



## HARDEE 8725 at CENTENNIAL Taiwo, Ziemek Punch Beijing Tickets



**HELLO AGAIN.....**On only six occasions in a century of national championship decathlons has the winner run up a better score than we saw at Hayward Field over the past two days. 31 year old Trey Hardee hammered a good field and ended with a world leading 8725 total, a mark bettered only by Dan O'Brien, Tom Pappas, Bryan Clay and Ashton Eaton at this meet. Although he trailed at the break by 78 points it did not take long for him to assume command on day two. An eye-opening 13.71 hurdles, a 52m discus and a PR 5.35m/17-6½ sewed things up tightly. The mark represented his highest score since winning the '09 worlds in Berlin. Hardee won 4 of the 10 events.

He'll be accompanied to Beijing by Jeremy Taiwo, 25, Ballard, Wa and Zach Ziemek, 22, Itasca, IL. Taiwo won the final 3 events on the first day and showed a good deal of poise on the final day getting an 8264 score, which, like Hardee, was his 2nd best ever. Ziemek survived a discus scare and finished with a 8107 PR, becoming the 73rd American over 8000. He had career bests in 4 events.

Two weeks ago it appeared that the 3rd USA spot to the worlds would be decided among last year's runner-up Wesley Bray, the early seasonal leader Garrett Scantling who already had a qualifier, local favorite Dakotah Keys of Oregon, come-backing Curtis Beach and Double Z. Recent injuries claimed the first three who never made it to the starting line. And when Beach ran afoul of a 400m lane violation it simply remained for ZZ to



Although he appeared a bit rusty on day #1, Trey Hardee was all business on day #2 and his world leading 8725 effort resulted a a 3rd national title.

achieve the 8075 qualifying mark. He cut it close but did not disappoint.

Hardee, Taiwo and Ziemek, along with defending world champ Ashton Eaton, will make up one of our strongest USA contingents in years. It'll certainly be the tallest as all three stand 6-5. The nationals was also a qualifier for the Pan-Am Games and Thorpe Cup, and, at press time, the line-ups had not been announced.

This was the centennial anniversary nationals and there could not have been many meets where the weather was hotter than it was in Eugene. Temps hit 99°F on Friday afternoon. 'Nough said. Here's the day two story.



**100th Anniversary Meet  
USA National Champs  
Hayward Field  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR  
June 25-26, 2015**

**110m Hurdles:** [12:20 – 12:32 pm]

400 spectators were in place for the start of day 2 and temps had already reach 92 °F. Yikes!

Jeremy Taiwo and Mike Morgan ran stride for stride over the first 5 barriers before the lanky Taiwo eased away and won comfortably in 14.40 to Morgan's 14.56. Aiding wind +1.4mps.



**Hardee's 13.71 has been bettered only by Canadian Damian Warner this season.**

Thomas FitzSimons won the second race in 14.95 seconds.

The 3rd race found Trey Hardee in lane 7 as USATF continued to use the antiquated alternate lane motif. At the 2nd hurdle Hardee was already clear of the field and he gunned it with a smooth and fast 13.71 clocking (wind +1.3mps). He had eliminated Taiwo's leading margin and now led by 10 points. Training partner Miller Moss recorded a nifty 14.48.

*3rd hurdle race:*

pl	name	lane	time	points	reaction
1...	Hardee	7	13.71	1012	0.161
2.	Moss	5	14.48	913	0.244
3.	Ijah	1	14.70	886	0.239
4.	Balczak	3	14.85	868	0.247

Ziemek took the 4th race from lane #1 with a PR 14.79 clocking even though he was the slowest seeded runner in the race. The aiding wind of exactly +1.6mps gave him a 3 event total of +6.0mps and he expressed his worry that his total score would not be allowed as an IAAF qualifier b/c of the new wind rule. Not to worry. I contacted Hans van Kuijen of the Netherlands who assured us that the new rule does not apply to WC qualifying. Regardless, ZZ had no worry since his total wind was not *over* 6 mps. All he needed to do was achieve the 8075 qualifier.

*After Six: Hard 5381, Taiw 5371, ZZ 5212, Moss 4916.*

**Discus:** [1:00 – 1:42 pm]

Temps elevated to 95°F and Hardee opened with a 49.49m/162-0 bullet to lead at the end of round #1. Morgan turned a nice 42.00m/137-9, Brondyke 43.12m/141-4 and Taiwo managed 41.15m/135-0. Amazingly none improved as the event sweltered on. One heat casualty was Ziemek, a 48m career thrower, who could get but 35.71m/117-2 and he left the circle angry. He improved to only 37.27m/122-3 in round #2, obviously trying too hard. Meanwhile the rusty Hardee was fashioning a terrific score getting off a whooping 52.05m/170-4 toss, the 2nd best toss of his career. He literally put this meet away on that throw. A third bullet landed just outside the right sector line, also at 52 meters, but the red flag negated it.

