

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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ITS ANYONE'S NCAA MEET

Moss, Beach, Ayers, Morrison, Horn Light It Up



Hello Again....The first day of the 41st NCAA D I decathlon was held in cruel heat. The temps topped at 95 degrees at 3 pm.

NCAA indoor champion Miller Moss put together a dream first day score, getting a PR in the first event and just missing career bests in the succeeding 4 event. He leads a field of 24 with 4271 points and is well ahead of career best pace. Duke's talented Curtis Beach stands 2nd at 4206 and the returning Michael Ayers, who led thru four, is 3rd at 4169. So impressive were the first day totals that:

- a) Twelve scored over 4000 points at the break;
- b) Although both were having fine meets, the only two to have 8000+ scores on their resume (Mateo Sossah and Moritz Cleve) stood 13th and 14th respectively.

Of the top two dozen qualifiers only Houston senior Wesley Bray did not declare (medical reasons) so Noah Palicia/US Air Force Academy, whose seasonal best of 7385 was accomplished at the Cal Invitational in early April, was tied for 25th in the rankings. He got the invite. No word on why/whether Ben Davies of Georgia, who also has a 7385 seasonal score, was not also invited? Palicia sustained a hamstring injury in April and has not competed in 8 weeks and he and the future fighter pilot nursed his leg thru the first day. Everyone else appeared roaring to go.



Not much separated Clemson's Miller Moss (left) and Florida's Gray Horn (right) during the first day. Moss held the lead while Horn, in 5th, was 148 pts back.



NCAA I Champs
Jim Duncan Stadium
Drake University
Des Moines, IA
June 8-9, 2011

100 meters: [Noon – 12:11 pm]

The 24 athletes were positioned into 3 sections and the seeding was first class. Because winds change at Drake and storms were predicted for Wednesday, Referee Rex Harvey waited until one hour before race time to select race direction, ultimately opting for south to north which was optimal since the wind reading for the 3 sections were: +1.8, +2.8 and +1.6 mps. How's that for making the right call! Harvey could not do anything about the air temperature which was reported officially at 89 degrees F at race time, and

unofficially exceeded 100 degrees on the Mondo track surface. I counted the crowd, mostly of coaches and family, on the west side at 180 at race time.

Exactly at noon the 42nd NCAA I decathlon meet was, off and ...stalled as Kansas State senior Mo Cleve left a tad early and was charged with a false start. When the race did get off Cleve took no prisoners running the fastest non-windy time of his 7 year career, 10.94 seconds. It was all Big 12 as Nebraska's Bjorn Barrefors was second (11.04) and Missouri's Lars Rise 3rd (11.16), both just missing PRs.

Section two was the fastest seeded race as Texan Isaac Murphy, running almost unseen in lane 8 dipped in 10.57 seconds, his best non-windy mark ever. More significantly, he just did edge Clemson's Miller Moss who clocked a big PR of 10.58 seconds. This was terrific start for Moss who may have won if the race was 105 meters long. Tied for 3rd in 10.66 seconds (both had PRs 1/100th faster) were Michael Ayers of Georgia and Mike Morrison of California. Sam Houston State Matt Johnson ran his best non windy mark ever for 5th (10.67) while Florida's Gray Horn achieved a career best 10.71 in 6th. *Imagine, 6th was 10.71!* Unnoticed in 7th was tall Romain Martin/Texas-Arlington Frenchman who also achieved a PR of 10.91.

Here is what the Scoreboard looked like:

Lane			PRs:	clocking
1	Michael Ayers	Georgia	10.65	10.66
2	David Klech	Oregon	10.88	10.94
3	Romain Martin	Tex-Arlington	11.06	10.91pr
4	Mike Morrison	California	10.65	10.66
5	Miller Moss	Clemson	10.70	10.58pr
6	Gray Horn	Florida	10.77	10.71pr
7	Matt Johnson	Sam Houston St	10.58	10.67
8	Isaac Murphy	Texas	10.47	10.55

The 3rd race could have been anti climatic but Duke redshirt freshman Curtis Beach was having none of it as he dashed off a PR 10.78. Kevin Lazas and Richard York also dipped under 11 seconds and only

Washington's Jeremy Taiwo appeared sluggish (11.27).

This was one great event as 14 of 24 either registered new career bests or just missed doing so. Wow. What a start.

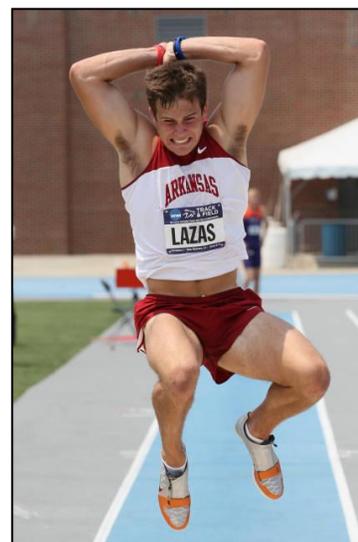
After One: Murp 959, Moss 956, Ayer and Morr 938.

