

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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EATON LEADS at MORNING BREAK

Holds 95 Point Lead at Rio Olympics



Hello Again.... After one run, one jump and one throw defending champ Ashton Eaton held a 95 point lead over expected challenger Damian Warner/Canada at the Rio Olympic Games. The pair went 1-2 a year ago at the IAAF world champs in Beijing and the expected battle between the pair drew About 8000 spectators when the ten-eventer began at 9:30 am. By the end of the morning session there were nearly 18,000 in the stadium to watch Eaton put up 3 very solid marks in his attempt to carve a little bit of history for himself----an attempt to become only the 3rd decathlete in history to win back-to-back Olympic gold medals. He won the 2012 gold in London over teammate Trey Hardee who was doing yeoman (and very knowledgeable) work in the TV booth.

Of interest, fully one quarter of the field (8/32) was either USA born or trained. There were 7 (count 'em) former NCAA champs or runner-ups were in the field of 32.

I must say that many of the contestants at the 24th Olympic decathlon in Rio appeared nervous, very nervous on the morning of day one. Many jump approaches and shot efforts appeared tentative at best. And a 2/10th sprint reaction. Common' JT. Yet there was nothing cautious about Eaton's performances. They were all very sound.

The 9:30 am start was reasonable (8:30 EST). The evening session begins at 4:45 pm (EST).



Defending Olympic decathlon champ Ashton Eaton, 28, Bend, OR, literally leapt to the decathlon lead with this 7.90m/25-11 long jump effort.



**31st Olympic Games
& 24th Olympic Decathlon
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
August 17-18, 2016**

DAY ONE

100 Meters: [9:30 – 9:56 am]

A field of 32 neatly fit into four 8 man races, well seeded and not using lane #1. 74°F, 76° humidity and sunny. The first race resembled an NCAA I meet bringing together first and second placers of the 2015 meet, Maicel Uibo and Pau Tonnesen and 2012 winner Kurt Felix/ex Boise State. Yet most of the attention focused on lane #8 where 2x Olympic medalist Leonel Suarez was preparing. Inactive for two year he reemerged in March with an 8347 score in Havana. One tough guy.

A quick gun. After 30 meters Felix was already clear of the field. He eased away and won easily in 10.93 with Dutchman Peter Braun a tenth back. Uibo was solid in 3rd at 11.16. Wind +0.5mps.

Heat 1:						
	<u>nation</u>	<u>lane</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>reaction</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>points</u>
1.. Felix	GRN	3	11.15	0.167	10.93	876
2.. Braun	NED	7	11.11	0.134	11.03	854
3. Uibo	EST	1	11.13	0.187	11.16	825
4.. Auziel	FRA	2	11.14	0.166	11.17	823
5.. Suarez	CUB	8	11.30	0.142	11.21	814
6. Van der Plaetsen	BEL	4	11.23	0.139	11.24	808
7. Ushiro	JPN	5	11.32	0.168	11.30	795
8. Tonnesen	ESP	6	11.35	0.142	11.32	791

Serious medal contenders Jeremy Taiwo (lane 5) and Kevin Mayer/FRA (lane 8) bore watching. Injured Eelco Sintinicolaas/NED (lane 1) and drug suspended Laabi Bouraada/ALG, the African record holder (lane 3), were surprise starters. Another fast gun. Bourada won in a nice 10.75 over Mayer's PR 10.81. Taiwo did not react well to the report (slowest at 0.200 reaction) and played catchup. He clocked 11.01 seconds. Wind -0.4mps.

Heat 2:						
	<u>nation</u>	<u>lane</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>reaction</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>points</u>
1..Bouraada	ALG	3	11.11	0.153	10.75	917
2. De Araujo	BRA	2	10.96	0.166	10.77	912
3. Mayer	FRA	8	10.89	0.163	pr 10.81	903
4. Sintinicolaas	NED	1	11.11	0.173	10.87	890
5. Taiwo	USA	5	10.89	0.200	11.01	858
6. Helcelet	CZE	7	10.96	0.147	11.06	847
7. Coertzen	RSA	6	10.91	0.152	11.12	834
8. Andreev	UZB	4	11.01	0.159	11.29	797

The crowd swelled to about 9000 spectators, still leaving a mostly empty cavern. A pair of Germans vets, Arthur Abele, 30 (lane 1) and Rico Friemuth, 28 (lane 6) were worth watching. The former needed to prove his recent 8605 effort was no fluke while the latter had not completed a meet this year (having dnf'd both Götzis and Ratingen) but was 3rd at last year's WCs in Beijing. Ex World junior champ Jiri Sykora/CZE lined up to prove he was next in a line that started with Dvorak and Sebrle.

