

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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EATON LEADS DAY ONE of TRIALS

World Bests in 100m, Long Jump net 4728 Pts



Hello Again...The buzz of day one at the 2012 US Olympic decathlon trials was only about two powerful Oregon adversaries... Ashton Eaton and Rain. The pair went at it event after event and at the end of the day the score stood:

Eaton	5
Rain	0

The not not uncommon June Oregon rain beat on the Olympic Trials decathletes for virtually the entire day and the remainder of the field did not fare as well as Eaton, 24, Bend, Oregon who handled any and everything the weather threw at him. By 6:50 pm he had accumulated:

- a 4728 score, history's 2nd leading non-windy total
- wins in 4 of the first 5 events
- a 322 point lead on the field
- a pair of spectacular world decathlon individual event records.

Here's the first day tale.



**23rd US Olympic Trials
Decathlon
Hayward Field, U of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon
June 22-23, 2012**

Day One

100 meters: [1:00 - 1:13 pm]

By 11:30 am the drizzle started. By 12:30 pm the temps fell to 62°...not



Ashton Eaton leans into a decathlon 10.21 WR century at the US Olympic Team Trials in Eugene. 10.21!!

uncomfortable but certainly not sprinting weather. The 3 seeded section were offered slowest to fastest.

Rayn Harlan, running in lane 2, took the first race in 11.26 seconds (headwind: -0.2 mps) as none of the 6 sprinters were remotely close to a lifetime best. "O no." I thought, "no fast clockings today."

The 2nd race provided more positive results as Duke's Curtis Beach outlegged a good field, besting Joe Detmer, 10.88 to 10.97. Wind: +0.1 mps. Arkansas soph Kevin Lazas PR'd at 11.10.

But nothing prepared the nearly 2000 spectators for what came next. In the seeded section, as the rain continued, Ashton Eaton (reaction time a normal 0.173) had a step on the field by 20 meters and lots of daylight by 50. World champ Trey Hardee was a clear 2nd but Olympic champ Bryan Clay caught him near the finish (10.45 to 10.50). But Eaton (in

lane 5) simply scooted away..... zing..... dipped at the finish line and glanced to the digital clock on the infield to the left of the finish line.... and saw.....10.21 seconds. A world deca best by .01 seconds thus taking Chris Huffins off the record page. 10.21 under these conditions was stunning..and I'm not speechless often. What a start. The final results for this race read:

Section #3:		<i>time</i>	<i>reaction time</i>
1..	Eaton	OTC	10.21 0.173
2..	Clay	Asics	10.45 0.155
3..	Hardee	Nike	10.50 0.144
4..	Murphy	Texas	10.77 0.195
5..	Moss	unat	10.85 0.191
6..	Horn	Florida	10.93 0.172

Although there was much pre-meet talk about the new IAAF false start rule, there were no false starts here.

After one: Eato 1044, Clay 987, Hard 975, Murph 912.

Long Jump: [1:50 - 2:35 pm]

The rain picked up during long jump preparations so this announcer retreated to the press box. In group #2 (west pit)-the seeded section Bryan Clay led off with nifty 7.40m/24-3 1/2 leap and Curtis Beach soon followed adding 2cm to that mark. After an aborted attempt by Isaac Murpju Eaton advanced to the runway. The crowd began the rhythmic clapping but he waved it off and went about his effort sans any help. Carrying a good



Can you spell 27-0 ?

deal of runway speed he hit the toe-board smack-on and then covered 8.23m/27-0 of Lane County real estate. After 100 years the

decathlon had a 27 foot long jumper. This time he took Erki Nool of the record page. It was another stunner and Eaton had effectively put this meet, barring a disaster, away early. The remainder of the event was anti climatic as Eaton passed his final two attempts, executing coach Harry Marra's game plan perfectly..."one and out."

Gray Horn's 7.60m/24-11 1/4 in round one and Trey Hardee's 7.55,/24-9 3/4 (after a foot fault) and Kevin Lazas' 7.44m/24-5 in round #2 were terrific efforts given that it continued to rain and officials had to repeatedly wipe down the toe-board.

In the East pit Joe Detmer led off with a fine 7.38m/24-2 3/4 (just off his own career best) for the win while Dakotah Keys, the Pac-12 champ from Oregon, slipped badly on his first attempt and limped off. He would eventually withdraw.

