

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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DAY ONE at the Trials

Eaton leads Taiwo, ZZ at Break



Hello Again... Given the venue the weather and conditions for the 24th US Olympic Trials and 97th USA National decathlon, was ideal. A large (est 3,000) early morning crowd was on hand to see three sections of the 100 meters at 9:45 pm. Given the torrential 2012 rainstorm during the previous Trials, this was heaven. Most of the scuttlebutt focused on Ashton Eaton's readiness and he answered all question with flying colors. Running smoothly in both the 100m and 400m and easily in the long jump, he put up 4560 first day points with the odometer on 'cruise control.'

Both Jeremy Taiwo and Wisconsin's 'Double Z' Zach Ziemek looked impressive running up PR 1st day scores. For example, Taiwo's 2.21m/7-3 high jump clearance wowed the crowd announced at 21,800. The trio (Eaton, Taiwo, ZZ) have separated themselves from the pack and only an unforeseen disaster will keep them off the US Olympic Team headed to Rio. The meet's major disappointment was the injury to Trey Hardee that will keep him off a 3rd Olympic team. He struggled thru four events before managing just 72 seconds for the 400 meters. In January he suffered a freak vaulting accident to his ankle and, although it was a medical miracle that he competed as well as he did, it just was not in the cards for the 3x USA champion.

Here's the first day tale:



Ashton Eaton/ Nike & Oregon TC leads the 2016 US Olympic Trials in Eugene with a 4560 first day score.

24th US Olympic Trials Decathlon
Hayward Field
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR
July 2-3, 2016



DAY ONE

100 Meters: [9:45 – 9:54 am]

When the event got underway there was a slight breeze from the northwest, coming over the Bowerman Building. The sections (3 of 6 athletes each, lanes 2 thru 7) were nicely seeded using only marks made in the qualifying period (1/2/15-6/26/16).

In the first section most focused on the battle between Jeremy Taiwo and Miller

Moss, running side-by side in lanes 2-3 as Michigan State redhirt Tim Ehrhardt scooted by them both to win 10.90-10.94-10.98. Aiding wind + 1.6 mps. Kurtis Brondyke PR'd (11.11) for 6th.

In the second race Garrett Scantling could not reproduce his 10.66 PR at Gotzis and the race was between the Williams boys, Harrison and Devon, with the latter getting the nod, 10.65 (a PR) to 10.70. Speedy Rice redshirt Scott Filip was 3rd, 10.75. Aiding wind, +1.2 mps.



Ashton Eaton's 10.34 century answered many question about his left quadracep.

The feature (top seeded) contest saw Ashton Eaton draw lane 5, with Wisconsin's 'DoubleZ' on his left and Trey Hardee to his right. Eaton's recent left quad injury was on everyone's mind and but he answered all question within 40 meters of the gun. His 10.34 was clocked easing up with Hardee a surprising 10.54 in 2nd. ZZ (at 10.60 in 3rd) was 3/100ths off his best). Nice wind: +1.8mps. temps in the mid 70s.

Here's the summary of the third section.

Section # 3

Place	name	lane	reaction	time	points
1...	Eaton	5	0.187	10.34	1013
2.	Hardee	6	0.146	10.54	966
3.	Ziemek	4	0.195	10.	952
4.	Bastien	7	0.185	10.70	929
5.	Beach	2	0.165	10.75	917
6..	Simmons	3	0.189	10.79	908

After One: Eato 1013, Hard 966, ZZ 952, DWil 940.

Long Jump: [10:34 - 11:09 am]

The seeded jumpers were placed in Group #2 (West pit-inside) and there was some confusion as to which group jumped where??? Repeated question resulted in diverse answers. This is something that

should not be too hard to resolve. Conditions were generally favorable.

In the west pit Hardee led off with a 6.83m/22-5 attempt and limped gingerly. Eaton's smooth approach resulted in a 7.84m/25-8¾ first round leap and he immediately passed his remaining attempts. The effort won the event. Round #2 saw most of the action. Taiwo scared a PR managing

Doane's NAIA champ Kale Wolken got 7.23m/23-8 ¾ in the long jump.