Friemuth edged Ukrainian vet Oleksiy Kasyanov in a slowish (his face told the tale)

10.73. A slight headwind of -0.8mps hindered the runners. Abele faded to 5th as the results were a bit disappointing.

Heat 3:						
	<u>nation</u>	<u>lane</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>reaction</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>points</u>
1.. Friemuth	GER	6	10.71	0.160	10.73	922
2. Kasyanov	UKR	3	10.79	0.134	10.78	910
3.. Dudas	SRB	4	10.75	0.149	10.83	892
4.. Dubler	AUS	7	10.71	0.149	10.86	892
5.. Abele	GER	1	10.83	0.138	10.87	890
6.. Wiesiolek	POL	8	10.74	0.116	10.88	888
7. Nakamura	JPN	2	10.69	0.127	11.04	852
8. Sykora	CZE	5	10.86	0.148	11.15	827



Warner led Eaton to the finish line in the 4th sprint section, setting an Olympic meet record 10.30 seconds.

By the time the 4th section went off we were already 11 minutes late. I am unsure what took so long to muster the athletes to the starting line.

This section was loaded with sprinters and the anticipated matchup between Canadian Damian Warner, whose 10.15 WR in Götzis was electrifying and meet record holder Ashton Eaton (10.35 in London) was the reason for the large early morning crowd. Eaton was in lane 6, Warner two spots to his left. Almost overlooked in lane was Wisconsin's 'Double Z' Zach Ziemek, who had made 2016 a breakout season.

Eaton and Warner both got out well and were even at 40 meters when the Canadian eased away to clock 10.30, a new meet record. Ashton's 10.46 was good for 2nd and ZZ toasted the remainder of the field getting 10.71. 2016 NCAA champ Lindon Victor/Texas A&M was a disappointing 7th, caught in 10.83 seconds.

All clocking were approximately 1/10 of a second slower than expected.

Heat 4:						
	<u>nation</u>	<u>lane</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>reaction</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>points</u>

1. Warner	CAN	4	10.15	0.138	10.30	1023
2. Eaton	USA	6	10.34	0.147	10.46	985
3.. Ziemek	USA	1	10.60	0.136	10.71	926
4.. Kazmirek	GER	2	10.62	0.128	10.78	910
5. Garcia	CUB	8	10.65	0.150	10.81	903
6. Saluri	EST	5	10.52	0.141	10.82	901
7. Victor	GRN	7	10.60	0.151	10.83	899
8. Distelberger	AUT	3	10.67	0.159	10.84	897

Very noticeable was that almost the entire field showed up with haircuts....these guys never looked so trim....everyone but Freimuth who brought all of his hair.

Warner's lead was 46 points.

After One: Warn 1023, Eato 985, ZZ 926, Frie 922, Bour 917....Taiw 20th 858.

Long Jump: [9:46 – 10:29 am]

Warner opened the jumping in Group B with a smooth 7.60m/24-11¼ effort worth 960 points. Eaton immediately responded in Group A with a 7.90m/25-11 leap and turned a 46 point deficit into a 37 point lead. Both improved in later rounds.....Warner by 7cm and Eaton by 4cm. Eaton's overall lead as they headed to the shot put was 30 points. Ashton 2nd jump took the official 12 seconds (I timed him) to declare a fair jump...it was that close. But he left no mark on the plasticine. Whew!

Jumping best of all was Kai Kazmirek/ GER who nailed a PR in round #2 of Group B, 7.69m/25-2¾, and Kevin Mayer/FRA whose 7.60m/24-11¼ 3rd round attempt was close to a lifetime best. They moved to 3rd and 4th respectively.

Taiwo and ZZ also put up nice marks. Jeremy nailed a 7.45m/24-5½ effort in the 2nd round of Group #B and Ziemek covered 7.49m/24-7 of Brazilian real estate in Group A.

German fortunes (Abele/Freimuth/ Kaz) flagged as they recorded 5 fouls in 9 attempts. In fact generally the field had some difficulty with steps, the changing breezes and the speed of the runways. Seven athletes posted only one fair jump. Fully 1/3rd of all attempts (29 of 92) were toe-board fouls. Eelco Sintincolaas/NED withdrew. Eaton assumed the yellow "Leader" bib.

After Two: Eato 2030, Warn 2000, Kaz 1892, Maye 1863 , ZZ 1858..... 15th Taiw 1780,

Shot Put: [12:15 – 1:00 pm]



Infield temps reached 90 F° necessitating headgear for Ashton Eaton.

