

IMPROBABLE FINISH at NCAA DAY 2 Williams Surprises Duckworth in 1000m

Hello Again....Just when one thinks that the final placings had been determined early, the improbable happens. On the 2nd day at the NCAA I champs Kentucky junior Tim Duckworth seemed to have the heptathlon title sewn up after establishing 5 new PR marks in the first 6 events. Before the 1000 meters he held a seemingly safe 224 point lead over Devon Williams, a senior at Georgia and needed, as it turned out, but a 3:03 1k clocking to secure the win. But as Williams sprinted on the final lap Duckworth faltered to a 3:04.24. With a 22 second lead he finished..... 23 seconds back and wound up second by 12 points. The Berra moral: “it aint over until its over.”

Up until the final lap Duckworth had command of this meet. After 3 first day career bests (and missing another in the long jump by one inch) he equalled his best in the hurdles and then added 6cm to his best in the pole vault (5.26m/17-3). He seemed on his way to a 6200 score.

Both produced significant totals: Williams with 6177 became the #4 collegian ever while Duckworth’s 6165 #8.

This was a high scoring affair with 3 6k efforts, a 5996 score from virtual unknown Hunter Price of Colorado State, and an 8th place 5786 score from newcomer Jonathan Wells. 2nd day injuries hampered Michigan’s Steven Bastien (rolled ankle in vault warmups) and Texas’ Steele Wasik (a fall in 60m hurdles). Everyone else seemed to come out healthy and looking forward to the outdoor campaign. Here’s what happened.



Devon Williams was a 6177 winner in College Station.



**14th NCAA I Heptathlon
Gilliam Indoor Track
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
March 10-11, 2017**

Day Two

60 m Hurdles: [Noon- 12:18 pm]

220 spectators were on hand for the noon start and it seemed half were reps of the Mahler clan. In the first race George Mason soph John Seals was a surprise winner out of lane 2, edging Harrison Williams 8.22 to 8.23.

<i>pl</i>		<i>lane</i>	<i>time</i>	<i>points</i>
1.	Seals, John/George Mason	2	8.22	927
2.	Williams, Harrison/Stanford	4	8.23	925
3.	Victor, Lindon/Texas A&M	6	8.43	877
4.	Nielsen, Kevin/BYU	8	8.44	874

false start: none.

In the second section Wolf Mahler reacted fastest and the field could not run him down as he won in 8.31, 4/100th off a PR.

<i>pl</i>		<i>lane</i>	<i>time</i>	<i>points</i>
1.	Mahler, Wolf/Texas	6	8.31	905
2.	Saluri, Karl-Robt/Georgia	8	8.33	900

3. Modin, Mitch/Oregon 2 8.35 8.96
 4. Moore, Gabe/Arkansas 4 8.49 8.62
- false start: none.*

The third section included the four quickest hurdlers including Williams whose early season 7.77 drew notice. But he was guilty of an egregious false start and the group had to reset.

In lane 4 Steel Wasik crashed the 4th barrier and went down hard. Williams was running a step ahead and not influenced by the crash. He went on to win in a PR and meet record 7.75 seconds.

<i>pl</i>		<i>lane</i>	<i>time</i>	<i>points</i>
1..	Williams, Devon/Georgia	6	7.75	1046
2.	Price, Hunter/Colorado St	2	8.01	979
3.	Wells, Jonathan/Illinois	8	8.11	954
	dnfWasik, Steele/UCLA	4	dnf	fell

false start: Williams

Realizing what had occurred in the previous section, Duckworth had his personal marching orders...don't fall and don't give up two many points, perhaps staying within 3 tenths of Williams' mark. And that's exactly what happened. He won going away equalling a PR 8.10 seconds.

<i>pl</i>		<i>lane</i>	<i>time</i>	<i>points</i>
1..	Duckworth, Tim/Kentucky	4	8.10	957
2.	Veith, Hunter/Wichita St	2	8.15	944
3.	Bastien, Steven/Michogan	6	8.34(8.336)	898
4.	Jamerson, Austin/Cornell	8	8.34(8.337)	898

false start: none.

