

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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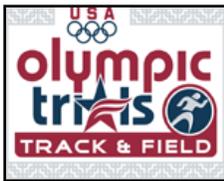
June (8), 2008

REFLECTIONS FROM EUGENE

Canadian Olympic Trials

Hello Again.....This newsletter will serve to offer some reflections of the recent US Olympic Decathlon Trials in Eugene, Oregon, promote upcoming decathlons and will allow us to catch up with other important meets along the way.

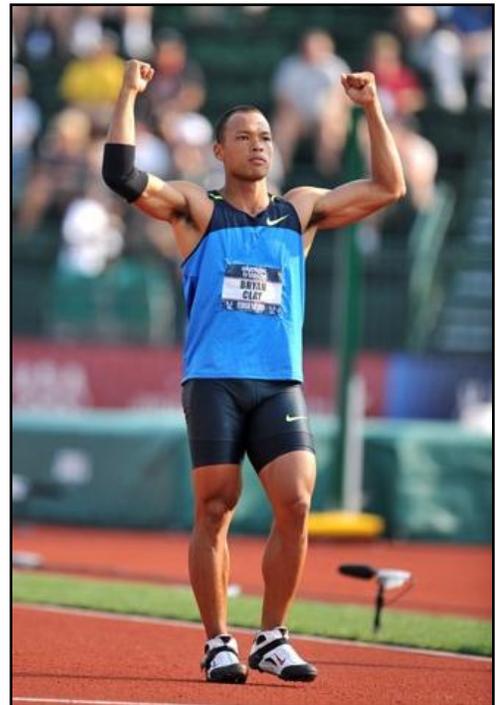
Seen in Eugene



So many positive things happened to the decathlon at the recent US Olympic Trials it's hard to know where to start. First, decathlons is a family and this meet is always sort of reunion. Numerous ex-athletes are in the coaching business that, it is no surprise to run into Dan O'Brien (Arizona State), Steve Fritz (Kansas St), Kip Janvrin (Central Missouri), Mario Sategna (Texas), Travis Geophert (Northern Iowa), John Wallin (Adams St), Sheldon Blockburger (Arizona), Shawn Wilbourn (Georgia), Dan Steele (Oregon), Jack Hoyt (CP-SLO) and more. It's almost as if the old VISA program has been reincarnated. At the very least the knowledge is being passed on.

As well, decathletes from the past stopped by the announcers booth to say hello including 1978 AAU champ Mike Hill, NAIA champion George Pannell, '63 world record holder Phil Mulkey, Steve Gough, and more.

We do need a formal reunion especially since:



Bryan Clay exults after big effort in Javelin

a) the nationals meet will be in Eugene for 3 of next 4 years (including 2012 Trials),

b) 2012 will mark the decathlon's 100th anniversary—introduction at the 1912 Stockholm Games and Jim Thorpe's accomplishments.

The meet was conducted efficiently so there was a big gap in the schedule between the final two events. Those in Flight #1 of the javelin had an unexpected 3½ hour wait. Flight #2... 2 hours. Kip Janvrin tried to get

the 1500m (scheduled for 8:35 pm) moved up to 7:00 pm (right before the evening session began), but some athletes were eating dinner by that time. So the 1500m went off, almost on schedule....right after an Oregon sweep in the men's 800m. There was so much noise in the stadium and victory laps that officials had to wait until they got a chance to fire the gun. As it was, most managed the extra rest well enough with 4 of first 5 getting PRs.

And a victory lap was in the offing for the entire decathlon field, a good idea and a tradition that should be continued.

Random thoughts... this meet unveiled the prodigious talents of a pair of youngsters named Ashton and Lysias (sounds like characters out of a Jane Austen novel). Local Duck Ashton Eaton, 20, who left Oregon 3 weeks ago as a 7792 athlete and came back as the NCAA winner (8055) and then upped his PR here to 8120. A terrific talent who showed us that, w/o much experience, if one can run fast and hold high, one can vault. And just wait until the throws



improve.

And where did Lysias Edmonds, 25, come from? A hurried search turned up a punt receiver/vaulter at Northern Arizona. That's it, but he got 8th here.

And this meet marked the retirement of Joe Cebulski, at 31 after a dozen years. Too bad about the vault 'nh.' But Joe had a terrific career. He switched from baseball to track his sophomore year at Taylor U in Indiana, won the NAIA title in 1999 and was a 4x internationalist and 2x Olympic Trials

qualifier with 19 7000+ scores and a PR of 7969. Thanks Joe, and all the best.

I can't recall a decathlon with so few false starts (one: Bryan Clay). Where were Janvrin and false-start record holder Kinder when you needed them?

Photos

(thanks to Pretty Sporty and USATF)



Trey Hardee (l), Bryan Clay (center) and Tom Pappas averaged 8622 in Eugene, the 2nd highest USA total ever.

Tom Pappas finished 1500 meters.





I recall Steve Gough taking a victory lap in 1975 with young son at the USA/USSR/Poland match when he scored first 8000 score. Here Bryan Clay does same thing, on same track, 33 years later.



