

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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BRONDYKE in DRAKE WIN

Unpredictable Weather Dances on Deca Meets

Hello Again.... The only thing predictable about US mid-west weather in April is that it is unpredictable.capricious....erratic... fickle. Decathletes just take their chances and so it was at the 107th running of the Drake Relays in Des Moines, IA where, over two days the temps *never* rose over 49° degrees. Brisk and chilly would be a compassionate way the describe the Drake decathlon weather (April 26-27). Regardless, veteran Kurtis Brondyke (28, Clinton, IA), a former Clinton High School and Central College athlete, led after day one at 3928 points and kept his foot on the accelerator finishing with his highest season opener and just 195 down on the career best score. His 7600 point total was the only thing sunny at the Blue Oval as most officials wore ear-muffs..

Former Iowa State Taylor Sanderson was the runner-up at 7396 and Tyler Grob, ex Saginaw Valley State athlete was 3rd at 7019. Sanderson placed 2nd in five of the contests.

For Brondyke, the Drake Stadium has become a special place to compete. "Being an Iowan, I take a lot of pride in the Relays," Brondyke said. "I still remember the first Relays I qualified for my sophomore year of high school (in 2005). It was a really big deal. I have a lot of respect for what this meet represents for the kids in the state of Iowa.

"Having been a part of it really since my sophomore year in high school, it's hard to say no to something like this. I wish weather would cooperate more often, but it's so cool to



Kurtis Brondyke (left...11.15) and Taylor Sanderson (right...10.90) race at Drake's 100 meters. In the end mon-collegians took the top 4 spots

compete here."

Brondyke, the 2014 Drake champion, PR'd only in the vault (4.60m/15-1). He finished first in the long jump, shot put and high jump one day one and won the discus and javelin on day two. He faltered during the second half of the 400 meters, but still had a fast enough time (51.37 seconds) for a healthy lead at the end of the brisk, chilly day.

"There's a few execution issues, but I'm still early in my season. This is my planned first dec," said Brondyke, who is an assistant to Central Missouri track coach Kip Janvrin, a 15-time Drake Relays decathlon champion. "I didn't expect to be very crisp or

in end-of-season form by any means. But overall, stringing the two days together, I was pretty happy." Brondyke's win perpetuates the Janvrin streak at Drake....19 wins since 1987 by Janvrin or his assistant coaches (Travis Geopfert and Brondyke). Whew!

In other weekend action Jackson Walker, a senior at BYU, won the Robison meet in Provo on Thurs-Fri amid weather similar to that of Drake....high of 43° on Friday. Jackson's 7361 total was 202 better than teammate Kevin Neilsen.

A dozen meets were conducted during the last week of April, a trickle compared to what's ahead in the next two weeks. No other 7kers developed, Many of themets were D-III and NAIA conference affairs. BUT....four notables gathered at the Longhorn Invitational in Austin, each selecting the same 3 second day events...al with significant marks:

<u>4/29 Longhorn Invt, Austin</u>		[110H	pv	javelin]
Trey Hardee	Nike	14.01+3.4	5.00m	59.91m
Steel Wasik	Texas	13.99+3.4,	4.60m	60.96m
Steven Bastien	Michigan	14.92+3.1	4.60m	52.47m
Harrison Williams	unat	14.29+3.4	5.20m	49.13m



Between events most of the Drake Relays decathlon field sought shelter within the grandstand tunnels.

COMING UP.....

The first two weeks of May features more than 75 (!) decathlons, almost all collegiate conference ten eventers. Nearly as many athletes will toe the starting line within the next two weeks than have competed during the season so far....about 800! Hold onto your hats as all of the qualifying lists will be rewritten.
