

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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ASHTON's 8310 RULES in AUSTIN Arnold Clicks in Tucson

Hello Again..... There were a pair of stories at the 2010 version of the Texas Relays decathlon. The first, *How high could 2x NCAA champ Ashton Eaton score?* was overshadowed by the second, *Would it count?* Any record chance for the 21 year old University of Oregon senior were blown away on day two and for the second time in his young career his total will not go into the Duck record books because of excessive wind readings in a single event. Yet nothing should diminish the luster of his 8310 PR and winning score. 8310 is *8310!* And overlooked was his winning margin....a whopping 753 points.

No doubt about it, the week's major story was in Austin, Texas where Eaton, 22, Bend, OR, started like a house on fire with a PR equaling 10.34 century, a PR 7.88m/25-10¼ long jump and missed a lifetime best in the shot by a single cm, 13.11m/43-¼. By the end of day one his gaudy 4494 score had everyone scurrying to the scorebooks to see what was possible. Yet, just as important were the wind readings for the initial two events, already totaling 6.4 mps. There was so much internet action about the wind readings and the applicability of the new IAAF ruling (see yesterday's post) that Track and Field News issued a statement about a possible collegiate record.

Day two in Austin was very warm (80's) and very breezy and the latter caused mayhem, pushing hurdles too close to barriers, blowing crossbars off standards and



Oregon senior Ashton Eaton cruised in the 1500 meters. His final tally of 8310 was his 8th consecutive 8k.

playing havoc with javelins. For Eaton, his 13.85 (although = to a PR clocking) may have been much faster considering he had to brake at each hurdle. But the +4.9mps wind reading eliminated any consideration for a collegiate record. Undaunted his 43.71m/143-5 discus throw was a PR. The vault was a disappointment for the Oregon senior although it appeared (videos confirmed) that he was clean over 4.90m/16-¾ and the crossbar was dislodged by the very strong wind at this point exceeding 5mps. So his official 4.60m/15-1 That vault itself would have added 90 more points to his total making the final an even 8400.

His javelin and 1500m marks were anticlimactic and the final tally, 8310 lifetime best, would go into the books as another wind-aided mark. It was the 2nd time (2009 NCAA winning 8241 effort) that he will not



Cal's Mike Morrison, off a 3rd place finish at the NCAA indoor meet, put up a 7557 score in Austin. Matt Johnson (below), a 6-2 soph at Sam Houston St, improved to 7266.



Ashton Eaton (left) followed Oregon teammate Marshall Ackley (right) in the 1500m early, then coasted to a 4:41.43 clocking.

be given credit even for the Oregon school record of 8176 (Pedro daSilva, 1992). But make no mistake....8310 is 8310 and the wind did little to diminish his impressive performances. He now has scored more than 8000 on 8 consecutive occasions.

Our congratulations to Ashton. Don't worry, one day soon he'll wake up, the day will be calm, and the resulting numbers will be BIG. Be patient, it's just a matter of time.

There were other fine scores were posted in Austin. Cal junior Mike Morrison, in his 1st meet in two seasons, nailed a 7557 score, 15 more than Texas A&M's Trinity Otto. Houston's senior, Wes Bray upped his PR to 7429 and Sam Houston State's Matt Johnson also PR'd at 7266. 9 surpassed 7k.

The week's other major meet saw Jake Arnold, one of only three ever to win back-to-back NCAA D-I titles (Eaton and Rob Muzzio the others), win on his alma mater's track at Arizona's Jim Click meet in Tucson. He too cruised the 1500m and ended with a nice season opener 7832 score. Kansas State junior Moritz Cleve, 3rd at last year's collegiate nationals and recovering from a minor knee ailment, was runner-up with 7429.

In the closest meet of the week Kyle Steiner made up 20 seconds in the 1500 to win the Liberty Invitational in Lynchburg by just 7 points, 7119 to 7112 over the host school's Gelen Woodbridge.