

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXXII

Number 19

April (4), 2017

RAZORBACKS in TEAM WIN Moore Defeats Smith in First Team Battle

Hello Again....The very first standard collegiate team decathlon was held at John McDonnell Stadium on the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville April 22-23. The host school met the University of Wisconsin in what one hopes will become a continuing affair....simply because it's such a good idea. A standard CE "team" or "Cup" competition has a minimum of 4 athletes with a minimum of three scorers and scores are summed. And so the Razorbacks of Travis Geopfert and and Badgers of Nate Davis went at it although in less than ideal conditions. The first day was downright cold, with periods of rain. The second day was just chilly and the conditions had lots to do with only 4 of 8 achieving marks in all ten events.

Nevertheless, the competition was at a high level as the 'backs' prevailed, 20,680 to 14,162. Kudos to coaches Geopfert and Davislet's do more of this. The individual stars were Arkansas' Gabe Moore, (20, Freeport, FL), last year's JUCO winner, and Badger junior Sawyer Smith (21, LaCrosse, WI) both of whom were looking for D-I qualifying scores. And both, along with Wisconsin freshman Paul Afflitto, achieved PR scores. Moore's winning total (worth tons more considering the conditions) of 7564 punched his ticket to the NCAAs in Eugene, OR in June. Smith' gutty 7450 (a 460 point improvement!) will be a bubble score. Both have conference affairs in three weeks.

The weekend's other top meet was in Charlottesville, VA where the conditions

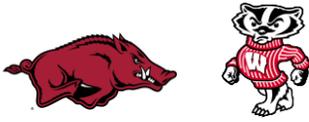


The 1500m starts of the first standard collegiate team decathlon gets underway. From left to right: Brad Culp, Derek Jacobus, Lane Austell, Gabe Moore, Sawyer Smith and Paul Afflitto.

were just as wet, but hardly as chilly as in Fayetteville. Ex Middle Tennessee star Atsu Nyamadi/Ghana posted a marginal PR, 7811 while Michigan State junior Tim Ehrhardt managed a season best of 7529 while Virginia's redshirt soph Jack Lint came up with a PR 7474, a score, like Smiths, that may or may not be enough to earn an NCAA invite. Anyone in the 7400 range will be holding their breath during the next few weeks. One can almost hear the inhales. Kennesaw senior Josh Mulder, a '15 national qualifier, came up short with a 7320 effort. Athletes from both the rainy Fayetteville and Charlottesville affairs walked away knowing there were a lot of points left on the track.

A dozen additional weekend meets netted a single 7k effort, by Latvian and ex Kansas Stater Reinis Kregers, who won the Kansas Relays title in Lawrence with 7210.

Oh for some good weather!!



**1st Collegiate Team Decathlon
Wisconsin vs Arkansas
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR
April 22-23, 2017**

100m: [2:02 pm]

The clerk called the 8 decathletes to their mark at exactly 2 pm. The clocking were excellent for the condition, since a steady rain prevailed and the air temp was a chilly 45 degrees. Junior Derek Jacobus took the lead at 55 meters from lanky Paul Afflitto and held it to the finish clocking a lifetime best 10.80 seconds. Two others—Sawyer Smith (10.90) and Lane Austell (11.00)--- also managed career bests in the chilly conditions.

*After One: Jaco 906, Affi 885, Smit 883, Aust 861.
Team: UArk 2623, Wisc 2561*

Long Jump: [2:33 – 2:55]

Jumping from north to south on the east side of McDonnell Stadium, the athletes were unable to handle the cold and winds which varied from +1.2 to +4.7 mps. The net blustry result...8 fouls at the toe board in 22 attempts. In this sport one can't afford to throw a one third of the attempts into the trash. Derek Jacobus had the first fair attempt, and won the competition at 7.14m/23-5½ to maintain his overall lead. He subsequently fouled twice. There were no other 7 meter marks and Scott Lorbeck, injured in the sprint, limped thru. Moore lost a big jump in the final round, likely in the 745 range.

