

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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EATON LEADS in MOSCOW

Nixon Sounds WC Alarm



Hello Again.....DECA Newsletter #49 bring you the first three events from the 14th IAAF World Athletics Championships in Moscow where the youngest athlete in the field, 20 year old American Gunnar Nixon, less than a year removed from his IAAF World Junior title in Barcelona, has caught the large (!) field napping. He stands a surprising 3rd after the morning break.

August usually provides the year's best weather for Moscow and this year did not disappoint. Temps and clear skies greeted the large field of 34 entries, to 57,000 seat Luzhniko Stadium (Lenin Stadium in the old days) on the morning of August 10, a Saturday. World record holder/ Olympic champ Ashton Eaton, Eugene, OR, was the prohibitive favorite even though American teammate Trey Hardee, Austin, TX, had won the last two ('09, '11) IAAF world meets. Two days prior to the meet Eaton had this to say..."My preparation feels good. Am I the same as I was last year? I think physically I actually feel a little more worn down. But this being my first year after an Olympic year, to see all of us sitting up here is actually good because you see a lot of Olympic champions not at this meet. I think it does take a toll on your mind and your body. I would say I'm ready to go."

After 3 events Ashton Eaton leads but nearly the entire 33 man walked away from the morning session shaking their heads.

Eaton's 3 event total of 2677 points came by virtue of a win in the 100m and a seasonal best long jump. But the story was Nixon who posted 2 big PRs. Imagine, a guy named Nixon dominating in Russia!! Defending champ Trey Hardee stood 5th and newcomer Jermy Taiwo, 18th.



Eaton left the long jump event a bit disappointed with his effort of 7.73m/25-4 1/2 effort.

Although the German contingent came to Moscow with the top three scores on the yearly list, only Pascal Behrenbruch performed up to expectations and remained a medal threat. Also in the medal mix was Cuban Leonel Suarez, who had medaled in the past 4 World/Olympic contests. Injuries claimed his early season, but he started nonetheless and performed admirably. At the present time Eaton, Hardee,

Eelco Sintnicolaas, Suarez, Behrenbruch, Damian Warner and Michael Schrader appeared, given past history, as the medal contenders.

**14th IAAF World Champs
Luzhniki Stadium
Moscow, Russia
August 10-11, 2013**



Day One

100 meters: [9:36 – 10:01 am]

34 declared and were grouped into four sprint sections according to past performances, with lanes drawn randomly. Seven minutes was allotted per race. Sections were arranged from slowest to fastest with the 4th section scheduled for 9:56 am. Approximately 700 fans (and 600+ workers, officials, press) were in their seats at 9:35. Air temp was 73° F. Virtually no wind in the stadium.

In the first race... the sound of the report may have surprised some. Guns no longer used and the starting sound in Moscow smacked of a steel hammer falling off a construction site scaffolding. Set to gun (StG) was timed at 1.59 seconds,

Race one had '12 NCAA champ Kurt Felix/GRN-Boise St in lane 5 and Olympic Suarez in lane 6. Neither had contested a decathlon during the current season and, so, w/o a current clocking, were placed in the "slow" section, an undeserved penalty. [See box below] Why unfair? Meet organizers need to take more than just the current season results into consideration when doling out section assignments. Suppose, for e.g., Ashton Eaton had not contested a decathlon and was without a seasonal clocking. Would the world record holder in the dec sprint be placed in the slowest section? Does that make sense? Today statistical information on virtually every athlete is available. Track statisticians are better than the NSA in collecting data. Use it!

So, New Zealand's Brent Newdick led early, was caught by Suarez at 85 meters who himself was caught by speedy of out-of-shape Olekisy Kayaynov/UKR (lane 8) in 10.99

In the second race Pac-12 runner-up Swede Marcus Nilsson of UCLA found himself in lane 8. He was initially give 4th place in a PR 11.09 but had clearly finished last, well back. Will Coertzen/RSA led for 99 meters until caught by German Pascal Behrenbruch who dipped at the finish as both were caught in 10.95. '08 Beijing silver medalist Andrei Krauchanka/BLR appeared ragged clocking 11.19



Ashton Eaton (center) pasted Serb Mihail Dudas and Michael Schrader/GER in the fourth 100m race. Races with Americans

In the third race Washington's Jeremy Taiwo was in lane 2 with Estonian/Georgia's Maicel Uibo to his right. In fact 5 of the world's bright young faces (Sergey Sviridov/RUS, Taiwo, Uibo, Ilya Skurennev/RUS and Kevin Mayer/FRA) all found themselves virtually side-by-side, a virtual preview of the post 2016 deca world. Taiwo was out well but not as fast at Brazilian Carlos Chinin who led wire-to-wire in a PR 10.78 to Jeremy's 10.96. For taiwo this was a very solid performance. The 3 young Russians (Shkurnenv, Sviridov and Lukyanenko... hereafter Luky) were all in this race and went 3-4-5. Georgia's Uibo was a disappointing 7th in 11.21, 22/100th off his seasonal best.

