

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXX

Number 5

Feb (3), 2015

EATON 7.51 at MILLROSE! Balczak with top weekend score

Hello Again...With a lull in the combined events schedule the weekend focus turned to the 108th Millrose Games at the NYC Armory where Olympic champ Ashton Eaton was scheduled to compete against the nation's elite hurdlers. A week earlier he had opened the season with a 7.60=PR hurdle race in Saskatoon (as well as a 2.04 high jump). Here he drew lane 4 with current world champ David Oliver/Nike on his right and Jason Richardson/adidas one lane over. Unheralded Aleec Harris/adidas was in lane 8. After a gun misfire Oliver managed a marginally better start than Ashton. They were dead even at 3, 4 and 5 before both leaned at the finish line simultaneously. Yet overlooked was Harris on the far outside and he out-leaned both for the win with a PR 7.50 to Oliver and Eaton's identical 7.51. For Ashton his was a huge PR clocking. Official results have Oliver and Richardson reversed!

What happened next will go into decathlon/Eaton lore. There are large (6 foot high) mats about 18 yards past the finish and up the oval incline. Ashton carried so much speed up the incline that, after smacking the mat, he bound onto the top of the mat and tumbled over backward disappearing and falling ten feet to the floor behind. There was an apprehensive hush until he reappeared--- uninjured. Whew!

You can see Eaton's excited finish at: http://www.usatf.tv/gprofile.php?mgroup_id=45365&do=videos&video_id=133659

His 3rd place finish matched that of his spouse, Briane who was 3rd in the 60mH



Ashton Eaton did a lot of jumping at the 108th Millrose Games. His 7.79m/25-3/4 horizontal was good for 3rd. His backward leap after a hurdle PR was exciting.

for women in 8.10 seconds. Later in the evening Ashton also placed a creditable 3rd in the long jump at 7.70m/25-3/4. Series: 7.43 5.65 7.58 7.70 foul 5.68.

The Combined events weekend had but six meets on the docket nationally. U of Toronto veteran James Turner won the Spire D-I meet in Geneva with a 5486 score, the weekend's highest. The top American score belonged to Azusa senior Justin Balczak with a 5343 effort in Flagstaff, AZ.