Long Jump: [12:46 – 1:25 pm]

The athletes jumped concurrently, from west to east, in adjacent pits at the north end of Jim Duncan Stadium. The event was won, on the very first attempt, by Ayers, who hot the toe-board with exactly *nothing* to spare and covered 7.54m/24-9 worth of Des Moines real estate. A PR, natch! Non one bettered that mark but 11 of the 12 jumpers surpassed 7 meters here as Morrison (7.52m/24-8¼ in round #3) and Lazas (7.39m/24-3 in round #2) also PR'd.

Murphy Pr's in Flight #1, round #3 at 7.22m/23-8¼, 2 cms ahead of Sossah. Of the 71 total


Arkansas frosh Kevin Lazas (r) PR's in the long jump at 7.39m /24-3.



efforts, there were only 4 fouls, two by Beach whose lone legal effort netted 7.36m/24-1¾ and missed his PR by an inch. The competition was as hot as the temperature (now 94 degrees).

After Two: Ayer 1883, Morr 1878, Murp 1845, Horn 1844.

Shot Put: [2:00 – 2:25 pm]

Flight #2 (the better seeded throwers) started with a flub by Gray Horn (10.75m/35-

3¼) and then 3 consecutive fouls. At the end of round #1



Norwegian Lars Rise of Missouri won the shot put at 15.65m/51-4¼ to move into contention. He followed with a 400m career best.

Swede Bjorn Johansson/Akron, led with a 13.71m/44-11¾ toss. Rise rammed out a 15.53m/50-11 ½ effort in round #2 and improved to 15.65m/51-4¼ to win the event in round #3 moving him from 12th to 6th overall. In round #3 Cleve's loud howl signaled that he was pleased with his 14.41m/47-3¼, the second best effort of his career. Johansson improved to 14.04m/46¾ for 3rd. Moss scared his career best as well, missing by 8 inches.

Flight #1 was won by Romain Martin in a fine 13.25m/43-5½, but the news here was beach again as he got a 2nd lifetime best, 12.08m/39-7½. Three others were within striking distance of career bests. The battle between Ayers and Morrison was so tight that they seem to be competing in tandem with virtually identical marks. Consider: Ayers: 10.66, 7.54m, 13.29m; while Morrison stats were: 10.66; 7.52m and 13.00m. Ayers led by 23 after 3 events.

After Three: Ayer 2568, Morr 2545, Moss 2530, Horn 2487.

High Jump: [3:15 – 4:35 pm]

What impressed the crowd (which now reached 400) was how quickly and efficiently this event was run off. Consider, in just 80 minutes, on two adjacent pits, there

were 227 attempts (and 97 clearances) or a leap, on average, every 22 seconds. The flights were well seeded and the athletes got into a jumping rhythm and, before one knew it, after 14 different bar settings, the vent was completed, an hour ahead of schedule. The athletes still had to wait virtually two hours before running the 400 meters and they turned in spectacular clocking. Perhaps the added rest helped. But now to the high jump.

Morrison (PR of 2.02m) and Ayers (Pr of 2.00m) were slotted in the same flight (east pit) but the Cal senior flagged here, taking 3 tries to clear an opening height and eventually managing just 1.87m/6-1½. On the other hand Ayers was perfect thru 1.96m/6-5, and then lost his confidence at 1.99m/6-6¼, trying, as they say in Idaho, to 'horse it.' Regardless, he won the pit and maintained his overall lead. New Mexico soph Richard York took 15 jumps and



Duke's Curtis Beach was all business in Des Moines getting career best marks in the 100m, 400m and shot put and just missing PRs in the two jumps.

made 3 consecutive bars on 3rd attempts.

The higher seeded flight #1 saw the son's of a pair of former Olympians dominate. Jeremy Taiwo, whose father Joseph place 9th in the triple jump for Nigeria at both the 1984 Los Angeles and 1988 Seoul Games, won the competition at 2.08m/6-9¾. And Tommy Barrineau, whose father James, watching here, was a 1976 US Olympic high jump competitor. The family record (we believe 7-6) was not in jeopardy but the Georgia senior equaled his 2.02m/6-7 ½ PR

for a share of 4th (with Barrefors and Beach again!). Nothing like a good gene pool.

Sossah and Oregon's David Klech tied for 2nd at 2.05m/6-8¾. Moss and Horn put up solid marks at 1.99m/6-6¼, both close to career bests. Moss had actually leaped into the overall lead for a moment but lost it again to Ayers, who was jumping in the adjacent pit.

After Four: Ayer 3335, Moss 3324, Horn 3281, Barr (Bjorn) 3263.

