

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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### 9039 !!



## World Record for ASHTON EATON Becomes 13<sup>th</sup> American to Set Global Standard

**Hello Again...**The scene at the south end of Hayward Field after Ashton Eaton became the 13<sup>th</sup> American to set a new decathlon world record was storybook. In a dramatic finish, Eaton, 24, Bend, OR, raced to a PR 4:14.49 1500m to topple Roman Sebrle's majestic world record set at Götzis 11 years back.

One of the first to offer congrats and an embrace was Dan O'Brien. That was neat. Then here comes Bruce Jenner jogging over to shake his hand. After an interview Ash jogged to the southwest corner of this athletic cathedral and was greeted by Bill Toomey, and then Milt Campbell, and then Rafer Johnson, all in town for the events 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. All were 20<sup>th</sup> century Olympic champions and cultural icons. And then congratulations was offered by Bill Thorpe, whose dad, Jim, had won the initial Olympic decathlon in 1912 in Stockholm, 1912! It was mind boggling....the deeds of Thorpe and Eaton separated by a century. But here they were in an embrace. It was the stuff of legends. You can't make this stuff up.

After posting 4728 points in horrendous first day conditions that surely cost him 100 points or more, Eaton came back for day two just as focused and executed coach Harry Marra's game plan to perfection.

Make no mistake, this world record was no accident. It was calculated by a shrewd coach and implemented with professional skill by an incredibly talented athlete, and was, to



Ashton Eaton is overcome by emotion at the realization that he just set a new world decathlon record, 9039 points.

insiders, not surprising. The fact that the weather did no one any favors here makes the record that much more remarkable.

Eugene can now claim more world decathlon records than any other city, 4, having been tied with Götzis, Los Angeles and Helsinki, all with 3 apiece in the IAAF era.

Here is what happened.

**23<sup>rd</sup> US Olympic Trials  
Decathlon  
Hayward Field, U of Oregon  
Eugene, Oregon  
June 22-23, 2012**



**Day Two**  
**110 m Hurdles:** [9:30 - 9:43 am]

The early start is just something one has to deal with. So there was no complaining about that. But it was cold....on Saturday morning and three of the four races faced headwinds. Conditions were far from ideal, yet compared to day one, this was heaven for it



Eaton won every running and jumping event in Eugene and posted much improved throws. Here clocked 13.70 in the 110m hurdles.

was not raining.

In the initial race, with over 2000 spectators on hand, steady Joe Detmer clocked a fine 14.92 seconds for the win. Jake Arnold tagged the 2nd race in 14.54. The 3<sup>rd</sup> race actually had a slight tailwind and Ryan Harlan led for 108 meters but was caught by improving Gray Horn, 14.41 to 14.43.

There was some confusion at the start of the much anticipated final (and seeded section) which featured Ashton Eaton (lane 5), Bryan Clay (lane 7), Trey Hardee (lane 3) and Miller Moss (lane 1). It appeared that both Clay and Eaton were charged with a false start. When we did get underway the race was dead even at 5 hurdles before Eaton and Hardee, running stride for stride, put some 2 feet between themselves and Clay. Bryan then did not get his lead leg up fast enough on the 9<sup>th</sup> barrier and stumbled, and virtually fell into the 10<sup>th</sup> hurdle which he shoved over while trying to regain his balance. He walked across in 16.81 seconds, any chance of making a 3<sup>rd</sup> Olympic team dramatically reduced.

Eaton and Hardee raced on and Ashton got the nod, 13.70 to 13.71. (headwind: -0.8

mps). The spectators had mixed emotions over the result, delighted for the great battle between Eaton and Hardee, but were hushed to see Bryan's misfortune.

Section #4:

		<u>time</u>	<u>reaction time</u>
1..Eaton	lane 5	13.70	0.191
2..Hardee	lane 3	13.71	0.183
3..Moss	lane 1	14.91	0.225
4..Clay	lane 7	16.81	0.161

The final clocking for Eaton was well off his 13.34 clocking at the recent Prefontaine Classic. On everyone's mind: *were record opportunities slipping away?* Clay then was disqualified and the referee turned down his appeal. An hour later the referee's decision was overturned and his time was re-instated. But, by then, Bryan had other problems.

After six: Eaton 5742m Hardee 5418, Horn 5006, Broda 4922.

**Discus:** [10:20/10:25 – 10:47 am; 11:12-11:34 ]

This event got off to a rocky start. Gray Horn's platter hit the right side of the cage and Bryan Clay's smacked the left. Something was amiss. After much discussion officials removed a whirring mechanical device that had been placed inside the cage, on the ground, a few inches from the circle. The referee ordered the event restarted. Horn's 2<sup>nd</sup> first round toss was fair but Clay, obviously still distraught, fouled again. Bryan's 2<sup>nd</sup> round toss was also a foul (out of bounds) and



A 42.81m/140-5 discus did not hurt Eaton's chances.

his 3<sup>rd</sup>, well over 50m was denied for a foot fault in the circle. This just was not Bryan's

day. It was only *after* the event that he was informed that his hurdle 'dq' had been overtuned.

