

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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HARDEE LEADS EATON AT BREAK

World Champs Scores Down in Morning Session



Hello Again.....

Overcast skies greeted the 30 athletes (down from 38 two years ago via tightened entry standards) on Saturday morning, August 27, 2011 for the 13th IAAF World Championships in Daegu, Korea. One hour before meet time there were but 500 fans in their seats but the Stadium filled quickly. At 9:30 nearly 5000 were in the scattered seats. At the gun of the first decathlon race nearly 7000 were on hand.

Day one was broken into two session sandwiching the opening ceremonies. So the decathlon's first three event actually came before the introductory rituals. By that time the competition had taken shape and Americans Trey Hardee and Ashton Eaton were in the driver's seat. But this would not be a big score meet and, with one exception, every athlete found himself down (or way down) on his PR score. The lone exception was Cuban Leonel Suarez who was just 13 off PR pace of 8654.

For the first time in meet history the majority of decathletes were not Europeans as the event's balance of power has seemed to have shifted to the Western hemisphere. Here's what happened in the lackluster morning session where only two individual event PRs (2!) were recorded in 208 measured efforts. Two!



Defending champ Trey Hardee (left) holds a 15 point lead at the IAAF World Championship decathlon after 3 events at Daegu Stadium (right).

13th IAAF World T&F Champs
Daegu, Korea
Saturday-Sunday
August 27-28, 2011



100 Meters: [10:00 - 10.26 am]

There was little to quibble about in the orchestration of the first event. With the exception of a single glaring error, the seeding was virtually perfect. I do question the practice at a few world championships of running the fastest seeded section first, the second fastest section second, and so on. That was done here and after the first race all subsequent races were anti-climatic. Running sections from slowest to fastest makes more sense from a presentation standpoint. And, not to be picky, but I don't like the procedure of running a seven person field in lanes 1 thru 7 (where lane one has a curb) and a 9(!) lane

straight is available. Move'em out! (and the IAAF rules allow it).

OK, so at 10 am the 7 fastest decathletes in the field lined up with defending champ Trey Hardee in lane one and the seasonal leader, teammate Ashton Eaton, in 3. They sandwiched 23 year old German Rico Freimuth whose father Uwe, then representing East Germany, was 4th in the initial world's in Helsinki in 1983. Quick newcomer Damian Warner/CAN was in lane 5 and reliable Oleksiy Kasyanov/UKR, who was 4th in Berlin 2 years ago, was to Warner's outside. Running on the west side of Daegu Stadium, from north to south.

After a false start to Brazilian de Araujo, Hardee reacted fastest (the IAAF releases reaction times, unlike the NCAA). At 30 meters the race was 3 way—Eaton, Hardee and Warner. At 50 meters Ashton put some separation between himself and Trey, and racing into a -0.5mps headwind, clocked 10.46 seconds, 9/100ths ahead of the defending champ. Warner was another tick back.

Results:

	<i>Time reaction</i>	
1... Ashton Eaton USA	10.46	0.188
2. Trey Harder/USA	10.55	0.157
3. Damian Warner/CAN	10.56	0.196
4. Luiz Albert De Araujo/BRA	10.71	0.177
5. Oleksiy Kasyanov/UKR	10.75	0.204
6. Mihail Dudas/SRB	10.81	0.221
7. Rico Freimuth/GER	10.83	0.197

The second race featured another false start, this to Darius Draudvila/LTH. The race went to Eelco Sintinicolaas/NED in a fine 10.76 seconds. He caught a break as the wind turned (now +0.5mps). He led countryman Igmarr Vos (10.82).

The third race had Olympic bronze medalist Leonel Suarez and 31 year old Korean champ Kim Kun-Woo who brought plenty of fans. New Zealand's Brent Newdick pulled away from Leonel as both chugged home in 11.00 and 11.07. Headwind, -0.2mps. A delighted Kim wooed in 4th at 11.11.

Apparently a seeding error relegated Algerian Larbi Bouraada, the young Algerian who won in Ratingen (where he ran 10.61!) to the slowest race. Because he had no non-windy marks during 2011, he was without a seed time even though he ran 10.68 in the same IAAF meet 2 years earlier. (see box). He was in lane #1 and no one provided him competition. He won by a ton in 10.88 seconds (wind: 0.0 mps). Ageless Roman Sebrle, 36, in his 8th world champs (a record) was in lane 4 and clocked 11.25 just ahead of Texan Ryan Harlan, the USA runner-up (11.29). Sebrle, at 36 years and 275 days, is now the oldest starter ever at this meet, replacing American Kip Janvrin.

