

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXV

Number 14

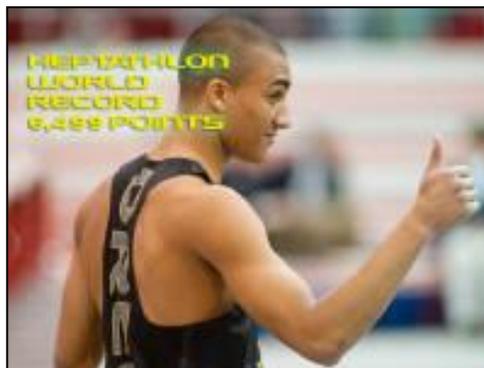
March (6), 2010

EATON NABS WORLD RECORD

What a Week for Americans!



Hello Again....A world heptathlon record by Ashton Eaton, 21, a senior at Oregon, capped one of the best days in US combined events history. Earlier in the day Bryan Clay and Trey Hardee went 1-2 at the IAAF world indoor champs in Doha, Qatar. The world event ended 6+ hours before the NCAA affair in Fayetteville, Arkansas so everyone was aware of the American success and scores, 6204 for Clay, 6184 for Hardee. Given the numbers Eaton put up on day one, a shot at not only the season's top score (6300 by Russian Aleksiy Drozdov) but Dan O'Brien's venerable 6476 world/American record was also a possibility. Oregon coach Harry Marra low keyed the possibility, but was also pragmatic in realizing that a 7.85 hurdles, 5.20m/17-¾ vault and 2:38 1k by Ashton would bring a new global standard. All were within reach. But he kept the numbers inside his new lemon/black sweats and kept his fingers crossed when the meet resumed at 11:00 am on Saturday morning. The crowd was on its feet knowing it was watching something special during the last few laps of the 1000m and Eaton did not wilt under the accelerated pace. 3+ hours later, when Eaton crossed the finish line with a 5½ second (!) 1k PR, 2:32.67 the heptathlon record relocated from Moscow, Idaho to Eugene, Oregon. Here's the story:



The Scoreboard at Arkansas' Randall Tyson Track Center says it all.

7th NCAA D-I Heptathlon
Randall Tyson Track Center
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas
March 12-13, 2010



Day two:

60 m Hurdles: [11:00 am]

I do not particularly care for running hurdles races in non-adjacent lanes and this procedure, perhaps appropriate in meets with novice hurdlers, should not apply to a national championship. Nevertheless, here in Fayetteville, the 15 remaining athletes (Northridge's Robert Robinson withdrew overnight) were grouped into 5 sections of 3 each. The seeding was excellent, however and the fast track made for quick times and big scores.

In section #1 Lars Rise, the Missouri Norwegian who had limped away with a sore



Ashton Eaton began day two with a 7.77 clocking in the 60m hurdles, .03 off of the world record, held by Bryan Clay and Jangy Addy.

knee after the high jump, caught Tommy Barrineau of Georgia at the tape as both recorded lifetime bests. Minnesota frosh Jack Szmanda also got a PR in 8.56 seconds. Wow, this was one fast track as approximately 180 fans looked on. In the second race Florida's Gray Horn got to the first barrier first, but never got over it and he went crashing to the red surface. Lanky Miller Moss/Clemson won in a fine 8.15 seconds, and even more interesting and virtually unseen (all eyes on the winner and then Horn getting up and finishing in 10.78 seconds) was Mateo Sossah, the Carolina Frenchman, who recorded a 4th PR (in 5 events), with a 8.31 time. These guys were competing.

The 3rd race was the top seeded section. Ashton Eaton reacted fastest to the report and, as best I can describe it, "smoothed" away from Nick Adcock and Mantas Silkauskas. The arena was silent until the scoreboard displayed a 7.77 clocking, just .03 off the world best (co-held by Bryan Clay and Jangy Addy). 7.77! yet another PR! Adcock (a PR 7.94) and Silkauskas (8.04) were 2nd and 3rd. Marra glanced at his projections...one down, two to go.

In the 4th race Cal's Mike Morrison PR's in 8.23 and Curtis Beach, in 3rd, did so as well, 8.58 seconds. In the final section Big Ten kingpin RJ McGinnis blasted his PR to

win in 8.10 while Gopher Brock Spandl also PRR's in 8.23 seconds. Ten of the 15 runners recorded lifetime bests in perhaps the best single event in meet history! 7.77! We were on our way.

After Five: Eato 4601, McGi 4157, Barr 4150, Silk 4140.

Pole Vault: [12:15 pm]

The vault lasted 152 minutes (128 attempts, 57 clearances at 15 heights). Even though four (Barrineau, Sossah!, Szmanda, Rise) recorded lifetime bests in front of the rhythmic clapping South stands, the drama was in Eaton's march to the record. Ashton opened at 4.40m/14-5¼, returned at 4.60m/15-1, then cleared 4.80m/15-9, 4.90m/16-¾, 5.00m/16-¾ and 5.10m/16-8¾, all smoothly and on first attempts. He occasionally took breaks to cheer teammate Brienne Theissen in the high jump, shot and long jump during the concurrent women's pentathlon. But in the event he needed one more height, 5.20m/17-¾, to stay on world record pace, and, at this point, he did not have a single miss. He had cleared 5.26m/17-3 two weeks prior in Seattle, but in Fayetteville, it was not to be. Coach Marra peeked at his projection sheet and reworked some numbers...now 2:34.5 was necessary. O My! Minnesota junior Brock Spandl won the event at 5.20m/17-¾. Referee Ed Gorman announced the starting time, 3:20 pm.