Eaton's score of 2164 points was the best ever after 2 events.

After two: Eato 2164, Hard 1922, Clay 1897, Horn 1836.

Shot Put: [3:06 -]

Clay led round one in Group #2 (West circle) with a nifty 15.63m/51-3 1/2 toss as Eaton faltered here managing 'only' 13.47m/44-2 1/2 clearly trying to be careful in the very wet circle. In the 2nd round Hardee, in spite of fall elbow surgery, lofted a bomb, 15.72m/51-7, 8 inches shy of a caree best. Eaton's 2nd mark was a marginal improvement (13.84m/45-5). In the final round neither Trey or Byan improved but Eaton lofted the 16 lb ball and nearly fouled on the reverse, teetering for a second in the circle before lowering his center of gravity and saving the effort. The measurement revealed 14.20m/46-7 1/2. Vet Chris Helwick, who had missed most of the spring season nursing an injury, PR'd at 14.25m/46-9. Amazingly Ryan Harlan had slipping problems in the circle, and in spite of his 16.61m/54-6 career best, could only post a mark nearly five feet less.

In the East circle Horn and Moss (now Hardee's training partner in Austin) netted

deca PRs (13.49m/44-3 and 14.03m/46-1/2 respectively). Detmer equalled his lifetime best at 13.18m/43-3. Hardee carved 93 points out of Eaton's lead.

The rain continued.

After three: Eato 2905, Hard 2756, Clay 2725, Horn 2533.

Opening Ceremonies: [4:00 pm]

Five former Olympic decathlon champions and the last two living sons of Jim Thorpe participated in an impressive opening ceremonies as the track and field world celebrated the 100th birthday of the decathlon event. Recalling a century of red-white-blue decathlon success, the sponsoring Oregon Track Club put together an unforgettable pageant on the first day of the Trials in Eugene between the deca's shot put and high jump. In a walk-around, Dan O'Brien (1996 Olympic winner), Bruce Jenner (1976), Bill Toomey (1968), Rafer Johnson (1960), Milt Campbell (1856) and the Thorpe sons, both in their 80's, walked or were golf-carted around the track to the excitement of the crowd. Johnson had set a world record 52 years earlier at Hayward Field at the 1960 Trials. Two of Jenner's global standards came here, in 1975 and 1976. It was one wonderful scene.



The 100th reunion began early on Thursday as virtually all USA national champions of the first decade of the current century met at Tom Pappas' CrossFit gym in Eugene. Pictured are (l-r): Kip Janvrin (2001 winner); Tom Pappas (2000, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007); Bryan Clay (2004, 2005,

2008); Jake Arnold (2010); Kevin Reid, coach at Azusa Pacific U.

High Jump: [4:30 - 5:38 pm]

The rain worsened and officials relentlessly tried to squgee water from the takeoff approach. In the East pit Houston's Wes Bray no-heighted. Lazas and Helwick tied for the pit win at 1.93m/6-4. The wet conditions (for e.g., just landing in the soggy pit) clearly negated top efforts and obviously frustrated the athletes.

In the West (seeded pit) a pair of 7 footers (Eric Broadbent and Ryan Harlan) could go no higher than 2.02m/6-7½. 4 weeks earlier Broadbent had cleared 2.18m/7-1¾ at the Pan Am CE Cup in Ottawa. To say that jumping conditions were frightful would be an understatement. Hardee struggled but cleared a pair of bars on final trys, eventually settling for 1.99m/6-6¼. But Eaton, without taking much time to jump and using a smoother approach, nailed 1.90m, 1.96m, 1.99m, 2.02m and 2.05m, all on first attempts. He had a pair of very close misses at 2.08m/6-9¾, but by then everyone else had been eliminated. It was his 3rd win in 4 events. The consensus was that conditions robbed, on average, 2 bars from the field. Eaton's lead grew to 205 points.

After four: Eato 3755, Hard 2550, Clay 3492, Horn 3300.

400 meters: [6:41 - 6:54]



Eaton ended day one with a 46.70 400m victory ina driving ranistorm.

The event was held up for ten minutes, and that proved to be a crucial ten minutes indeed. The rain had stopped after the high jump, and although it was still downright chilly, at least it was not raining.

The first section saw Bryan Clay take an early lead by fade badly in the final 140 meters as Ryan Harlan won in 50.48 seconds. Clay fought back in the final 50 meters but could make up little ground and his 51.21 was clearly disappointing. Made to stand in front of his block for 12 minutes certainly did not help.

