

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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EATON WINS at MILLROSE

Defeats Hardee, Clay in 3 Events

Hello Again.... Ashton Eaton, 23, captured the much ballyhooed 3 event *Millrose Multi Challenge* at Madison Square Garden on January 28. Configured to fit the Millrose Games time schedule, the facility and recognizing this, after all, it is still *January*, this meet, scored on the IAAF tables, nevertheless was an enjoyable and competitive affair that brought together America's (and the world's) top decathletes.

Afterwards Ashton told the *NY Times* (which had provided exceptional pre meet on the 28th) "there was a lot of nervousness in this young man, because of the competition I faced, but there is a lot of fight in this young man. In the 5 man competition, he was 4th after the shot, moved to 3rd after the hurdles and won this quirky meet in the high jump. The competition contained a number of surprises and remarkably good marks for so early in the season. Here's how it happened.

Shot Put: [4:30 pm]

While high school relays events circled the track the MMC began with some fanfare. Duke soph Curtis Beach opened the throwing with a PR 11.57m/37-11½. Bryan Clay ended round #1 with a leading 15.24m/50-0 toss. Jake Arnold improved in round #2 with a 14.90m/48-10¾ effort and Ashton Eaton, revealing his 'Oregon shuffle' technique just missed a PR getting 14.10m/46-3. Dissatisfied with his 1st toss, Trey Hardee decided to use a 'stand, and



Ashton Eaton/Oregon Elite TC, won two of the 3 Millrose Multi Challenge events and recorded a pair of PRs on the way to being named the meets outstanding performer.

what a stand it was....stretching his 6-5 frame all the back thru the circle's center and stretching it all the way thru the release (w/o a reverse!) he added a foot to his lifetime best, 15.67m/51-5. Who PRs with a stand?

In round #3 Beach improved his PR yet again getting 11.93m/39.2. A much improved thrower, Eaton raised some eyebrows. When the shot left his hand my mind said, 'that's 48 feet.' But the trajectory was somewhat flat and it covered *only* 14.22m/46-8, a 4 cm PR. Hardee, who throws quickly, then flabbergasted the some 3000

| | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> |
|--------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Beach | 11.57m/37-11½PR | ????? | 11.93m/39-2PR |
| Arnold | 14.02m/45-0 | 14.90m/48-10¾ | 14.77m/48-5½ |
| Eaton | 13.58m/44-6¾ | 14.10m/46-3 | 14.22m/46-8PR |
| Hardee | 15.04m/49-4 | 15.67m/51-5PR | 15.94m/52-3¾PR |
| Clay | 15.24m/50-0 | 15.01m/49-3 | foul |

spectators and himself when he arned another huge lifetime best, this time, 15.94/m/52-2¾. In just 13 minutes the Millrose Multis Challenge netted 5 PRs and but a single foul.



Millrose meet management provided plenty of pre-meet publicity, as their poster attests and ESPN 2 devoted a share of their coverage to the event.

Dan O'Brien gave some of the credit to the Garden's terrific plywood circle.

After One: Hard 848, Clay 804, Arno 784, Eato 742, Beac 602.

60m Hurdles: [6:30 pm]

The hurdles was everything it was cracked up to be...bringing together 3 of history's 6 fastest hurdlers. Clay and Eaton (who uses raised vision at the start) were neck and neck after the first two barriers with the former perhaps inches ahead. But then the '10 NCAA champ inched ahead at the 3rd hurdle, had daylight on the 4th and a 5 foot gap at the 5th. He clocked 7.64 seconds, the fastest ever run for an indoor combined event and .04 faster than he had run a week earlier while winning the Princeton Relays with, then, a PR. Clay ran a terrific 7.78 and Hardee a fine 7.83. Unnoticed, Arnold just missed his PR by 6/100^{ths} while Beach sprinted to a lifetime best by the same margin. Whew, that was 1 quick race. The scores tightened considerably.

| Results: | pre meet PR | Time | Points |
|-----------|-------------|---------|--------|
| 1..Eaton | (7.68 PR) | 7.64 PR | 1074 |
| 2. Clay | (7.71 PR) | 7.78 | 1038 |
| 3. Hardee | (7.70 PR) | 7.83 | 1025 |
| 4. Arnold | (8.00 PR) | 8.06 | 967 |
| 5. Beach | (8.36 PR) | 8.30 PR | 908 |

After Two: Hard 1873, Clay 1842, Eato 1816, Arno 1751, Beac 1510.

High Jump: [8:15 pm]

The Millrose is a 3 ring circus with a techno pounding beat in the background. Attendance reached @ 9000 but the high jump was anti-climatic. Arnold was a bit below par, Clay had some step problems and Hardee showed some early powerful clearances, but all 3 departed early. Beach scuffled early but ironed out his approach and bareeeeeeeely missed a PR 2.08m/6-9¾. Eaton, who had cleared 2.06m/6-9 warming up, was flawless thru 1.96m/6-5, 2.02m/6-7½ and 2.05m/6-8¾. By the final clearance he had won the overall "MMC." He considered going right to 2.14m/7-1/4 (a PR!), thought better of it and retired, a winner in his first professional meet.

| | 187 | 190 | 193 | 196 | 199 | 202 | 205 | 208 | Best | Imperial | Pts |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|----------|-----|
| Beach | o | P | o | xxo | o | xo | xo | xxx | 2.05 | 6-8¾ | 850 |
| Arnold | o | P | xo | xxx | | | | | 1.93 | 6-4 | 740 |
| Eaton | P | P | P | o | P | o | o | P | 2.05 | 6-8¾ | 850 |
| Hardee | P | P | P | o | xxx | | | | 1.96 | 6-5 | 767 |
| Clay | P | P | o | o | xxx | | | | 1.96 | 6-5 | 767 |

7 bars, 31 attempts and 14 clearances in 45 minutes.

After Three-Final: Eato 2666, Hard 2640, Clay 2609, Arno 2491, Beac 2360.



Other NotesIndoor combined events results began to pour in and will be covered in a 2nd weekend newsletter. As many as 220 USA collegians contested indoor heptathlons or pentathlons this weekend (Jan 28-29-30) and all that action deserves singular attention... veteran official Rex Harvey was a flawless Millrose referee....the annual Thorpe Cup (USA vs Germany team decathlon) will be conducted August 13-14 at the US Olympic Training Center at Chula Vista, CA. Make plans to attend.