

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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EATON LEAPS to DAY ONE LEAD 4604 1st Day Score Says It All



Hello Again... The 16 man field for the 92nd USA national decathlon was greeted by outstanding weather at historic Hayward Field in Eugene. The weather had been a crucial factor at many USA meetings this season, often in a negative sense, but it would not be an issue here. This meet would select 3 participants for the IAAF world champs in Daegu, Korea in August. Defending world champ Trey Hardee has earned a bye into the meet. Much attention was focused on the Ashton Eaton/Bryan Clay battle. Bryan appeared a bit rusty so day one went to the young challenger in his first post collegiate decathlon. Eaton won three of the five individual events, starting with a blistering 10.33 100m and ending with a 46.35 one lapper. His 4604 score at the break is 104 ahead of PR (at last year's NCAAAs—8457) pace and the crowd at historic Hayward Field sat squarely in his corner, watching and cheering every move. Clay was 408 back at the break but figured to make up a lot of that margin in the two long throws. Yet Eaton, 23, Bend, OR has made significant training progress in all five 2nd day events and figures to be a favorite for his first USA national title.

Collegians Mike Morrison/Cal, Curtis Beach/Duke and Miller Moss/Clemson, who went 1-2-3 at the recent NCAAAs all felt the effects of a short turnaround, and are a bit below par after day one. The field's two oldest competitors, Ryan Harlan, 30, and Mark Jellison, 31, enjoyed big first day efforts



Oregon Track Club favorite Ashton Eaton literally leaped over the 16 man USA national decathlon field and holds a whopping 408 point first day lead.

and sit 5th and 7th. Here's what happened on day one:

**92nd USA National Championship
Hayward Field
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon
June 23-24, 2011**



100 meters: [12:46-12:51 am]

Eugene certainly did not provide Austin breezes....mild here. Temp at race time was 67 degrees F. Two groups of 8 were nicely seeded and a good deal of attention focused on defending champ Jake Arnold/Asics, in lane 6. After a banner and breakout season in 2010 where he placed 3rd at the worldwide IAAF CE Challenge, Jake had been beset with a number of minor ailments. Since he has the IAAF 'A' standard of 8200 points he needs to finish here for a trip to Daegu if no one else in the field

(sans/Clay/Eaton) achieves it here. But the question was his fitness. He appeared sluggish finishing 6th in 11.44 seconds, his slowest century in completed meet since 2003. The handwriting was on the wall. Harlan won the first race in 11.17 (aiding wind +0.2mps).

The 2nd (and top seeded) race found the *slowest* seeded runner in this section with a PR of 10.78!. Eaton (lane 3) and Clay (lane 4) ran side by side. Ashton began to ease away at 40 meters, was 3 steps up at 70 meters and won by a ton, 10.33 (deca PR) to 10.64 at the tape. Speedy Texan Isaac Murphy was 3rd in 10.81. Eric Broadbent, Morrison and Beach all dipped together clocking 10.90 seconds. Aiding wind: +0.6mps... For the 2000 spectators who watched the race, Eaton's burst in the final 30 meters was eye-opening.

After One: Eato 1016, Clay 942, Murp 903, Broa-Beac-Morr 883.

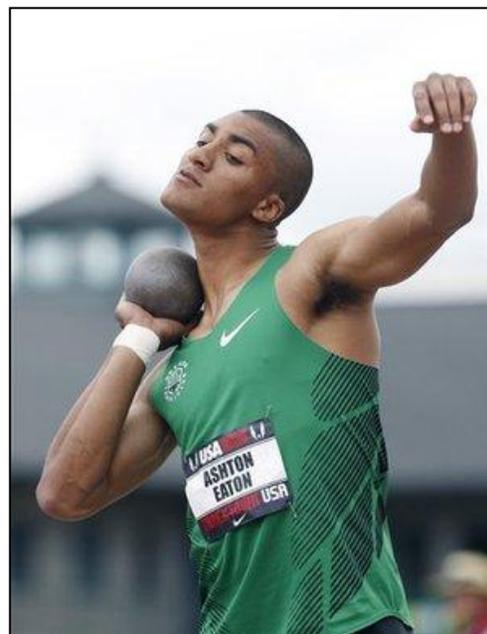
Long Jump: [1:30-2:00 pm]

Jumping in adjacent pits---north to south on the west side of Hayward Field, there were high expectations. Although the conditions were excellent, the results here were somewhat disappointing. In flight #1 Jellison nailed a 7.46m/24-5 3/4 leap in round two to win while Beach came closest to matching his career best, getting 7.31m/23-11 3/4, also in round #2. Arnold, clearly hurting managed 6.05m/19-10 in round two. The



Ex NCAA champ Ryan Harlan dominated the shot with a 16.51m/54-2 effort/ defending champ would attempt one more event before withdrawing.