Tennessee captain Jangy Addy capped a terrific season, a pair of 8000 scores and an NCAA silver medal.

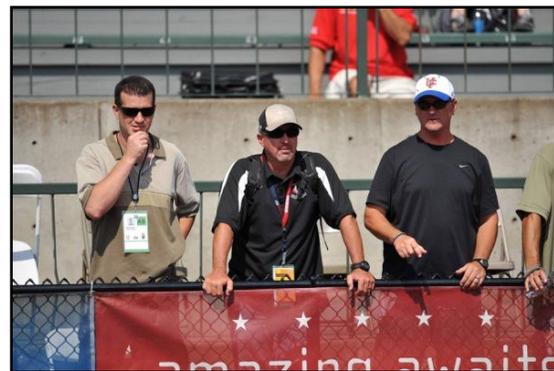


It wasn't easy for Ryan Olkowski to be a Goose in the land of Ducks.

Right: One of these guys (Dan O'Brien on left) is happy that he is still the American record holder.



Below: It looked like a European finish with bodies strewn over the track after the 1500m.



The Clay braintrust included Paul Doyle (l), Kevin Reid (center) and Rana Reider (right)



Crowd favorite Ashton Eaton was, at 20, the youngest in the field but his prodigious running and jumping talents hint of big things to come.



Until last week most knew Lycias Edmonds as a former punt returner for the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks.



Mustafa Abdur-Rahim managed a pair of running PRs including a 47.65 400m.



Jake Arnold, the '06-'07 NCAA king from Arizona, pulled off his 2nd best score ever.



Massi Bartocchi ran up an 8014 score at the Canadian Trials in Windsor, Ontario.

Canadian Nationals/Trials University of Windsor Windsor, Ontario July 3-4, 2008

Numerous Canadian decathletes compete in the US during the spring season so we looked to Windsor with more than passing interest when the Canadian Olympic Trials/Nationals were conducted on July 3-4 (Thursday-Friday).

Massimo Bettocchi, 22, the culinary student who represents the U of Toronto TC became the 4th Canadian to surpass 8000 points in Windsor, making achieving the Olympic "A" standard. His 8014 winning total was a relief after he narrowly missed 8k at Big Green/Desert in March (7963) and Hypo-Bank in Götzis (7959) in May.

Dartmouth senior Tyler Koskenoja (l) and Jamie Adjetey-Nelson of Windsor Legion were 4th and 2nd at Canadian Olympic Trials.

24 year old Jamie Adjetey-Nelson also PR'd with a 7787 effort. As a matter of fact, 5 of the top 6 PR'd in Windsor. Vet Craig Slaunwhite of Nova Scotia just edged Dartmouth College senior Tyler Koskenoja, 7468 to 7462, as both were lifetime bests. Lyndon McDowell, 30, former Minnesota star, was 5th in 7180 and NAIA scorer Reid Gustavson, University of British Columbia, PR'd with 6975 for 6th. This was one solid meet.

Results:

6/3-4 Canadian Nationals and Olympic Trials, Windsor, CAN

8014	Bertocchi, Massimo/UTorontoTC	10.89+3.3
719+3.3	1411 197 48.40 14.17+1.2 4408 480 5440 4:42.42	
7787	Adjetey-Nelson, Jamie/Windsor Legion	10.77+3.3
768+2.0	1405 206 50.37 14.73+1.2 4184 430 5251 4:53.89	
7468	Slaunwhite, Craig /Chebucto Athletics	11.54+3.3
685+1.4	1583 209 53.73 15.84+1.2 4656 470 5374 5:00.94	
7462	Koskenoja, Tyler/Dartmouth-UTTC	11.27+3.3
666+0.91333	185 49.51 15.02+1.2 4057 420 5983 4:21.44	
7180	McDowell, Lyndon/unat-OTFA	11.41+3.3
685+2.4	1486 197 51.04 15.39+1.5 4042 450 3698 4:41.31	
6975	Gustavson, Reid/U BC-Vancouver Thu	11.42+3.3
690+2.7	1245 197 50.62 16.32+1.2 3511 410 5474 4:44.35	
	6719 El Fouladi, Yassine/Sherbrook, 6084 Burkett,	
	Craig/UTorontoTC, 5984 Cunningham, Marcus/Capital	
	City TC, 5582 Grossett, Steve/UTTC, 12s, 11f.	



Jamie Adjetey-Nelson (l) of the University of Windsor, and Tyler Koskenoja (r) of Dartmouth/UTTC both posted PRs at the Canadian Trials.

What's Next ?

For the next month a number of national and international meets will entertain the US scene.

July 9-10 12th IAAF World Junior Champs, Bydgoszcz, POL [Chase Dalton/BYU & Weston Leutz/NDSU]



July 22-23 USA Junior Olympics Omaha, NE



July 18-19 NACAC Under 23 Toluca, MEX



Aug 2-3 Thorpe Cup, Kansas St U Manhattan, KS