

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## PREP RECORD BEACHED

### 7909 for Curtis Beach, Ayers 7480 at Sea Ray

**Hello Again.....**on a weekend with a dozen collegiate meets it was a high school decathlon in Arcadia, CA that commanded center stage and created a new verb in decathlon lore, “beach.” The entry in a *Webster* or *New Collegiate* dictionary might look something like this:

**beach**, v, (pronunciation: *bēch*), **beached**, **beaching**

1. to scorch the decathlon 1500 meters in order to win the meet; 2. Same: to run up a big final score; 3. Same: to set a record. Use: “to be beached”: to loose a 1500 meter race by 50 seconds or more, or to fear being lapped. Historical: (2009, re: decathlete Curtis Beach). Replaces *baked* (1970s), *janvrined* (1990s) and *detmered* (2000s).

It was 18 year old Curtis Beach, Albuquerque Academy and Duke bound, who lit up the Arcadia high school multis on April 9-10) with an eye-popping 7909 score, the highest scoring prep performance ever. High School implements: 12lb shot, 1.5kg discus and 39’ hurdles were used.

#### Individual marks:

10.99	14.42
6.92m/22-8 ½ (-2.0)	40.64m/133-4
13.61m/44-8	4.40m/14-1¼
2.07m/6-9½	47.48m/155-9
48.16	4:09.48

His 7909 is almost 500 points higher than the best known prep mark using prep implements, a 1993 7417 by Ryan Theriault/Nevada High School. See insert “What was the Prep Record.”



Albuquerque’s Curtis Beach, seen here at recent Arcadia Prep decathlon meet, ‘beached’ his opponents with a 4:09.34 1500 and ran up a prep record 7909 score at Arcadia.

The weekend’s other news came from Knoxville where Tennessee soph Michael Ayers recorded a 7480 PR in winning the Sea Ray Relays. It was the weekend’s lone NCAA D-1 qualifier and the highest D-1 effort in the early season.

More interestingly, the beached 7909 total is the highest US figure for early 2009 using any combination of implements. More importantly, it conjures up speculation of what his ultimate career total may be. The potential is remarkable. “I have high aspirations after high school,” said Curtis by phone an hour after his record win. “I’ll be good hands with coach (Shawn) Wilbourn at Duke and I really look forward to the challenge. As for the rest of the 2009 season, I want to help my school win the state title,

then do the GreatSouthwest decathlon. After that I plan to do the USA Junior meet in Eugene, and if I make the team, the Pan-Am Junior meet this summer.”

But the Arcadia meet both raised speculation on how good Curtis Beach could be (he was particularly pleased with his javelin improvement-2 throws over 47m) and settled the question of who the prep record holder (with prep implements) is. 7909 says it all.



Tennessee's Michael Ayers used this PR hurdles to run up a 7480 lifetime best score while winning at Sea Ray.

### What Was the Prep Record ?

A frantic morning call from Matt Farmer, announcer at the Arcadia Prep Multis and himself a former national junior decathlon champ, requested the national high school decathlon record with prep implements /hurdles. It seemed that Albuquerque's Curtis Beach was well on his way to breaking some sort of record. But it was not quite clear just what record he was shooting for. There were so many prep decathlon records out there, depending on the combination of implements, hand vs. auto timing and different scoring tables, that we were unsure what the record was. There has much confusion over this record since:

National HS Federation lists record for prep decathlete using international implements as 7329h by Craig Brigham/ S Eugene HS, 1972.

Same organization lists record for Prep decathlete using (relatively) new junior

implements, 7440 by Donovan Kilmartin/ Eagle, ID, 2002)

But no record by a prep using high school implements . The highest scores found for prep decathletes using prep implements, auto timing and current tables was 7417, Theriault, and 7407 by Gabe Garrett (Wash HS).

This is all further confused by the introduction in 2002 of “international junior” implements. For example, no one seemed to know what set of implements was used in a 2002 7481 effort by Kilmartin.

I frantically went thru all my files for Brigham and 1972 looking for clues. I recall that Brigham's Axemen coach Harry Johnson once told me that at some of Craig's early 7k+ prep scores he had his protégé also take 3 throws with 12lb shot, prep disc, and run another set of hurdles at 39' to claim the high school mark. But I could not turn up anything in my notes or files. So what I did conclude was:

- a. The “best” prep decathlon performance (using scoring tables and eliminating all the subjectivity of Bob Mathias and Milt Campbell in another era) was Brigham's 7329h (originally 7523h using '62 IAAFTables) since it would be worth @7550 using the high school implements/ hurdles.
- b. But the best score on record for a prep decathlete using prep implements/hurdles is the 7417 1993 mark of Ryan Theriault (Nev HS), just ahead of a 7407 by Gabe Garrett (Wash HS) and a 7405 Junior Olympics score by Kilmartin in 2001 (where I am sure prep implements were used).

The only other 7k+ score came from the David Noble Relays in San Angelo, Texas where Isaac Combs, a senior at Louisiana-Monroe PR'd to win with a 7031 score.

Mount Sac Relays coming up.