The results were a bit disappointing. Perhaps the athletes were tight. Whatever, for the first time in WC history no athlete recorded a PR in the initial event. In fact only 3, all youngsters---Freimuth, Sintinicolaas and Knobel---were remotely close.

It took 26 minutes to run 4 races! Set to gun hand clockings: 1.20, 1.18, 1.08, 1.10.



Notables Not in Daegu

Some notable names were not in Daegu. Olympic champ Bryan Clay suffered a flareup of a knee injury at the Thorpe Cup and withdrew from the WC ten days before the



competition. He would watch this world champs from afar.

Olympic silver medalist Andrei Krauchanka/BLR truncated his 2011 season

due to an Achilles injury. And last season's USA champ, Jake Arnold, recently underwent hip surgery. Also missing was 8312 Latvian Edgars Erins and Russian Vasilii Krahmalov who won the WUG Games two weeks earlier. One half of 2011's top ten did not return.

After One: Eato 985, Hard 963, Warn 961, DeAr 926.

Long Jump: [11:00 – 12:20 pm]

The athletes had been escorted from the track after the 100m and were returned at (exactly) 10:44 pm, 16 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the long jump. The side by side pits were located on the east side, outside the running track and the athletes, unlike to 100m, jumped south to north. Group A featured the top jumpers.

Hardee and Eaton both fouled at the toe-board in round one and fouls were numerous, 1/3rd of all jumps were fouls. Belgium's Thomas Van der Plaetsen led at 7.79m/25-6³/₄, a PR, in the round's only highlight. He moved to 5th overall.

Dutchman Sintinicolaas fouled again in round two, leaving the pit in disgust. Hardee and Eaton took safes in round 2 with Trey going 7.45m/24-5¹/₂ and Ashton 1cm further. Kasyanov went 7.59m/24-11 as most athletes, sans Sinti and Mikk Pahapill/EST, got legal marks.

In the 3rd round Aleksiy Drozdov/RUS



Hardee managed a 7.45m/2405 1/2 leap between a pair of fouls.

improved to 7.45m/24-5¹/₂ but Hardee fouled and Eaton didn't finish his jump (7.21m/23-8). Sintinicolaas saved a decent score with a

7.29m/23-11 effort. Fouls abounded (13 of 43 jumps were toe-board fouls).

Bouraada, relegated to Group B (weaker jumpers) in spite of his 7.94m/26-3⁴/₄ effort in Ratingen, won at 7.42m/24-4¹/₄ as only 7 of 15 athletes even surpassed 7 meters! 14 of 45 jumps were fouls recorded at the toe-board, in what was a universally weak event. And pitty poor Rico Freimuth who, jumping last in the order, ended Group B with his 3rd foul. Only Leonel Suarez/CUB managed (for him) a solid mark, 7.33m/24-3⁴/₄

Both Ashton and Trey were looking a bit vulnerable but no one in the 30 man field yet was fashioning a big score

After Two: Eato 1910, Hard 1885, Kasy 1874, Warn 1859.

Shot Put: [1:01 – 1:57 pm]

The event was backed-up due to the late long jump start. Group A (better seeded throwers) were placed in the west circle. The Seiko on field scoreboard broke down making it difficult for the 7000+ fans to follow the competition. Hardee's first toss covered 15.09m/49-6 of Korean real estate. Ryan Harlan, the 6-3, 205 Houston native, started



Ashton Eaton (left) and Ryan Harlan (right) put up fine shot numbers. Harlan won the event at 16.49m/54-1¹/₄.

the fireworks with a nifty 16.49m/54-1¹/₄ (just 5 inches shy of a PR) to end round #1. It ended up as the winning toss.

In round #3 German Jan-Felix Knobel pumped a PR 15.86m/52-1¹/₂. Hardee soon followed with an effort in the 15 m range but was called for a foul. He did not leave the circle. Under protest. Replays showed a foul at the toe-board but it was ever sooooo close.] and it is unlikely Trey even felt it. Harlan

followed with another nice toss, 16.23m/53-3. And eyes were on the bulky Drozdov, a 17m thrower who had fouled in the first round. His shot landed 16.17m/53-¾ away.

