

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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RISE & HORN RISE TO OCCASION NCAA I Qualifying Complete

Hello Again....The 3rd decathlon weekend of May, 2011 is the story of three major collegiate conference meets and we offer most of our coverage there. Two produced the expected results...big scores and D-I qualifiers. The 3rd was a disaster and would have been rained out had it been a MLB contest. The result of the final collegiate qualifying weekend will be one heckuva NCAA meet in Des Moines. The battle should shape up among Lars Rise, Gray Horn, Jeremy Taiwo, Miller Moss, Mateo Sossah, Romain Martin and SL Mike Morrison. Here's what happened.

SEC, Athens, GA



Florida junior Gray Horn, ran his outdoor undefeated streak to three by using a strong 2nd day at the Southeastern Conference title meet in Athens, GA. Local 'Bulldawg' Michael Ayers ran up an eye-opening first day total (4122) and led Horn by 100 points. The 6-4 Gator then PR'd in both the hurdles and discus, and, surprisingly, matched Ayers in the vault. Horn's 7828 PR score was 125 better than the career best of Arkansas Razorback, frosh Kevin Lazas. Bulldog, alligators, hogs???? What's with the SEC nicknames?

Ayers faded to 4th getting 7647, 11 down on a new lifetime best for teammate Tommy Barrineau, 23, Burke, VA. The son of Olympic high jumper James Barrineau, Tommy used five individual bests (100m,



Florida's Gray Horn was the Southeastern Conference champ with a PR 7828 effort in Athens.

400m, 110m hurdles, discus and javelin) on the way to his Des Moines ticket. A dual citizen (USA & Finland), he is the only American citizen ever to compete in the European Cup.

A 3rd Georgia teammate, transfer Ben Davies, was not so fortunate. Well on his way to a big score (5430 pts after 7 events), he blanked in vault. His early season 7385 score (Sea Ray Relays) stands 25th on the US collegiate list and his chances of an NCAA invite are minimal.



Georgia's Ben Davies had a big score going before a vault NH at the SECs.

Big 12, Norman, OK



Missouri senior Lars Rise, 22, Trondheim, Norway, who lost the title to teammate Nick Adcock a year ago by the narrowest of margins, put away a good field early at the Big 12 affair in Norman, OK. His 7808w PR effort was accomplished in spite of



Missouri's Lars Rise, Trondheim, NOR, was 4th, 4th, 2nd and 1st in four Big 12 Conference attempts

curious scheduling, administrative snafus and unfortunate decision making. The steady Rise's win was never in doubt in spite of surrendering the lead to Nebraska's Bjorn Barrefors during the pole vault. Rise had the luxury of an early season NCAA q score, a 7770 2nd place at the Mt Sac Relays, but Barrefors did not. The Stockholm native, nursing an injured elbow, could only manage a 40 meter javelin toss and a 4:57.80 1.5k and fell from 1st to 5th overall. He figured his chances of an NCAA ticket were zero, but no one knew how many other athletes would come up short in other conference affairs or how bad the weather was in Iowa. As it turned out his 7417 total ended up 22nd on the collegiate list.

Sandwiched between the pair of Scandinavians were some good stories. Texas junior Kenny Greaves and Kansas State senior Moritz Cleve, both were in need of the 7500 NCAA auto standard, came up with big 2nd day efforts and qualifying marks... a 7573 for the 6-5 bearded Texan and a 7543 for the

German war-horse. And they did it without rest on day 2 and too much on day 1. Quizzically, they were required to run the 1500m without the standard 30 minute event break. I timed it at just shy of 18 minutes. This came after a first day scheduling snafu where decathletes were required to stop for 80 minutes between the shot and high jump??? Is anyone listening? These embarrassing administrative decisions need not be repeated.

Yet both Greaves and Cleve earned tickets (perhaps boat tickets?!) to Des Moines 3 weeks hence. All the more credit is given to Cleve, the '09 champ, since he had been misplaced in the slowest 100m and 400m sections and ran his hurdle race into a stiff wind.

Texas soph Isaac Murphy was a creditable 4th with a 7535 score.

Big 10, Iowa City, IA



Cold, cold rain and lots of it ruined any chance for decent scores at the Big Ten meet at the University of Iowa. Half a dozen potential NCAA qualifiers folded in the unseemly conditions and the best mudder turned out to be Ohio State's Heath Nickles, 21, a redshirt soph from Columbus Grove, OH. His 7208 winning effort was the 2nd lowest winning score ever. On Friday, May



13, the conditions were bad enough that no Brock Spandl/Minnesota (left), Heath Nickles/Ohio St(center) and Dave Grzesiak/Wisconsin (right) were 2nd, 1st and 3rd at the Big Ten meet in Iowa City.

one in the field of 14, including 4 previous NCAA indoor or outdoor participants (this was a good field!!) could break 11 seconds in the sprint nor leap past 7 meters in the long jump. Only a single athlete, Wisconsin's Dave Grezsiak, could muster a sub 50 second lap. Conditions got worse on Saturday. The local weather station reported that, during the decathlon time frame, temperatures never rose above 49 degrees F and Iowa City was deluged with virtually an inch of rain. Scores were washed away. In the past this league gave us Paul Terek and Joe Detmer as well as Ray Hupp, Kerry Zimmerman and James Dunkleberger, all national champions. In 2011, for the first time since the Big Ten Conference initiated the ten eventer (1993), it will not be represented at the NCAA I meet.

