

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## CLAY CAPTURES IAAF WORLD INDOOR TITLE

**Hello Again.....**This one was never close. All hail 28 year old Bryan Clay who won the heptathlon at the 2008 IAAF World Indoor T&F Championships in Valencia by a whopping 137 points over the world's best multi-eventers. After a pair of silver medals in Budapest (2004) and Moscow (2006) he returns with the gold medal, the first American since Dan O'Brien won the initial IAAF heptathlon Toronto in 1993. His winning score was 6372 points, a lifetime best.

Clay won 4 of the initial 5 events. BelaRussian Andrei Krauchanka was 2<sup>nd</sup> (2234 points) and Olympic silver medalist Dmitry Karpov/KAZ 3<sup>rd</sup> (6131 points)

After two events in Valencia, Bryan had built a commanding heptathlon lead. After four events it got ugly. After 6 events the lead was an ungodly 232 points. He could afford to cruise the final event. For those naysayers who have been spouting that Clay was not a complete athlete because of his final event (1500m/1000m) history, there is but one response. Balderdash! They used to say the same thing about Rafer Johnson, Daley Thompson and Dan O'Brien.

Look at the score. Clay's the complete package. And he did it all without a single event PR. The rules say the winner must score the *most points*, not

the *most even number of points*. Combined events is an exercise in *totals*, not *standard deviations*.

And 23 year old Donovan Kilmartin, who has a final outdoor season of eligibility at Texas, was very solid 5<sup>th</sup> with a 5951 score.

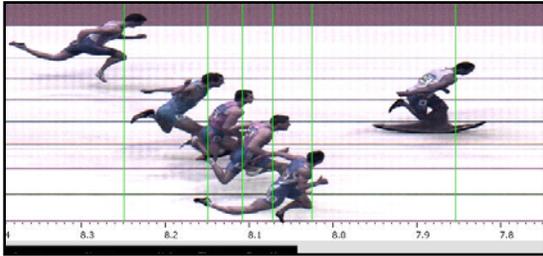


Bryan Clay used a fine 7.86 clocking in the 60m hurdles on his way to the world indoor crown.

### Day Two

#### 60m Hurdles: (10:00 am)

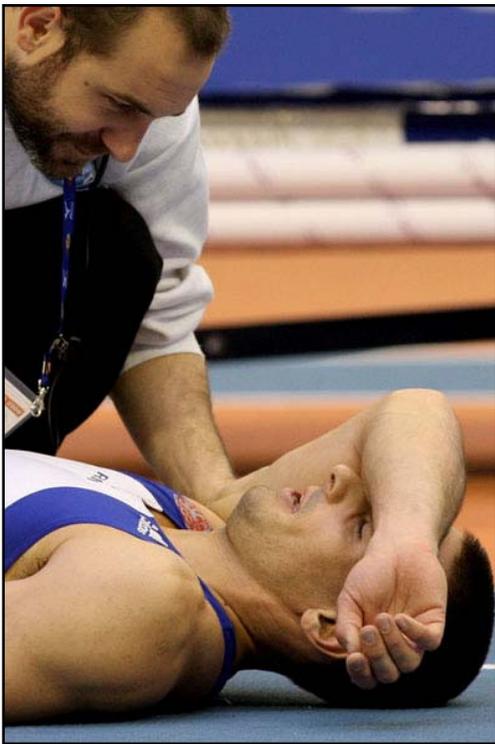
The Athens Olympic medalists lined up side-by-side, with Roman Sebrle in lane 3, Clay in lane 4 and Karpov in lane 5. Karpov reacted fastest but Bryan (0.179 reaction time) beat him to the first barrier smoothly moved away from the field clocking 7.86 seconds (for 1017 points). Bryan was unaware of Sebrle's demise. The Olympic champ hit



the 2<sup>nd</sup> hurdle and crashed, victim of a serious left hamstring pull. He was carried from the track

Behind Clay came the field, young Estonian Andreas Raja, in 8.03 seconds, and Krauchanka with 8.11. Karpov clocked a disappointing 8.15. Kilmartin managed 8.25 for 6<sup>th</sup>.

*After five: Clay 4753, Krau 4427, Karp[ 4367, Kilm 4260, Logv 4252, Raja 4748, Sebr 3561*



**Roman Sebrle gets medical attention after a crash in the hurdle race.**

### **Pole Vault: ( 10:50 am)**

Bryan opened at 4.60m/15-1, made 4.80m/15-9, then struggled, scraping over 4.90m/16-¾ on a third try. He then easily cleared 5.00m/16-4¾ but



**Bryan Clay used a 5.00m/16-4 ¾ vault on the way to the world crown.**

could go no higher. Kilmartin managed the next height, 5.10m/16-8¾ and moved to 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Both Karpov (5.20m/17-¾) and Krauchanka (5.30m/17-4½) PR'd here to cut into Bryan's lead which dwindled to just 232 points with a single event remaining. Krauchanka's significant PR (it was 5.15m/16-10¾) was eye-opening.

*After Six: Clay 5663, Krau 5431, Karp 5339, Kilm 5201, Logv 5162, Raja 5136.*

### **1000 Meters: (4:55 pm)**

With such a big differential the event was anti-climatic in spite of websites still predicting Krauchanka as a winner. Now come on! Let's be serious here. The differential was 232 points (21.5 seconds). A 2:50 from Clay would mean that the Krauchanka needed a 1000m world record for the gold medal. A fine runner he is. Joe Detmer he is not.

The race went as sane people expected. Bryan lagged at the back of the pack and clocked a 2:55.64. There was plenty more gas in the tank. Mikhail Loegvinenko won in 2:44.69, the differential between 1<sup>st</sup> and last place a mere 60 meters.

Congrats Bryan and Donovan!