

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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EATON LEADS NATION & WORLD

8729 is # 5 American Ever, Lazas Jr Champ



Hello Again... Ashton Eaton ran up a significant score at the 92nd USA national decathlon in Eugene, Oregon and fashioned a little bit of history for himself. Consider that the 23 year old Oregon grad from Bend, scored and scored a 272 point lifetime best *without* an individual event PR. His used his blazing speed and consistency to turn back a 16 man field while winning his first national USA crown. His 8729 effort makes him the 6th American over 8700 points and the #5 USA performer ever. Only Dan O'Brien, Bryan Clay, Trey Hardee and Tom Pappas have ever scored more. He surpassed Dave Johnson's best by a scant 2 points and most observers and Ashton himself realize that there's a bundle of additional points waiting to be tallied. But no one here in Eugene can walk away complaining about the decathlon. It was one great show with all of the emotional highs and lows of a soap.

Clay crashed in the 2nd day's initial ever, the victim of a hurdle trail leg, and was unable to finish.

Here's what happened on day two:

92nd USA National Championship
Hayward Field
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon
June 23-24, 2011



110 meters: [11:35-11:45 am]

Mike Morrison and Isaac Murphy withdrew overnight leaving just 13 to start



Ashton Eaton (center) acknowledges the Hayward Field faithful at the USA decathlon victory ceremony in Eugene. Runner-up Ryan Harlan (left) and 3rd place finisher Miller Moss (right).

day two. Conditions were optimal...72 degrees F and slight tailwinds. Clemson's Miller Moss led from start to finish although he was a bit ragged late in the race. His 14.21 clocking was aided by a +2.0mps breeze.

Approximately 2000 spectators were on hand for the anticipated hurdle race between Eaton and Clay, both of whom had clocked fast early season marks. Eaton's 13.35 at the recent Prefontaine Classic was in the back of everyone's mind. With the withdrawal of Jake Arnold, Ashton had no one to his left, and since he was in the outside lane (7), he was alone. No matter. He skimmed the first hurdle and was relatively clean over the remaining barriers, pulling away from Clay (in lane 3) after hurdle 5 and his expected quick clocking (here 13.52) was an American, Meet and Hayward Field decathlon record. The ebullient crowd did not

know how to react to the scene that unfolded before them. As their favorite rushed off to an



Eaton's focus was in the infield digital timer, that, momentarily, would stop at 13.52, a US record.

Record books, Bryan Clay's trail leg caught the eighth hurdle and he went crashing to the track while his hurdle bounced into Kenny Greaves path in lane 4. The spectators provided mixed reactions....first, a muted cheer for Eaton and then respectful hush for fear that Clay was seriously injured. The injury was not serious but Bryan banged his calf and was not able to finish the race, nor the meet. Greaves danced around an extra hurdle.

The 3rd race was anticlimactic. Ryan Harlan, fashioning a very nice score, ran an easy looking 14.48 in lane 5.

Clay did not survive the race but Frank Busemann's world best of 13.47 (Atlanta Olympic Games) did...for now. The days of his current world deca hurdle best are numbered. Eaton's margin on the field grew to 561 points.

After Six: Eato 5641, Broa 5080, Moss 5076, Harl 4946.

Discus: [12:30 – 1:18 pm]

Trey Hardee was added to the discus and vault fields to comply with the rules allowing him to compete at the World Championships later this summer. As the defending world champ---he won in Berlin in 2009---he was required to compete at the USA nationals and so he chose a pair of deca

events as a guest competitor plus the open 110m hurdle trials. This was a special treat for the fans since any drama of who would win the decathlon had been purged by Clay's modest first day and the subsequent crash. Eaton's victory was now a *fait accompli* and seeing Hardee and Eaton compete together was a delight.

The skies were overcast and a breeze moved from left to right. In round #1 Harlan remained hot with a 46.37m/152-2 toss that proved to be the ultimate winner. Hardee followed at 42.82m/140-6 and Eaton line-driven a weak 37.20m/122-0. Clay, trying to continue, took a standing toss, getting 38.63m/126-8.

In round #2 Hardee slipped fluttered a knuckleball. Eaton improved with a decent 41.58m/136-4 effort, about 10-12 feet below expectations. Nick Adcock had a 2nd throw into the net and Moss scared his PR with a nice 39.05m/128-1.

