

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## CLAY LEADS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY of TRIALS

### Hardee, Pappas with Fine Marks

**Hello Again.....**The decathlon returned to TRACK TOWN USA, Eugene, Oregon and revered and refurbished Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus. Greener than Ireland, Hayward Field last hosted the US Olympic Trials in 1980, and this weekend, 28 years later, returned and honored the team that was prevented from competing at the '80 Moscow Olympic Games. The first two days of the Trials (June 27-28, Fri-Sat) found warm weather, favorable breezes and the very fast open and heptathlon sprint times was not lost on the field of 20 decathletes (12 automatic qualifiers and 8 provisionals).

This was, in actuality, two meets in one ( a sort of dual meet): both the US Olympic Trials and the 89<sup>th</sup> nationals. The first Trials were conducted in 1912 and the initial nationals were held in 1915 in San Francisco.

Having won the IAAF world indoor heptathlon title in March, Bryan Clay was the favorite to win a second Trials competition. Vet Tom Pappas, who grew up and was schooled nearby and new NCAA champ Ashton Eaton of Oregon were sentimental favorites with heavy fan bases. Olympian Paul Terek and collegians Mike Morrison and Brandon Hoskins withdrew earlier due to injuries. With an eye on the weather twenty stepped to the starting line I front of 5000 fans at 10:00 am on Sunday morning. Overnight



thunderstorms and overcast conditions were worrisome and out of character given the week's earlier weather.

Favorite Bryan Clay ran up a respectable 4476 score to lead Trey Hardee and Tom Pappas after five events. Hardee was 20 back and Pappas, a favorite with a large fans base another 49 points back as the three separated themselves from the remainder of the 20 man field.

After a solid 10.39 (into a headwind) century Bryan experienced step problems in the long jump and high jump but eventually



recovered to put himself into a solid position to make a 2<sup>nd</sup> US Olympic team. Hardee came



up with a lifetime best in the long jump and his 5 solid marks put him into a position to grab an initial Olympic berth. But it was Pappas who drew much of the early attention, winning the long jump and shot, the latter a PR and new Hayward Field deca shot record. He was in a position to become the first American to make 3 Olympic teams in the decathlon.

Also impressive was a trio of collegians fresh from the NCAAs in Des Moines. Tennessee's Jangy Addy, Oregon's Ashton Eaton and Ricky Moody of Washington State surprisingly stood 4-5-6 at the break.



**U.S. Olympic Trials  
and  
89<sup>th</sup> National Championships  
Hayward Field  
University of Oregon  
June 29-30, 2008**

**100 Meters:** [10:01 – 10:11 am]

A serious headwind died 20 minutes before the sprint but it was obvious the decathletes would not have the favorable condition enjoyed by the heptathletes two day earlier. More important were the 5000 spectators spread around the track. The figure on this mostly sunny day, grew to over 20,000 during the 400 meters.

Running north to south on the West side of Hayward Field the first section was won (10.92) by newcomer Lysias Edmonds, a 25 year old former punt returner for Northern Arizona. The second race matched the top sprinters and Trey Hardee was out fastest of all. But Clay caught him at 50 meters and was a clear winner in 10.39 seconds (headwind - 0.4mps), the fastest time he ever recorded in a ten-eventer. Hardee was .04 back while Oregon soph Ashton closed strongly in 10.61.

Section #3 had 4 guys named Chris entered but double NCAA champ Jake Arnold

ran faster of all, clocking 11.11 seconds. There were no PRs in this event, but Arnold came closest (.03 off), and into a headwind to boot (-0.4 mps).

*After One: Clay 1001, Hard 992, Eato 949, Addy 912, Olko 894.*

**Long Jump:** [10:50 – 11:26 am]

In the West pit Chris Boyles came apart managing no fair mark. In round one Hardee shocked the crowd by running off the board with terrific velocity and covered 7.75m/25-5¼ of Lane County real estate, a PR that moved him to the overall lead. Then Pappas, who was born in Azalea, OR and attended Lane Community College (3 miles away) got a 7.77m/25-6 winner moving himself into 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

Bryan Clay was struggling with his steps, stuttering badly in round #2 and fouling badly in round #3. His first mark of 7.39m/24-3 was a major disappointment and a sense of gloom settled over the event when Chris Boyles fouled on all 3 tries.

In the East pit Arnold came up with the 2<sup>nd</sup> best outdoor mark of his career, 6.91m/22-8 for the win. The inconsistent wind during the event (range: +1.7mps to -1.8 mps) resulted in an inordinate number of fouls, 18 in 58 jumps (31%). On the positive side, the Eugene crowd was responsive and vocal.

*After Two: Hard 1989, Clay 1909, Papp 1885, Eato 1881, Addy 1774.*

**Shot Put:** [Noon – 12:24 pm]

Officials smartly chalked arc lines at 12-14 and 16 meters. The West throwing circle included the top throwers and here Pappas held center stage. His first toss (well past the final line) drew a raucous response from the crowd, especially when it was relayed that the mark was a lifetime best 16.62m/54-6½ for the 31 year old. In round #2 he smoothly delivered a 17.26m/56-8½ effort and the crowd was delirious. It was a new Hayward Field deca record. When his 3<sup>rd</sup> toss landed only in the 16.30m/53-5 range he



**Tom Pappas** lifted the 16 lb sphere a PR and Field record 17.26m/56-8½ to move to the overall lead after three events.

took a deliberate foot fault. But the series was eye-opening, averaging nearly 55 feet.