7.55m/24-9¼ and Devon W and ZZ posted identical 7.72m/25-4 attempts...high class jumping. Michigan's Steven Bastien saved a fine score, after two fouls, with a PR 7.65m/25-1¼ try while NAIA king Kale Wolken posted 7.23m/23-8¾. The event was universally good....with only 6 fouls in 25 attempts.

In Section #1 (the East pit) local favorite (the other Bend guy) Mitch Modin, asking the crowd for some rthymtic clapping on the very last jump and then rewarded about 4000 spectators with a significant career best, 7.42m/24-4¼. He was clearly delighted as 14 of 18 jumpers surpassed 7 meters.

After Two: eato 2033, ZZ 1942, DWil 1930, Bast 1901Taiw (6th) 1823 ...Hard (10th) 1763.

Shot Put:[11:40 am - 12:06 pm]

Much of this event went unnoticed. The growing crowd focused on the plethorta of events on the track and on the South infield. In the West circle Scantling's 15.97m/52-4¾ was notable as he won the event over Hardee's surprising 15.68m/51-5 ½ (pushing him up to 5th place) toss and

Brondyke's PR 15.35m/50-4½. Eaton's first round toss landed at 14.04m/46-¾, a clear disappoint-



Wisconsin's 'Double Z', Zach Ziemek, improved on his NCAA shot performance while fashioning a PR 1st day score.

ment given his 15m practice toss two days earlier. Taiwo (14.88m/48-10) and ZZ (14.11/46-3½) continued their torrid pace.

In the East circle Wichita's Austin Bahner (13.86m/45-5¾) and SBTC's Thomas FitzSimons (13.12m/43-1/2) had career marks with the former winning the group. Again, few were wasting attempts...only ten fouls out of 51 attempts, clearly on the low side. Tim Ehrhardt withdrew. Eaton's lead was 59 points.

After Three: *eato2764, ZZ2677, Scan 2612, Taiw 2603, Hard 1595.*

High Jump: [12:50 - 2:01 pm]

Jeremy Taiwo, at 6-5, 194, held center stage. After ZZ was eliminated at 2.12m/6-11½ Taiwo continued for nearly one half an hour clicking off first round clearances at 2.15m/7-½, 2.18m/7-1¾ (for new Hayward Field, USOT and USA meet records) and then 2.21m/7-3 to tie Tom Pappas' 16 year old US record. Although events swirled around him (javelin, children's races, long jump) the crowd eventually noticed Taiwo's extraordinary efforts. When the bar went to 2.24m/7-4¼ he clearly had the attention of the 17,000 spectators who remained. Only his 2nd attempt was close, but the performance pushed him into the overall lead by 38 points (over Eaton) after Ziemek had closed on the defending champ to within 3 points. At this point the meet clearly belonged to this trio.

Ashton managed 2.00m /6-6¾ and had his 3rd try at 2.03m/6-8 teeter off.

In the West pit Hardee struggled with a 1.82m/5-11½ effort. Game in his attempt, this was just not going to be his day. It was obvious he was not even 80%. Devon Williams won with a 1.97m/6-5½ PR. Wolken's 1.91m/6-3¼ was well under expectations. Officials moved the event along so smoothly (152 attempts, 66 clearances, 16 different settings) that there was plenty of



Jeremy Taiwo's 2.21m/7-3 America dec high jump record was the top performance of day one.

time to prepare for the 400m.

Section #1 (East Pit)

<u>Pl name</u>	<u>191</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>215</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>221</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>best</u>	<u>pts</u>
1..Taiwo	p	p	p	p	o	xo	o	o	xo	o	o	xxx	221	1002
2..Ziemek	p	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	xxx				209	887
3..Scantling	o	o	o	o	xo	xxx							206	859
4..Eaton	p	o	xo	xo	xxx								200	803
4..Filip	o	o	xxo	o	xxx								200	803
6..Bastien	o	o	xo	xxx									197	776
6..Modin	xo	o	xo	xo	xxx								197	776
8..Beach													188	696
Ehrhardt	DNS													

Checking Eaton's career, it had been 5 years (2011 Worlds in Daegu) when he was this far into a meet and not leading. Not to worry.

After Four: *Taiw 3605, Eato 3567, 3564, Scan 3471.*

400 meters:[2:55 - 3:02 pm]

In the first race 'Double Z' ran blind (out of the outside lane...7) and never saw a competitor. He led throughout, faded a bit on the home-stretch, but was not caught and clocked a hard-earned 49.30 for an eye-

opening 4411 first day score, 73 ahead of his NCAA PR pace!!!!

