

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## ACC TITLE MEET IS NO BULL in DURHAM Sossah in 4-Peat Over Moss and Beach

**Hello Again.....**Most of the attention during the 4<sup>th</sup> April weekend was collegiate with important meets in Durham, NC and Fayetteville, AR.

The Atlantic Coast Conference conducts the earliest major conference title meet. In the 2011 version a trio of the nation's top collegians battled in Durham, NC with French vet Mateo Sossah coming out on top with a 7773 effort, 67 more than the PR put up by NCAA indoor champion Miller Moss of Clemson. Duke frosh Curtis Beach hung tough with the running and jumping events but continued to struggle with the throws and wound up 3<sup>rd</sup> with a 7543 score, itself a lifetime best for the 20 year old from Albuquerque.

Sossah (23, Mons-en-Baroeul, FRA) was only 3<sup>rd</sup> after day one and won only 2 of the ten events (discus, javelin) but was consistent enough with the other eight. His 1500m overcame a 43 point Moss lead while chasing Beach and was a lifetime best 4:16.49. He also just missed (1/100<sup>th</sup> second) another PR in the 110m hurdles. Sossah was able to put enough distance between himself and the Clemson graduate student to annex a 4<sup>th</sup> ACC outdoor title ('07,'09,'10,'11), a conference record in itself.

Moss (23, Sumter, SC), who led at the break, recorded lifetime best marks in the shot put and 110 hurdles and could not stay with the Beach/Sossah duo although he himself ran within one second of his own 1500 lifetime



**The Atlantic Coast Conference decathlon is the first major conference meet of the season. North Carolina's Mateo Sossah (upper right) nosed out Clemson's Miller Moss (upper left), with Duke's Curtis Beach (bottom right) third. All three posted NCAA qualifying marks.**

best. Any chance for a Beach victory disappeared after 3 weak javelin tosses. He posted marginal PRs in the first days two running events (10.88, 47.72).

All three met the NCAA automatic qualifying standard of 7500 points making them the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> auto qualifiers with a month remaining in the qualifying period.

**Mateo Sossah**  
Atlantic Coast Conference Decathlon

2007	1 <sup>st</sup>	Winston Salem	7310
2008		redshirt	
2009	1 <sup>st</sup>	Miami	7821
2010	1 <sup>st</sup>	Clemson	7667
2011	1 <sup>st</sup>	Durham	7773



The McDonnell Invitational had decent weather on day one and 6' of rain on



BYU's Phillip Bettis(left) and Arkansas' Kevin Lazas (right) both PR's over the weekend.

day two. A steady daylong downpour held down scores. Regardless, Razorback Kevin Lazas topped a fine field with a PR 7542 score (the 15<sup>th</sup> NCAA auto qualifier....gee, do I hope we get about 30!), over Dave Grzesiak (7352) and Derek Steinbach (7310) of Wisconsin.

Kevin did a great job in some rough conditions," assistant and multi-events coach Travis Geopfert said. "It rained all day long yet he still ponied up and found a way to get the job done. It's pretty special for a freshman to be able to do that. He put up a big score. I'm proud of all of our guys in the decathlon. In the 1,500, they all had to run fast to get it done, and they did it. You can't ask for anything more than that."

Arkansas had 3 true frosh (2 are redshirting) over 7000 in the same meet, believed only to have only once in the past, BYU in the 1970s. We are checking.

A dozen meets doted the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of April, 2011. Other notable winners included Phillip Bettis/BYU who won the

Robison Invitational at home with a PR 7315. Samford's Brandon Basset was the Southern



The first section of the 100m in Fayetteville saw (from l-r) Terry Prentice/Ark, Koltan Taylor/Tulsa, Kevin Lazas/Ark, and Dave Grzesiak/Wisconsin use a +4.9mps gust.

Conference winner with a 7040 score while Heath Nickles/Ohio State was the Indiana U Polytan winner at 7140. Nebraska's Teran Walford won a rainy Kansas Relays at 6586 and Liberty's Geren Woodbridge won the Big South title (6926).

Doing a few individual events, Ashton Eaton continues to impress. We neglected to mention his season opening 47.22 400m a week ago. At the Oregon relays this weekend he tossed the discus a consistent 45.40m/148-11 on Friday evening (April 22), just 11cm off his PR. On Saturday he opened in the vault with a successful clearance at 4.90m/16-3/4, then left to prepare for the 110m hurdles which he won in 13.57 seconds (wind +2.5 mps) in spite of clobbering the 7<sup>th</sup> barrier. When he returned to the vault the bar was at 5.20m/17-3/4 and he was unsuccessful. The 3xNCAA outdoor champ will continue to contest a few open events weekly.