.31 4:41.44)			
1	Niklas Kaul	GER	8691	3	8797 Damian Warner	CAN Götztis	29 May
2	Maicel Uibo	EST	8604	(10.14/+0.9 7.93/-0.6 14.92 2.03 47.92 13.48/+1.0 48.24 4.90 58.62 4:38.65)			
3	Damian Warner	CAN	8529	4	8720 Kyle Garland	USA Fayetteville AR	7 May
2021 Europe indoor				(10.63/+0.9 7.86/+1.0 16.44 2.16 49.04 13.71/+1.0 46.16 4.85 59.63 4:43.21)			
1	Kevin Mayer	FRA	6392	5	8701 Pierce LePage	CAN Eugene OR	24 Jul
2	Jorge Ureña	ESP	6158	(10.39/+0.8 7.54/+0.8 14.83 1.99 46.84 13.78/+1.1 53.26 5.00 57.52 4:42.77)			
3	Paweł Wiesiołek	POL	6133	6	8676 Zach Ziemek	USA Eugene OR	24 Jul
2021 Olympic				(10.57/+0.8 7.70/+1.6 15.37 2.08 49.56 14.47/+1.5 48.40 5.40 62.18 4:44.97)			
1	Damian Warner	CAN	9018	7	8550 Lindon Victor	GRN Talence	18 Sep
2	Kevin Mayer	FRA	8726	(10.61w/+3.1 7.49/+1.1 15.75 2.02 48.20 14.70/-0.7 51.00 4.80 66.01 4:43.74)			
3	Ashley Moloney	AUS	8649	8	8545 Niklas Kaul	GER München	16 Aug
2022 World indoor				(11.16/-0.2 7.10/-0.5 14.90 2.02 47.87 14.45/0.0 41.80 4.90 76.05 4:10.04)			
1	Damian Warner	CAN	6489	9	8532 Ayden Owens-Delerme	PUR Eugene OR	24 Jul
2	Simon Ehammer	SUI	6363	(10.52/+0.8 7.64/+0.9 14.97 2.02 45.07 13.88/+1.1 42.36 4.50 50.98 4:13.02)			
3	Ashley Moloney	AUS	6344	10	8468 Simon Ehammer	SUI München	16 Aug
2022 World				(10.56/+0.7 8.31/-1.0 14.24 2.08 47.40 13.75/0.0 34.92 5.20 53.46 4:48.72)			
1	Kevin Mayer	FRA	8816				
2	Pierce LePage	CAN	8701				
3	Zach Ziemek	USA	8676				
2022 Europe							
1	Niklas Kaul	GER	8545				
2	Simon Ehammer	SUI	8468				
3	Janek Oiglane	EST	8346				
2023 Europe indoor							
1	Kevin Mayer	FRA	6348				
2	Sander Aae Skotheim	NOR	6318				
3	Risto Lillemets	EST	6079				

