

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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UO CELEBRATES EATON WR

Coronavirus Stymies Sport's Progress

Hello Again.....As reported six weeks earlier, there is virtually no news on the CEs front. A few sports have planned re-openings....NBA in an Orlando Bubble, MLB with a reduced schedule, both plan some action in late July. Wary of a recent (and significant) increase in COVID-19 cases, especially in the South and Southwest, both organizations are being careful, trying to balance the public's demand for sports with national health safety concerns.

Track and field is in a holding pattern, awaiting a significant improvement in coronavirus case numbers. A full-blown return to a schedule of meets this year looks to be between improbable and irresponsible. Since the virus spreads easily a jump in the number of deaths or a few deaths of notable athletes or coaches would force the sports world to slam on the brakes in any reopening. It's frightening. We live in an environment where we'll just have to wait it out.

Yet there is some news. On Tuesday, June 23, a spanking new Hayward Field welcomed back Ashton Eaton on the 8th anniversary of his initial decathlon world record, 9039 at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials. Ashton, mother Roz, his wife Brianne, and 5 month old baby boy Ander were celebrated as Hayward Field showed off its new wares and the scoreboard recounted his WR. There are any number of accounts on Twitter.



Above: Brianne, Ash and Ander enter the new Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus.



Scoreboard recounts the 2012 magic record.



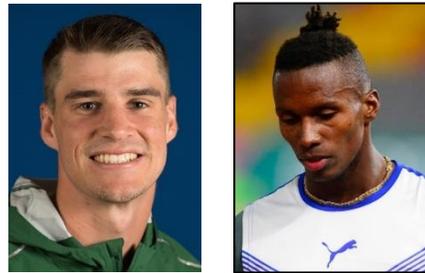
Can you recall this moment...

That's not to say that there is not some decathlon action. The few meets have been mostly in the Southern Hemisphere or Cuba. The world leader is ageless Cuban Leonel Suarez (nearing 33) who was and Olympic medalist as early as 2008. Yikes.

- 7990 Leonel Suarez/CUB, March 22, Havana
11.70-0.4 710+2.5 1459 205 51.35 15.03-0.1 4538 450 7277
4:27.68 [3917/4073]
- 7932 Felipe dos Santos/Brazil Feb 29, Sao Bernado, BRA
- 7900 Cedric Dubler/AUS Feb 16 Nathan, AUS
- 7879 Fredriech Pretorius/RSA March 14, Pretoria, RSA

The top (and as far as I can tell) one of the very few American scores:

- 6833 Kyle Lawson/CP-Pomona Feb 28, 2020 Chico, CA



American and world leaders in a truncated season: left: Kyle Lawson, as senior at Cal Poly-Pomona, who won (6833) the Chico State early season meet before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down sporting action. Right: 32 year old Leonel Suarez is the world leader, 7990 in a March affair in Havana.

At the Chico meet there were 12 starters and 10 finishers. Remember, the meet took place in February, before the shutdowns. Chico cancelled all meets after March 13. Matt Hipshire, a junior at Harding U, won the local Spring Break meet at 6259 (March 11)

The top Junior performance come recently from the Czech Republic, Frantisek Doubek, 7666 pts, June 21, in Pizen, CZE.