After Five: Duck 4551, Wil/D 4481, Vict 4385, Well 4372.

Pole Vault: [12:55 - 2:34 pm]



Harrison Williams had his way with the vault field. No PR but a winning 5.36m/17-7 clearance.

The new NCAA I protocol is to set bars in verticals jumps so that they pass one cm above the existing meet record. The procedure often results in attacks on the

existing meet record as occurred yesterday in the high jump. So here we were agin, watching Harrison Williams challenge Alex McCune's 5.45m/17-10½ meet record which also happened to be the USA & Collegiate mark as well. He had already won the event at 5.36m/17-7. The Stanford junior who will redshit outdoors, had one fine attempt before the event was completed.

Yet he was hardly the whole story of this event. Duckworth managed ANOTHER PR, a 5.26m/17-3, five bars higher than Devon Williams and adding another 154 points to his overall leading margin.

<i>pl</i>		466	476	486	496	506	516	526	536	546	<i>Best</i>
Duckworth	p	o	o	xo	o	o	o	o	xxx		526
Williams, H	o	p	o	xo	o	o	xxo	xo	xxx		536



Kentucky's Tim Duckworth reached new personal heights with a career best 5.26m/17-3 effort.

The story in flight #1 (north pit) was even more extraordinary. Six of the eight recorded lifetime bests...Hunter Price and Gabe Moore at 4.66m/15-3½. Lindon Victor, Jonathan Wells and Kevin Neilsen at 4.76m/15-7¼, and Karl-Robert Saluri at 4.96m/16-3¼. 6 fo 8!!!!gotta be some sort of record. Officials moved the vent along smartly...15 different settings, 148 attempts and 62 clearances in 159 minutes.

After Six : Duck 5542, Will/D 5318, Vict 5222, Well 5209.

1000 meters: [3:45 - 3:48 pm]

At 10 points per second and a 224 point lead Duckworth appeared secure. He appeared comfortable thru a 70 400m but began to tread water on lap 4 and really tired on lap five. In the meantime Devon Williams was chasing the leader, Texan Wolf Mahler

who was out to run the field off their feet. Williams never flagged and worked hard on the final 200m crossing in a career best 2:41.26. Duckworth's last 100m were agonizingly slow and in those last moments the title slipped away from him. Give credit to Williams who ran as hard as he could and put himself in a position to win. It all changed in that final half lap.

In the meantime a pair of very solid races went without much notice. Harrison Williams, needing a 2:36 clocking to surpass 6000 points, struggled in the last lap and finished in 2:39.45, 30 points short of the 'magic 6.' He was passed by Colorado State's Hunter Price (2:37.99), also falling 4 points shy of 6k, yet all in all, a very high scoring meet.

PACE			
Lap	Time	Leader	
1	200m	28.7	Mahler
2	400m	59.9	"
3	600m	1:30.9	"
4	800m	2:02.0	"
5	1000m	2:34.15	"

AfterSeven: Wil/D 6177, Duck 6165, Salu 6051, Pric 5996.

Notes:

As it turned out each of the day's three events was crucial in determining a worthy successor to '16 winner Zach 'Double Z' Ziemek.

At the SEC indoor affair two weeks earlier in Nashville, Duckworth had eschewed the CE in favor of single event tuneups and



Illinois's Jon Wells, who placed 8th, was competing in only his 3rd CE meet. He has never contested a decathlon and was added to the field here only after seasonal leader Luca Wieland withdrew. Wells place

managed PRs in all three jumps while scoring 13 team points for the Wildcats.