After Two: Jaco 1753, Smit 1659, Culp 1632, Aust 1614. Team: UArk 4999, Wisc 4739

Shot Put: [3:25 – 3:46]

The cold drizzle continued. Given the conditions the results were more than adequate. Badger junior Sawyer Smith won the event on the very last toss, a

PR14.23m/46-8¼ and he moved to the overall lead. Amazingly, only a single foul.

After Three: Smit 2401, Jaco 2361, Moor 23-02, Culp 2277. Team: UArk 6940, Wisc 6716

High Jump: [4:35 – 5:37 pm]

Moved to the Tyson Center (the outdoor approach was under water) the event produced good marks and several career bests. Brad Culp, coached by his dad Greg, (they are native's of Fayetteville--it seems that there is a father-son combo at every meet nowadays) equaled his PR at 1.94m/6-4¼. At the next bar Moore equalled his best and then went on to clear 2.00m/6-6¾. The event moved efficiently: 72 attempts, 34 clearances at 12 different heights, all in 62 minutes.

After Four: Moor 3105, Smit 3097, Jaco 3057, Culp 3026. Team: UArk 9189, Wisc 8675

400m: [6:36 pm]

The air temperature was 45 degrees with drizzle and athletes were generally about one second off their best marks. Moore, Smith and Jacobus ran evenly thru 200 meters when Moore stepped on the accelerator and came off the turn 3 meters up on Smith. His long stride and strength drew him away and he finished in a very nice 49.07, 3 steps up on Smith. Moore's first day total of 3963 was 37 up on Smith with Jacobus another 85 back. The meet was completed in 4½ hours and the temperature never surpassed 50 degrees. One could only hope for better weather on Sunday.

After Five: Moor 3963, Smit 3926, Jaco 3841, Culp 3743. Team: UArk 11,547, Wisc 11,068

Day Two

110m Hurdles: [10:00 -10:06 am]

31 spectators alighted to the seats on the west side. The weather was sunny, chilly (48 degrees), blustry and DRY. The teams had switched colors overnight and on day two Wisconsin wore white and Arkansas red. In the first of two sections Jacobus looked ragged and was the only one not to PR in spite of a slight headwind (-0.5mps). Moore, running in front most of the way, clocked 15.20, while Afflitto was caught in 15.52, a

marginal career best. Smith dipped under 16 seconds for the first time (15.99).

The 2nd race was close for 4 barriers. At the fifth Austell began to pull away and his winning 14.99 seconds was 1/10th off his best. Travis Toliver PR'd in 2nd at 15.22 with Culp 6/100ths back. Aiding wind this time, (+0.7mps).

After Six: Moor 4788, Smit 4660, Jaco 4595, Culp 4559. Team: UArk 13,942, Wisc 13,413.

Discus: [10:00 -10:06 am]

Throwing northwest from the southeast corner, the event netted a pair of solid marks, from Smith whose 44.32m/145-5 won the event and from Jacobus whose platter travelled 41.00m/134-6 of Fayetteville real estate. Both PRs. Moore's final effort travelled over 46m but was negated by a circle foot fault. Smith had cut his lead to just 86 points.

After Seven: Moor 5499, Smit 5413, Jaco 5280, Aust 5207. Team: UArk 15,987, Wisc 15,138.

Pole Vault: [11:33 -12:23 pm]

Afflitto opened the contest with a 4.05m/13-3½ clearance. Toliver was the first casualty nh'ing at 4.45m/14-7¼. Any Badger



Derek Jacobus/A, Paul Afflitto/W, Sawyer Smith/W, Gabe Moore/A, Travis Toliver/W, Zach Lorbeck/W and Lane Austell/A (Brad Culp missing).

team chances entirely disappeared here. At the next bar Smith was over but Austell inexplicably nh'd. When Moore negotiated an outdoor PR of 4.65m/15-3 he was back on pace for an NCAA I qualifier. At 4.75m/15-7 only Moore and Culp remained. Moore

dropped here but Culp, with father Greg in attendance (a 17 footer in the 1980s) continued, passing 4.85m/15-11. He missed thrice at 4.95m/16-2¾ and the event ended in just 50 minutes with 35 attempts and only 11 clearances.

