

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXXII

Number 23

May (4), 2017

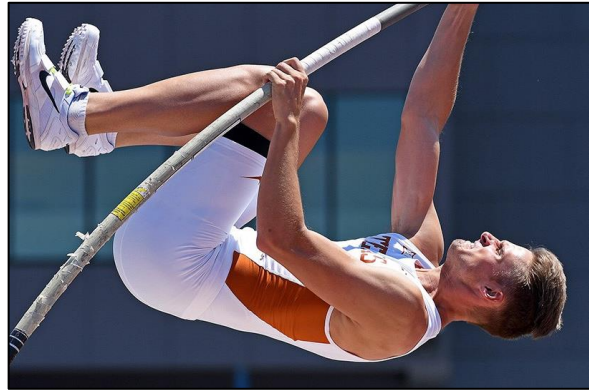
BASTIEN, WASIK to the SHOW

College Qualifying Complete-Hardee Returns

Hello Again....The annual ritual called “Collegiate Conference Championships” is now complete. This year the focus was on NCAA I qualifying and the final day (Saturday, May 13) had more angles than a billiards tournament. D-I invites the top 24 current season scorers and this generates a mad scramble to “make the list.” Entering the final day, with ten D-I league meets remaining, that list was far from established.

Of course the marks at the head of the list were impressive... a CR by A&M’s Lindon Victor and a trio of 8k marks. But everyone’s attention was directed at the bottom of the list. Entering the final day Duke’s Robert Rohner stood 24th with a (historically high) 7423 mark. Of the lower 6 on that chart, five were active on Saturday, and three in the same meet (ACC at Georgia Tech)... Rohner, Duke teammate Dan Golubovic (19th at 7500) and UVa’s Jack Lint (20th at 7478). Iowa’s William Dougherty (21st at 7471) and Wisconsin junior Sawyer Smith (22nd at 7450) were also on the field at the Big 10 affair at Penn State. BYU junior Kevin Neilsen (23rd at 7439) did not start at the BYU Invitational in Provo. His school has no outdoor league affiliation.

Complicating the situation were at least a quartet of decathletes still in contention after having put together solid first days.... Trent Nytes/Wisconsin at Big Ten; Andy Bloom/ Cincinnati at The American Conference in Houston; Ben Johnson/Wichita State at the Missouri Valley meet in Wichita;



Texas soph Steele Wasik (above) and Michigan senior Steven Bastien (left) won the Big 12 and Big 10 meets respectively with nearly identical scores. Both were easy NCAA I qualifiers.

and UMass-Amherst senior Kris Horn who had won the A-10 title a week earlier and drove up the road to Williamstown for a final opportunity at the all divs New Englands, a league in existence since the 1880s. All meets would bear watching.

The ACC meet in Atlanta finished first on Saturday. Rohner’s chances came a cropper with a vault ‘nh’ while considerably ahead of PR pace. Lint had a sub par meet (7263 for 2nd) and he’s have to wait out the results of all other decathlons. The story here was Golubovic, a grad transfer from D-II UC-San Diego. A 5.00m/16-4¾ vaulter, he could only manage 4.40m/14-5¼ and fell well off

pace. But he then came up with a huge jav PR (61.46m/201-8), ran a solid 1500m and ended with a 7493 score, just 7 points shy of his PR. Like spinning wheels he had started the day in 19th and was still 19th on the qualifying list when he finished. Like Lint he too would have to wait it out.

The Sun Belt in Arlington, Texas, Southland in New Orleans and Atlantic Sun in Jacksonville, each a D-I league, all netted nearly identical results but were inconsequential to the qualifying issue. In the former German Christian Schiemann/Texas-



Dan Golubovic/Duke (left) produced a near identical PR at the ACC affair at Georgia Tech. Iowa's William Dougherty was the final NCAA qualifier in spite of faltering at the Big 12 meet.

Arlington used 2nd day skills to win at 7019. At Sun belt 3 top 4 and four of top seven were foreigners. At Southland S.F. Austin junior Hunter Key prevailed at 7017. In the latter Kennesaw senior Josh Mulder fell short of returning to the Big Dance in the final two events and ended with a 7012 score.