Results- Day One

3/10-11 NCAA I Champs, Gilliam Indoor Track, Texas A&M, College Station, TX

6177	Williams, Devon/Georgia'17	6.88 783 1411 195 7.75 476 2:41.26
6165	Duckworth, Tim/Kentucky-GBR'18	6.77 777 1308 216 8.10 526 3:04.24
6051	Saluri, Karl-Robert/Georgia-EST'18	6.79 758 1441 186 8.33 496 2:36.92
5996	Price, Hunter/Colorado St'18	6.94 730 1327 204 8.01 466 2:37.99
5976	Victor, Lindon/TexasA&M-GRN'17	6.99 723 1655 207 8.43 476 2:51.14
5970	Williams, Harrison/Stanford'18	7.02 703 1334 195 8.23 526 2:39.45
5791	Mahler, Wolf/Texas'18	6.94 700 1238 192 8.31 486 2:34.15
5786	Wells, Jonathan/Illinois'18	7.13 744 1367 216 8.11 476 3:09.21
5760	Veith, Hunter/Wichita St'18	7.00 755 1241 195 8.15 496 2:56.44
5630	Neilsen, Kevin/BYU'18	7.12 734 1191 195 8.44 476 2:44.47
5527	Modin, Mitch/Oregon'17	7.13 710 1316 195 8.35 466 2:55.01
5519	Moore, Gabe/Arkansas'19	7.15 669 1351 195 8.49 466 2:44.58
5509	Jamerson, Austin/Cornell'17	7.17 722 1247 210 8.34 406 2:50.84
5447	Seals, John/George Mason'19	7.13 697 1235 210 8.22 466 3:12.70
4119	Bastien, Steven/Michigan'17	6.96 743 1312 192 8.34 nh dnf
dnf	Wasik, Steele/Texas'18	7.14 685 1372 198 inj dnf nh dnr



FLOOD WINS D-III CROWN

Naperville, IL. (March 10-11).

There was little drama at the NCAA D-III champs in Naperville as places 1-2-3 finished in the exact order of their seasonal seeding. A pair of Cortland State seniors, Jack Flood (5247) and Connor Christopherson (5181) sandwiched Andre Hopkins/Johns Hopkins senior who provided the meet's top effort, a 5.20m/17- 3/4 vault. There was considerable improvement in depth.

3/10-11 NCAA III Champs, Res Rec Center, North Central College, Naperville, IL

5247	Flood, Jack/Cortland St'17	7.40 638
1257	193 8.36 430 2:41.55	
5238	Barnett, Andrew/Johns Hopkins'17	7.27 650
1083	178 8.74 520 2:43.98	

5181 Christopherson, Connor/Cortland St'17 7.26 637
1226 187 8.28 440 2:49.72
4969 Spicer, Seth/Alfred'18 7.41 632
1303 181 8.66 390 2:41.92
4921 Newman, Nate/Ohio Wesleyan'18 7.34 657
1230 184 8.62 400 2:55.64
4920 Lee, Jeremy/Wisc-Stevens Pt'19 7.45 662
1121 178 9.12 450 2:45.19
4919 DiVittorio, Brent/Cortland St'19 7.29 680
972 199 8.50 380 2:57.93
4872 Muellers, Tobias/Williams'18 7.28 664
1113 169 8.86 400 2:39.92
4832 Hirsbrunner, Jacob/Wisc-Platteville'19 7.48 658
1116 175 9.41 410 2:36.98
4803 Schepp, Jackson/Concordia-M'head'18 7.54 631
1126 193 8.96 390 2:46.65
4759 Van Grinsven, Leif/Wheaton'19 7.48 647
1117 190 8.80 370 2:51.19
4717 O'Neill, Connor/St Thomas(MN)'17 7.52 643
1185 172 8.89 470 3:08.50
4712 Huddleston, Preston/St Thomas(MN)'18 7.34 658
1116 175 9.20 400 2:49.45
4658 Elfgaard, Rasmus/North Park-SWE'18 7.36 590
1220 184 8.78 420 3:08.26
4583 Haskin, Zach/Cobleskill'19 7.50 600
1052 187 9.01 410 2:57.39
