

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXV

Number 33

June (3), 2010

## THE PLAYING FIELDS OF EATON

### Oregon Senior's 4500 Leads NCAA Day One

**Hello Again....**Otherwise known as historic Hayward Field, on the campus of the University of Oregon, it can now be referred to, at least in decathlon circles, as the "playing fields of Eaton," named for the versatile University of Oregon athlete from Bend.

It has been almost (to the day) 195 years since Napoleon met defeat at the Battle of Waterloo and his conqueror, Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington gave the credit (apocryphally) to the "playing fields of Eton."

Perhaps not as important in the grand scheme of history as Waterloo, but no less important in the eyes of 24 athletes and the 7000 who crammed into these venerable bleachers today, as they watched Eaton write another version of history. Ashton won 3 of the days 5 events and reached a new lifetime best first day score of 4500, a gaudy sum, to lead Texas A&M's Trinity Otto by a whopping 246 points. He started and ended the day with impressive races: a 10.37 century and a collegiate, meet, track and personal record 46.28 one lapper. Oregon coach Harry Marra was simply amazed. "He in one tough competitor. Boy was that a great first day. " "And," he added, "tomorrow will be dry."

Of his own first day Eaton remarked, "obviously there were disappointments today in the high jump and shot put but it's a multi so you get them (points) back in other places. I couldn't be happier with the 400."



The cold rain did not stop Oregon senior Ashton Eaton (center) from a terrific effort in the 100 meters (10.37), over Robert Robinson/Cal State-Northridge (left) and Trinity Otto /Texas A&M (right).



**41<sup>st</sup> NCAA D-I  
National Decathlon Champs  
Hayward Field, U of Oregon  
Eugene, OR  
June 10-11, 2010**

**100 meters:** [10:00 am]

Day one broke cold and rainy. Meet referee Rex Harvey moved to sprint to the east side of Hayward Field but, as it turned out, the wind was negligible.

At the start approximately 650 fans were on hand including many of the Duck faithful. Starter Tom Meager called the runners to their mark at exactly 10 am. The 24 athletes were drawn into three races of 8. In

the initial race Philip Adam/Rice held an early lead by was overtaken late by tall Jeremy Taiwo/Wash (son of 2x Nigerian Olympic triple jumper Joseph Taiwo) who leaned into a PR 11.02. Aiding wind at +0.7mps.

The second race was treat for the locals. As Oregon coach Harry Marra yelled encouraged, Duck senior Ashton Eaton went the blocks in lane 7. He reacted quickly and opened daylight at 20 meters. At 50m he was well in front and it became a simple race against the clock. His 10.37 clocking (wind +0.7 mps) was noteworthy since the temperature was barely above 50 degrees and no one else (in a seeded field where the slowest PR was 10.86) remotely challenged a lifetime best. Temps were in the mid 50's (F) which may have had an impact on a significant hamstring pull for Georgia's talented and speedy Cory Holman.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> section was a bit anti-climatic as Big East Champ Sean Smith/UConn and popular local Nick Trubachik (Portland State from Estacada, OR) leaned together and were awarded with identical clockings of 10.41 (wind +1.0mps). It was a PR for the latter.

Overall only 3 broke 11 seconds event though eleven had done so at one time or another. The fans scurried back for shelter since it rained during the entire event.

*After One: Eato 1006, Otto 919, Moss 910, Horn & Morr 861.*

**Long Jump:** [10:55 pm]

The weather teased the athletes and the crowd (now over 2000 including more than 800 local high schoolers), with brief sunny appearances between bouts of rain.

Holman, the first jumper in the west pit (flight #1) was unable to sprint to the toe-board, fouled and limped away, his NCAA appearance finished. Eaton, jumping in the 5<sup>th</sup> slot during a drizzle, put together a smooth approach, hit the toe-board and promptly covered 7.90m/25-11 of Lane County real estate. In round #2 four consecutive fouls at the board unfortunately included a super (and

likely AR) jump for Eaton. Round #3 was significant for Aggie Trinity Otto who, facing a pair of fouls, responded with a lifetime best leap of 7.52m/24-8¼ to maintain his runner-up position. For the entire fist day he would be chasing Eaton.