400 Meters: [6:30-6:40 pm]

Strict adherence to the published schedule was required here and the athletes had a nearly two hour delay. Most managed it well. A light, warm rain brought some umbrellas at 6:30 pm. The first section was so well seeded that only 1½ seconds separated first place from



Kansas State senior Mo Cleve tagged the 400m clocking 48.41 to win section two.

last. Ironically (and significantly) first place was Morrison who raced to a career best 48.06 in lane 2 while Ayers, placed alongside in lane one, was 8th in 49.58. Three others (Greaves-49.58, Horn- 49.42 and Martin-49.48) ran career bests. The gap between Morrison and Ayers closed to just 31 points.

The second race was a runaway for Cleve whose 48.41 clocking was just 2/100ths off his best. Three more PR'd: Matt Johnson/Sam Houston State (49.64), Rise (49.77) and Long Beach's Nick Armstrong

(50.43). Although a bit muggy with the rain letup, conditions, with some ozone in the air, were optimal for the event. The final race saw Beach (in lane 8), Moss (in lane 2) and Oregon's David Klech (lane 5) all come off the final turn in tandem, running stride for stride. Klech faded a bit and Moss and Beach dug hard and ran themselves to the top of the leader board. With 50 meters remaining Beach, striding flawlessly, edged away and his 46.90 was eye-opening. 46.90! Moss just missed his PR but got a 47.23 time while Klech finished 3rd in 48.06 and Murphy lowered his best to 48.28. Much the day's first running event, the 400 produced 9 career bests and 6 more that were within two tenths. This was one heckuva' first day. *After Five: Moss 4271, Beac 4206, Ayer 4169, Morr 4138, Horn 4123*

Beside the top five, any of whom could win this, don't count anyone else outlurking but close enough to make noise is Lars Rise, Mateo Sossah and Moritz Cleve, all of whom have a wealth of big meet experience. Romain Martin will be in it at the finish. Jeremy Taiwo and Bjorn Barrefors have had recent elbow/javelin woes. A dozen could end up with significant scores when the dust (or rain) settles. Big scores could be in the offing for day two. But the weather forecast was for a drop in temperatures and possible thunderstorms. Fans would keep an eye on what all Americans had all spring....the Weather Channel.

I estimated the Drake crowd, at the end of the final decathlon event, at 6:30 at 4,500. A reminder. Decathlon fans can follow the NCAA I meet at www.GoDrakeBulldogs.com. My day two report will come tomorrow (Thursday) evening.



Day One Results:

6/8-9 42nd NCAA I Champs, Drake U, Des Moines, IA

4271	Moss, Miller/Clemson	10.58+2.8	724+1.6	1359	199	47.23
4206	Beach, Curtis/Duke	10.78+1.6	736-1.1	1208	202	46.90
4169	Ayers, Michael/Georgia	10.66+2.8	754-0.8	1329	196	49.58
4138	Morrison, Mike/California	10.66+2.8	752+0.8	1300	187	48.06
4123	Horn, Gray/Florida	10.71+2.8	743+1.4	1261	199	49.42
4074	Taiwo, Jeremy/Washington	11.27+1.6	716+1.1	1297	208	48.64
4073	Barreforrs, Bjorn/Nebraska	11.04+1.8	730+1.6	1358	202	50.10
4050	Martin, Romain/Tex-Arlington	10.91+2.8	717+0.1	1325	199	49.48
4048	Rise, Lars/Missouri	11.16+1.8	706+0.1	1565	193	49.77
4024	Klech, David/Oregon	10.94+2.8	722+1.2	1071	205	48.06
4021	Murphy, Isaac/Texas	10.57+2.8	722+1.0	1254	184	48.28
4009	Lazas, Kevin/Arkansas	10.96+1.6	739+1.7	1315	196	50.58
3999	Sossah, Mateo/North Carolina	11.38+1.8	720+1.5	1300	205	49.40
3992	Cleve, Moritz/Kansas St	10.94+1/8	678+0.6	1441	190	48.41
3903	Huber, Nick/Cornell	11.12+1.6	659+1.9	1366	196	48.68
3898	Johnson, Matt/Sam Houston St	10.67+2.8	689+2.3	1284	187	49.64
3881	Armstrong, Nick/Long Beach St	11.22+1.8	676+1.1	1391	199	50.43
3879	Barrineau, Tommy/Georgia	11.12+1.6	667+0.8	1272	202	49.52
3809	Adam, Philip/Rice	11.17+1.6	654+1.4	1368	193	49.66
3782	York, Richard/New Mexico	10.99+1.6	678+0.6	1131	193	49.20
3748	Greaves, Kenny/Texas	11.33+1.8	652+1.5	1291	190	48.58
3670	Johansson, Bjorn/Akron	11.37+1.8	669+1.9	1404	181	50.72
3666	FitzSimons, Thomas/Mt St Mary's	11.07+1.8	677+0.5	1139	181	49.11
3145	Palacia, Noah/Air Force	11.64+1.8	576+0.7	1143	184	53.65