

**2009 Australian University Games Combined Events
Gold Coast City Athletics Track
Gold Coast, Queensland
29th- 30th September 2009**

by Peter Hannan



Men's Decathlon

Despite 14 entries prior to the event, only 10 athletes fronted for the two-day struggle. A fine day greeted the competitors, but the predicted southerly wind didn't eventuate in time for the 100m, and athletes found themselves running into a slight breeze.

Day One

In the 100m, the first Heat of 5, run into a 1.5m/s head wind, saw a close finish between David Murray of NCLE (12.02) and Joshi Philip of Monash (12.05).



Above: Heat 1 (from left) – David Murray, Sam Mosley, Rowan Kendall, Andrew Badics, Joshi Philip

The second heat, with slightly less head wind (0.4 m/s), saw an equally close finish, with Leo Dulay of UWS (11.88) just edging Daniel Egan of Macquarie Uni (11.93). Philip was a bit of a surprise, having earlier in the day won the men's hammer throw with a 50.99m effort.

So, after one event, the standings were:

1. Leo Dulay 675; 2. Daniel Egan 665; 3. David Murray 647; 4. Joshi Philip 641; 5. Lance Faulkner 580.

In the long jump, 18 year old Daniel Egan put a gap on himself on the rest of the field, when he popped out a leap of 6.59m jump (-1.m/s) in the second round. All jumpers had to compete into the wind, as the tail wind which was present when the pit was set up, disappeared before the start of the competition proper. Leo Dulay and Joshi Philip kept themselves in the hunt for the medals by jumping 5.88m (-0.7) and 5.82m (-1.5) respectively. However, Murray lost some ground when he managed only a 5.47m effort into a 3.4m/s wind. He finished behind Lance Faulkner of CSU (5.62m) and Sam Mosley of Flinders University (5.52m).

After two events:

1. Daniel Egan 1383; 2. Leo Dulay 1236; 3. Joshi Philip 1189; 4. David Murray 1122; 5. Lance Faulkner 1086

In the shot, Murray threw his hat back in the ring by recording the best throw of the competition, reaching 11.67m on his first throw. Philip maintained his solid performances with a best of 11.30m. Rowan Kendall, of host university Bond Uni, was next best on 10.30m, with Lance Faulkner not far behind on 10.20m. Patrick Taylor of UQ recorded 10.14m to push Leo Dulay (8.97) and Daniel Egan (8.34) back into 6th and 7th places respectively for the shot competition.

However, Egan was able to hold onto his overall lead, while Philip and Murray leap-frogged Dulay, who dropped down to 4th position.

After three events:

1. Daniel Egan 1769; 2. Joshi Philip 1753; 3. David Murray 1708; 4. Leo Dulay 1660; 5. Lance Faulkner 1585

In the high jump, the lightly-framed Egan came from the qualifying rounds of the men's individual long jump to enter the men's event after the early heights had been completed. Murray and Dulay both wore strapping on the knee of their take off leg – not a good sign.

Despite looking reasonably sound in warm up, Faulkner faltered at 1.56m and had to be content with a best of 1.53m. As he bar went up, Rowan Kendall of Bond Uni cleared a best of 1.56m. Troy Kameme (Victoria Uni) used the rarely seen straddle technique to clear 1.59m. In a chequered competition, Leo Dulay needed three attempts to clear both 1.56m and 1.59m, but 1.62m proved to be his best of the day. David Murray was the next to bow out with 1.68m.

Sam Mosley of Flinders Uni had looked very good early in the competition, but lost his run up as the bar got higher, and had to be happy with only 1.77m, despite having looked like a 1.85m plus jumper.

Dreadlocked Joshi Philip started early at 1.50m, and then continued without misses through 1.68m. He needed two attempts at each of 1.71m and 1.74m, then three at 1.77m. He finally bowed out with the bar set at 1.80m.

Egan was now the last left in the competition, having cleared 1.80m on his first attempt. He then passed 1.86m, before having another first up clearance at 1.89m. However, 1.92m proved too much for him..

After four events:

1. Daniel Egan 2474; 2. Joshi Philip 2355; 3. David Murray 2236; 4. Leo Dulay 2140; 5. Lance Faulkner 1996

In the first heat of the 400m, David Murray showed a clean pair of heels to the rest of the field crossing first in 53.64. Leo Dulay was next in 56.62, while Lance Faulkner (57.69) just held out Sam Mosley (57.71). Troy Kameme floundered across the line in last in a time of 71.56, but his mind may have been on the pole vault which he was also entered in, and which had just started.