In the east pit (flight #2) vets Mateo Sossah/UNC (last year's runner-up\_ and Big 12 winner Nick Adcock/Missouri, came up with 7 meter leaps. Even more noteworthy, Oregon senior Marshall Ackley(Nyssa, OR) came up with a PR 6.86m22-6¼ effort.  
*After Two: Eato 2041, Otto1859, Moss 1755, Morr 1732*

**Shot Put:** [12:05 pm]

The weather cleared a bit and the circles stayed dry. The west throwing circle contained the lower seeded throwers. Eaton's series included 12.32m/40-5, 12.60m/41-4½ and a foul making the shot put his first non-spectacular event. Tall Miller Moss, a Clemson senior (Sumter, SC) and taller Robert Robinson/Cal State-Northridge (Los Angeles), went 1-2, both with PRs (13.30m/43-7¾) and 13.20m/ 43-4). Again Ackley exceeded his PR getting 1 12.73m/41-9½ put.

In the higher seeded group (east circle) Missouri's Lars Rise nailed a 15.62m/51-3 effort to win the flight and move to 4<sup>th</sup> overall. And, once again Otto came up with a lifetime best in round #3, here marking 14.57m/47-9 ½ and narrowing Eaton's lead to just 62 points.

*After Three: Eato 2684, Otto 2622, Moss 2441, Rise 2437.*

**High Jump:** [1:12 pm]

The rain returned intermittently, some -times light but often heavier. The field, to a man, played it conservatively and, amazingly, there was not a single no-height.

The west pit (flight #1) featured the lower seeded jumpers but results were high. Cal's Mike Morrison won the flight at 1.99m/6-6¼ while Moss, Otto and Acklet scared PRs.



Ashton Eaton managed a 2.02m/6-7 ½ high jump clearance to maintain his overall lead.

The east pit had Eaton at the top of the order list and he opened with a clearance at 1.84m/6-½, and, as the rain stopped and started, stopped and started again (it did so six times during the event, Ashton cleared 1.90m/6-2¾, 1.96m/6-5, 1.99m/6-6¼, all easily on first attempts. He managed 2.02m/6-7½ on a second attempt but appeared out of rhythm at 2.05m/6-8¾ where he was eliminated. Only Sossah and WAC king Kurt Felix/Boise State from St. David's, Grenada, but the Carolina senior was soon gone leaving the stage to the quick jumping Felix who made 2.08m/6-9¾ and 2.11m/6-11 look easy. He was finally eliminated at 2.14m/7-¼ moving into 3<sup>rd</sup> place and after having jumped alone for 20 minutes.

Officials moved the event smartly: 15 bars, 220 attempts, 94 clearances in 104 minutes and the arrival of 6 separate rain showers. Ashton's lead expanded to 117 points.

*After Four: Eato 3506, Otto 3389, Felix 3246, Moss 3208*

**400 meters:** [4:00 pm]

As luck would have it, the fastest seeded section drew the first straw and the pair who had been 1-2 all day, Eaton (lane 2) and Otto (lane 3) went head to head. It was, as they say, no contest as Ashton made up the stagger on Trinity after 110 meters and smoothed down the back straight with a breeze at his back. Ashton ran a strong 2<sup>nd</sup>

curve (with the statue of legendary Bill Bowerman watching and the crowd of 7000+ roaring) and saved a bit of energy for the home straightaway where he faced a major headwind. He powered down the stretch, (as the spectators, as they are want to do at Hayward, stomped and stomped), tied a bit with 25m remaining, but reached the finish in a PR 46.28 rewriting his own name in the meet and collegiate record book and removing Jeff Bennett's 1972 (1972!!)



Ashton Eaton raced off the Bowerman Curve, powered down the homestretch and recorded a PR, CR, MR and TR (Track Record) 46.28 in the day's single most impressive performance.

Hayward Field dec 400m mark of 46.7. Moss was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 47.96 (running in lane 8). Morrison PR'd at 48.63. Wow! His first day total came to a PR 4500 points and his lead stretched to 246. Immediately after the race Ashton said, "I was thinking they helped me across the finish line for a PR and I should thank them for it. I can't run that fast on my own."