Tennessee's strong Jangy Addy pushed 15.63m/51-3½ for 2<sup>nd</sup> but Clay continued to struggle managing just 15.17m/49-9¼.

In the East Circle Hardee took the win in the East circle with a 14.07m/46-2 toss as Joe Detmer and Edmonds PR'd.

Pappas now held a 92 point lead over Hardee with Clay another 13 back.

*After Three: Papp 2814, Hard 2722, Clay 2709, Addy 2602, Mood 2561.*

**High Jump:** [12:58 – 2:15 pm]

There was high drama in the West pit (better jumpers) as Clay opened at 1.90m/6-2¾ and promptly missed twice. Although well over the bar on both occasions, his steps were inconsistent and he brushed the bar off. The crowd was hushed but he coolly gathered himself and got the crowd into rhythmic clapping and sailed over avoiding an O'Brien-like moment. Whew! It was Pappas's turn to experience step problems and he got only 1.96m/6-5.

Then Clay cleared the next 6 bars, including 2.08m/6-9¾ (has a 2.10m PR) on a third attempt and the spring was back in his step. Ryan Olkowski and Chris Boyles also got over 2.08m/6-9¾, but when all three failed at 2.11m/6-11, the event promptly ended.

Relative to lifetime bests there was terrific jumping in the concurrent east Pit. Hardee managed a flat 2.02m/6-7½, 2cm off a PR, then stopped. But Washington State's Rickey Moody got a pair of PRs, ending with a 2.05m/6-8¾ mark.

Few high jumps ever moved along as smoothly, partly b/c of the fine officiating, partly b/c of the schedule (no other events to stop the high jump *and* the position of the pits where there was no need to use part of the track for the jumpers' approach. The event lasted 77 minutes with 191 attempts (a jump every 24 seconds!). 82 clearances.

Clay's consistency and experience had pushed him back into the overall lead (by 6 points) as but 43 points separated 1-2-3.

*After Four: Clay 3587, Papp 3581, Hard 3544, Mood 3411, Addy 3369.*

**400 Meters:** [3:36- 3:44 pm]

The much anticipated matchup between Joe Detmer and Ashton Eaton turned



out to be a rout for Eaton who ran the final straight on the enthusiasm of the crowd and cruised in at 47.07, just off a PR. Hardee (47.99, Detmer 48.12) and Addy (48.61) streamed in. Pappas struggled in the home stretch and clocked 49.89.

Section two turned out to be a terrific struggle as Mustafa Abdur-Rahim (lane 3) and Clay (lane 5) controlled the race thru 300 meters whereafter Clay faded a bit while the speedy Edmonds (lane 8) made a strong run at Mustafa. With 50 meters remaining both were straining so hard it appeared they were running in sand. Moose held on for a huge PR (47.64) win with

Edmonds getting a PR of his own at 47.80 with Bryan 3<sup>rd</sup> in a fine 48.41.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> section was anti-climatic as Chris Helwick won easily in 50.20.

*After Five: Clay 4476, Hard 4454, Papp 4405, Addy 4249, Eato 4226. Mood 4111.*

**6/29-30 US Olympic Trials & 89<sup>th</sup> USA National Championships, U of Oregon, Eugene, OR**

4476	Clay, Bryan/Nike	10.39-0.4	739-1.6	1517
208				48.41
4454	Hardee, Trey/Nike	10.43-0.4	775-1.1	1407
202				47.99
4405	Pappas, Tom/Nike	10.90-0.4	777+0.4	
1726				196 49.80
4249	Addy, Jangy/Tennessee	10.77-0.4	720-1.2	1563
196				48.61
4226	Eaton, Ashton/Oregon	10.61-0.4	749 0.0	1228
196				47.07
4111	Moody, Rickey/Wash St	11.09+0.1	741+0.8	
1528				205 52.58
4076	Olkowski, Ryan/unat	10.85-0.4	704+1.3	
1257				208 49.46
4033	Arnold, Jake/una	11.11-0.4	704+1.3	
1454				196 48.66
4010	Abdur-Rahim, M/ASC-e	10.90-0.4	688-0.9	1400
187				47.64

4009	Edmonds, Lysias/ArizPu	10.92+0.1	688+1.4	
1243				199 47.80
3939	Harlan, Ryan/unat	11.18+0.1	648-1.3	
1523				205 50.96
3910	Helwick, Chris/unat	11.34-0.4	698-0.3	1380
199				50.20
3896	Randolph, Chris/CNW	11.38-0.4	663-0.8	1372
202				49.08
3870	Detmer, Joe/unat	11.09+0.1	677-0.6	
1275				190 48.12
3841	Clark, Mat/N Iowa	11.21+0.1	683-0.6	
1252				193 48.71
3826	Richardson II, Chris/VS	11.41-0.4	744-0.8	
1370				187 51.70
3689	Cebulski, Joe/Tri Valley	11.68-0.4	657+1.2	
1346				199 50.93
3644	Cepeda, Chris/N Iowa	11.22+0.1	654+0.3	
1434				190 53.47
3578	Chisam, Matt/unat	11.45-0.4	625+0.1	
1376				193 52.10
dnf	Boyles, Chris/unat	11.30-0.4	nm	1457
208				withdrew