

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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DUCKS MAKE A STATEMENT

Keys, Beach, Lazas Have Big Weekends

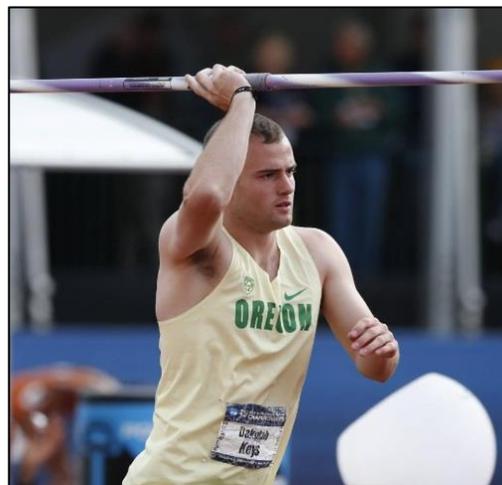
Hello Again..... Familiar names back in action...that's the story of the weekend... Keys, Lazas, Beach, Bahner and others were in action in some of the 24 decathlons nationwide during the second full week of April.

Sixty (!) athletes started in the combined Mount Sac Relays/California Invitational at Azusa Pacific University on Wednesday/Thursday and 17 surpassed 7000 points. James Turner of the University of Toronto TC came away with the relays title with a 7773 score, 86 more than returning Curtis Beach with speedy Rice soph Scott Filip another 79 points back. The meet was so deep that the UCLA pair of senior Marcus Nilsson and frosh Steele Wasik as well as Buffalo's Mike Morgan all scored over 7500, likely NCAA qualifying scores. Azusa's Justin Balczak posted a fine 7550 total, the top D-II seasonal performance.

In the concurrent Cal Invt, Mexico's Roman Garibay edged Taylor Sanderson/Iowa St, 7363-7360 in the 'A' section while Iowa's Jack Eckert used a 7094 score to win the 'B' division. In all, 51 of the 60 starters finished at Azusa.

The week/weekend also featured any number of high quality smaller meets. Returning Kevin Lazas held off vet Austin Bahner in the competitive Razorback CE in Fayetteville, 7594 to 7579, significant scores for both who have been tussling with injuries.

The University of Oregon Relays in Eugene produced to top effort from Duck senior Dakotah Keys, Sweet Home, OR, a



Oregon senior Dakotah Keys, Sweet Home, repeated as Oregon Relays champ putting up 10 solid efforts and netting a 7833 score. Ducks went 1-2-3-4.

consistent and solid 7833 performance. Sophomore Mitch Modin, Bend, OR led thru



Former NCAA indoor champs Curtis Beach (l) and Kevin Lazas (r) returned to decathlon wars after extended injuries.

day one and finished with a nifty 7558 PR for second. Four undergraduate Ducks averaged



By virtue of weekend scores Eastern Michigan junior Solomon Ijah (l) and UCLA freshman Steelw Wasik (r) will be new faces at the NCAA outdoor champs in June.

7372+ in the Eugene meet.

Eastern Michigan junior Solomon Ijah, 22, Murrieta, CA, ran up a 324 point PR 7648 score while winning the Virginia Challenge in Charlottesville and punched a ticket to Eugene. Kennesaw junior Josh Mulder (7402) made major strides for second as injured teammate Bilal Abdullah, who was 4th at the NAAs indoors, got thru but three events.

No Place Like Home: In other meets, former D-III winner Richard Roethel, a Christopher Newport (VA) alum, won a home meet with a 7393 PR in Newport News. NAIA kingpin Kale Wolken of Doane prevailed at home with a 7145 winning opener. Senior Steven Soerens/Princeton was the victor at home with a 7101 score. The top D-III effort was provided by Greg Peterson/Wisc-Eau Claire who won the Phil Esten affair in LaCrosse with a 6692 score.

The NCAA D-I qualifying lists began to shape up with 11 already over 7500 points. The major meeting in the upcoming week appears to be the Drake Relays which boasts a large field of Big Ten decathletes. 278 athletes in 24 meets toed the line last week.



Azusa senior Justin Balczak (l) and Oregon soph Mitch Modin (r) both PR's over the weekend with 7500+ efforts.