

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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EATON RACES TO FIRST DAY LEAD

Leads NCAA Field by 229 points

Hello Again....the major story in the days leading up to the 40th NCAA D-I decathlon was....the weather...and prognosticators forecasted"occasional thunderstorms," "isolated thunderstorm warnings," "dangerous thunderstorms," Oh Boy! A major front with severe weather (70-80 mpg winds....that's really wind-aided!) passed one hour north of Fayetteville in the 12 hours before the meet and brought heavy rain but did not play havoc with the decathlon schedule on day one. The rains came in early evening, the thunderstorms and tornado warning at 7:20 pm, several hours after the decathlon had concluded.

Oregon junior Ashton Eaton lived up to his favorite status by posting the meet's highest first day score ever, 4367 points. Half-a-dozen others also surpassed the 4000 mark. Here's how it went.



40th NCAA Champs
U of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR
June 10-11, 2009

100 Meters: [11:30 – 11:45 am]

The 25 decathletes kept a wary eye on the skies. Winds gusted from the SSW which meant heady tail winds. About 450 spectators were on hand and temps were in the low 80. The weather could best be described as muggy.



Oregon Ducks after the first 400m race where Ashton Eaton set a collegiate mark, 46.85 and teammate Marshall Ackley, left) PR'd with a 48.33 clocking.



The four sections were well seeded and the very first race told us this meet could be very special, score-wise.

With an aiding wind of +2.7mps Florida freshman Gray Horn took an early lead, then gave it up late to Rice sophomore Phillip Adams. 10.98 to 11.05. They sandwiched two others, Nebraska's Skyler Reising (11.00) and Oregon junior Marshall Ackley (11.01), both of whom recorded lifetime bests.

The second race (wind + 3.4mps) went to Nebraska frosh Bjorn Barrefors (10.95) as 4 more PR'd! The situation escalated in the 3rd race (wind +2.8mps) as 5 of 6 PR'd, led by Patrick Woods' 11.21 clocking.

The final section was well worth the wait and with all the lifetime bests being recorded there was a sense that anything could happen. And it did. The breeze picked up (+4.1mps). In spite of new collegiate dec 100m record (10.34) holder Mantas Silkauskas/Kansas State skipping the meet to

concentrate on the Euro u23 affair, it's problematic that anyone could have topped the defending champ Ashton Eaton who came to run. He reacted quickly (NCAA does not release reaction times, sorry) and was clear of the field at 25 meters. By 50m his lead was 3 meters and at the finish the gap was a whopping 5 meters as the scoreboard read 10.35 seconds, a PR and new meet record. A&M's Trinity Otto was 2nd in 10.66 while Tennessee soph Michael Ayers (10.73) and Liberty's Dan Newell (10.74) also PR'd. In all, this represented one of the best collegiate dec sprints in history as 14 recorded lifetime bests and 9 broke 11 seconds. Whew! We were off and running.

After One: Eato 1011, Otto 938, Ayer 922, Newe 919.

Long Jump: [12:15 – 12:48 pm]

The event went off with few hitches. Only the temporary failure of the laser measuring device in Flight #1 slowed the event in round #1 where Kansas State's Moritz Cleve, the newest member of the 8k club, led at 7.22m/23-8¼. Eaton fouled at the toeboard. In round #2 Ashton repeated the act and chief Duck Dan Steele advised moving his step waaaaay back, which he did. On his final attempt he was 4 inches behind the board and still managed a winning 7.58m/24-10¼ leap. Five others recorded lifetime bests in Flight #1 including Missouri's Lars Rise (7.46m/24-5¾), Barrefors (7.40m/24-3¼), Ayers (7.36m/24-1¾), Horn (7.32m/24-1¼), and Carolina Frenchman Mateo Sossah (7.30m/23-11½).

The competition was no less competitive in Flight #2 (the lower seeded pit) where 4 others PR'd. The winner was MVC champ Mat Clark/Northern Iowa (7.31m/23-11¾). Carolina's tall Dan Keller (7.12m/23-4¼), Akron's Dan Kinsey (6.83m/22-5) and Ackley (6.80m/22-3¾) also came up with career bests. The only casualty was Reising who was unable to handle the gusts and recorded a trio of foot faults. 47 jumps, 16 fouls.

After Two: Eato 1966, Otto 1836, Ayer 1832, Clar 1794.

Shot Put: [1:20 – 1:50 pm]
Kansas State Moritz Cleve (right) pushed 14.02m/46-0, a mark that helped him move into 3rd place after day one.



Lars Rise (15.81m/51-10½) and Kinsey (15.01m/49-3) led Flight #1 (higher seeded throwers)

after the first round. Rise improved in round # with the winning effort, 15.94m/52-3¾) which gave him the overall lead. The only career best, a 3rd in a row, belonged to Keller, at 13.99m/45-10¾).

Sossah won the 2nd group at 13.63m/44-8¾ as two others PR'd: Notre Dames' Justin Schneider (12.60m/41-4¼), Ackley at 12.28m/40-3½. Eaton initially took a standing toss 11.44m/37-6½, then steadily progressed with a spin to 12.32m/40-5 and 12.57m/41-3, about 8 inches shy of a PR.

After Three: Rise 2614, Eato 2607, Otto 2560, Cleve 2502.

High Jump: [2:25 – 3:50 pm]

A pair of seeded pits were set up at the north end of John McDonnell Field. By now the crowd had swelled to a bit less than 4000. Predictably Schneider won Group #2 (west pit) at 1.99m/6-6¼. His much higher open PR would have placed him in Flight #1 with the better



Tennessee soph Michael Ayers managed a 1.99m/6-6¼ leap in Fayetteville, 1cm shy of a PR, a mark that kept him in 3rd place overall.

jumpers but his coach provided seeded mark included only multi marks. Two others, Kinsey (1.96m/6-5) and Adam (1.93m/6-4) PR'd.