In the second heat Joshi Philip went out hard to try to make up some ground on young Daniel Egan. His ploy was successful, as he crossed first in a time of 53.23. Egan managed a time of 55.17, eighty points short of Philip's score. Behind Egan were Andrew Badics (FU – 58.79), Rowan Kendall (Bond – 61.20) and Patrick Taylor (UQ – 67.08)

Standings after Day One:

1. Daniel Egan 3066; 2. Joshi Philip 3027; 3. David Murray 2891; 4. Leo Dulay 2675; 5. Lance Faulkner 2491

Day Two

110m hurdles:



Heat 1 saw Sam Mosley, Troy Kameme, Andrew Badics, Leo Dulay and Lance Faulkner line up against each other.

This heat was noteworthy for the degree of difficulty most of the athletes exhibited. Leo Dulay got away reasonably well early, but got the serious wobbles by mid-race. The head wind of 1.4m/s certainly did not assist. Lance Faulkner, who had his three-stride rhythm well under way by this stage of the race, surged past and finished comfortably ahead of the field in a time of 17.52. Dulay held on for second (19.26) and was followed home by Mosley (20.70), Badics (21.73) and Kameme (22.63).

Left: Lance Faulkner leads at the seventh hurdle from Leo Dulay

In the second heat the tall strong frame of Joshi Philip took the lead early, and he was never headed. Looking more like a decathlete than a hammer thrower, Philip hurdled surprisingly well and crossed the line in 16.28 seconds. Daniel Egan tried hard to stay with him, but found the barriers rather daunting for his relatively short frame, and managed a time of only 17.34. Next across the line was Murray (19.44), followed by Taylor (20.45) and Kendall (21.36).

Philip (3718) now had a 63 point buffer over Egan (3655), with another throwing event, the discus, to follow. Murray was still solidly in third on 3286 points, but both Dulay (3085) and Faulkner (3062) were not yet out of the hunt for the medals.

After six events:

1. Joshi Philip 3718; 2. Daniel Egan 3655; 3. David Murray 3286; 4. Leo Dulay 3085; 5. Lance Faulkner 3062

David Murray proved top be a bit of a surprise in the discus when he recorded the best throw of the competition by almost five metres. He hurled the 2kg platter out to 36.69m, to easily outdo both Patrick Taylor (31.90) and Joshi Philip (31.41). These were the only athletes to exceed thirty metres. Rowan Kendall hit 27.35m, but the rest were all jammed between 20 metres and 24.20m. Daniel Egan could manage only 23.00 metres, which saw third placed David Murray make big inroads into his hold on the silver medal position. Murray now sat only 100 points behind Egan, with three events to go. Faulkner had moved one place ahead of Leo Dulay, and now sat in fourth.

After seven events:

1. Joshi Philip 4210; 2. Daniel Egan 3984; 3. David Murray 3884; 4. Lance Faulkner 3426; 5. Leo Dulay 3358

The pole vault was a pretty scary affair for the officials, and probably for the participants. Some very rudimentary techniques were exhibited, and the warm up had athletes in all sorts of positions.

These ranged from the landing upside down behind the box, being spat back down the runway, and taking off but not reaching the bar, and having to look for a place to land. The competition proper did not see the techniques improve all that much. On display were the 'back to the bar' clearance, the helicopter clearance and the straddle roll clearance, as well as the 'sack of spuds thrown over the bar' method. However, all athletes managed to clear a height and earn points.



Above: David Murray (left) and Leo Dulay (right)



Above: Troy Kameme (left) and Patrick Taylor (right)

When the dust settled, Patrick Taylor and Toy Kameme had the best heights, each clearing 3.20m. Leo Dulay (3.10) and David Murray (3.00) both managed heights that started with a 3, while Joshi Philip, Daniel Egan and Lance Faulkner were all close behind on 2.90m. Sam Mosley (2.60), Rowan Kendall (2.50) and Andrew Badics (2.50) all managed to earn points, and to walk away from the competition without injury.

Philip remained over 200 points in front, but Murray had narrowed the gap to Egan to 76 points.

After eight events:

1. Joshi Philip 4543; 2. Daniel Egan 4317; 3. David Murray 4241; 4. Lance Faulkner 3759; 5. Leo Dulay 3739

Troy Kameme demonstrated his spear throwing ability in the javelin, hurling the spear out to just under 50 metres (49.27). Rowan Kendall (45.62), David Murray (43.60), Lance Faulkner (42.64) and Patrick Taylor (42.01) were also over the 40 metre mark. Joshi Philip (38.98) showed that being a good hammer thrower does not necessarily make you a good javelin thrower, but he still exceeded the efforts of Daniel Egan (35.64), Leo Dulay (31.49), Andrew Badics (28.96) and Sam Mosley (27.92). Murray's effort saw him move into the silver medal position for the first time in the competition.