Round #3 saw Hardee improve to 44.91m/147-4 and Adcock, with the meet's top clutch effort, came up with a PR 42.03m/137-11. Curtis Beach recorded a foul, then had his next two efforts slip out of his hand. *After Seven: Eato 6338, Harl & Moss 5721, 5609 Broa.*

Pole Vault: [2:35 -3:59 pm]

The start was delayed until the junior decathlete scompleted the vault. In Flight #2 (west pit) Chris Helwick and Miller Moss managed 4.85m/15-11 clearances to win. Hardee vaulted in the east pit and cleared 5.05m/16-6¾, a bar also negotiated by Greaves and Eaton. Ashton had managed the previous bar on a close 3rd attempt. Hardee then stopped to prepare for the open hurdles

Top Ten USA Performers All-Time

8891	Dan O'Brien	1992
8832	Bryan Clay	2008
8790	Trey Hardee	2009
8784	Tom Pappas	2003
8729	Ashton Eaton	2011

8727	Dave Johnson	1992
8694	Chris Huffins	1998
8644	Steve Fritz	1996
8634	Bruce Jenner	1976
8404	Ricky Barker	1996

and Greaves and Eaton could go no higher. In all, 12 bars, 39 clearances, 94 attempts in 84 minutes.

After Eight: Eato 7264, Harl 6616, Moss 6586, Jell 6309.

Javelin: [4:40-5:06 pm]



Eaton’s 56.18m/184-4 toss in the first round was a deca best and portends bigger future numbers.

The Hayward crowd grew to (an announced) 10,057, about 200 more than Thursday count. T&F’s 3 ring circus was in full swings with as many as 4 simultaneous events. The decathlon javelin got lost in so much hubbub but everyone kept an eye on Eaton. Throwing at the very bottom of the order he lined up and gunned a nice 56.18m/184-4, a deca best to make his chances for an 8700 score reasonable. Harlan drew raves from the crowd with a huge PR in round #2, 65.10m/213-7 to win the event. Helwick improved to 62.70m/205-8 in round 3 to move into 4th overall. Meanwhile Hardee was racing to his legal best 13.69 in the 110m hurdles trials.

After Nine: Eato 7945, Harl 7431, Moss 7166, Helw 6985.

1500 meters: [6:00 pm]

There were three notable stories in the final event. First, could Curtis Beach, with notable middle distance skills, remove Robert Baker’s 3:58.7 world deca 1500m best from the record books; second, could Ryan Harlan hang on and manage a 4:48 clocking to earn the IAAF WC ‘B’ standard (8000 points) earning a ticket to Daegu?; third: would Eaton continue his hot streak and run fast enough (4:24.8) for a 8727+ score to become the # 5 American all-time?

The quick answers were: no, yes and yes. Predictable took over early and pushed the pace but it slackened after 800 meters and he cruised to *only* a 4:12.54 clocking. Eaton was clever enough not to follow Beach’s early pace but he ran in front of the peloton relying on his own sense of pace. Meanwhile Harlan slugged away in the middle of the pack and, on the final straight was able to mount a sprint that brought him is at 4:56.44, just enough to punch a ticket to Daegu. He collapsed at the finish line.



200 meters in to the 1500 meters Curtis Beach (right) was already breaking away while Eaton led the peloton.

O yes....Eaton. He ran a controlled race, completely alone, clocked a perfectly paced 4:24.10 and got his 8700 score while nudging Dave Johnson down a peg on the all-time list with an 8729 total. His first post-collegiate meet....8729...and the home crowd roared its approval. After all, 87 is 87. It is the world’s top seasonal score. “I left some points out there,” Eaton would say 30 minutes later. “There’s a lot more there.” Nearby, some fans

were chanting for his OTC-elite coach Harry Marra,”.....coach of the year, coach of the year, coach of the year....”

Ashton Eaton Quotes:



“I didn’t expect to score that high,” said Eaton. (ed.....he became the 5th highest American and 13th worldwide performer).

“Honestly, none of my marks were that outstanding. It was all about consistency. This is my first decathlon in just over a year and I had to get my sea legs under me...which I did” When asked what he might be able to accomplish in the future, Eaton replied, “I just try to keeo it in the present.. I’m not naïve, but I don’t let it get to my head.”

