

HARDEE IS NATIONAL CHAMP WL 8599 Score Dominates



Hello Again.... It's been half a century since one dominated the USA national decathlon as Trey Hardee did over the past two days at the in Sacramento. More specifically, it was 1964 when Formosa's C.K. Yang won by 847 points over Westmont's Paul Herman in Walnut, CA. In those days non-US citizens could compete if they represented American clubs and Yang, the world record holder while at UCLA, was representing the Pasadena AA.

Well, that's how dominate Hardee was at the Alex G. Spanos Complex at Sac State. He entered the USA meet to chase an 8600 score, a total unlikely to be duplicated worldwide this season, and an effort likely to assure him the world's top ranking for 2014. He won at Götzis with an 8518 total and conditions seemed optimal here. After a 4441 first day he zipped a nice 13.69 hurdles and spun 50.65m/166-2 disc. Like Götzis he made only a single vault bar (5.00m/16-4¾) but came a cropper when he could muster only a 56.91m/186-8 javelin. That left him needing a 4:43.47 clocking in the 1500m for an 8600 total. He gave it the 'college try' falling 16/100ths short and his winning total was 8599. Still, quite an effort. And he left another 150 points out there in the long jump, javelin and vault. But 8599 is 8599 and it is likely no one competing this season will approach that total.

He won six of the first eight events leaving little room for the remainder of the field to shine. Ex Houston Wes Bray was runner-up with a nice 7807 effort as the pait



Trey Hardee won a 2nd national USA title in Sacramento with a world leading 8599 tally.

were the only two here to reach the 7800 point entry standard. Thomas FitzSimons/Santa Barbar TC was 3rd and, as the NACC's, Wisconsin's Zach Ziemek was 4th. Here's the tale.

95th USA Senior National Champs
Alex G Spanos Complex
Sacramento State U
Sacramento, CA
June 26-27, 2014



110m Hurdles: [11:45 – 11:50 am]

Two positive developments occurred on Friday morning. First, the wind remained out of the south and so officials provided a race with tail winds, running south to north on the west side of Hornet Stadium. Second, after many years, the practice of running in non-adjacent lanes was junked in favor of filling all lanes. Are you listening NCAA?

By 11:45 it was plenty hot (86 degrees F) .K-States Devin Dick pasted the first race winning by a whopping 41/100ths, 14.86 over Kurtis Brondyke (15.27).

Hardee drew lane one in the seeded section and lanes 2 and 3 were empty having been reserved for Ryan Harlan and Gunnar Nixon. Both withdrew a day earlier. Trey won by one of the biggest margins ever, 13.69 to Clay Chaney's 14.82 effort. (wind: +1.5 mps). His lead ballooned to 516 points.

After Six: Hard 5456, Dick 4940, Bray 4879, ZZ 4833.

Discus: [12:51 – 1:24 pm]

At the north field, approximately 300m from the track(!), an appreciative crowd of 308 spectators gathered to watch the Hardee parade. He opened with a solid 49.14m/161-2 toss then improved to 50.65m/166-1 in round #2. Disappointed with his 3rd toss he took a deliberate foul. No one PR'd here but five came close: Gooris, FitzSimons, Dalton, Bray and McCune.

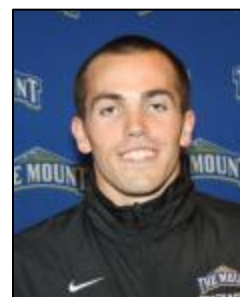
After Seven: Hard 6340, Bray 5563, ZZ 5554, Chan 5480

Pole Vault: [3:00 – 4:18 pm]

Sac State has always been a tough place to vault due to swirling winds. The field's trio of top vaulters had nightmares here. Alex McCune (PR 5.45m/17-10½) and Dan Gooris (PR 5.40m/17-8½) both no-heighted. Zach Ziemek (also a 5.40m/17-8½ performer) could manage but 4.70m/15-5. Hardee opened normally with a clearance at 5.00m/16-4¾ and then passed the next bar. He really did not have a good try at 5.20m/17-¾ and flight #2 (south pit with six vaulters)

was over quickly witnessing just 27 attempts and but 8 clearances.

Flight #1 (north pit) was won by Austin Bahner, as senior at Wichita State who had been shut out by the NCAA (25th on a seasonal list of national champ invitees). Bahner worked his way from 4.30m and eventually cleared 4.70m/15-5. With a pair of no-heights and others offering sub-par performances, the standings scrambled. The



Closest to Hardee's wake were Wesley Bray (left) and Thomas FitzSimons who were 2nd and 3rd overall.

one seemingly constant at this meet was Hardee whose lead now stretched to 877 points.

After Eight: Hard 7250, ZZ 6373, Bray 6353, Smit 6206.

Javelin: [5:03 -5:48 pm]

Here Hardee inextricably faltered managing just 56.91m/186-8. Coach Mario Sategna was at a loss to explain the lapse. The event was won by FitzSimons in the 3rd round at 61.20m/200-9, a career best. Wes Bray continued his consistent work with a solid 57.54m/188-9 spear. Over two days the Houston grad did not have a soft event.

The lead was now 887. The break was 77 minutes.

After Nine: Hard 7941, Bray 7054, ZZ 7031, Dalt 6884.

1500m: [7:05 – 7:10 pm]

The clerk sent to wrong 1500m group to the starting line at 7 pm. Mistakenly this was a qualifying round of the women's 1500m and they had to be chased off the track so the decathletes could start for a televised race. For a few minutes the scene at the SW corner was one of confusion and madness.