After nine events:

1. Joshi Philip 4970; 2. David Murray 4735; 3. Daniel Egan 4696; 4. Lance Faulkner 4239; 5. Leo Dulay 4059

In the 1500m, it was the 'greyhound', Sam Mosley, who moved quickly to the lead, and then continued to make distance on the field as the race progressed. He would eventually finish the three and three quarter laps in a solid 4:41.61, more than ten seconds ahead of Murray (4:55.22) who, as far as medals were concerned, was obviously keener on the silver colour than the bronze. Andrew Badics was right on Murray's hammer, crossing in 4:55.58, while Philip again surprised by hauling his larger frame around the 1500m distance in sub-five minutes (4:59.30). The rest of the field demonstrated different degrees of both race fitness and fatigue levels. Troy Kameme was next across the line in 5:10.74, but it was another 25 seconds before Dulay (5:35.17), Kendall (5:35.35) and Faulkner (5:36.77) stopped the clock. It was another eight seconds back to Egan (5:44.80), while Taylor enjoyed the appreciation of the crowd far longer than anyone else as he finished circulating the track in 6:19.60, which was still enough to earn 190 points.

In his first decathlon, 22 year old Joshi Philip had surprised many (and probably not least of all himself) with his 5534 gold winning performance. 23 year old David Murray had worked hard on the second day to take silver with 5323 points, ahead of early leader, the 18 year old Daniel Egan (5025). Lance Faulkner (24 years) had also shown some good second day skills to bump Leo Dulay (20 years) down into fifth early in the day and then to hold him there. Faulkner took fourth with 4606 points, ahead of Dulay's 4433 points.

Sam Mosley (4149) finished next 161 points ahead of Rowan Kendall (3988), who in turn was 130 points ahead of Patrick Taylor (3858). Not far behind Taylor were the remaining two finishers Troy Kameme (3832) and Andrew Badics (3818). An interesting feature of this particular decathlon was that, despite a few of the competitors participating in other events as well as the decathlon, all starters finished the competition! Maybe there are some potential stars of the future who have been unearthed at these Australian University Games.

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Women's Heptathlon

Unfortunately the field of three was reduced to two before the first event, when only two competitors checked in. However, the two athletes who fronted for the competition, Shayleigh Gould (QUT) and Joanne Waring (USYD), were both experienced heptathletes, making for an interesting competition.

Day One

As expected in the 100m hurdles, Gould had the better of the run over the obstacles, recording 15.49 (778 points) ahead of Waring's 16.37 (670 points). This gave Gould a 108 point advantage over Waring going into the high jump.



Above: Shayleigh Gould (right) leads Joanne Waring in the 100m hurdles heptathlon

In the high jump, Waring turned the tables, with her best of 158 giving her 712 points to the 610 that Gould earned with her 1.49m effort.



Above: Joanne Waring in the high jump heptathlon

After two events, Gould (1388) held a narrow lead of only 6 points over Waring (1382).

In the shot put, Waring managed to sneak ahead of Gould for the first time, courtesy of her 10.81m effort. However, Gould was only 22cm behind, so the points difference was only 15 points (583 to 568). So, Waring's lead going into the 200m was only nine points (1965 to 1956).

When the gun fired for the half-lap event, Gould turned on the after-burners from the start in her efforts to regain the ascendancy. She moved away from Waring inexorably, but Waring worked hard to keep the gap as small as possible. Gould crossed in the solid time of 25.52 for a strong 840 points, while Waring pushed home in 27.29 (688 points).

However, Gould's 1.7 second differential gave her a big 143 point lead over Waring at the end of Day One.

Standings after Day One:

1. Shayleigh Gould 2796; 2. Joanne Waring 2653.

Day Two

Shayleigh Gould started Day Two the stronger. She used the following breeze of 2.4m/s to pop out a 5.24m leap in round one, and backed up with a 5.04m and a 5.13m in rounds two and three. Waring managed 4.66m in both the first and second rounds before fouling her third attempt. Gould's lead had now been extended to exactly 300 points.

Standings after five events:

1. Shayleigh Gould 3422; 2. Joanne Waring 3122

In the javelin, the girls were fairly evenly matched after the first round with Waring throwing 31.56m to Gould's 31.42m. In the second stanza, Waring improved to 34.07m, but Gould fouled. On her final throw Waring failed to improve (33.00m), but Gould snuck her best out to 31.63m. Despite the win, Waring had only pulled back 46 points from Gould, with one of Gould's best events, the 800m, to come.

Right: Joanne Waring in the javelin

Standings after six events:

1. Shayleigh Gould 3422; 2. Joanne Waring 3122

As expected, Gould went out hard from the gun in the 800m, and continued to put more and more space between herself and Waring. Waring, for her part, could only concentrate on her own efforts to achieve the best result possible.

Shayleigh Gould crossed the line in a very respectable 2:19.79 to earn a further 826 points. This was her second best point scorer of the competition, behind her 200m effort of 25.52 (840 points). Waring managed a still solid 2:34.76 for 634 points.



The final tally showed Shayleigh Gould of QUT the winner with 4756 points ahead of Joanne Waring of University of Sydney with 4310 points.