Knobel nudged his PR up to 16.06m/52-8 ¼ in round #3. Hardee took his time on his final toss and got a 15.09m again! Group A went quietly. When Aleksey Drozdov fell out of the circle ending the event there were less than 1000 spectators in the stadium, and half of them seemed to be coaches.

In Group B Eaton, throwing early, opened with a nice 14.44m/47-4½. Suarez, wearing gaudy sunglasses, pumped 14.54m/47-8½ to take the section lead from Ashton. Ashton fouled in round #2 and #3, both delibs when he saw the shot land just over the 14m line. And that's just the way it ended with Eaton down just 30cm off his PR, Suarez down 66cm and Kasyanov down 129cm.

A Seedy Suggestion

To eliminate the problem of having decathletes placed in the weakest section (of 100m, 110mH and long jump) when they obviously belong in better groups may I suggest that seeding marks use the same time period as the period used for qualifying marks.....in this case, from January, 2010. So previous year's meets should count. AND, further, if an athlete can get into the meet with a wind aided-score, why should not wind-aided marks not be used for seeding (within reason, say nothing over 4.0 mps). This will eliminate 99% of all silly situations like the one here where one of the best sprinters/jumpers was misplaced. This is only reasonable.

Hardee had pushed by Eaton for the overall lead (by 15 points), while Kasyanov moved to 3rd, Drozdov 4th and Knobel 4th. But it was Leonel Suarez, down just 13 points on his 8654 PR pace, who now posed a threat.

Of the possible medal contenders, although still early, Yordani Garcia/CUB and Mikk Pahapill/EST have taken themselves out of the hunt. The athletes now faced a 6 (!) hour break. 6!

After Three: Hard 2680, Eaton 2665, Kasy 2629, Knob 2562.....Suarez 2499

12th



Results at the Break:

2665	Eaton, Ashton/USA-OreTC 10.46-0.5 746 0.0 1444
2680	Hardee, Trey/USA-Nike 10.55-0.5 745+0.1 1509
2629	Kasyanov, Oleksiy/UKR 10.75-0.5 759+0.6 1443
2570	Drozdov, Aleksey/RUS 11.34 0.0 745+0.3 1617
2562	Knoebel, Jan-Felix/GER 11.18 0.0 730+0.4 1606
2542	Warner, Damian/CAN 10.56-0.5 735+1.1 1326
2534	Vos, Ingmar/NED 10.82+0.5 741+0.4 1386
2534	Sintincolaas, Eelco/NED 10.76+0.5 729+0.3 1413
2530	Dudas, Mihail/SRB 10.81-0.5 741+0.5 1376
2524	Raja, Andres/EST 10.85+0.5 721+0.2 1461
2520	Draudvila, Darius/LTU 10.90+0.5 719+0.7 1481
2499	Suarez, Leonel/CUB 11.07-0.2 733 ?.? 1454
2494	Sebrle, Roman/CZE 11.25 0.0 730+0.4 1520
2492	Smith, Maurice/JAM 10.98+0.5 706+0.5 1515
2477	Van Der Plaetsen, Thomas/BEL 11.20 0.0 779+0.9 1276
2477	Bouraada, Larbi/ALG 10.88 0.0 742+0.2 1311
2462	Newdick, Brent/NZL 11.00-0.2 731+0.7 1375
2462	Behrenbruch, Pascal/GER 11.08-0.2 680+0.5 1601
2455	de Araujo, Luiz Alberto/BRA 10.71-0.5 674+0.3 1477
2430	Barras, Romain/FRA 11.20-0.2 706 0.0 1492
2425	Coertzen, Willem/RSA 11.16-0.2 737+0.2 1348
2421	Karpov, Dmitriy/KAZ 11.24-0.2 686+0.1 1569
2418	Harlan, Ryan/USA-unat 11.29 0.0 668+0.3 1649
2416	Pahapill, Mikk/EST 11.28-0.2 712+0.3 1476
2390	Garcia, Yordani/CUB 10.85+0.5 656+0.3 1493
2381	Sepehrzad, Hadi/IRI 11.19 0.0 665+0.3 1565
2372	Kim Kun-Woo/KOR 11.11-0.2 724+0.2 1296

2233 Ushiro, Keisuke/JPN
11.42 0.0 696+0.2 1288
dnf Adjetey-Nelson, Jamie/CAN
10.97+0.5 721+0.2 withdrew
dnf Freimuth, Rico/GER
10.83-0.5 3f withdrew
30s,28f