Other D-I conference meets:

The big 3 conferences highlighted the weekend news yet there were 13 other D-I leagues which held outdoor title meets and several produced top scores and D-I qualifiers.

May 10-11: Idaho's Andrew Blaser won the WAC meet in Honolulu (!) with his first career 7k score (7037)

May 11-12: New Mexico soph Richard York, soph, St. Clair, MO, was the repeat *Mountain West* winner on his home track in Albuquerque. But his score of 7212 was not in the qualifying ballpark. He had to wait for the remainder of the competitions finished before he learned that he was the final and 24th qualifier.

The *Big Sky* meet affair at Sacramento State came down to the final steps of the 1500 meters where Sam Schur of the host school, needing a 3 second margin got 4 (4:31.00 to 4:34.980 and topped Jeff Mohl of Montana State. At the time no one realized how close each came to making the final qualifying cut: the scores-7378-7371. Whew!

May 12-13: Philip Adam, 23, senior, Santa Maria, CA, of Rice had an easy time winning



Phillip Adam/Rice (left) won the Conference USA title with a PR. Comebacking Gonzalo Barroilhet/Florida St (center) failed in his bid in Winston-Salem. Eric Broadbent(right) won the Wake meet with a PR score.

the *Conference USA* crown in Houston and his 7514 PR mark will return him to the nationals. At the same time Akron's Bjorn Johansson, 23, junior, Hallstahammer, SWE, used a negative split score and got 7413 to win the *Mid-American* meet in DeKalb, IL. Again, at the time, this appeared likely not to be in the top 24. He, York and Barrefors would be the beneficiaries of the two day Big Ten downpour in Iowa.

Tall Ted Rud of North Dakota State won the *Summit League* crown in Brookings, SD without the benefit of a 1500 meters (6479).

May 12-13: At the *IC4As* in Princeton Liberty's Geren Woodbridge caught UMBC's Keith Onto late for a 7106 victory. Ethan Turpin/Arkansas State was the *Sun Belt* winner in Murfreesboro TN and Andrew Reigstad of Rhode Island topped a big field at the *New Englands* in New Haven, CT. Frenchman Romain Martin, a soph at Texas-Arlington, had an easy time winning the *Southland Conference* meet in Natchitoches, LA (7556).

A pair of open meets produced big scores and one surprising entrant. At the *Demon Deacon* meet at Wake Forest Eric Broadbent/25, ex West Chester U and now HPC elite, put up a USATF provisional 7558 PR effort and will have to wait to see how many enter the June nationals in Eugene. But the fascinating entry was 24 year old Chilean Olympian Gonzalo Barroilhet, a senior at Florida State who had not contested a

decathlon since Beijing in 2008. Rusty, but with a 7907 PR (3rd at '08 NCAAs) he was trying to get back to the collegiate 'show. He had not competed much for two years. His 7322 effort fell short and in hindsight, he needed 10 more seconds in the 1500m. His absence in Des Moines will have team scoring significance.

At the annual *Claremont Classic* Chris Randolph's (SLO Wellness) 7814 was a fine tune-up for the USA nationals. Surprisingly Lysias Edmonds/Arizona Puma, could only manage 7388 for 3rd and, since he was injured most of '10, has yet to secure a national's mark.

The most arresting open mark on the weekend by a decathlete came at the Clemson qualifier where NCAA indoor king Miller Moss/Clemson galloped 13.81 for the 110m hurdles (+2.3 mps).

Consider the unexpected this past weekend:

- a. Gonzalo Barroilhet, former NCAA indoor champ and 7907 performer, does not qualify for the NCAAs.

- b. Nebraska's Bjorn Barrefors led the Big 12 with 2 events remaining and ultimately finished 5th.
- c. Georgia's Ben Davies vault no heights while on way to major score at SECs.
- d. Rain wipes out any chance of qualifying marks at Big 10 meet.

NCAA D-I Qualifying List:

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| | | Auto standard: 7500 | | | |
| 7921 | Mike Morrison | California | 7593 | Nick Huber | Cornell |
| 7867 | Romain Martin | Tex-Arlington/FRA | 7583 | Kenny Greaves | Texas |
| 7828 | Gray Horn | Florida | 7581 | David Klech | Oregon |
| 7808 | Lars Rise | Missouri/NOR | 7571 | Wes Bray | Houston |
| 7773 | Mateo Sossah | North Carolina | 7543 | Curtis Beach | Duke |
| 7742 | Jeremy Taiwo | Washington | 7543 | Moritz Cleve | Kansas St |
| 7706 | Miller Moss | Clemson | 7514 | Philip Adam | Rice |
| 7703 | Kevin Lazas | Arkansas | 7478 | [20] | |
| 7686 | Matt Johnson | Sam Houston St | 7417 | Nick Armstrong | Long Beach St |
| 7681 | Isaac Murphy | Texas | 7413 | Bjorn Barrefors | Nebraska |
| | [10] | | 7389 | Bjorn Johansson | Akron |
| 7659 | Michael Ayers | Georgia | | Richard York | New Mexico |
| 7658 | Tommy Barrineau | Georgia | 7385 | [24] | |
| 7607 | Tom Fitzsimons | Mt St Marys | 7385 | Ben Davies | Georgia |
| | | | | Noah Palacia | USAFA |
| | | | | [26] | |