After Six: Eato 5542, Morr 4998, Barr 4940, Adco 4936.

1000 Meters: [3:19 pm]

A nervous PA announcer actually introduced the athletes sooner than scheduled and the event went off a minute early. A sub-story during this event not only raised eyebrows for the 500+ spectators but made the fast time possible for Eaton. Duke freshman Curtis Beach, 19, who had recorded a 1:47.9 800m relay leg four weeks earlier, set his sights on Joe Detmer's awesome world 1k record set 3 years earlier on the same track. Then a senior at Wisconsin, Detmer had brought the house down with a 2:29.42

clocking, the first sub-2:30 CE time in history. This meet not only provided an attempt on Detmer's individual mark but on O'Brien's total score mark as well.

Beach raced to the lead on the backstretch of lap one and set a tempo that would eventually result in 9 (of 14) lifetime bests! No one dwaddled and Beach crossed 200 in sub 28+ seconds with Eaton 10 meters back. Sossah had moved to second and Beach towed the quick moving field thru in 59+. Ashton was 61+, right one pace. Beach pushed ahead passing 800m in 1:59.7 where he was 22 meters up on Sossah with Eaton another 4 meters back (in 2:03.4). The entire field was strung out with everyone running fast. Some could not handle the pace and began to fade, But not Curtis nor Mateo nor Ashton. Beach picked up the pace while the gait of Sossah and Eaton could best be described as "labored." Yet no one wilted. Curtis sprinted in and the clock quickly read 2:27.88 while Eaton's desperate drive put him just a step back of Sossah. It was obvious that both had crossed the finish line in the 2:32 range and, at that moment, Dan O'Brien's name disappeared from the record books. The crowd went bonkers as runners streamed in...six at 2:39 or faster, all the beneficiary of Beach's early tempo. In fact one runner had come within 60 meters of being lapped! A minute later the final scores flashed on the scoreboard.....6499 for Eaton....a new world record! In all, 5 recorded PR scores.

After Seven: Eato 6499 WR!, Soss 5886 (French u23 R), Morr 5826 PR, Adco 5763.

Notes: It took a score of 5540 to qualify this year. Last year's 3rd place finisher, Moritz Cleve/Kansas State, did not declare b/c of a minor leg injury. Sossah's 5886 score moved to #10 on the all-time college list. He had 6 PRs in 7 events. Eaton recorded 5 personal records, 3 field house records, 2 meet records and one collegiate record. Eaton has now won 4 consecutive indoor heptathlons and his last

loss dates to the '08 NAAs. Then he had recovered nicely after a disastrous first day to place 6th overall. Kudos to the Arkansas crowd for preparing a sparkling facility, to efficient officiating and to referee Ed Gorman. Way to go! Finally, coach Marra took a final peek at his projections, folded the paper, and smiled.



Results:

3/12-13 NCAA Div I Championships, U of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AK

6499	Eaton, Ashton/Oregon	6.71 773 1312 211 7.77 510 2:32.67
		PR, FHR, MR, CR, AR, WR
5886	Sossah, Mateo/North Carolina-FRA	7.45 707 1407 208 8.31 480 2:32.22 PR
5826	Morrison, Mike/California	7.03 735 1277 193 8.23 500 2:44.15 PR
5763	Adcock, Nick/Missouri	7.12 705 1419 190 7.94 470 2:44.23
5710	Rise, Lars/Missouri-NOR	7.32 712 1582 193 8.45 470 2:44.40 PR
5676	McGinnis, R.J./Minnesota	7.17 689 1509 199 8.10 410 2:39.92
5652	Dickman, Chris/Wichita St	6.93 675 1147 196 8.54 490 2:36.04 PR
5638	Moss, Miller/Clemson	7.00 693 1252 193 8.15 450 2:39.68
5601	Szmanda, Jack/Minnesota	7.27 679 1325 193 8.56 510 2:43.08
5569	Spandl, Brock/Minnesota	7.22 685 1098 193 8.23 520 2:46.46
5565	Barrefors, Bjorn/Nebraska-SWE	7.10 709 1387 199 8.11 460 3:04.08
5533	Beach, Curtis/Duke	7.31 704 1150 193 8.56 450 2:27.88
5525	Barrineau, Tommy Georgia	7.28 655 1330 190 8.45 500 2:42.20
5507	Silkauskas, Mantas/Kansas St-LIT	6.88 735 1241 190 8.04 410 2:54.19
dnf	Horn, Gray/Florida	7.03 710 1173 202 10.78 440 dns
dnf	Robinson, Robert/CSU-Northridge	7.11 662 1209 184 withdrew
		16s,14 [final qualifier was 5540]

