

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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EATON-HARDEE 1-2 AFTER DAY ONE

Contest Tightens in Evening Session

Hello Again.....After the endless game show Opening Ceremonies, the decathlon resumed at 8 pm, ending the longest break in major meet history. (ed.... how many football games have a 6 hour halftime break?)

Americans Ashton Eaton and Trey Hardee struggled but Eaton's fine 400m win allowed him to recapture the lead over Hardee but the pair are hardly clear of a field. They stood 1-2 with a very short overnight break. Eaton's fine 46.99 one lap pushed his total to 4446, 54 ahead of his American teammate.



Ashton Eaton struggled in the jumps, usually his forte, but his running talent allowed him to lead overnight in Daegu.



13th IAAF World T&F Champs

Daegu, Korea

Saturday-Sunday

August 27-28, 2011



High Jump: [8:00 -10:14 pm]

Athletes divided into two pits at the north end with the higher seeded jumpers placed in Group A, the west pit. Prognosticators kept a wary eye on Leonel Suarez (PR 2.17m) who was making life uncomfortable for overall leaders, Trey Hardee (in Group B-east pit) and Ashton Eaton (Group A).

In Group B Hardee was likely to be one of the final jumpers but his group had only 13 jumpers remaining in the meet. In A the battle shaped up among Suarez, Eaton and Russian Aleksey Drozdov.

A major question for this event was,

would the apron at the north end be sufficiently deep that jumpers would not need the use of the track as part of their run-up. Given that the women's 10,000 meters was scheduled for 9 pm. Delays would crop up every time runners came by. In the past this has caused pauses and interruptions in the conduct of the high jump. This turned out to be the case...lots of delays and the event ran 20-30 minutes later than expected.

The warm up scene was surreal. Virtually the entire stadium was dark from 7:26 to 7:50 pm, with only two floodlights at the north end. Warm-ups jumps were conducted in the dark as the singing and dancing ritual droned on. When the balloons marched past the east pit I gave up. I don't know how the decathletes handled it? Some, I suspect, not well. This was all before the fireworks! It was like trying to warm up on

the middle of the infield at halftime of the Super Bowl. Imagine!! This meet was not, as they say, athlete friendly.

Well, to the event. Confusion reigned in Group A at the start as the wrong athletes were repeatedly requested to jump. So confused was the situation that Estonian Andres Raja waited patiently for 4 minutes before officials sorted things out.

In Group A Eaton entered at 1.96m/6-5 and had no trouble. Ditto at the next bar, 1.99m/6-6¼. He needed a pair of attempts at 2.02m/6-7½. Ash missed 2x at 2.05m/6-8¾ setting up a crucial attempt. It was not to be.

In Group B Hardee opened at 1.93m/6-4 and cleared easily. He passed 1.96m/6-5 and then missed twice at 1.99m/6-6¼ setting up a crucial 3rd effort which he coolly snuck over. Then he cleared 2.02m/6-7½ on a 2nd try. At 2.05m/6-8¾, a cm off his PR, he had a pair of decent attempts and bailed on the 3rd. Ironically, all 3 Americans leaped the same height, 2.02m/6-7½. The differential between Trey and Ashton remained 15 points. It remained to see if



Russian Aleksey Drozdov leaped to the overall lead with a 2.14m/7-¼ 2nd place in the high jump.

Suarez could cut into the lead.

Thomas Van Der Plaetsen/BEL and Drozdov put on a show getting over 2.08m/6-9¾ and 2.11m/6-11 and then 2.14m/7-¼. The latter moved to the overall lead ahead of Hardee and Eaton. 2.11m and 2.14m were career bests for the Belgian.

On his 3rd miss at 2.17/7-1½ Drozdov limped out of the pit and then, to everyone's amazement, Van Der Plaetsen was clear... another PR and moved to 4th. He then declined to go any further.

The event lasted 2 hours and 14 minutes....a long event.

After Four: Droz 3504 Hard 3502, Eato 3487, Van D 3440, Kasy 3423.



400 Meter: [10:40 -]



Kim Kun Woo was the crowd's favorite and he clocked 49.24 in the first race, won by Ashton Eaton in 46.99

The first race was a crowd favorite since it found local Kim Kun-Woo in lane 1. I have the same questions about the use of the inside lane-especially for the 400m—when there are empty lanes to the outside. Hardee drew lane 3 and Eaton lane 6 with no one to his outside since Rico Freimuth/GER had withdrawn. At the start (I can't say gun, it's more of a metallic beep) Eaton took off. He passed 200m in 22.3, tagged the turn but tied in the homestretch. His 46.99 was a minor disappointment but he had regained the overall lead.