Race 3 (wind:) name(lane)nation-pr reaction points
10.78 Carlos Chinin(5) BRA-10.81 0.139 910

10.96	Jeremy Taiwo(2)	USA/Wash-10.84	0.185	870
10.97	Ilya Skurennev(4)	RUS-10.91	0.173	867
10.98	Sergey Sviridov(1)	RUS-10.78	0.161	865
11.11	Artem Lukyanenko(7)	RUS-10.87	0.228	836
11.15	Pelle Reitveld(8)	NED-10.75	0.142	827
11.21	Maicel Uiibo(3)	EST/GA-10.99	0.204	814
11.23	Kevin Mayer(6)	FRA-11.04	0.150	810
11.37	Dmitriy Karpov(9)	KAZ-10.69	0.150	780
StG=1.24				

By the start of the fourth race (5 minutes late at 11:01) the crowd had doubled. The race saw a false start by German Michael Schrader who flinched before the gun thus charging the entire field with a false start. Playing it conservatively Ashton Eaton (in lane 6) was very careful and this likely cost him the dec 100 meet record, still held by Chris Huffins at 10.34 seconds. Eaton led throughout and won in 10.35 seconds ahead of Damian Warner (10.43 in lane 4) and Trey Hardee (10.52 in lane 3). Slight headwind(-0.5mps)

Almost unseen in lane one (a lane with a good deal of trash -read: flower pots- sponsor signs and a few photographers). Here 's a suggestion, move all that trash back a meter. As it was Nixon clocked a very creditable 10.84 seconds, the 2nd fastest of his career.

Race 4	(wind:)	name(lane)nation-pr	reaction	points
10.35		Ashton Eaton(6) USA-10.19w	0.163	1011
10.43		Damian Warner(4) CAN-10.34	0.141	992
10.52		Trey Hardee(3) USA-10.28w	0.143	970
10.60		Rico Friemuth (2) GER-10.36w	0.174	952
10.67		Mihael Dudas(7) SRB-10.71	0.162	935
10.73		Michael Schrader(5) GER-10.52	0.150	922
10.84		Gunnar Nixon(1) USA-10.80	0.146	897
10.85		E. Sintnicolaas(8) NED-10.71	0.205	894
10.97		Eduard Mikhan(9) BLR-10.68	0.168	867

StG = 1.20 and 1.41

[StoG hand timed by author from Tribune]

In summary, most went as expected. Set to guns (recall, there were 6 of them for 4 races b/c of two false starts) times revealed a relatively large range: 1.59, 1.66, 1.16, 1.24, 1.20 and 1.41 seconds. A bit inconsistent.

After one: Eato 1011, Warn 992, Hard 970....8th Nixo 897...12th Taiw 870.

Long Jump: [10:35 -

It was obvious that the large field and the 100m delays would play havoc with the time schedule.

In round one Eaton appeared a bit ragged in the approach and managed just 7.44m/24-5 while Michael Schrader/GER led Group A at 7.85m/25-9¼. He took the overall lead from Eaton.

In round #2 Nixon, who had a marginal 1st round foul shocked even himself with a terrific 7.80m/25-7¼ with *absolutely*



Eaton's best leap came in round # 3, 7.73m/25-4 ½. He maintained his overall scoring command

no room left on the toe-board. It was *perfect!* It moved Gunnar into 3rd overall. Warner improved on an over-rotation 7.30m/23-11½ after a big foul by Schrader. Eaton's 2nd effort measured 7.71m/25-3½ moving him back to the overall lead. The athletes were running from east to west, starting in the shade and then had 15-20 meters to adjust to the sudden bright sunlight as they approached the board. The shade-to-sun proved problematic resulting in a plethora of toe-board fouls....18 in Group A alone...more than one third!

Round #3 saw Eaton improve to 7.73m/25-4½, a seasonal best. Coach Harry Marra was breathing easier knowing his charge had survived a pair of ballistic events. The only other significant effort came from Dutchman Eelco Sintnicolaas, a 7.68m/25-2 ½ effort.