Round #1 in Flight #2 (east pit) started strangely with a trio of fouls including a big leap by Eaton which was negated at the toe-board. Clay led after round #1 and Eaton responded with a conservative (speed and steps) 7.80m/25-7 1/4 in round # 2 to win the competition. He could not find the board on his final effort while Clay improved to 7.36m/24-1 3/4, following a fine 7.50m/24-7 1/4 leap by Morrison. Strange winds made some o the jumping difficult. For instance, Eaton's 2nd effort was aided by a +3.1mps wind, while



his 3rd

Eaton's first toss of 14.14m/46-4 3/4 would have been a welcome mark a year ago.

faced a -1.8mps headwind. Go figure.

After Two: Eato 2026, Clay1842, Morr 1818, Beac 1771.

Shot Put: [2:35 – 2:53 pm]

The shot event seemed to lack energy...pzazz...zip....snap....fizz. Flight #1 drew 6 collegians and Miller Moss dominated with a nifty 13.70m/44-11 1/2 toss in round 3 to win. Beach experienced problems controlling the 16 lb ball and dropped here, managing just 10.86m/35-7 1/2, 4 feet below his own best.

While Arnold (13.59m/44-7 in round #1 then withdrew) and Clay (14.25m/46-9)

struggled Ryan Harlan was putting on a clinic. After throws of 15.53m/50-11½ and 15.85/52-0, his final toss (he barely saved it) covered 16.51m/54-2 of Lane County real estate and moved him into 3rd place overall. Eaton too was below expectations considering his indoor ‘goofy glide’ results, but managed 14.14m.46-4¾ and his lead was now 177 over Clay. Vet Chris Randolph recorded the lone career best, 14.05m/46-1

After Three: Eato 2763, Clay 2586, Harl 2440, Moss 2428.

High Jump: [3:25 – 4:30 pm]

There was some last minute juggling of sections, but when the dust cleared *most* of the top jumpers were placed correctly.

In Flight #2 (east pit) Texas junior Kenny Greaves no heighted but the story was how well Jellison was jumping. He won this competition at 2.05m/6-8¾, just 2 cm off his own PR.

In Flight #1 Clay, with an erratic



Day one was a struggle for Olympic Champ Bryan Clay who finds himself down by 408 points.

approach, brawled with the crossbar clearing only 1.99m/6-6¼. Neither Eaton nor Harlan experienced any trouble at 2.05m/6-8¾ but neither went higher. The high jump was dominated by Broadbent, 25, the former West Chester U star, who scraped over a PR 2.14m.7-¼ and had one solid attempt a 2.17m/7-1½, an effort that moved him to within 45 points of Clay’s 2nd place total. Eaton lead had swelled to 233 points.

After Four: Eato 3613, Clay 3380, Broa 3335, Harl 3290.

400 meters: [6:31- 6:37 pm]

The athletes had finished the first 4 events smartly and were well ahead of the posted time schedule. Yet there was no convenient place to fit in two sections of the 400m and the remainder of the meet was running 30 minutes behind schedule. The wait to complete the final event was two hours.

In the first race speedy Isaac Murphy maintained complete control for 300m when he began to run out of gas. Down the homestretch the crowd of 4500 saw him struggle mightily (49.07) to hold off the steady Nick Adcock, the ’11 USA indoor kingpin (49.31) and Broadbent (49.46). The latter just missed a PR.

Clay drew lane 4, Eaton 5, Beach (off his recent NCAA PR of 46.90) lane 6 and Moss lane 7. At 200m Eaton had eliminated the stagger on the field with Clay in hot pursuit. Ashton clocked 22.3 at 200m. He tagged the turn and drew strength from the crowd on the homestretch winning by 16 meters. Clay faded to 49.98 but Moss ran tough down the home straightaway to grab 2nd from Beach, 48.06 to 48.62. Eaton’s clocking erased Jeff Bennett’s meet record of 46.4h set at the 1972! AAU champs in Los Angeles and was .07 shy of his own PR. To say that the Hayward faithful were appreciative of his efforts would be an understatement. And, if a strong 400m indicates second day reserve.... it was so indicated. Ashton was 104 points up on his PR pace.

After Five: Eato 4604, Clay 4196, Broa 4175, Moss 4128.



