

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXVI

Number 10

February (5), 2011

## MOSS OVER BEACH at ACC Felix, Sossah With Big Scores

**Hello Again.....**The final weekend of February is the busiest of the indoor season. 30 (count 'em!) collegiate conference meets are held this weekend with the opportunity to rewrite the collegiate lists and punch tickets to national championships. The only way to cover this emerging story is to post a Newsletter each day (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) in hopes of catching the changing qualifying lists. We opened the weekend with 19 D-I collegians having already scored 5500 points, a level that normally gets one into the 14 man field. Although the qualifying standard has been raised to 5675 this season, there has been an inordinate number of very good performances (see insert), and as we begin the weekend, it appears that the final cutoff may be very close to the standard itself. In other words, there may be a number of athletes who score over 5600 points who do not earn tickets to College Station, Texas. One can bet the ranch that no one will take this weekend casually.



**Clemson's Miller Moss affirmed his top collegiate status at the ACCs winning with a 5881 total, aided by a PR 4.80/15-9 vault.**

### NCAA D-I LIST [as of Thursday, Feb 24, 2011]

5903	Moss, Miller	Clemson	1/28-29
5747	Horn, Gray	Florida	1/28-29
5746	Taiwo, Jeremy	Washington	1/28-29
5698	Cato, Japheth	Wisconsin	1/28-29
5685	Klech, David	Oregon	1/28-29
	[5]		
5669	Felix, Kurt	Boise St/GRN	1/28-29
5668	Slupkowski, Krzystof	Wichita St	2/4-5
5647	Martin, Romain	Texas-Arlington	2/10-11
5645	Brock Spandl	Minnesota	1/28-29
5578	Rise, Lars	Missouri/NOR	1/28-29
	[10]		
5572	Grzesiak, David	Wisconsin	1/28-29
5553	Ayers, Michael	Georgia	1/28-29
5551	Schwecke, Joey	Minnesota	1/28-29
5549	Greaves, Kenny	Texas	1/28-29
5537	York, Richard	New Mexico	2/4-5
5535	Sossah, Mateo	North Carolina	2/4-5
5517	Gooris, Dan	N Iowa	1/28-29
5515	Murphy, Isaac	Texas	1/28-29
5509	Lazas, Kevin	Arkansas	1/28-29
	[19]		

Four major conference affairs began on Thursday, Feb 24....The Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), The Western Athletic Conference (WAC), The Mountain West Conference and the Big South Conference. And our 1<sup>st</sup> weekend newsletter covers just those four meets which provided plenty of news. Here's what happened.

### ACC Championships Feb 24-25 Blacksburg, VA



The Blue Ridge Mountain region of western Virginia was hit by heavy winds, rain and snow on this weekend, but nothing outside matched the ferocity of competition inside Virginia Tech's Rector Field House. The ACC meet featured national season leader Miller Moss/Clemson, the defending champ and '10 NCAA runner-up Mateo Sossah of Carolina and Duke's super soph Curtis Beach, 3<sup>rd</sup> in '10. It *did not* feature '08 NCAA champ Gonzalo Barroilhet, the 24 year old Chilean junior, who did not start.

Beach opened the meet winning the first section of the 60m with a huge PR 7.07 PR. Moss won



**Blue Devil Curtis beach had 3 PRs in posting a PR 5812 runner-up at the ACCs in Blacksburg.**

the 2<sup>nd</sup> race in 7 dead. Beach, 20, Albuquerque, continued his parade with marginal PRs in the long jump (7.35m/24-1½) and shot put (11.95m/39-2½) but was disappointed with but 1.98m/6-6 in the high jump. He had won the Millrose Multis jump 3 weeks earlier at 2.05m/6-8¾. Moss (a PR!) and Sossah tied for the win at 2.04m/6-8¼ in Blacksburg and, at the break the scores read Moss-Beach-Sossah: 3218-3144-3043. A surprising 2<sup>nd</sup> at the end of day one was Virginia Tech's Rene Stauss, a 23 year old University of Stuttgart transfer soph who has a 2.17m/7-1½ vertical jump lifetime best. He managed only 2.01m/6-7 yet still found himself just 41 points out of the lead.

On Friday the top contenders were placed in the first race with Moss (8.04, 5/100ths off PR) a big winner. Beach trailed Sossah by 1/100<sup>th</sup> (8.31-8.32) just missing another PR. Stauss began a long fade clocking 8.83 seconds.