In Group B Taiwo led off with a PR 7.53m/24-8½ and that held up as the leader after the first round. He leaped 7.32m/24-1¼ and then passed his final jump. Trey Hardee struggled here managaing but 7.35m/24-1½.

The event ended in a whimper in 63 minutes. Officials moved the event along smartly getting in 97 jumps (but be reminded, fully one third of them did not require a measurement).

American Series:

Group A	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Nixon	foul	7.80m	pass
Eaton	7.44m	7.71m	7.73m
Group B	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Taiwo	7.53m	pass	pass.
Hardee	7.30m	7.29m	7.35m

As the event ended there were 4 Americans in their top 10.

After two: Eaton 2003, Schr 1944, Nixon 1907, Warn 1900....6th Hardee 1868....Taiwo 10th 1812.

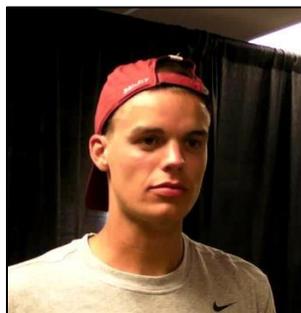
A Seeding Suggestion

Here's a suggestion to eliminate most of the concerns occurring with Moscow seeding which is using SBs (seasonal bests) for seeding purposes. May I suggest that this time frame be expanded just the way entry standards are used ---marks from the previous season. If a score is good enough to get one into the meet then a performance within that score ought to be good enough to decide which section/pit/circle to use. That only makes sense. If an athlete does not have a decent, say high jump mark in that 19 month period, then he/she likely doesn't belong in the better seeded section. This is pretty easy to do. Records are easily available and this is what we do at the beginning of a CE season... use the previous season marks. Don't go back more than 1 season. This way, for eg, terrific high jumpers like Leonel Suarez (2.17m), Kurt Felix (2.17m) and Ashton Eaton (2.11m) won't get stuck in lower seeded groups. OK? We don't need rule change, just an agreement that this makes sense.

This should be made standard procedure for all season ending World Champs and Olympic Games where acceptable seeding is crucial in the presentation of the event.

FZ

Shot Put: [12:36 –



Gunnar Nixon's (left) PR shot of 14.68m/48-2 made believers of his skills. Trey Hardee (right) was a model of consistency.

Approximately 1500 spectators were spread thru the cavernous stadium during the shot and awoke only when a local was in the ring. Gunnar Nixon opened Group A round #1 with another PR, a toss of 14.68m/48-2. Tossing near the bottom of the order Eaton and Hardee quickly posted subpar 13.36m/43-10 and 14.61m/47-11¼. Behrenbruch led at the end of the round at 15.86m/52- ½, as this was his premier event.

In round #2 a measuring snafu on Dmitry Karpov's toss stalled the event. The event was in the doldrums. Eaton's 2nd effort travelled 14.19m/46-6¾, a nice improvement. Hardee 2nd toss was 1cm less.

In round #3 Nixon passed. Schrader improved with a nifty 14.56m/47-9 ¼ toss to move to 2nd ahead of Nixon. Eaton improved to 14.39m/47-2½ and Hardee did not improve, posting the most consistent shot round in meet history at 14.61m, 14.60m and 14.61m.

The event, with the exception of marks by Nixon (the lone PR) and Schrader was lackluster. Behrenbruch, for example, was down a full meter from expectations.

Damian Warner pushed a nice PR 14.23m/46-8½ in round #1 of Group B. Taiwo started with a 12.66m/41-6 ½ toss and eventually improved to 12.99m/42-7½ dropping from 10th overall to 18th.

Shot Put Series:

Group A	1	2	3
Nixon	14.68m	PR foul	pass
Eaton	13.36m	14.19m	
Hardee	14.61m	14.60m	
Group B	1	2	3
Taiwo	12.66m	12.78m	

Imagine,

In a 33 man field, this was the weakest set Of shot put results in meet history with only two athletes exceeding 15 meters and 50 feet!

2! What was going on down there?

After Three: Eato 2755, Schr 2707, Nixo 2677, Warn 2642.....5th Hard 2634.....18th Taiw 2479.

What was at Stake in Moscow?



1...Crown as world decathlon champion and its accompanying title of "world's greatest athlete."

