

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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OUTDOOR CAMPAIGN OPENS

Canadian Chef Dishes Up Big Score

Hello Again.....The initial big weekend (March 19-22) for combined events saw 8 meets and 113 athletes opening their 2008 campaign. Canadian athletes stole the show in Scottsdale, Arizona where a culinary student from the University of Toronto dished up the year's first significant score. 22 year old Massimo Bertocchi, added 259 points to his PR while winning the Big Green in the *Desert* affair with a meet record 7963. He was the 2007 Canadian national champ. His eye-opening individual meet records in Scottsdale at the 100m (10.79), long jump (7.29m/23-11), 400m (47.47), 110mH (14.23) and pole vault (5.00/16-4¾) grew into a 800 point lead after 8 events. Only a sub-par and sleepy 1.83m /6-0 high jump (best is 2.10-6-10¾) ruined a chance to become Canada's 4th ever 8000 point performer (Michael Smith, Dave Steen and Mike Nolan the others). His prodigious talent has pulled legendary coach Andy Higgins out of retirement to direct Bertocchi's progress.

Canadians made most of the noise at the 7th Big Green. Not only did Bertocchi break Mustafa Abdul-Rahim's meet record of 7936, but the latter's former teammate Tyler Koskenoja. A Canadian from Sault St. Marie, nailed the first significant US college score, by carving 300 points out of Bertocchi's lead in the final two events (4:22.08 1500m).



Canadian athletes dominated the Big Green/*Desert* affair (no photo available for winner Massimo Bertocchi). Upper right: Dartmouth's Canadian Tyler Koskenoja posted the highest early season collegiate score, 7460. Lower left: Legendary Canadian coach Andy Higgins came out of retirement to coach Bertocchi. Lower right: Aaron Harlan/SF Austin, won the York Relays in spite of a snowstorm in Texas!.

Koskenoja, the '07 Heptagonal champion and a senior at Dartmouth College, posted a PR 7460, an NCAA provisional. His nation leading collegiate total takes him out of that grey area of potential NCAA I qualifiers. A year ago he was the 25th of 26 Div I qualifiers and had to wait until the last minute to find out if he had earned

a ticket to the big collegiate deca dance. In 2007 it took a 7157 score to advance to the Div I meet. In 2008 there will be no waiting.

Nova Scotia's Craig Slaunwhite was 3rd (7203) and the leading American was Koskenoja's former teammate Andrew Hall, a 2x Ivy League champ, who got a PR in Scottsdale.

Two days later a pair for former UCLA standouts went 1-2 at Northridge's Spring Break meet. Chris Staton (7399) and Guatemalian Octavious Gillispie (7149). When the weekend's dust cleared Staton's mark stood as the US seasonal leading total. Miami (Oh) Kevin Dwyer captured the Clemson Relays with a 7066 effort.

In the early weeks of the season scores dribbled in from the Southwest and West. The year's first decathlon (Feb 28-29) was held on the Chico State (CA) campus where Britain's Jonathan Collins (7018) prevailed. Snow ruined the remainder of the Sam Houston State York Relays, but official got the decathlon in before heavy snow totals in Hunstville, Texas. The victor, SF Austin State's Aaron Harlan, Ryan's younger brother, managed a NCAA provisional 7141. If interested in decathlon records for brothers see the box below.

Spectators were seeing double and triple at Point Loma Invitational where last year's Div III bronze medalist Ben Dillow won with a near PR 6920. The 6-5 eorge Fox U (OR) senior was joined by his twin brothers Dillon (3rd, 5880) and Nathan (4th, 5653) in what is believed to be the first time 3 American brothers competed simultaneously. The 3 brother total is likely to be improved upon and the apparent goal is the McGorty brother-brother-brother record.

Nine additional meets are scheduled fro the upcoming weekend. (See out Event Schedule section).

**USA DECATHLON
Brother's Records**

Brother-Brother Combination
AR 16,259 STEELE
Dan 8130 '99
Darrin 8129 '95

Brother-Brother-Brother Combination:
WR & AR 22,651 MCGORTY, USA
Kevin 7990 '92
Dennis 7350 '92
Chris 7311 '80

Other USA combinations:
19,453 KRING, USA
Kenny 7243 '71
Buddy 6127 '77
Timmy 6083 '78

18,468 DILLOW, USA
Ben 6925 '07
Dillon 5880 '08
Nathan 5663 '08

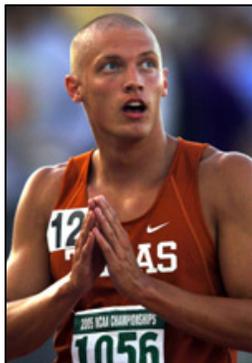
nb: The Norwegian brothers BREDHOLT (Arild 7226, Ivar 6825, Knut 6637 and John 6463) are the only known 4 brother combo worldwide.

SEEING TRIPLE !



The Dillow decathletes from George Fox U, left to right, Ben, Dillon and Nathan, scored 18,463 in the same meeting.

MORE SEASONING OPENING NEWS



Tom Pappas

Trey Hardee

Some notable USA decathletes opened their outdoor season by competing in open events. At the baldy Castillo affair at Arizona State current national champion Tom Pappas was:

9th at 200m 21.96 0.0 wind
4th Discus 51.38m/168-7

At the U of Texas Invitational, Austin, Collegiate record holder Trey Hardee, after a year's absence due to injuries, contested 4 events:

7th 110m Hurdles: 14.35 -0.3
14th Pole Vault 4.75m/15-7
7th Discus 47.50m/155-10
4x400m Relays 3:16+

Donovan Kilmartin/Texas, with a final outdoor season of eligibility, opened at same meeting:

9th 110m Hurdles: 14.59 +3.0
5th Pole Vault: 5.05m/16-6³/₄
19th Discus: 38.54m/126-5

One additional trend surfaced last week...the size of this year's decathlon fields. They are significantly larger than normal, perhaps a result of more interest during an Olympic year, or perhaps a longer term trend: For example:

Pt Loma:	17
Charlotte 49er:	16
Coastal Carolina:	16
Big Green/ <i>Desert</i>	14
Clemson Relays	13

For the early season, those are good size fields.