In the second section the athletes (including Trey Hardee in lane 2) were 95 meters into the race when a recall gun was fired. Still unable to track down why? When the race was restarted Scott Filip and Steven Bastien ran a competitive race upfront with the former eventually getting the nod, 49.08 to 49.15....a preview of next year's NCAA meet on the same track. Scantling was well back (51.04 -ala Götzis) taking him out of contention.

Hardee ran competitively thru 250 meters but slowed and struggled in at just over 72 seconds, his season to defy medical experts now over. Yet the crowd was



Jeremy Taiwo's 400m performance went virtually unnoticed yet his 48.76 4th place clocking in the third race gave the 26 year old from Renton, WA a career best 4478 first day total.

appreciative of both his legacy and of his effort demonstrating a protocol for younger decathletes..... *finish the event*. Gimpy and in pain all day, Trey earned our respect.

With Ehrhardt's withdrawal, only five started the final section and Eaton (lane 3) grabbed the lead early and ran efficiently and well-within himself. He came down the home straight under control, running smoothly and became a target for Harrison Williams in lane 2 who chased Ashton gamely for 100 meters. Eaton clocked 46.30, a new Trials and USA meet record and Williams' astonishing 46.66 effort drew raves. As Yanks, only Ash, Bill Toomey, the Jeffs (Bennett and Bannister) and Dave Buck have ever run faster. Whew.

Eaton regained the lead over Taiwo who had clocked a nice 48.76 behind Curtis Beach (48.23) but the buzz was for the angular Harrison Williams who moved to 8th overall.

Section # 3

Place	name	lane	reaction	time	points
1...	Eaton	3	0.181	46.30	993
2.	Beach	7	0.181	48.23	975
3.	Williams,H	2	0.272	46.66.	900
4.	Taiwo	4	0.225	48.76	900
5.	Modin	5	0.232	49.67	830
.	Ehrhardt	6	did not start		



The first day lasted just 5 hours and 17 minutes. 17 of 18 starters finished.

After Five: Eato 4560, Taiw 4478, ZZ 4411, Scan 4238.

Results:

7/2-3 24th US Olympic Trials & 97th USA Nationals, Hayward Field U of Oregon, Eugene, OR

4560	Eaton, Ashton/Nike-OreTC-e	10.34+1.8	784+1.4	1404	200	46.30
4478	Taiwo, Jeremy/Brooks	10.94+1.6	755+1.1	1488	221	48.76
4411	Ziemek, Zach/Wisconsin	10.60+1.8	772+0.7	1411	209	49.30
4238	Scantling, Garrett/unat	10.86+1.2	724+3.0	1597	206	51.04
4207	Williams, Devon/Georgia	10.65+1.2	772+0.1	1292	197	49.48
4180	Filip, Scott/Rice	10.75+1.2	737+3.2	1352	200	49.08
4159	Bastien, Steven/Michigan	10.70+1.8	765+1.3	1236	197	49.15
4144	Williams, Harrison/Stanford	10.71+1.2	704+0.9	1306	194	46.66
4134	Modin, Mitch/Oregon	10.87+1.2	742+2.7	1392	197	49.67
4047	Beach, Curtis/Nike	10.75+1.8	733+1.7	1261	188	48.23
4039	Bahner, Austin/ShockerTC	10.84+1.2	738+0.9	1386	188	49.87
4010	Simmons, Solomon/E Michigan	10.79+1.8	686+1.9	1491	188	49.44
3917	Brondyke, Kurtis/TheOtherGuys	11.06+0.6	674+1.3	1535	194	51.26
3914	Moss, Miller/OTC	10.98+1.6	705+1.5	1394	191	50.87
3892	Wolken, Kale/Doane	11.16+1.6	723+1.9	1303	191	50.18
3685	FitzSimons, Thomas/SBTC	11.26+1.6	664+2.5	1312	185	50.17
3329	Hardee, Trey/Nike	10.54+1.8	693+2.5	1568	182	72.49
dnf	Ehrhardt, Tim/MichiganSt	10.90+1.5	720+1.5	withdrew		

18s,17f