

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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HARDEE RETURNS TO FORM

8371 Texas Relays Win After 2 Year Layoff

Hello Again....After a two season layoff Trey Hardee announced his return to the decathlon wars with authority. On the same facility and at the same meet where he set the collegiate record (8465) in 2006, Hardee, 24, posted a world leading 8371 score. And it was clear the 2008 Texas Relays was the beneficiary of “perfect weather” said veteran coach Rick Sloan, “overcast, aiding winds and temps in the 70s.”

Hardee’s mark qualifies him for the US Olympic Trials in Eugene, OR in June. Lifetime bests in 3 of the final 6 events, 400m (47.76), discus (52.68m/172-10) and pole vault (5.25m/17-2¾) propelled the 6-5, 210 Texan to his 2nd best score and 3rd career “8.” His 2nd day score was also a PR (4159).

”This was my Olympic Trials trial,” said Hardee afterward. “This is what I needed to do to not only put myself into a good position going into the trials, but get that standard out of the way. All I’m doing now is training for the Olympic Games and the trials, so it’s going to be exciting.

For a good deal of day one most eyes were on Washington State senior Ricky Moody whose 4156 1st day was just 56 behind Hardee. He eventually finished 4th with 7787 for a huge PR. Mostly unnoticed during the 2nd day with the



24 year old Trey Hardee impressed onlookers in Austin with a 8371 winning effort at the Texas Relays. He recorded 3 event PRs.

terrific performances by a pair of collegians. Recent NCAA indoor heptathlon king, Chilean Gonzalo Barroihlet/Florida State got a 324 point PR ,7828, and Liberty University senior Brandon Hoskins managed almost a 300 point improvement as well, finishing 3rd with 7800.

NCAA II champion Camile Vandendreissche of Abilene Christian also got a PR, 7559. Northridge’s Justin Johnson, off a 9th place finish at the indoor meet in Fayetteville, tacked 338 points on to his lifetime best, finishing 6th at 7463. In all a dozen surpassed 7000. As for Hardee who finished his eligibility at Texas in 2006 after winning the 200\5 NCAA decathlon crown, the discus was his turning point here. "I knew I was capable of throwing that far but you never



"Angels were lifting me over the bar," said Hardee of his PR 5.25m/17-2 ¾ vault clearance.

know," he said. "That was above and beyond what I thought I could do." And as for the vault he remarked, "angels were lifting me over the bar. It was amazing."

Hardee's 8465 was the world's 3rd best score in '06 and established him, although with little overseas experience, as a potential international threat. But last year injuries, including one to his wrist that required surgery, and a nagging groin injury, soon knocked him backward. "That's life. It was just a matter of keeping faith," Hardee said.

All was not perfect at the Texas Relays. Returning senior Donovan Kilmartin, who just returned from a 5th place effort at the IAAF World Champs heptathlon, came a cropper in the vault. He was unable to clear his opening vault height, 4.85m/ and withdrew.

In the weekend's other decathlons, University of Windsor student Jamie Adjetey-Nelson won the Jim Click Shootout in Tucson (where there was much better weather this year!) with a PR 76___. He becomes the third Canadian in two weeks to record a lifetime best score in Arizona (Bertocchi and Koskenoja the others). Nebraska senior Skyler Reising managed an NCAA provisional score (7295) for second place.

Mark Jellison, ex-UConn, won the Cal Multis meet in Berkeley (7162) while Utah State's John Strang dnf'd. Brigham Young freshman Chase Dalton won the BYU Cougar meet in Provo with a 6586 effort. B.J. parish of Arkansas St won his school's home Invt with a PR 7072 score. Mike Savegnago/Illinois-Chicago was the Chicagoland champ (6204) while Adolphus Jones/Paul Quinn College, captured the ray Vaughn meet at Oklahoma Christian.

In open events Missouri's Nick Adcock was the team's high scorer in a dual with Virginia where he contested 5 events, PR'd at 42' hurdles (14.48-2.2) and ran a leg on the winning 4x4 relay(3:13).



Upper left: Brandon Hoskins/Liberty (7800); Upper right: Justin Johnson/Cal St-Northridge (7473) ; Lower left: Ricky Moody/ Washington St (7787) all PR'd at the Texas Relays. Lower right: Jamie Adjetey-Nelson/Windsor Legion won Arizona's Click meet (7625).

Upcoming Week's decathlons

Include:

- Rafer Johnson meet at UCLA
- Sea Ray Relays in Knoxville
- Walton Meet in Columbia, MO
- NDSU Bison Invt at Fargo
- Eastern Washington, Cheney
- LSU CE's, Baton Rouge