Amid the Clay demise and intermittent drizzle Eaton opened with a safe 42.32m/138-11 toss and Hardee gunned a line drive down the first base foul line. It was barely fair and landed 49.05m/160-11 away which proved to be the winning mark. Ashton improved to 42.81m/140-6 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round and then armed his last chance over 45m, but it landed just outside the right foul line. "Geez," I thought, "he could have used that extra 40-45 points in any record chase." Trey had made up 129 points

Miller Moss had a trio of career bests, ending with 44.76m/146-10 and Curtis Beach also PR'd with 39.44m/129-5. In fact the fast improvign Moss came up with PRs in all 3 throws here.

Chris Randolph won the 2<sup>nd</sup> group at 45.33m/148-8.

*After seven: Eato 6464, Hard 6269, Harl 5658, Horn 5637.*

**Pole Vault:** [12:30 - 2:16 pm]

The sun reappeared during the vault and conditions were generally favorable by the time the bar reached 4.80m/15-9 in the South (seeded) pit. Here the show was all Eaton. Taking little time on the runway, he skied 4.60m, passed 4.70, handled 4.80 on his 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt, passed 4.90 and then nailed the next 3 bars on first attempts, equalling his deca PR. By this time Dan O'Brien's 20 year old American record was *afait accompli*. At 5.30m/17-4½ he scraped over on his third try and now one could legitimately consider his chances for Roman Sebrle's 11 year old world record. No American had even come remotely close to the scores put up by Chechs Tomas Dvorak and Sebrle some dozen years earlier. A few in the Hayward Field press box were calling Eaton's record charge "Operation Cancelled Chech." Hardee and Kevin Lazas both managed 5.00m/16-4¾ while Jake Arnold nh'd.

In Group #2 Corbin Duer both failed at opening bars while Gray Horn did everything but molest the bar at a PR 5.00m/16-4¾ yet it stayed put. He won the group.

Ashton's margin ballooned to nearly 300 points. Officials moved the event along smartly handling 97 attempts and 30 clearances in 100 minutes.

*After eight: Eato 7468, Hard 71790, Horn 6547, Harl 6507.*

**Javelin:** [3:11- 3:40 ; 4:08 - 4:31 pm]

Dark clouds rolled in from the south and it rained during the warmups. The skies opened up during the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the first 8 man group. There was a ten minute rain delay. Ryan Harlan won here with a nice 60.73m/199-3 effort and both Horn and Moss PR'd in the first round (56.31m/184-9 and 53.22m/174-7).

The skies cleared somewhat for the 2<sup>nd</sup> group which included most of the contenders. Bryan Clay, soldiering on, opened with a 63.48m/208-3 spear and Chris Helwick topped that a minute later at 65.59m/215-2. Eaton's 58.87m/193 1<sup>st</sup> round effort was a dec (but not an open) PR and now there was really a buzz about toppling Sebrle's global standard. He did not improve in the final round, but Clay (66.80m/219-2) and Helwick (69.37m/224-3) did with the latter capturing the event. Curtis Beach recorded a pair of fouls and passed his final chance.

Just as important as was the test Hardee performed on his right elbow. When his first (and only) effort landed at 57.00m/187-0, he danced on the runway and retired from the event, satisfied his elbow would hold up in London.

Eaton had tallied 8189 points after 9 events, almost the Olympic 'A' standard.

*After nine: Eato 8189, Hard 7872, Harl 7256, Horn 7229.*

**1500 meters:** [5:51 - 5:56 pm]

The crowd had expanded to over 22,000 and were in for a treat, for attempts on world decathlon record are rare. Three times earlier Hayward Field had witnessed the WR:

by Rafer Johnson in 1960, and a pair by Bruce Jenner in the 1970s.

Harry Marra, Eaton's coach set up a pace plan for Ashton and he followed it religiously.

As expected Curtis Beach and Joe Detmer led the breakaway with Eaton running reasonably close but cognizant that he did not want to race them. At 400m Beach, Detmer, Eaton and Horn had 40 meters on the peloton.

The Eaton Plan		
	Pace	actual splits
3 laps to go	51+	50+
400m	69	69
2 laps to go	2:00	2:00
800 m	2:18	2:18
1 lap to go	3:09	3:11
1200 m	3:27	3:26
Finish	4:16	4:14

Ashton fell of the pace a bit during the 3<sup>rd</sup> lap but the Duck faithful would not let him lag too much. He remarked at the post-meet press conference, "with 600 meters to go I became a believer in the Hayward Filed magic. I knew I was a little behind pace but there was just no way I was going to let this crowd down."