I toughed it out (in the 1500m) said Eaton. “It may have looked like I wasn’t moving, but the time was there....the crowd really helped me a lot.”

Who Is Headed to Daegu ???

Qualifying for the IAAF World Track and Field Championships is often confusing b/c there are a pair of qualifying standards (A and B), a lengthy qualifying period, and individual nation requirements.

Which Americans will be headed to Daegu? Ordinarily a single nation could qualify up to 3 if all three had the ‘A’ standard mark or 2 had met the ‘A’ standard (8200) and one other had met the ‘B’ standard (8000). But the USA may have 4 in the Korean ten eventer since Trey Hardee, as the defending champion, gets an automatic free pass.

So Hardee goes, as does Eaton (‘A’ standard) and Harlan (‘B’ standard) since they went 1-2 at the USA nationals. The only other athlete to have met the A standard is Bryan Clay (8493 in ’10 in Götzis where he beat virtually the entire field which will show up in Daegu) who was injured in Eugene. He will petition the USATF Men’s T&F committee and ask to be added to the team. From this vantage point, it seems the fair and wise thing to do, since he is also the defending Olympic champ and a former world champion.

“Hopefully things will work out,” said Clay. I’ll train hard for the next few weeks and try to have a better result (at Daegu).

Final Results:

6/23-24 92nd USA National Championship, Hayward Field, U of Oregon, Eugene, OR

8729	Eaton, Ashton/Oregon TC-e	10.33+0.6	780+3.1	1414	205	46.35
		13.52+1.6	4158	505	5619	4:24.10
8011	Harlan, Ryan/unat					

		11.17+0.2	666+0.4	1651	205	52.04
		14.48+1.5	4637	495	6510	4:56.44
7878	Moss, Miller/Clemson	10.92+0.6	711+0.4	1370	199	48.06
		14.21+2.0	3905	485	4945	4:35.04
7736	Helwick, Chris/unat	11.42+0.2	688-0.1	1332	196	51.19
		15.36+2.0	4489	485	6270	4:29.00
7606	Randolph, Chris/SLO Wellness	11.44+0.2	678-1.2	1405	193	50.97
		14.96+1.5	4565	455	6003	4:38.35
7576	Jellison, Mark/unat	11.31+0.2	746+0.9	1356	205	52.68
		14.66+2.0	4071	455	5192	4:44.90
7573	Beach, Curtis/Duke	10.90+0.6	731+0.5	1086	196	48.62
		14.83+1.5	3428	455	4822	4:12.54
7569	Adcock, Nick/unat	11.40+0.2	702+0.9	1390	196	49.31
		14.59+1.6	4203	435	5360	4:40.60
7447	Johnson, Matt/Sam Houston St	10.93+0.6	719+2.9	1290	184	50.14
		14.74+1.6	4311	445	5591	5:01.53
7338	Broadbent, Eric/HPE elite	10.90+0.6	721+0.4	1279	214	49.46
		14.55+2.0	3326	420	4260	4:59.80
7273	Huber, Nick/Cornell	11.32+0.2	651+1.2	1358	196	50.43
		14.93+1.5	3982	445	4583	4:33.02
6286	Greaves, Kenny/Texas	11.60+0.2	626+0.3	1238	nh	50.58
		15.98+1.6	3914	505	4580	4:26.61
dnf:	Clay, Bryan/Nike	10.64+0.6	736+1.4	1425	199	49.98 dnf
dnf:	Morrison, Mike/California	10.90+0.6	750+1.1	1177	193	49.59
dnf:	Murphy, Isaac/Texas	10.81+0.6	676-1.9	1182	175	49.07
Dnf	Arnold, Jake/Asics	11.44+0.2	605	1359		withdrew
						16s,12f

“We’re All Brothers”



Ryan Harlan came into the final event knowing he needed to run 4:58 or faster in order to score 8000 points, and thus earn the ‘B’ qualifying standard which would give him a berth on the USA WC team. It wasn’t easy for Harlan is a big guy...210 pounds. But he pushed, struggled, sprinted, fell, and, ultimately the timer just past the finish line read: 4:56.44. Final score...8011.