2. \$100,000 for a world record

3. Prize money of

1st: \$60,000	5th: \$10,000
2nd: 30,000	6th: 6,000
3rd: 20,000	7th: 5,000
4th: 15,000	8th: 4,000

4. Continuation of the IAAF Combined Events Challenge deby (top 3 seasonal scores from designated meetings).



5. A bye to the 2015 world meet.



Results:



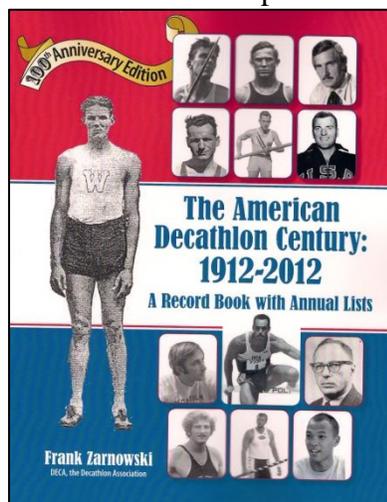
8/10-11 14th IAAF World Championships, Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow, RUS

2755	Eaton, Ashton /USA	10.35-0.5	773+0.3	1439
2707	Schrader, Michael/GER	10.73-0.5	785+0.2	1456
2677	Nixon, Gunnar/	10.84-0.5	780+0.4	1468
2642	Warner, Damian/CAN	10.43-0.5	739+0.3	1423
2634	Hardee, Trey /USA	10.52-0.5	735+0.7	1461
2616	Chinin, Carlos Eduardo/BRA	10.78-0.1	754+1.0	1449
2599	Sintnicolaas, Eelco/NED	10.85-0.57	768+0.8	1408
2595	Freimuth, Rico/GER	10.60-0.5	722+1.3	1480
2574	Behrenbruch, Pascal/GER	10.95+0.1	719+0.6	1586
2520	Mikhan, Eduard/BLR	10.97-0.5	742+0.1	1415
2513	Coertzen, Will/SRB	10.67-0.5	751+0.7	1345
2507	Krauchanka, Andrei /BLR	11.19+0.1	739-0.2	1484
2504	Vos, Ingmar/NED	10.98+0.1	745+0.7	1381
2492	Sviridov, Sergey/RUS	10.98-0.1	730+1.2	1420
2486	Shkureniov, Ilya/RUS	10.97-0.1	735+0.1	1388
2479	Suarez, Leonel/CUB	11.07+0.5	733+0.3	1420
2479	Taiwo, Jeremy/USA	10.96-0.1	753+0.6	1299
2472	Kasyanov, Olexiy/UKR	10.99-0.5	728+0.8	1405
2459	Mayer, Kevin/FRA	11.23-0.1	750+0.1	1376
2441	Vander Plaetsen, /BEL	11.09+0.1	764+0.4	1357
2430	Newdick, Brent/NZL	11.14-0.5	728+0.2	1384
2426	Lukyanenko, Artem /RUS	11.11-0.1	709+0.6	1443
2413	Pahapill, Mikk/EST	11.33-0.5	712+0.7	1438
2399	Uibo, Maicel/EST	11.21-0.1	726 0.0	1368
2394	Felix, Kurt/GRN	11.20-0.5	742 0.0	1295
2345	Querin, Gael/FRA	11.19+0.1	718+0.5	1303
2344	Nilsson, Marcus/SWE	11.42+0.1	662 0.0	1481
2331	Gastaldi, Román/ARG	11.20-0.5	689+0.9	1396
2312	Karpov, Dmitri/KAZ	11.37-0.1	659+0.5	1539
2246	Reitveld, Pelle/NED	11.15-0.1	668+0.5	1321
2219	Ushiro, Keisuke/JAP	10.73-0.5	684+0.7	1317
2156	Kame, Ali/ MAD	11.48-0.5	672+0.7	1273

And, a reminder about out Century Record book, still available. See below.

NEW DECATHLON RECORD BOOK IS STILL AVAILABLE

The American Decathlon Century: 1912-2012, A Record Book with Annual Lists, has just been delivered from the printers. This 100th anniversary edition is the ultimate US decathlon record-



book with very deep annual lists for each year of the past century. An extensive record section and thumbnail photos of 500 USA decathletes is provided. As America celebrates its 100 years of decathlon success, nationally and internationally, you won't want to be without this reference book. If you ever had a historical or statistical question about the US decathletes, it is answered here.

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*The American Decathlon Century: 1912-2012,
A Record Book with Annual Lists*

By Frank Zarnowski
528 pages. [8½ x 11]

Published by DECA, The Decathlon Association, 2012
ISBN: 0-9768358-1-9

HOW TO ORDER: you can order via mail:

Price: \$40 US
30 Euro

-for US residents: add \$5.50 for shipping & handling

-for non USA residents, add E 10.00 for shipping and handling.

Note: I tried to keep the price down, but the book has over 500 pages and weighs over 5 pounds. 200 copies are available.

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