Section 2 had a pair of contenders, Suarez (who will be 24 in a few days) in lane

5 and Eelco Sintincolaas/NED, the '10 Euro silver medalist, in lane 6.

Sintincolaas led from wire-to-wire in the second race, and given the lateness of the day, his 48.35 was pretty tough. Suarez faded in the homestretch and managed 49.17. These were tired guys.

The 3rd race saw coming stars Jan Felix Knobel/GER and Damian Warner/CAN go out quickly and vet Romain Barras ran them down. Knobel held on for a 49.46 clocking, 4/100ths ahead of the European champ.

The final race, which went off at at 11:06 am and the ungodly short turn-around time would cost athletes tomorrow. One can't say enough about how silly the decathlon schedule here was, gerrymandered to accommodate ceremony. It's too bad the decathletes were made the sacrificial lambs of this meet.

Few left feeling good about their first day efforts, with the possible exception of Belgian's van der Plaetsen and the old warhorse, Roman Sebrle, who was in his 8th worlds meet. He's seen it all, except, likely, warming up in the dark.

After Five: Eato 4446, Hard 4392, Kasy 4310, Duda 4274, Drov 4257....8th Suar 4202 ...24th Harl 3984.

First Day Results:

4446	Eaton, Ashton/USA-OreTC	10.46-0.5 746 0.0 1444 202 46.99
4392	Hardee, Trey/USA-Nike	10.55-0.5 745+0.1 1509 202 48.37
4310	Kasyanov, Oleksiy/UKR	10.75-0.5 759+0.6 1443 199 48.46
4274	Dudas, Mihail/SRB	10.81-0.5 741+0.5 1376 202 47.73
4257	Drozdov, Aleksey/RUS	11.34 0.0 745+0.3 1617 214 51.35
4250	Van Der Plaetsen, Thomas/BEL	11.20 0.0 779+0.9 1276 217 49.46
4235	Bouraada, Larbi/ALG	10.88 0.0 742+0.2 1311 196 47.34
4202	Suarez, Leonel/CUB	11.07-0.2 733 ?? 1454 205 49.17
4173	Warner, Damian/CAN	10.56-0.5 735+1.1 1326 202 50.12

4169	Knobel, Jan-Felix/GER	11.18 0.0 730+0.4 1606 196 49.46
4166	Sintincolaas, Eelco/NED	10.76+0.5 729+0.3 1413 193 48.35
4157	Raja, Andres/EST	10.85+0.5 721+0.2 1461 199 49.47
4105	Sebrle, Roman/CZE	11.25 0.0 730+0.4 1520 205 51.18
4099	Coertzen, Willem/RSA	11.16-0.2 737+0.2 1348 202 49.20
4076	Draudvila, Darius/LTU	10.90+0.5 719+0.7 1481 196 50.55
4062	Barras, Romain/FRA	11.20-0.2 706 0.0 1492 190 49.46
4055	de Araujo, Luiz Alberto/BRA	10.71-0.5 674+0.3 1477 190 49.48
4046	Newdick, Brent/NZL	11.00-0.2 731+0.7 1375 196 49.95
4043	Garcia, Yordani/CUB	10.85+0.5 656+0.3 1493 202 49.64
4034	Smith, Maurice/JAM	10.98+0.5 706+0.5 1515 19350.27
4023	Pahapill, Mikk/EST	11.28-0.2 712+0.3 1476 202 50.65
4021	Behrenbruch, Pascal/GER	11.08-0.2 680+0.5 1601 193 49.90
3989	Kim Kun-Woo/KOR	1 1.11-0.2 724+0.2 1296 196 49.24
3984	Harlan, Ryan/USA-unat	11.29 0.0 668+0.3 1649 202 51.57
3885	Karpov, Dmitriy/KAZ	11.24-0.2 686+0.1 1569 193 52.01
3868	Sepehrzad, Hadi/IRI	11.19 0.0 665+0.3 1565 190 50.92
3829	Ushiro, Keisuke/JPN	11.42 0.0 696+0.2 1288 202 50.89
dnf	Vos, Ingmar/NED	10.82+0.5 741+0.4 1386 withdrew
dnf	Adjetey-Nelson, Jamie/CAN	10.97+0.5 721+0.2 withdrew
dnf	Freimuth, Rico/GER	10.83-0.5 3f withdrew

30s,27f.