He gave credit to his competitors....”in the decathlon we’re all brothers. All the guys knew what I needed to get and they were all helping me out.”

“I’m a little surprised ,” (with my performance) he said. “It’s hard to expect everything to fall into place the way it did (big marks in throws.... hurdles...vault). I think God has called me to keep going.”

USA Junior Champs

Arkansas freshman Kevin Lazas took the lead from prep star Gunnar Nixon at the USA junior title meet with a terrific 3rd round discus toss, 45.08m/147-11 and, from there, it was just a question of how high a score he could run up. After winning the vault with a 5.05m/16-6¾ leap and the javelin with a 59.38m/194-9 toss he found himself in the enviable position to: a...score over 8000 points with the junior international implements, something not accomplished by an American; and: b...challenge the best score ever posted (since the new implements were introduced in 2003), which is 8131 by Russian Arkady Vasiliyev (Sochi-2006). The former would take approximately 4:52, the latter needed 4:32.15. Lazas had a career best of 4:36+. But one thing that can be said about the 19 year old Razorback from Brentwood, TN, “he gets after it.” Going it out front alone, he led the 1500m until the last lap, and faded to 4:50.52, thereby accomplishing the first goal (with an awesome 8016 score), but not the second. Nixon was 2nd with a nifty 7748 mark as no one else surpassed 7k.

6399 DiMambro, Michael/Essex Jct,VT 11.07+0.4
 646+0.6 1219 178 51.64 15.50+0.3 3098 385 4356 5:05.22
 6399 Catera, Matt/SUNY-Albany 11.32+0.4
 618+0.6 1147 169 50.50 14.96+0.3 3706 395 3742 4:50.94
 6398 Gilman, Tim/Missouri 11.74+0.6
 594+1.2 1254 175 52.44 15.93 0.0 3153 425 5157 4:53.98
 6348 Houston, Sam/Fordham 11.65+0.4
 622_0.9 1266 193 50.67 16.64 0.0 3662 345 3521 4:50.95
 6247 Fox, Dillon/Long Beach St 11.49+0.4
 615+1.1 1125 169 52.33 16.67+0.3 3172 435 3744 4:44:52
 6122 Ijah, Solomon/Murrieta Valley,CA 11.52+0.4
 613+1.6 1250 184 52.53 15.02 0.0 3002 325 3934 4:55.39
 6071 Basterrechea, Austin/C of Idaho 11.68+0.4
 604+0.8 1150 178 50.92 16.31+0.3 2984 355 4093 4:38.38
 13s,13f. nb. Lazas score is highest ever by American Junior with international junior implements,

Photos:

For photos of the 92nd USA Decathlon Championships go to:
<http://www.usatf.org/events/2011/USAOutdoorTFChampionships/Photos/Day1/index.asp>

Trey Hardee’s Weekend

Although he has earned a bye into the World Championships and only had to “compete” at the USA nationals in Eugene, Trey Hardee put in a good deal of work at Hayward Field:

6/24 Friday

Deca Discus: 44.91m/147-4
 Deca PV: 5.05m/16-6 ¾
 Open 110 hurdles: 13.69 +0.6

6/25 Saturday

Open Long Jump: 5.96m, foul foul

6/23-24 USA Junior Champs, Hayward Field, U of Oregon, Eugene, OR



8016 Lazas, Kevin/Arkansas 11.11+0.4
 735+1.1 1524 199 50.95 14.80+0.3 4508 505 5938 4:50.52
 7748 Nixon, Gunnar/Edmond, OK 11.03+0.4
 730+0.3 1309 214 49.35 14.39+0.3 4175 415 5181 4:43.68
 6887 Nielsen, Kevin/Rev Express 11.28+0.4
 664+1.7 1170 202 50.11 14.91+0.3 3501 355 4377 4:33.87
 6802 Fellows, Alec/Edmond, WA 11.21+0.4
 695+1.7 1113 193 50.39 14.94 0.0 3434 415 4005 4:55.46
 6560 Robson, Jamey/Akron 11.72+0.4
 644+1.7 1248 178 52.70 16.83 0.0 3968 445 5132 4:57.38
 6455 Coles, Idare/Cal redshirt 11.36+0.4
 631+1.7 1000 199 53.45 16.03 0.0 3315 415 4447 4:39.52