The Big Ten meeting at Penn State, where rain prevailed on Friday and Saturday was cold and raw, proved crucial. Wisconsin's 2016 qualifier Brandon Mortenson withdrew early, clearly still unrecovered from an early season injury. Iowa's Dougherty then vaulted and he would have to wait it out, his 7471 early season score in jeopardy. Wisconsin's Nytes could not muster a comparable second day and, wala.... Nebraska's Cody Walton, who had posted a significant and safe 7937 score early, stabbed an eye-opening 69.38m/227-7

javelin to take the overall lead from Michigan senior Steven Bastien. Bastien regained the lead during the final event and won at 7712, while Walton coasted to 7619. Smith's score ended up at 7249 so he too would have to wait for later results. Bastien had moved to 11th on the overall NCAA list and Duke's Rohner, pushed to 25th, was eliminated. Whew!

About this time the results from BYU's Last Chance meet filtered in. Although only two completed the 1500m, one was BYU senior Jackson Walker who had been 19th at last year's NAAs. His 7483 PR in pro became #20 (using a PR 1500m) and he effectively pushed teammate Kevin Neilsen to 25th and out of qualifying. On the bubble now was Wisconsin's Sawyer Smith who stood 24th Yikes!

Overall standings at the Big 12 meet in Lawrence were so predictable after nine events that virtually the entire field dwaddled during the 1500m. Only one broke 5 minutes!!!! Texas soph Steele Wasik was a 7715 an easy winner bumping Sawyer Smith. The Big 12 disaster had occurred a day earlier when super frosh George Patrick, a sure qualifier, had no mark in the long jump.

Now only a pair of meets remained and both had athletes who had run up 4000+ 1st day scores. And their finales was almost identical. At Williamstown, MA U Mass senior Kris Horn won easily at the New



Trey Hardee (left) returned to the ten-event wars with an impressive 8 event total in Santa Barbara. Wisconsin senior Sawyer Smith (right) was the odd man out of NCAA I qualifying.

Englands but 140 points had evaporated in the discus ring when he was 7 meters below par. His final tally, a PR 7417, left Walker and Lint breathing easier with Dougherty on the bubble. Alex Bloom of Cincinnati fashioned a PR 7401 to win 'The American' in Houston as the Cincy junior held off fast closing (7374) Canadian frosh Nathaniel Mechler. It was over! The final D-I qualifier then was Dougherty and his Big Ten vault no height became inconsequential. The final qualifier was a record high 7471.

A final note. The Harry Marra meet at Westmont College provided a final tune-up/qualifying opportunity. Trey Hardee and red-shirting (at Stanford) Harrison Williams started and were impressive before both exited after the vault. Hardee, 33, mantled up an impressive 6743 point score (ave: 840 per event) before stopping. Williams too looked markedly fit. Local Thomas FitzSimons won for the 2nd year at 7326 score.

NCAA I Qualifying List		5/14/17
8539	Lindon Victor	Texas A&M-GRN'17
8345	Devon Williams	Georgia'17
8201	Luca Wieland	Minnesota-GER'17
7973	Tim Duckworth	Kentucky-GBR'18
7948	Karl Robt Saluri	Georgia-EST'18
7937	Cody Walton	Nebraska'18
7915	Scott Filip	Rice'18
7895	Wolf Mahler	Texas'18
7801	Hunter Price	Colorado St'19
7720	Markus Leemet	S Carolina-EST'18
[10]		
7717	Steven Bastien	Michigan'17
7715	Steele Wasik	Texas'19
7640	TJ Lawson	Kent St'20
7635	Derek Jacobus	Arkansas'18
7610	Hunter Veith	Wichita St
7566	Joe Delgado	Oregon'18
7564	Gabe Moore	Arkansas'19
7530	Mitch Modin	Oregon'17
7529	Tim Ehrhardt	Michigan St'18
7508	Josh Cogdill	Colorado St'17
7500	Dan Golubovic	Duke'17
7483	Jackson Walker	BYU'17
7478	Jack Lint	Virginia'19
7471	William Dougherty	Iowa'18
[24]		
7450	Sawyer Smith	Wisconsin'18
7439	Kevin Neilsen	BYU'18
7423	Robt Rohner	Duke'17