After Eight: Moor 6303, Smit 6188, Culp 6024, Jaco 5996. Team: UArk 18,323, Wisc 16,572

Javelin: [1:00 -1:16 pm]

Badger Travis Toliver withdrew. Jacobus managed a single toss with an injured elbow and then stopped. Culp, after a 2nd round PR toss of 53.56/175-9 injured a groin in round three and could go no further. Smith's two meter PR opened eyes (53.78m/176-5) as he won the event and moved within 98 points of Moore's lead. Wisconsin's team score fell to but two after Toliver withdrawal, hence the score decline.

After Nine: Moor 6931, Smit 6833, Culp 6665, Jaco 6635. Team: UArk 19,931, Wisc 12,990.

1500 Meters: [10:00 -10:06 am]

The team competition proved to be anticlimatic. But the 1500m held some drama and Moore and Smith still had opportunities for PR and qualifying totals. Temps were in the mid 60s. Six went to the starting line but two, Culp and Jacobus immediately stopped leaving a 4 man race. Austell jumped to an immediate lead towing Moore, Smith and Afflitto and that order never changed. Smith let go after two laps but Moore stayed with Austell and both ran themselves off their feet getting 4:47 clocking. Smith cut the margin from 50 meters to just 15 meters on the final lap clocking 4:50, 5 seconds better than his his previous career mark. His 7450 score was a 460 point career best. 460!! Moore's demonstrated his tremendous potential with a 7564 total.

1500 Meters Splits					
distance	splits:	order:			
3 laps to go:	54+	Austell,	Moore,	Smith,	Afflitto
400m:	72+	"	"	"	"
2 laps to go:	2:09	"	"	"	"
800m:	2:27	"	"	"	"
1 lap to go:	3:24	"	"	"	"
1200m:	3:44	"	"	"	"
1500m:	4:47	4:47	4:47	4:50	5:00

After Ten: Moor 7564, Smit 7450, Affl 6712, Culp 6665. Team: UArk 20,680, Wisc 14,162.

RESULTS:

4/22-23 Arkansas – Wisconsin team dual, Fayetteville, AR

7564	Moore, Gabe/Arkansas'19	11.15+2.1
675+2.0	1386 200 49.07 15.20-0.5 4230 465 6265	4:47.65
7450	Smith, Sawyer/Wisconsin'18	10.90+2.1
684+1.6	1423 188 49.69 15.99-0.5 4432 455 5378	4:50.34
6712	Affilito, Paul/Wisconsin'20	10.89+2.1
659+2.5	1221 176 50.17 15.52-0.5 3051 415 5173	5:00.87
6665	Culp, Brad/Arkansas'17	11.02+2.1
684+3.3	1263 197 52.18 15.28+0.7 3835 475 5356	dnf
6451	Austell, Lane/Arkansas'17	11.00+2.1
674+2.4	1218 188 50.92 14.99+0.7 3956 nh 5136	4:47.36
6335	Jacobus, Derek/Arkansas'18	10.80+2.1
714+1.2	1203 188 50.68 15.81-0.5 4100 435 3282	dnf
dnf	Toliver, Travis/Wisconsin'20	11.31+2.1
644+2.5	1215 185 51.28 15.22+0.7 3172 nh	withdrew
dnf	Lorbeck, Zach/Wisconsin'20	12.46+2.1
369+2.3	1286 dns	withdrew

Team Score: (only completed scores count)

Arkansas	20,680
Wisconsin	14,162

A Historical Note:

Collegiate team decathlon competitions have been around for a number of years. In the 1960s Pennsylvania and Princeton conducted decathlons as part of their annual dual meet. In 1993 four schools held a collegiate team challenge in Austin, Texas (Texas, Tennessee, Mount St Mary's and SF Austin State, the latter winning). Yet no one was quite certain how to score as schools arrived with different numbers of athletes. Eventually a large meet scoring format was used (10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1) instead of sum of scores which is the common concept for team competitions made standard (as well as the number of competitors—4, 3 to score) by European Cup matches decades earlier. The Austin experiment was never repeated.