

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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WEATHER PLAYS HAVOC WITH SMALL COLLEGE CHAMPS

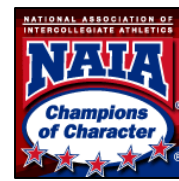
Hello Again.... The venue did not seem to matter....Edwardsville, IL [NAIA]; Oshkosh, WI [Div III], or Walnut, CA [Div II], all sites of small college T&F championships. At some time during each decathlon, nasty weather played havoc on the performances. Rain and headwinds were normally the order of day one. The worst conditions prevailed in California where heavy rains and lightening played mayhem with the NCAA II schedule at Hilmer Lodge Stadium at Mt. San Antonio College. The interrupted weather delays did not prevent Desi Burt/Cal St-LA from running up a 4k first day.

At the Div III affair in Oshkosh, WI, the rain held off, but temps never did get above 60 F and winds were gusty all day. No matter for Moravian's Ozzie Brown, a senior, who was perhaps conditioned by bad spring weather in northeast Pennsylvania. His 3942 score led the field by more than 300 pts. At the NAIA meet in Edwardsville, nearly ½ cm of rain fell on Thursday, May 22, and winds gusted to 16mph. First day scores were decidedly off and only U of British Columbia's Reid Gustavson could manage a total over 3600 for 5 events.

Each of the small college decathlons, when the skies cleared on Friday, May 23rd, were not decided until



National Champs: left: Moravian College (PA) provided the NCAA III champion, Beresford 'Ozzie' Brown, 7192; right: Jonathan Hilton of Oklahoma Baptist was the NAIA winner, 7012. Both PR'd.



the final event. Of the leaders at the break, only Brown hung on for a victory.

In Oshkosh, Brown had extended his lead to over 400 points after 6 events, and then survived a frenetic rush by Stevens Point (WI) senior Kyle Steiner who closed with a fine 4:21.01 1500m where he made up 169 points. Yet, in the end, Brown's PR 7192 point effort was 66 up on Steiner. Linfield junior Josh Lovell was 3rd and his twin brother, Jeremy, placed 6th. Eleven of the 17 Div-III competitors were seniors.

At the Div II affair in Walnut, CA the defending champ Camille Vandendreissche put on an impressive 2nd

day rush and came away with a 34 point victory over Abilene Christian U. teammate Chris Pounds, 7385-7351. Desi Burt led Pounds by 29 and Vandy by 35



Top: Elizabethtown's (PA) Kevin Clark, a 16 ft vaulter, used his specialty to place 4th at the D-3 meet. **Bottom:** Wayne Durham of Adams State PR'd in the high jump at the D-2 meet to place 4th.



going into the 1500m, but could not survive their challenge. The latter posted a 4:33.89 clocking and a 33 second differential over Burt who finished with 7171 points. All American football punter Wayne Durham/ Adams St, was 4th. Vertical jumps highlighted the 12 man affair [Burt's: 2.13m/6-11¾ high jump; Vandy 4.90m/ 16-¾ vault]. The 6-5 French winner negative split the score: 3613-3772.

So too did performances pick up on day two at the NAIA meet in the St. Louis suburb of Edwardsville, IL. Oklahoma Baptist junior Jon Hilton found himself down 81 points on Eastern Oregon's Lucas Ohmes with a single event remaining. He made up 25 seconds (4:31.45) and came away with a PR 7012 score and 71 point win. The seasonal leader, Azusa senior David Pilcher, was a

solid 3rd at 6835. First day leader Gustavson was 4th.



Small college notables: *Upper left:* Desi Burt got a 7171 score for 3rd at D-II.; *upper right:* Azusa Pacific's David Pilcher was bronze medalist at NAIA; *bottom left:* Kyle Steiner/Stevens Point (WI) was D-III runner-up; *bottom right:* Josh Lovell/Linfield was 3rd at D-III.

At the weekend's only other meet, Joe Cebulski won the 3 man and re-scheduled Walton Invitational in Columbia, Missouri. Like the college championships, rain and wind played havoc with efforts/schedule. Cebulski's 7465 score was 427 points better than that of Chris Staton.

Clay Opens Outdoor Season

World IAAF indoor heptathlon champion Bryan Clay opened his outdoor campaign at the Home Depot meeting in Carson, CA on Sunday, May 18, 2008.

100 meters, B section: 10.46 (-0.5) 5th

Discus: 55.06m/180-8, 6th
52.87m 44.35m FOUL FOUL FOUL 55.06m

Hand Timing ?

What to do about hand-timed decathlon Scores?

During the 2008 outdoor season (>150 meets) half a dozen or so were reported with hand timing. Several of the meets were scored correctly but others were entirely mis-scored and mis-reported.

Common Mistakes

1. Adding .24 seconds to every hand timed race.
2. Listing hand timed results in hundredths of seconds---for example, listing a 100m time as 11.82 then noting that it is hand timed. No one can be sure what this means?

-both of these occur too frequently--

Here are a few reminders:

1. Remember that there are only two types of timing--- hand timing (HT) and automatic timing (AT). AT is necessary for record purposes.
2. There are times when HT becomes necessary---breakdown of equipment, unavailable equipment when changing direction of straight races. Other than economic there are few other good reasons for HT and meet directors should plan on having AT available.
3. AT is more beneficial to scores than accurate HT. Only inaccurate HT (providing quick times) is beneficial to scores. For example, the standard conversion between HT/AT for the 100m is .24 seconds. A median HT on a digital watch of, say 11.22 seconds, must be rounded *up* to 11.3 and scored as 744 points. It is not acceptable to just add .24 seconds to 11.22 (11.46 for 761 points).

If the differential is accurate and the HT is accurate, the athlete gets more points with AT than HT. Incidentally it is not acceptable to round *down* (11.22h to 11.2h (765 points)).

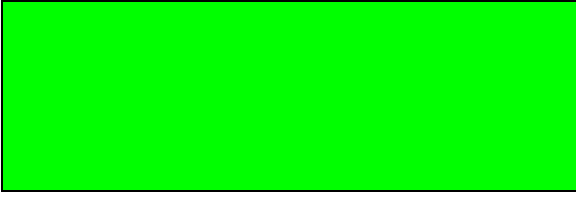
Here are more reminders.

1. Look...if a 100m or 110m hurdles race is hand-timed, the appropriate differential is .24 seconds. The appropriate differential for 400m is .14 seconds. There is no addition for the 1500m---it is all in the rule book and explained in the scoring table booklet. Often meet directors add .24 to every race and the 'official' times are reported as if it is AT (every time ends with "4.") All scores are then erroneous.
2. When placing hand timed races on the score-sheet, designate with an "h." For example, 1n 11.2 hand timed race should be listed as 11.2h, not just "11.2" and certainly not 11.20.

Recommendations

1. Ask AT operators to provide two cameras (set at either end of a straight-aways) in case of wind directions changes. They normally have the cameras and cable. We all want our athletes to run with tailwinds.
2. This is not a dissertation on wind direction, just in accuracy in timing. We want, within legal limits, wind assistance and turning around the direction of races is OK. But when possible, try to have a camera ready.
- 3 Let me reiterate-- only inaccurate HT (providing quick times) is beneficial to scores. Often hand timed scores provoke smirks and suspicions. The HT practice (when economically feasible) should be discontinued. AT provides fairer results *and* higher scores.

---Lets eliminate the smirks---



Only when hand times are inaccurate are points beneficial to athletes. IF accurate, then scores are fairer