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ACC, MT SAC ARE BOOKENDS Sossah, Rise Prevail in Near Identical Meets

Hello Again....a pair of foreign collegians prevailed in nearly identical important decathlons held 3000 miles apart in the 3rd week of April. The Mount Sac Relays held at Azusa Pacific University and the Atlantic Coast Conference Champs at Clemson were about as similar as a pair of meets could be.

Consider: both meets had quality fields; both meets went down to the wire, being decided in the final stages of the final event; the final scores for 1-2 and the differential were nearly identical; and both affairs had favorite pull up and “dnf.”

At Mount Sac, held at Azusa in conjunction with the California Invitational, Missouri teammates Lars Rise, 21, Trondheim, Norway and Nick Adcock, 22, Kansas City, went into the final event just 21 points apart, with Adcock needing a 3½ second margin for the victory. But he could not shake Rise and the margin was less than a second at the tape, with Rise gamely hanging on and recording a lifetime best 4:35.09. Final tallies: Rise **7693**, Adcock **7672** PR.

A day later (Thurs, 4/16) North Carolina’s Mateo Sossah, Mons-en-Baroeul, France, caught Clemson’s Miller Moss, 22, Lafayette, LA, at the javelin and held a 37 point margin going into the final event. Given Moss’s awesome 47.51 400m performance on the previous day the final places were in doubt. But Sossah’s 4: 40.41 was 3/10ths better at the finish and he has a **7667** to **7628** PR victory.



It was all Tigers in Azusa, Nick Adcock (left) and Lars Rise (right) dominated the Mt Sac Relays. Adcock’s PR 7672 score was not enough to catch Rise, who won the title by producing 4 event PRs, with a fine 7693.

In both meets a notable performer pulled up lame. University of Toronto vet Massimo Bertucchi, leading at the time, managed to finish only 3 events. At the ACC affair Duke frosh Curtis Beach, matched with Moss for a 400 sizzler, pulled a hamstring during the event and withdrew. It’s uncertain at this time how serious the pull was.

And, both meets provided additional NCAA qualifiers...as Mt Sac Florida soph Gray Horn notched a nice PR, 7566, while Akron’s soph newcomer, Bjorn Johansson, Hallstahammer, Sweden, upped his PR also to 7432. The marks by Wes Leutz/North Dakota State (7290) and Jeremy Taiwo (7289) are sure to be NCAA bubble scores.

At the ACC, Dan Keller’s (North Carolina) 7378 score for 3rd is sure to eaticket to Oregon in June. North Carolina’s

decathletes went 1-3-5-6 to make a notable ACC team scoring impact. Florida State's former NCAA decathlon runner-up Gonzalo Barroihlet only contested individual events: 8th in javelin, dnq 110mH.

Boise State's Kurt Felix, Grenada, the '09 National JUCO winner, won the concurrent Cal Invitational at Azusa with a 7220 score.

Elsewhere Baker U (KS) senior Aaron Hannon posted the top NAIA effort of the



Akron soph Bjorn Johansson (left) and Baker U senior Aaron Hannon (right) both PR'd over the weekend. The former's 7432 was an NCAA D-1 provisional score while Hannon's mark moves to the top of the NAIA list.

early season, 6948, to capture the Kansas Relays. Ex-Husker Skyler Reising held a substantial first day lead but was forced to withdraw with back spasms. The USA indoor champs bronze medalist will restart at Drake in an attempt to secure a 7500 USA provisional mark.

A spate of fine D-III marks were posted over the week, with the most notable a 6868 PR by Linfield's Jeremy Lovell (his brother Josh has top D-III mark so far at 7125) while winning the Great NorthWest Conference meet.



Tar Heel coach Dennis Craddock (center) is flanked by his 4 ACC scoring decathletes : Matt Villemain, Dan Keller, Mateo Sossah and Chad Pierce.

At the Bryan Clay Open meet at Azusa the host was 4th in the 200m, 21.48 while Bertucchi came back to win the hurdles in 14.17.