Taiwo did not improve over his initial effort and ZZ flubbed his 3rd throw leaving him in the precarious position of not getting the 8075 worlds qualifier. He would need a **BIG** effort in the vault.

*After Seven: Hard 6294, Taiw 6059, ZZ 5821, Morg 5607.*

**Pole Vault:** [2:38 – 4:08 pm]

If the discus proved perplexing to Ziemek, the vault was his comfort. He never looked more determined opening at 4.95m/16-2¾. At the time there were 4 remaining in Group #2 (Taiwo, Beach, and Hardee the others). Taiwo went no higher but

it appeared the event will eventually be part of his arsenal.

At 5.05m/16-6¾ Beach needed 3 tries (as a matter of fact he had needed 3 attempts to get past 4.65m/15-3 and 4.75m/15-7 as well), but was successful, a bar that ZZ and Hardee ignored. At 5.15m both had no trouble but Beach was eliminated having taken 14 total vaults.

Hardee passed 5.25m/17-2¾ and Ziemek cleared it with ease. At 5.35m/17-6½ Hardee popped over on his very first try for a new PR for the 31 year old vet. Encouraged ZZ then also scraped over and the discus debacle had been long forgotten. Hardee went no higher *BUT*, ZZ then cleared a PR and meet record 5.45m/17-10½ and his WC qualifier now looked likely. He had one fine attempt at a 5.55m/18-2½. It's been a long time since top American decathletes were trying 18 foot bars.

Derek Masterson had things his way in Group #1 clearing 4.85m/15-11. The officials moved the event along in spite of the sweltering heat which reached 99°F during the event. In all, 40 clearances in 102 attempts. *After Eight: Hard 7314, Taiw 6954, ZZ 6872, Morg 6382.*

**Javelin:** [4:42 – 5:14 pm]

Wolf Mahler had injured his back during the vault and retired so 13 went to the javelin an hour earlier than scheduled.

Ziemek was at the top of the order list and he fired a safe 55.38m/181-10 opener. Hardee's 61.92m/203-2 led round one and it held up as the event winner.

Taiwo managed just 48.11m/157-10 and ZZ was back in 2nd while Hardee was already over 8000 points.

In round #2 Ziemek pushed the envelope on the foul line and his @ 57m toss went for naught. Hardee did not improve and he passed his 3rd attempt and the event ended quietly at 5:14 pm, almost 2½ before the scheduled 1500m time which could not be adjusted b/c of TV scheduling commitments. *(If one allows an editorial opinion here: this*

happened specifically as a result of including the CEs within the main USA championships. There is no scheduling flexibility and the



**Jeremy Taiwo clocked a fine 14.40 to open day #2.**

athletes pay the price. For most of the past 100 years the USA national decathlon championships have been conducted at a different date and on a separate site. In fact only 27 times in the century of nationals has the event been included as part of the major USA nationals. Separate site/date favors the athletes and the scheduling here did little to enhance scores. It does not matter that there are 5000 spectators in the bleachers if the athletes have to wait 2½ hours between events. And pushing it back another week or two would encourage the collegians to enter. In 2015 many of the top collegians ignored this meet.) Enough of a diatribe.

Curtis Beach soldiered on during the jav in spite of his 1st day 400m lane 'dq' but the javelin has always given him fits. He could manage just a 37.79m/123-11 toss. The focus on the final event would be on total scores.

*After Nine: Hard 8081, ZZ 7451, Taiw 7515, Morg 6897.*

**1500 meters:** [7:48 – 7:53 pm]

Some quick calculations produced the efforts needed for Hardee to surpass: his 8790 PR(4:35); an 8600 score(5:07); and 8700 score (4:50) and the '15 world leading score - 8469 by Frenchman Kevin Mayer(5:32). The latter three goals seemed doable. In spite of the heat and long break. As for Ziemek a clocking of 5:04.42 would give him the

world champs qualifier and a ticket to Beijing. His PR was 4:56.92. For Taiwo, a



Double Z's 14.78 was a PR in Eugene.

4:23.54 would equal his own PR Götzis score.

A TV decision pushed the starting time back to 7:47 pm (actual start was 7:48) at which time the temps had dropped back into the high 80s°.

Predictably FitzSimons went to the immediate lead and towed Taiwo along for two laps. Hardee and Taiwo ran alertly but on the final lap Taiwo and ZZ faded a bit.

FitzSimons won in a nice 4:17.75. Jeremy struggled in at 4:29.27 with Beach helping along. Trey worked hard on the final 200m and managed 4:45.77 to get his 87+ total. ZZ was running in sand over the final 50 meters but he dipped under 5 minutes and his 8107 score went into the books. He was off his feet for several minutes as the finish line resembled a European meet (everybody falls down!). Helluva meet.

After Ten: Hard 8725, Taiwo 8264, ZZ 8107, Fitz 7685.