Temps climbed into the low 90s and Eaton saved some energy with a Spiderman-like headgear to cool down. The event moved swiftly and the 26 year old from Bend went a long way in putting this meet away early. His first round toss in Group A of 14.72m/48-3½ sent the message and followed seconds after Warner opened at 13.53m/44-4¾. The near four foot differential moved the defending champ up by 103 points. In the 2nd round Ash improved by a cm, but no additional points for 14.73m/48-4. Warner did improve in round #3 with a 13.66m/44-9¾ toss leaving Eaton with a 95 point lead at the break.

Yet there was so much more to this event. In Group B Mayer blasted a lifetime best effort, 15.76m/51-8½ to challenge Warner for the runner-up spot. He was now 9 points back. Ziemek never did get untracked here and managed just 13.44m/44-1¼.

There were major stories in Group A besides Eaton's tosses. Taiwo opened round #1 with a mark 1cm shy of a career best, 14.92m/48-11½ and other NCAA champs realllllllly struggled with the 16 lb ball. Current champ Lindon Victor fouled twice before managing just 14.80m/48-7, 3 feet under his best. But at least he survived the event. 2015 champ Maicel Uibo/EST did not,

unable to save any of his three tries!! No mark. Frances's tall Bastien Auziel won the



France's Kevin Mayer, 24, looked every bit a medal contender on day one. He recorded career bests in the 100m and shot, narrowly missed in the long jump group at 15.41m/50-6¾.

The poor seeding by organizers made little difference here. Two of the three best marks came from the lower seeded group. What was interesting was that, as some of the strongest and weakest throwers competed side by side in each of the two circles, the distance lines within the landing area were different (14m & 16m vs 13m & 15m). Go figure!

Relative to career marks the 24 year old Mayer had the best morning.

After Three: Eato 2803, Warn 2708, Maye 2699, DeAr 2648, Kazm 2633..... 9th Taiw 2565, 10th ZZ 2552.

Results:

After Morning Session-Day One

8/17-18 24th Olympic Games Decathlon, Rio de Janeiro,

2803	Eaton, Ashton/USA	10.46-0.1	794+1.7	1473
2708	Warner, Damian/CAN	10.30-0.1	767+0.5	1366
2699	Mayer, Kevin/FRA	10.81-0.4	760+0.1	1576
2648	De Araujo, Alberto/BRA	10.77-0.4	748-0.2	1526
2633	Kazmirek, Kai/GER	10.78-0.1	769-1.0	1420
2614	Kasyanov, Oleksiy/UKR	10.78-0.8	754-0.1	1450
2572	Bouraada, Larbi/ALG	10.75-0.4	752+0.4	1378
2567	Felix, Kurt/GRN	10.93+0.5	742-0.6	1477
2565	Taiwo, Jeremy/USA	11.01-0.4	745+0.2	1492
2552	Ziemek, Zach/USA	10.71-0.1	749+0.2	1344
2541	Helcelet, Adam-S/CZE	11.06-0.4	735 0.0	1511
2524	Dudas, Mihail/SRB	10.83-0.8	729 0.0	1423
2523	Braun, Peter/NED	11.03+0.5	755+0.4	1390
2516	Victor, Lindon/GRN	10.83-0.1	711 0.0	1480
2489	Abele, Arthur/GER	10.87-0.8	697-0.1	1503
2482	Distelberger, Dom/AUT	10.84-0.1	733+0.1	1340
2468	Auziel, Bastien/FRA	11.17+0.5	707-0.4	1541
2460	Freimuth, Rico/GER	10.73-0.8	717 0.0	1327
2441	Garcia, Yordani/CUB	10.81-0.1	683-0.2	1458
2440	Van de Plaetsen, Tho/BEL	11.23+0.5	766+0.7	1284
2440	Saluri, Karl-Robt/EST	10.82-0.1	702-0.4	1388
2406	Suarez, Leonel/CUB	11.21+0.5	714+0.1	1427
2394	Dubler, Cedric/AUS	10.86-0.8	747 0.0	1149
2393	Tonnesen, Pau/ESP	11.32+0.5	733-0.7	1369
2377	Wiesiolek, Pawel/POL	10.88-0.8	673+0.7	1417
2371	Coertzen, Willem/RSA	11.12-0.4	698+0.1	1400
2336	Sykora, Jiri/CZE	11.15-0.8	700+0.2	1345
2306	Ushiro, Keisuke/JPN	11.30+0.5	683+0.3	1414
2303	Nakamura, Akihiko/JPN	11.04-0.8	713+0.4	1200
2298	Andreev, Leonid/UZB	11.29-0.4	660-0.2	1486
1672	Uibo, Maicel/EST	11.15+0.5	714+0.4	nm
dnf	Sintinicolaas, Eelco/NED	10.87-0.4	withdrew	