In the east pit a trio PR'd including Sossah (2.08m/6-9¾), RJ McGinnis/Minnesota (2.05m/6-8¾) and Horn (2.02m/6-7½). Sossah's 2nd effort at 2.11m/6-11 was ever so close. Officials moved the event along

as smartly as possible. In 85 minutes there were 223 jumps (a jump ever 23 seconds!), with 102 clearance and NO no heights!

Eaton looked smooth with no trouble thru 1.99m/6-6¼, then appeared somewhat ragged thereafter, but he regained the overall lead.

After Four: Eato 3401, Otto 3274, Ayer 3272, Soss & McGi 3263.

400 Meters: [4:20 – 4:35 pm]

The seeded race was scheduled first and all eyes were on Eaton, the solidly built



6-1, 190 junior from Bend, Oregon. Having scored at the Pac-10 400m with a 46.34 PR,

expectations were high that he could take out Joe Detmer's 3 year old meet record of 47.28 and Asuza's Jordan Hudgens ten year old collegiate mark of 46.89 seconds. As well he needed but 47.31 to erase Chris Huffins' first day meet record of 4344 points. He set the tone early bucking a strong headwind on the backstretch, hammered the turn then used the trailing breeze down the home straight to clock.....46.85 to achieve all the aforementioned milestones. Up the track teammate Ackley used a PR to hold off Cleve, 48.33 to 48.42, Dan Newell PR'd in 4th at 48.87.



Trinity Otto/Texas A&M won the 2nd 400m section in 48.94 seconds. He finished day one in 2nd place

TAMU's Otto bulled his way to the finish to win the 2nd race in 48.94 as 3 others (Ayers, Sossah and Tyler Clarke) all PR'd. A pair PR'd in the 3rd race including the winner, Lars

Rise (49.99). Unseen in 4th was Wood's career best of 52.30.

The day's final race added 3 more lifetime bests including that of the winner,

Barrefors (49.96), Schneider (50.03) and Keller (50.40). For the North Carolina senior it represented his 4th individual lifetime best, and, for him as for most of the field, big scores were in the offing.

Temps had cooled off to the low 70s and all eyes were on the score-sheets and the skies. Within an hour the rains, mild at first, began. Then it poured. Competition was shut down @7:15 pm for 3 hours and resumed at 10:15 pm! Yikes!

After Five: Eato 4367, Otto 4138, Clev 4131, Ayer 4128.

A Day of PRs

So frequent were individual lifetime bests at the 2009 NCAA I decathlon on day one that we totaled them up:

100m	14
Long Jump	9
Shot Put	3
High Jump	6
400m	<u>10</u>
	42

And 19 of the 25 athletes recorded at least one PR. Dan Keller/UNC led the parade with PRs in 4 events!

1st Day Results:
6/11-12 40th NCAA Championships, U of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR

- 4367 Eaton, Ashton/Oregon
10.35+4.1 758+3.5 1257 199 46.85
- 4138 Otto, Trinity/Texas A&M
10.66+4.1 735+1.8 1393 190 48.94
- 4131 Cleve, Moritz/Kansas St-GER
10.80+4.1 722+2.6 1402 193 48.42
- 4128 Ayers, Michael/Tennessee
10.73+4.1 736+1.9 1282 199 49.12
- 4115 Sossah, Mateo/UNC-FRA
11.31+2.8 730 +4.0 1363 208 49.19
- 4075 Barrefors, Bjorn/Nebraska-SWE
10.95+3.4 740+4.8 1370 196 49.96
- 4023 Clark, Mat/Iowa
10.80+4.1 731+3.4 1217 196 49.35
- 3989 Rise, Lars/Missouri-NOR
11.09+2.7 746+3.4 1594 172 49.99
- 3985 Keller, Dan/UNC
11.29+2.8 712+3.3 1399 202 50.40
- 3973 Horn, Gray/Florida
11.05+2.7 732+2.7 1221 202 50.52
- 3972 McGinnis, RJ/Minnesota
11.09+3.4 699 +3.4 1454 205 52.37
- 3962 Adam, Phillip/Rice
10.98+2.7 688+4.6 1432 193 49.79

3919 Dwyer, Kevin/Miami (OH)
 11.13+3.4 720+2.6 1315 202 51.94
 3894 Newell, Dan/Liberty
 10.74+4.1 657+3.8 1323 190 48.87
 3860 Clarke, Tyler/Duke
 11.06+3.4 665+3.5 1310 199 50.01
 3833 Woods, Patrick/Ohio St
 11.21+2.8 675+3.5 1402 202 52.30
 3802 Ackley, Marshall/Oregon
 11.01+2.7 680+3.4 1228 184 48.33
 3792 Schneider, Justin/Notre Dame
 11.27+2.8 669+4.3 1260 199 50.03
 3768 Kinsey, Dan/Akron
 11.44+2.8 683+2.0 1501 196 53.23
 3664 Roberts, Cory/SE Louisiana
 11.06+3.4 678+4.5 1189 178 49.35
 3555 Capps, Nathan/Idaho St
 11.22+2.8 640+4.8 1153 190 50.84
 3138 Reising, Skyler/Nebraska
 11.00+2.7 nm 1493 193 51.38
 dnf Kosk, Meelis/BYU-EST
 11.50+3.4 616+3.9 1235 181 withdrew
 dnf Derzanic, Rok/Kansas St-SLO
 10.96+4.1 699+3.5 withdrew
 dnf Moss, Miller/Clemson
 11.55+2.7 withdrew
 25s,22f day one.