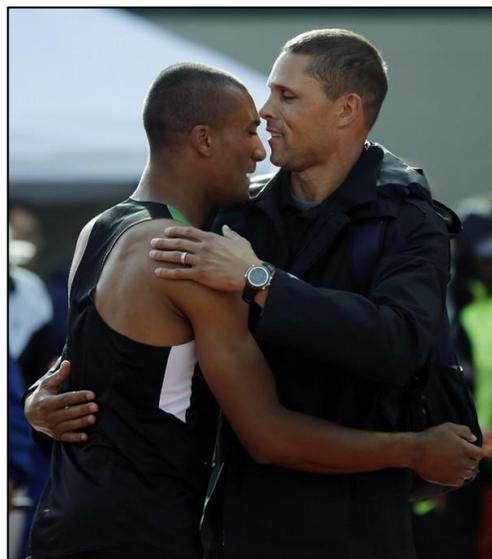


Curtis Beach (left) and Joe Detmer (right) provided Eaton with a convoy to the finish.

He visibly picked it up at the bell and closed on Detmer, reeling him in with 200m remaining. They raced the last furlong, and it was in the final 200m, running stride for stride with Detmer that a new record was assured, With 20 meters remaining Detmer eased off and Beach stepped aside to let Eaton, to the roar of the crowd, cross the finish line in front. With 15 meters remaining it was

apparent he would dip under the 4:16 goal and when the digital scoreboard read 4:14.48 (a 4½ second career best incidentally) the crowd went bonkers. He clocked a 63 second final lap.

I've announced, refereed or seen virtually all world records since 1972 and this was special. Ash himself was emotionally overcome. He managed a hug with his mother and fiancée, heptathlete Brienne Theissen, then came to the grandstand and flashed his trademark 'O' to the fans as the scoreboard flashed the new record...9039 points. 9039, I couldn't get the figures out of my mind....



Eaton gets congratulation from (now former) American record holder Dan O'Brien.

9039!

O my. But nothing prepared me for what happened next....here comes Dan O'Brien to offer congrats, followed by a litany of decathlon heroes.

After ten: Eaton 9039, Hard 8383, Horn 7954, Detmer 7931.



**Results:**

**6/22-23 23<sup>rd</sup> US Olympic Trials, Hayward Field, U of Oregon, Eugene, OR**

<b>9039</b>	Eaton, Ashton/Ore-e TC/Nike	10.21+0.4	823+0.8	1420	205	46.70	13.70-0.8	4281	530	5887	4:14.48	4728/4311
8383	Hardee, Trey/Nike	10.60+0.4	755+1.0	1572	199	49.11	13.71-0.8	4905	500	5700	5:08.67	

7954	Horn, Gray/Florida	10.93+0.4	760nwi	1349
				196 50.66 14.41+0.8 3834 500 5631 4:33.02
7931	Detmer, Joe/unat	10.97+0.1	738 0.0	1318
				190 49.14 14.92-1.1 4030 490 5439 4:14.77
7744	Helwick, Chris/unat	11.49+0.2	678-0.6	1425
				193 51.97 15.30+0.8 4361 490 6837 4:33.85
7715	Harlan, Ryan/unat	11.26-0.2	674-1.0	1548
				202 50.78 14.43+0.8 4470 480 6073 5:18.20
7712	Moss, Miller/unat	10.85+0.4	691-1.4	1403
				187 49.62 14.91-0.8 4476 470 5322 4:36.84
7660	Lazas, Kevin/Arkansas	11.10+0.1	744+0.8	1395
				193 51.44 15.25-1.1 3879 500 5473 4:43.39
7468	Randolph, Chris/Sketchers	11.39-0.2	669+0.7	1322
				190 50.40 15.28-1.1 4533 460 6081 4:48.09
7368	Murphy, Isaac/Texas	10.77+0.4	699+0.8	1304
				181 50.45 14.92-0.8 4351 460 4630 4:48.74
7109	Beach, Curtis/Duke	10.88+0.1	742+1.0	1183
				187 47.82 14.79+0.8 3944 440 nm 4:14.96
7092	Clay, Bryan/Asics	10.45+0.4	740+1.0	1563
				196 51.21 16.81-0.8 nm 480 6680 5:09.62
7009	Grzesiak, Dave/Wisconsin	11.56-0.2	650+1.0	1258
				190 50.48 15.36-1.1 3452 460 5057 4:40.91
6652	Broadbent, Eric/HPC-e	10.99+0.1	731+1.0	1243
				202 49.73 14.68-0.8 3443 nh 4640 4:46.10
6584	Duer, Corbin/unat	11.36-0.2	708+1.6	1262
				196 50.96 15.23-0.8 4061 nh 5144 4:40.44
6524	Arnold, Jake/unat	11.20+0.1	629+0.2	1372
				190 50.71 14.54-0.8 4351 nh 5860 5:12.30
dnf	Ayers, Michael/Georgia	11.28+0.1	nm	
				1310 184 51.93 withdrew
dnf	Keys, Dakotah/Oregon	11.37-0.2	682nwi	
				1276 184 inj withdrew 1
dnf	Bray, Wesley/unat	10.99+0.1	697+0.2	1386
				nh withdrew

19s,16f



**Coach Harry Marra and Ashton Eaton celebrate the return of the decathlon world record to America,**