

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION
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TRENT NYTES is BIG TEN CHAMP
Conference Champs Report # 2

Hello Again: This will be the 2nd report covering the busiest weekend of the 2018 season.

Fri-Sat

In D-I major conferences, the day's first win came in Bowling Green, OH at the Mid-American Champs as Akron junior Kamar Majid, trailed through-out but used a 4.80m/15-9 vault to win with a 5188 score.

The day's top meet and likely one of the deepest conference affairs ever, came out of Geneva, OH where Wisconsin junior Trent Nytes pasted a 5810 in the scorebook to win the Big Ten crown. So deep was this meet that 11th place was 5066. Michigan State soph Nick Guerrant took the silver at 5758 and Minnesota's Teddy Frid was 3rd at 5680 edging out Badger and early leader Zach Lorbeck by 17 points. The top six PR'd and the 56+ totals by Nebraska's Jared Seay and Iowa's William Dougherty will be borderline NCAA qualifiers. A year ago the final D-I qualifying score was 5688 so anything in the 5600 range would be on the bubble.

This also appeared much like a dual b/w Wisconsin and Nebraska:

<i>Wisconsin</i>		<i>Nebraska</i>	
Nytes	5810	Seay	5634
Lorbeck	5663	Walton	5451
Smith	5433	Wagner	5449
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	16,906		16,534

Texas soph George Patrick won the Big 12 crown with a 5552 effort. He has an earlier 5657 in the books. Canadian soph Nathaniel Melcher/Houston won the



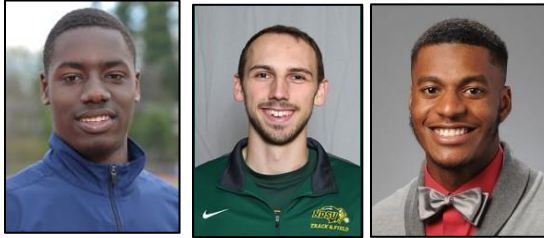
Wisconsin junior Trent Nytes (Kaukauna, WI) used the Big Ten affair in Geneva as a breakout meet. His 5810 PR score turned back a deep field.

American Conference title as Wichita State's Hunter Veith sat out the 7 eventer. The Shockers recently moved from the Missouri Valley and they made their presence felt with half-a-dozen entries. Junior Ben Johnson was runner-up in Birmingham but did not improve on an earlier 5616 score. Early leader Alex Bloom, a Cincinnati senior led after six (4896



Nathaniel Melcher/Houston (l) and Nick Guerrant/Michigan State (r), posted 5700+ scores.

points) and needed a 2:51 1k to improve on his early season 5649 PR. Yet he dnf'd the final event placing 9th.



Joel Nkounkou/New Hampshire(l), Matt Neururer/NDSU (c) and Kamar Majid/Akron all won D-I league titles.

The remaining D-Is were anticlimactic. At the Summit, North Dakota State started five and placed 4 in the top 5 with senior Matt Neururer catching soph Tony Ukkelberg, 5414 to 5352. This year's Mountain Pac champs in Seattle was thin on entries and the 1000 meters was crucial. Colorado's Anthony Ghizzone edged BYU's Kevin Nielsen, 5519 to 5491 using an 8 second final event margin.

In mid-major D-I leagues New Hampshire senior Joel Nkounkou (Dover, NH) captured the American east title in Boston with a 5065 effort. Binghamton soph Troy Zanger hit 5000 on the nose.

There was high drama at the Big South meet in Lynchburg, VA. Liberty's talented soph Markus Ballengee soph was well ahead of 5523 PR pace thru 5 events. And with plenty in the tank (PRs of 4.95m/16-3/4 and 2:45 worth 1700 points) he was well on his way to College Station. But he came a cropper in the vault and finished a disappointed 3rd with just 4762 points. High Point's soph Pablo Romero was the winner at 5178.

Marquette senior William Eggers won the Big East title at 52324 at Ocean Breeze, and Eastern Kentucky's Yoshua Reed captured the Ohio Valley affair at 5012.

At the D-II level Pittsburg State's Tanner McNutt and Jared Page went 1-2 at home at the MIAA champs, 5261-5256 as 5 exceeded 5k. Mine's teammates Austin

Smith, a junior and frosh Chase McClean were 1-2 (5083-5050) at the Rocky Mountain (RMAC) meet in Golden. David Chase of Hillsdale won the Great Mid-West (GMAC) league. There was little movement on these two days on D-II qualifying.



Eau Clair soph Dylan Cooper(l) and Pittsburg State senior Tanner McNutt (c) won conference crowns at D-II and D-I. Liberty soph Markus Ballengee (r) was not as lucky at the Big South meet.

In D-III action, Central (IA) junior Ryan Kruse did just that...building up a huge margin and cruising the 1k (3:28.41). His final tally in winning the Iowa Intercollegiates (IAC) was 4811.

Eau Claire soph Dylan Cooper ran up a nice 5082 score to win the Wisconsin Intercollegiates and moved to 3rd in D-III qualifying. Ithaca senior Set Abbott was the Liberty League winner (4736) in Canton, NY. Geneseo soph Jacob Converse was the SUNYAC winner in Brockport with a 4854 score.

In all the 20 meets held on Friday-Saturday netted 48 (!!) new 5000 point performances. Eleven additional heptathlons (Saturday-Sunday, Feb 24-25) are underway.