A trio raced to career bests in the 2<sup>nd</sup> section. Trubachik chopped off a full second from his best with a 50.03 win. Akron's pair, Bjorn Johansson (50.57) and Dan Kinsey (53.04) also recorded career bests.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> race Ackley, Taiwo and Kansas State's Moritz Cleve traded the lead in the final 90 meters. The Washington soph, claimed the win at 48.98, his first sub- 50 second clocking ever, completely skipping 49s.

A solid event with 6 lifetime bests. 23 of the 24 starters finished day one.

After Five: Eato 4500, Otto 4254, Moss 4119, Feli 4032.

**RESULTS:**



**6/10-11 NCAA Div I National Champs, U of Oregon  
Hayward Field, Eugene, OR**

4500	Eaton, Ashton/Oregon	10.37+0.5	790+1.1	1260	202	46.28
4254	Otto, Trinity/Texas A&M	10.74+0.5	752+0.8	1457	196	48.92
4119	Moss, Miller/Clemson	10.78+0.57	13-0.2	1330	196	47.96
4032	Felix, Kurt/Boise St-GRN	11.26+0.7	727+2.6	1287	211	50.64
4011	Morrison, Mike/California	11.00+0.5	724+0.8	1200	199	48.63
3944	Taiwo, Jeremy/Washington	11.02+0.7	693+1.3	1197	202	48.98
3915	Rise, Lars/Missouri-NOR	11.19+0.7	690+0.8	1562	187	50.51
3912	Adcock, Nick/Missouri	11.20+0.5	702-1.5	1315	193	49.01
3891	Sossah, Mateo/North Carolina-FRA	11.58+1.0	707+1.8	1315	205	50.33
3878	Adam, Philip/Rice	11.14+0.7	685+1.9	1442	190	50.28
3846	Trubachik, Nick/Portland St	11.41+1.0	667+1.3	1361	202	50.03
3840	Robinson, Robert/CSU-Northridge	11.06+0.5	707+1.4	1320	181	49.28
3820	Cleve, Moritz/Kansas St-GER	11.16+0.7	681+3.7	1335	187	49.23
3789	Horn, Gray/Florida	11.00+0.5	712+0.9	1120	193	50.59
3774	Keller, Dan/North Carolina	11.59+1.0	688+2.6	1326	199	50.81
3745	Ackley, Marshall/Oregon	11.21+0.7	686+1.6	1273	187	50.06
3728	Shotwell, Frank/Michigan	11.33+0.7	676+1.8	1279	193	50.58
3706	Bray, Wesley/Houston	11.22+0.7	689+1.5	1285	187	51.18
3698	Smith, Sean/Connecticut	11.41+1.0	684+2.6	1262	193	51.04
3623	Gresziak, Dave/Wisconsin	11.46+1.0	652+0.8	1216	193	50.23
3610	McGinnis, RJ/Minnesota	11.61+1.0	652+0.9	1400	193	52.34
3593	Kinsey, Dan/Akron	11.78+1.0	676+2.5	1388	193	53.04
7432	Johansson, Bjorn/Akron-SWE	11.50+1.0	640-1.0	1408	181	50.57
dnf	Holman, Cory/Georgia	11.12+0.5	nm			inj, withdrew

**Collegiate Record Watch**

Trey Hardee



**Trey Hardee Texas**  
**8465 4/4-5/06**  
**Texas Relays, Austin**

Ashton Eaton



**Ashton Eaton Oregon**  
**????? 6/10-11/10**  
**NCAA, Eugene**

Event:	mark	cum pts	mark	cum pts	+/-
100m:	10.35	1011	10.37	1006	- 5
LJ:	7.70m	1996	7.90 m	2041	+45
SP:	14.45m	2752	12.60m	2684	-68
HJ:	1.99m	3546	2.02m	3506	-40
400m:	49.11	4402	46.28	4500	+98
110H:	13.83				
Disc:	48.24m				
PV:	5.20m				
Jav:	60.00m				
1500m:	5:06.73				



**Terrific First Day Scores**

Ashton Eaton was not the only one putting up big numbers in Eugene. Miller Moss/Clemson (left) scored 4119; Trinity Otto/Texas A&M (center) had 4254; and Mike Morrison/Cal (right) posted a 4011 total.