**Carolina's Mateo Sossah, last year's NCAA runner-up, came up 1 point short of the auto qualifier at the ACCs. He finished 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Moss continued his surge winning the vault with a lifetime best 4.80m/15-9, one bar higher than Sossah and 2 better than Beach. At this point Moss was 202 points up on Beach and even Curtis' legendary running skills would not be enough for an upset. Predictably he led wire to wire and won in a fine (but 3 seconds off his world record) 2:30.78. Moss cruised in at 2:42.87

and one had the impression there was more in the tank. The totals.....Moss 5881, Beach a PR 5812. Wow!

The arresting story was Sossah's charge for the elusive D-1 auto standard of 5675. Needing 908 points or a time of 2:36.95 he tried his damdest ...leaned at the finish and clocked 2.....36..... 98.....for 907 points and a 5674 total. Ohhhhhhhhhh so close. For those 3/100<sup>th</sup> of a second he has to wait out the weekend to see what would happen at SEC, Big 12, Big 10, et al. This was one heckuva meet.

### Mountain West Conference

Feb 24-25

Albuquerque, NM



This meet featured a pair of potential D-I qualifiers, UNM soph Richard York, at home, who had an earlier 5537 score, and BYU's Philip Bettis (5418 earlier in '11 and 5497 in '10).

Bettis recorded 4(!) first day PRs to take a 3205-3077 lead into day two. He appeared on his way to the qualifying mark and his 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive league title. But he pulled a hamstring muscle winning his hurdle race and had to withdraw even though he led by 130 points. At this point the meet was essentially over. York came within 4 points of his own PR score in the victory.

### Western Athletic Conference

Feb 24-25

Nampa, ID



At home Boise's Kurt Felix PR'd in the high jump at 2.17m/7-1½ and held a 732 point lead (732!!) after day one in his quest for an auto qualifier at the WAC meet. He finished 6 points shy of an auto qualifier in a meet one month earlier and was attempting to punch a ticket to Texas A&M. Given all the outstanding meets this weekend even his earlier score did not appear safe.

The 6-4 Grenadian had things his own way on day two, winning the hurdles (8.46) and vault (4.13m/13-6½), both just off career bests. He needed a



**Boise's Kurt Felix leaped 2.17m/7-1½ at the WAC.**

clocking of 2:50.00 for the auto standard of 5675 points, no mean feat since his lifetime best is just 2:49.35. Yet he did what was necessary...clocking 2:48.49 and a total of 5691. Utah State's Philip Noble was 2<sup>nd</sup>, 487 points in arrears.

**Others...**

Elsewhere, Geren Woodbridge/Liberty was the beneficiary of a Jermal McClendon/Charleston Southern vault non height and went on to win the Big South meet at Clemson with a 5042 score.

13 additional meets began on Friday, Feb 25, including 8 major D-I affairs. They will be the focus of tomorrow's newsletter. At the end of the day here is what the D-I qualifying looked like:



**BYU's Philip Bettis (left) suffered a hamstring injury at the Mountain West meet scuttling his NCAA qualifying effort. The meet was won by New Mexico's Richard York (right) with 5533 points.**

NCAA D-I LIST [as of end of day, Friday, Feb 25,2011)			
5903	Moss, Miller	Clemson	1/28-29
5812	Beach, Curtis	Duke	2/24-25
5747	Horn, Gray	Florida	1/28-29
5746	Taiwo, Jeremy	Washington	1/28-29
5698	Cato, Japheth	Wisconsin	1/28-29
5691	Felix, Kurt	Boise St/GRN	2/24-25
5685	Klech, David	Oregon	1/28-29
	[7]		
5674	Soosah, Mateo	North Carolina/FRA	2/24-25
5668	Slupkowski, Krzystof	Wichita St	2/4-5
5647	Martin, Romain	Texas-Arlington	2/10-11
5645	Brock Spandl	Minnesota	1/28-29
5578	Rise, Lars	Missouri/NOR	1/28-29
5572	Grzesiak, David	Wisconsin	1/28-29
5553	Ayers, Michael	Georgia	1/28-29
	[14]		
5551	Schwecke, Joey	Minnesota	1/28-29
5549	Greaves, Kenny	Texas	1/28-29
5537	York, Richard	New Mexico	2/4-5
5517	Gooris, Dan	N Iowa	1/28-29
5515	Murphy, Isaac	Texas	1/28-29
5509	Lazas, Kevin	Arkansas	1/28-29
	[20]		

We'll post all weekend results on our weekly 'Results Page', at the end of the weekend.

