

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXXI

Number 3

Jan. (3), 2016

PICKING UP STEAM

East Coast Blanketed with Snow

Hello Again....East Coast snow forced some cancellations/postponements of indoor meets during the third weekend of January. The weekend was split between shoveling snow and following the nations indoor scores.

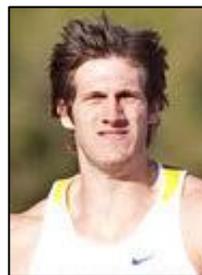
Several significant totals were run up by veterans. A pair of last year's national qualifiers picked up where they left off last season at the IU Gladstein Invitational in Bloomington. Kennesaw senior Bilal Abdullah (Snellville, GA) and Indiana senior Dylan Anderson (23, Bloomington) posted fine early season scores, 5688 and 5616 respectively to go 1-2. A pair of other 2015 NCAA contestants, IU's Stephen Keller and the Owls Josh Mulder were 3rd and 4th (5471 and 5303). Gladstein, by far, was the weekend's deepest meet.

Three hours south, in Lexington, Ky Tim Duckworth (19, Phoenix), a Wildcat soph who holds dual USA/Britain citizenship, won the McCravey meet with a PR 5695 score. Interestingly he made up nearly 150 points in the final event despite clocking 3:02.02 for the 1000m. The real story here was the discovery of CE talent Jonathan Wells (19, Fox Lake, IL), an Illini soph who has made a reputation as a long and high jumper. Attempting his initial CE Wells, 6-2, 195, ran up a 3295 1st day score (including a 2.15m /7½) and extended his lead after 5 events. But his 4.50m/14-5¼ vault was 5 bars shy of Duckworth who needed only to protect his overall lead. Well's final furlong lap was not pretty and he clocked 3:18.12. But his Illini



Illinois' soph jumper Jonathan Wells put up a significant score in his first multi-eventer, the McCravey Memorial in Lexington, KY

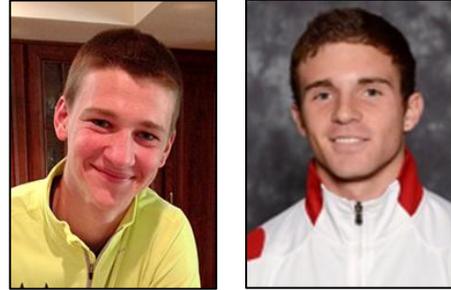
eye-opening 5442 total (averaging 777 points per event) was nonetheless very hopeful. He will next contest the Big Ten affair a month hence in Geneva, OH. Another winning newcomer was Adams State soph Sam Bilderbeck who captured the USAFA Invt meet in Colorado with one of the leading D-II efforts, 5250. His father Jeff was a notable decathlete a generation back while at Eastern



2011 NCAA champ Mike Morrison (l) returned to the CE wars in Chapel Hill while Sam Bilderbeck/Adams St (r) provided a fine D-II total at the Air Force Academy.

New Mexico. The week also marked the return of several notables. Three-time D-II champ J Patrick Smith showed up at a small affair at Bates College and posted noteworthy marks for 5 events. More remarkable was the (re)appearance at the Tobacco Road Challenge of Mike Morrison (27), the 2011 NCAA outdoor champ in his first CE'er in 5 seasons. His winning 5436 effort was just 14 digits shy of a national USA qualifier. First day leader Robert Rohner/Duke and UNC's Paul Haley only managed 1st day scores.

A trio of other athletes of note, all returning to home surfaces, did not post expected scores. Ex D-III champ Richard Roethel/Christopher Newport alum, ex NCAA scorer Devin Dick, Kansas State alum and world high jump champ Derek Drouin/IU alum, all came up short.



Tim Duckworth/Kentucky soph(1) and Indiana senior Dyland Anderson produced a pair of 56++ scores.

The 2016 season is still early and next weekend promises two dozen meets (!) and a revision of the indoor lists. For now it will be important to shovel out of the snow.