

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## EATON BREAKS COLLEGIATE MARK

### Clay Rusty in Opener

**Hello Again....**An eclectic weekend of meets netted a wide range of heptathlon results on the fourth weekend of January. Consider: in Cambridge, MA Olympic champ Bryan Clay, seeking an IAAF world qualifying score at a low key meet, contested his first multi since last June. A solid first day score was followed by a fine hurdle race and then, a no height in the vault. He appeared a bit rusty in some events, but, to his credit, soldiered on and completed the 1000m. Veteran Maurice Smith/JAM, who still makes Auburn University his training base, was the overall winner with a 5855 score.

There are pros and cons of trying to put up big numbers in a developmental affair and Harvard presented more vault cons than pros when the Olympic champ was forced to wait more than 2 hours while a large field worked its way up the vault ladder. The event began at 12:05 pm (starting at 3.05m/10-0) and, 16 heights later (at 4.65m/15-3), Bryan finally had an opportunity to vault.

Appearing fit Bryan was trying to achieve a qualifying score early (top 3 in world this season and so likely to be in range of 6100-6200 points) since wife Sarah is expecting any day with the Clay family's 3<sup>rd</sup> child. Any additional qualifier will have to wait at least 3 weeks.

Lesson: large fields (or limited pits) squander most of the advantages of a qualifying meet.



Oregon senior Ashton Eaton, 22, upped the collegiate heptathlon mark in his multi opener at College Station, Texas.

One athlete who was not disadvantaged by either a large field or limited facilities was Oregon's Ashton Eaton who took Trey Hardee's moniker off the record books with a new collegiate heptathlon record of 6256 points in College Station, Texas.

With but five competitors at the SEC/Big 12/Pac-10 Challenge at Texas A&M, the 21 year old senior used speed (PRs in the 60m, 60m hurdles and 1000 meters), improved throws and consistency to break the record by 48 points. In his first multi with new coach Harry Marra, Eaton needed a 2:42 clocking for the record and chased South Carolina's Scott Pierce's 2:34.86 for and 2:38.02 clocking and the new mark.

### Comparison of Collegiate Heptathlon Marks

Trey Hardee Texas Albuquerque 1/26-27/06				Ashton Eaton Oregon College Station 1/29-30/10			
event	mark	pts	cum pts	mark	pts	cum pts	pts
60m	6.73	980	980	6.78	962	962	
Long Jump	7.73m	992	1972	7.66m	975	1937	
Shot Put	14.31m	747	2719	12.56m	640	2577	
High Jump	1.95m	758	3477	2.07m	868	3445	
60m Hurdles	7.87	1015	4492	7.86	1017	4462	
Pole Vault	5.30m	1004	5496	4.96m	898	5360	
1000m	2:55.16	712	6208	2:38.02	896	6256	
Total		6208			6256		

Eaton becomes # 4 all-time USA performer. At least Clay and Eaton had the opportunity to compete and complete seven events. A dramatic and unexpected snowstorm shut down the North Carolina's Research Triangle area so that, after getting thru the first day, a number of national collegiate performers (Curtis Beach/Duke, Mateo Sossah/UNC,) were sent home when the second day of the Dick Taylor Invitational was cancelled. No word yet on whether this



The initial collegiate career multi for Curtis Beach (left), now a freshman at Duke, was snowed out. The first day leader was Carolina's Mateo Sossah (right)

will be rescheduled.

Overlooked in College Station was the PR mark by Gator soph Gray Horn, whose runner-up spot netted a PR 5538 score even though it was 718 down on Eaton. In other major weekend news, Mike Morrison, now a junior at California after transferring from

Florida, won the University of Washington affair in Seattle with a fine 5710 score and



Overlooked at notable meets were Gray Horn (left), a soph at Florida, who PR's behind Ashton Eaton's CR in College Station. Maurice Smith (right) won the affair at Harvard.

two others met the NCAA provisional standard. Chris Dickman, a senior from Grinnell, KS, of Wichita State won the Husker meet in Lincoln, NE with a PR 5569 effort. And Miller Moss, a junior from Sumter, SC, nailed down a bid to the college show with a PR 5653. Soph Dan Gooris also stayed at home and managed a 5427 win at Northern Iowa. In all 12 new NCAA I qualifying marks found their way onto the lists.

The top non collegiate effort came in Flagstaff, Arizona where Bubba Edmonds netted a 5669 win at the Mountain T meet.



A pair who PR's over the weekend were Chris Dickman, (left) a senior at Wichita State who won the Husker meet in Lincoln, and Clemson junior Miller Moss (right), who garnered an auto score at home.

The weekend opened with a terrific duel in Ames, Iowa where Missouri's Nick Adcock edged Minnesota's RJ McGinnis, 5758 to 5753, winning on the final 1k lap. There were 22 CE meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of January and an equal number are scheduled for the first week of February, 2010.

