

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## FOCUS on JC MEETS

### Götzis Next; USA Meet Off IAAF Challenge List ???

**Hello Again....**with only a handful of meets on the docket most eyes or focused on collegiate nationals (NCAA II, II and NAIA) next week. Final D-III qualifying and the Community College championships were the order for week three in May. Three D-III meets resulted in one addition to the national list---Jackson Schepp of Concordia-Moorhead ---whose 6455 effort made him the first collegian at the Gregory meet in Naperville, IL.

The JUCO meets were highly competitive. At the NJCAA nationals in Hutchinson, Kansas well travelled Connor Williamson/Paradise Valley CC, AZ (28, a former basketball star at New Mexico Military Institute) caught Jared Seay/Iowa Central CC (Ankeny, IA) in the final lap of the 1500 meters and ekked out a 7058 to 7038 victory, PRs for both. Seay, a Nebraska football signee) seemed to have the meet well in hand, piling up 3921 first day points and led by 371 points with three events remaining.

But Williamson made up 113 points in the vault (4.35m to 3.95m), another 143 points in the javelin (49.22 to 39.45m), yet the differential was still 115 (@19 seconds) in Seay's favor entering the 1500 meters. The 6-2 Williamson, who had been the indoor runner-up to Seay in March, produced a 22½ second margin (4:47.88 to 5:11.25) for the win.



Connor Williamson/Paradise Valley (left) and Jared Seay/Iowa Central CC(right) battled to the final steps of the 1500m

The California Community College champs were just as exciting, but it was a discus 'no mark' by first day leader Elisha Edwards/Moorpark'19 that set up the finish.

Edwards held a comfortable 350 point lead at the break. After a fine hurdle race (14.88 seconds) Edwards relinquished the lead to Aaron Cheek'19 of Cuesta College (near Moro Bay and south of San Luis



Obispo). Cheek won going away at 6329. He had been runner-up at the Southern Cal champs to Edwards who was 3rd overall with a 5953 score.

Aaron Cheek (left), a 5-11 soph from Fresno, was the Cal Community College winner.



## USA Champs Not on IAAF List ???

Next week's news will come from the Votralberg region of Austria where the 43rd Hypo Bank meeting in Götzis has a number of former NCAA stars but, for the first time in 20 years, no Americans will start. A partial reason for the American absence is that the USA nationals has been left off their IAAF CE Challenge list of eligible meetings. The USA national champs have been on the list since the first 'Challenge' in 1998. The 2017 absence seems to be a mystery.

Repeated attempts to get an answer from USATF have been unsuccessful. We're investigating this oversight/blunder(!?) which denies USA decathletes its primary opportunity. More on this later. I will meet with IAAF officials in a few days to determine why this happened and why we have not been able to get an answer.

Chris Huffins, Tom Pappas, Bryan Clay, Trey Hardee, Jake Arnold are a few Americans who have relied on the IAAF CE Challenge for income. In 2016 Jeremy Taiwo was second providing him income to keep him in the sport. More than a dozen USA decathletes have been financial recipients in since the beginning in 1998.

The rankings are decided by totalling the number of points that the athletes have scored in each of three combined events competitions during the season. And USATF meet has always been a designated meet, in part because to earn a living the American decathletes would have to spend most of each summer in Europe. The total prize money available is US \$202,000, split evenly between male and female athletes. The male and female winners each receive \$30,000, while second and third placed athletes are entitled to \$20,000 and \$15,000 respectively.

Smaller amounts are given to the rest of the top eight finishers.

This year's IAAF CE Calendar:

4/28-29	MultiStars	Firenze, ITA
5/27-28	Hypo Bank	Götzis, AUT
6/17-18	TNT Express	Kladno, CZE
6/24-25	Ratingen Meeting	Ratingen, GER
7/1-2	European Cup:	
	Super League	Tallin, EST
	1st & 2nd League	Monzon, ESP
7/4-5	Pan Am CE	Ottawa, CAN
8/4-13	IAAF Worlds	London, GBR
9/16-17	DecaStar	Talence, FRA

----That's It ! No USA Champs !! ----