## RESULTS:

### 6/25-26 100th Anniversary USA National Champs, Hayward Field, U of Oregon, Eugene, OR

8725	Hardee, Trey/Nike	10.48+2.0
	761+3.4 1455 197 48.41 13.71+1.3 5205 535 6192	4:45.77
8264	Taiwo, Jeremy/Chula Vista OTC	10.89+2.0
	754+2/2 1493 212 47.83 14.40+1.4 4115 495 4811	4:29.27
8107	Ziemek, Zach/unat	10.57+2.0
	771+2.4 1477 206 51.31 14.78+1.6 3727 545 5538	4:58.93
7685	Fitzsimons, Thomas/SBTC	11.12+2.1
	707+2.3 1274 194 50.03 14.95+1.9 4039 465 5369	4:17.75



7555	Morgan, Mike/Buffalo	10.86+2.1
	726+1.2 1286 197 50.40 14.56+1.4 4200 455 4500	4:43.60
7481	Modin, Mitch/Oregon	10.83+2.0
	708+4.0 1246 194 49.09 14.92+1.4 3587 465 5216	4:45.89
7475	Brondyke, Kurtis/TheOtherGuys	11.24+2.1
	672+1.5 1444 194 52.01 14.89+1.6 4312 435 6172	4:49.86
7466	Ijah, Solomon/E Michigan	10.80+2.0
	679+1.9 1464 185 50.37 14.70+1.3 4071 415 5832	4:49.23
7221	Masterson, Derek/unat	11.62+2.1
	649+2.0 1482 182 52.66 15.29+1.9 4105 485 5809	4:53.94
6954	Balczak, Justin/Azusa Pacific	11.48+2.1
	682+2.0 1243 197 51.73 14.85+1.3 2870 445 5264	4:52.97
6866	Beach, Curtis/Nike	10.72+2.0
	771+2.5 1455 197 dsq 14.80+1.4 3509 505 3779	4:27.08
6729	Moss, Miller/unat	10.90+2.0 710+3.3
	1369 188 48.66 14.48+1.3 3940 nh 4774	4:52.16
dnf	Dalton, Chase/unat	11.45+2.1 691+3.7
	1108 191 52.49 15.76+1.9 3846 465 5385	dns
dnf	Mahler, Wolf/Texas	10.86+2.0 668+3.5
	1186 182 48.02 14.98+1.6 3862 455	withdrew
		14s,12fs

## Williams Repeats as Junior Champ

At the junior level Harrison Williams had center stage all day. He won the '39 hurdles (14.06), tossed the discus 40.61m/133-3, vaulted a PR 5.05m/16-6¾ and speared 51.32m/168-4 and put himself into position to challenge Gunnar Nixon's 8018 AjrR and Kevin Iazas' 8016 MR. Needing 4:31 he gave it the college but came up just short clocking 4:32.85. his 8001 winning total was just the 3rd USA 8k at the international junior level, ever! Ut he did become just the 3rd to ever win back-to-back national junior crowns (Dan Ryland '97-'98 and Donovan Kilmartin '02-'03 the others.)

### 6/25-26 43rd USA National Junior Champs, Hayward Field, U of Oregon, Eugene, OR

8001	Williams, Harrison/Stanford;18	10.78+1.0
	705+1.6 1361 197 48.56 14.06+1.2 4061 505 5123	4:32.85
7440	Toliver, Travis/NW Flyers	11.20+1.0
	647+1.9 1449 188 51.02 14.67+1.0 4236 465 5932	4:57.44
7173	Lint, John/Virginia'18	11.21+1.6
	680+1.1 1286 194 50.95 14.49+1.0 4069 405 4760	4:46.76
6998	Henshaw, Liam/Oregon'18	11.55+1.6
	678+0.6 1236 203 52.76 14.55+1.0 4040 425 4295	4:54.41
7006	Chase, Ryan/unat, OlympiaWA	11.10+1.0
	714+1.1 1232 191 52.14 15.22+1.2 3703 415 5187	5:01.59
6785	Bloom, Alex/Cincinnati'18	11.47+1.0
	691+1.9 1178 200 52.65 15.53+1.0 3838 405 4323	4:52.78
6765	Pacheco, Chase/Hartnell	10.99+1.0



692+2.1 1198 188 50.78 15.45+1.2 3953 385 3688 4:52.54  
6682 Oliver Jr, Muhammad/NX Level 11.13+1.6  
648+1.9 1268 173 49.52 14.47+1.0 3428 345 4472 4:43.34  
6560 Pullin, Aaron/unat-Centralia,WA 11.16+1.0  
621+1.6 1212 188 50.76 15.01+1.2 3236 435 3696 5:03.44  
6522 Ghizzone, Andrew/Colorado'18 11.63+1.6  
623+2.3 1076 176 51.55 15.55+1.2 3460 465 3860 4:32.98  
6460 Enerson, Ryabn/N Dakota St'18 11.65+1.6  
614 0.0 1332 188 52.69 15.23+1.2 3352 405 4329 4:58.77  
6445 Rodeman, James/unat-Yelm, WA 11.44+1.6  
673+2.0 1166 182 52.37 14.98+1.2 3019 405 4186 4:58.04  
12s.12f