

TYLER ADAMS 6016 SCORE

Indoor Season Really Arrives

Hello Again: WOW, was this a busy weekend. 34 indoor combined event meetings dotted the calendar and the national collegiate qualifying lists were rewritten.

When the dust cleared on Sunday 5 of the top 9 NCAA D-I scorers came from this weekend; 4 of the top 7 for D-II; 5 of the top 7 for D-III, the top four NAIA and the top ten(!) at the junior college level. My computer issues are *mostly* in the past so here is a review the the weekend just ended.

As expected the top affair was the Invitational at Texas Tech in Lubbock which attracted both the 2017 NCAA I winner and the 2015 USATF champ. Yet neither found themselves at the top of the leader board after 7 heptathlon events. Ex-Georgia star Devon Williams/Under Armour only managed to complete the first day [7.03 726 1422 189] while Jeremy Taiwo/NYAC appeared rusty and put up a 5738 2nd place total. The meet's highlight was the high jump where Taiwo (PR 2.25m/7-4½, the AR) and Sam Houston State senior Tyler Adams (Buffalo, TX), whose PR was 2.20m(7-2½) held center stage. At 2.16m(7-1) Adams led on fewer misses. Both nailed 2.19m(7-2¼), Taiwo on his 2nd and Adams on his 3rd try. Adams could go no higher but Taiwo scraped over 2.22m(7-3¼) on a 3rd attempt, then missed thrice at his own AR of 2.25m(7-4½). Whew!

But Adams was a picture of consistency winning 4 of the 7 events and running up 5 individual career bests (60m, LJ, SP, 60mH, PV) to score an eye-popping 6016



Sam Houston State senior Tyler Adams (Buffalo, TX) won in Lubbock with a 5 event PR 6016 effort.

total to take over the USA lead. (7.01 750 1237 219 8.05 464 2:44.85). He added a whopping 553 points to his lifetime best score. Texas soph George Patrick was 3rd at 5657.

24 (!) 5k scores went into the books suggesting that there is plenty of depth, especially at the collegiate level. At NCAA D II there are already more athletes than spots over last year's 5076 cutoff. And it may take a mid-5700 effort to earn a D-I ticket to College Station. The top D-III effort was fashioned by Whitewater's Alex Duff (5109) over the weekend and the NAIA saw a new leader as well as Rio Grande's Nikola Andjelic's 4944 now tops the qualifying list.

Major efforts over the January 24-27 weekend included a 5866 effort at Razorback by Karl-Robert Saluri/Georgia as he caught local Gabe Moore/SArkansas (5777) in the

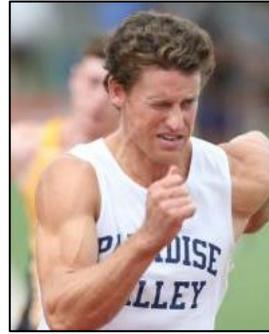
final event. Lehigh senior Trevor Knowles (PR 5596) was an Armory winner at the Sander meet. New Estonian Johannes Erm was 3rd in Fayetteville at 5679.

A pair of sophs won at home with career best scores: Markus Ballangee (5523) was winner at the Liberty Kickoff and Minnesota's Teddy Frid (5581) took the Jack Johnson meet in Minneapolis.

At D-II junior Spencer Jahr/Colorado Mesa edged sophomore Connor McLean/Colorado Mines (5.20m/17-³/₄ pv), 5373 to 5358 at Golden, CO. Central SWashington's Klodiak Landis (5407) won the University of Washington 7 eventer in Seattle. Kevin Schultz (5248), a NW Missouri junior, was on top in Seward, NE.

Paradise Valley soph Connor Williamson took over the JC lead with a 5430 (4.85m/15-11pv) win at home.

The season is really underway with 20 more meets on the card.



All PR scores: *Upper left:* Connor Williamson's 5430 leads the JUCO list. *Upper Right:* Teddy Frid (5581) won in Minnesota. *Lower Left:* Lehigh's Trevor Knowles (5596) was tops at the NYC Armory. *Lower Right:* Liberty's Markus Ballangee (5523) took the Kickoff title.