1st Day RESULTS:

6/23-24 92nd USA National Championship, Hayward Field, U of Oregon, Eugene, OR

4604	Eaton, Ashton/Oregon TC-e	10.33+0.6	780+3.1	1414	205	46.35
4196	Clay, Bryan/Nike	10.64+0.6	736+1.4	1425	199	49.98
4175	Broadbent, Eric/HPE elite	10.90+0.6	721+0.4	1279	214	49.46

4128	Moss, Miller/Clemson	10.92+0.6	711+0.4	1370	199	48.06
4013	Harlan, Ryan/unat	11.17+0.2	666+0.4	1651	205	52.04
3984	Morrison, Mike/California	10.90+0.6	750+1.1	1177	193	49.59
3964	Jellison, Mark/unat	11.31+0.2	746+0.9	1356	205	52.68
3954	Beach, Curtis/Duke	10.90+0.6	731+0.5	1086	196	48.62
3928	Adcock, Nick/unat	11.40+0.2	702+0.9	1390	196	49.31
3865	Johnson, Matt/Sam Houston St	10.93+0.6	719+2.9	1290	184	50.14
3769	Helwick, Chris/unat	11.42+0.2	688-0.1	1332	196	51.19
3768	Randolph, Chris/SLO W	11.44+0.2	678-1.2	1405	193	50.97
3756	Huber, Nick/Cornell	11.32+0.2	651+1.2	1358	196	50.43
3698	Murphy, Isaac/Texas	10.81+0.6	676-1.9	1182	175	49.07
2793	Greaves, Kenny/Texas	11.60+0.2	626+0.3	1238	nh	50.58
dnf:	Arnold, Jake/Asics	11.44+0.2	605-0.1	1359		withdrew

Quotes:

Ashton Eaton had this to say after his hot 400 meter race: "Today was consistent for me, not an incredible day, but overall a good one. Some of the other competitors haven't done this in a while, their body language can tell whether or not they are fully ready for this. I am used to this, it is me competing against myself."

USA Junior Champs June 23-24, 2011, Eugene, Or



Not to be overlooked is the concurrent USA Junior decathlon champs where a ding-dong battle is underway between future Arkansas college teammates Gunnar Nixon, 17, Edmond Oklahoma and Kevin Lazas, 18, Brentwood, TN. Collectively they won all 5 first day events and only 89 points separate them—Nixon 4192-lazas 4103.

Nixon, who became the first prep ever to score over 8000 points with high school implements (12 lb sp, 39' hurdles, 3.58 lb discus) faces a real tussle with Lazas who

became the American junior record holder in the spring (teenager using international implements—16 lb sp, 42' hurdles and 4.41 lbs disc). Neither scores are strictly comparable and to make the issue more difficult, here they are using yet *another* set of implements here, the international junior set (13.23lb, 39' hurdles, 3.96 lb discus). Confused yet? Regardless, they have separated themselves from the field in

6-4 Gunnar Nixon, 18, (right) Edmond, OK posted a snappy 4192 1st day score and leads the 39th USA Junior Champs.



Eugene. Nixon held the advantage in the 100m (11.03 to 11.11). Lazas won the long jump, 7.35m/24-1½ to 7.30m/23-11½ to move within 6 points of the overall lead, He then took the lead with a 15.24m/50-0 shot while Nixon recorded a pair of fouls and safed his final toss managing just 13.09m/42-11½. Nixon regained the lead with a 2.14m/7-¼ high jump and extended it by winning the 400m in 49.35 seconds.

The person most enjoying this battle is Arkansas dec coach Travis Geopfert.

1st day Results:

6/23-24 USA Junior Champs, Hayward Field, U of Oregon, Eugene, OR

4192	Nixon, Gunnar/Edmond, OK	11.03	730	1309	214	49.35
4103	Lazas, Kevin/Arkansas	11.11	735	1524	199	50.95
3748	Nielsen, Kevin/Rev Express	11.28	664	1170	202	50.11
3707	Fellows, Alec/Edmond, WA	11.21	695	1113	193	50.39
3574	Houston, Sam/Fordham	11.65	622	1266	193	50.67
3525	DiMambro, Michael/Essex Jct, VT	11.07	646	1219	178	51.64
3469	Coles, Idare/Cal redshirt					

		11.36	631	1000	199	53.45
3372	Ijah, Solomon/Murrieta Valley,CA					
		11.52	613	1250	184	52.53
3331	Robson, Jamey/Akron					
		11.72	644	1248	178	52.70
3319	Catera, Matt/SUNY-Albany					
		11.32	618	1147	169	50.50
3207	Gilman, Tim/Missouri					
		11.74	594	1254	175	52.44
3203	Fox, Dillon/Long Beach St					
		11.49	615	1125	169	52.33