The second race saw Chris Randolph in the outside lane) outleg Dave Grzesiak (inside lane) 50.40 to 50.48.

And seconds before the 3rd (and seeded race) the clouds again opened and it poured... and poured...and poured, So wet were conditions that the bullets in the starters pistol became wet and the gun misfired. We really could have used that 10 minutes. When the race finally got underway, Eaton (in lane 5) was away and made up the stagger on Moss after 130 meters. He was not as fluid as normal and the driving rain had much to do with that. But at 250m mark he gunned it and coming down the straight (with Bill Bowerman's image looking over his right shoulder) Eaton was flying....he flew to the finish and nearly dived at the line, cognizant that Bill Toomey was in the crowd and Toomey's 45.68 400m record has been on the books since 1968. Ashton had equalled that mark in an early April meet and he was after the record. But the driving rain took its toll and he clocked 'only' 46.70. Only! Curtis Beach finished strongly in 47.82 but everyone else was off one to two seconds from career bests.

Eaton finished the first day with a 4728 score, 10 shy of Dan O'Brien's non-windy WR and 124 up on his PR ('10 USA meet where he ultimately totaled 8729).

After five: Eaton 4728, Harlan 4406, Clay 4252, Horn 4084.

Summary:

The remarkable first day performances by Eaton sent many scurrying to the scoring

table to project what is possible on day two. The final total will be very good but will also depend on the weather. Keep your fingers crossed for decent conditions. Frankly, it is hard to comprehend that they could be any worse than today. We'll take anything in the 65+ temps and dry.

As for Trey Hardee's remarkable 4406 score after Tommy John surgery (his first day PR is 4553) he has put himself into a comfortable position of just having to lob the javelin (to save his elbow for London) and make a 2nd Olympic team.

Bryan Clay's 1st day 4252 score and 2nd day skills appears to be enough to get him over the 8200 'A' standard and send him to the Olympics a 3rd time. Many of the younger athletes struggled to handle the conditions -- perhaps a good lesson yet one would like to face that lesson at a meet other than the Olympic Trials. Florida's Gray Horn was the most consistent of the bunch. 5 selections and a pair of discretionary picks for the Thorpe Cup team are also up for grabs.



Results:

6/22-23 23rd US Olympic Trials, Hayward Field, U of Oregon, Eugene, OR

4728	Eaton, Ashton/Ore-e TC/Nike	10.21+0.4	823+0.8	1420	205	46.70	
4408	Hardee, Trey/Nike	10.60+0.4	755+1.0	1572	199	49.11	
4252	Clay, Bryan/Asics	10.45+0.4	740+1.0	1563	196	51.21	
4084	Horn, Gray/Florida	10.93+0.4	760nwi	1349	196	50.66	
4044	Beach, Curtis/Duke	10.88+0.1	742+1.0	1183	187	47.82	
4033	Broadbent, Eric/HPC-e	10.99+0.1	731+1.0	1243	202	49.73	
4019	Detmer, Joe/unat	10.97+0.1	738	0.0	1318	190	49.14
3977	Harlan, Ryan/unat	11.26-0.2	674-1.0	1548	202	50.78	
3972	Lazas, Kevin/Arkansas	10/10+0.1	744+0.8	1395	193	51.44	
3936	Moss, Miller/unat	10.85+0.4	691-1.4	1403	187	49.62	
3823	Murphy, Isaac/Texas	10.77+0.4	699+0.8	1304	181	50.45	
3797	Duer, Corbin/unat	11.36-0.2	708+1.6	1262	196	50.96	
3727	Helwick, Chris/unat						

11.49+0.2 678-0.6 1425 193 51.97
3708 Randolph, Chris/Sketchers
11.39-0.2 669+0.7 1322 190 50.40
3674 Arnold, Jake/unat
11.20+0.1 629+0.2 1372 190 50.71
3586 Grzesiak, Dave/Wisconsin
11.56-0.2 650+1.0 1258 190 50.48
2861 Ayers, Michael/Georgia
11.28+0.1 nm 1310 184 51.93
dnf Keys, Dakotah/Oregon
11.37-0.2 682nwi 1276 184 inj withdrew
dnf Bray, Wesley/unat
10.99+0.1 697+0.2 1386 nh withdrew
19s,17f