

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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INDOOR SEASON LAUNCHED

Emry, Dick, Vogel With Winning Scores

Hello Again...the 2012-2013 indoor season is now underway with a good number of new faces. 116 athletes toed the line during the first two weekends of December in 16 separate CE meets.

The nation's top heptathlon score was turned in by Montana's Austin Emry, a 5623 effort at Eastern Washington's Candy Cane V opener in Cheney, WA. Emry, a junior from Homedale, Idaho, had 5 personal bests, set the UM school record and improved his indoor PR by nearly 500 points.

The land's most competitive affair was waged at Kent State's Golden Flash Gala where Ohio State's talented Cory Kunze, redshirt junior from Bondurant, IA, looked unbeatable after 6 events. The indoor 1000m nets an additional 10/11 seconds for each one second differential.

Yet Kent's Dexter Shreve, senior from Redkey, IN, made up 12 seconds and Lake Superior's D-II frosh from Cedar Spring, MI, Justin Balczak, made up 10 seconds in the final event to produce a blanket finish. When the dust cleared Shreve had a 21 point margin (5263 to 5241) with Balczak another 3 points back. 2011 Big Ten decathlon champ, Heath Nickles of Ohio State, was 4th.

On December 7 Kansas State senior Devin Dick, Hutchinson, KS, squeaked by teammate and '12 NCAA qualifier Tomas Kirilius (3861 to 3721) at the Carol Robinson tune-up pentathlon in Manhattan. They were



Montana's Austin Emry, a junior from Homedale, ID, posted the top early indoor heptathlon score, a 5623 effort at EWU's Candy Cane V.

virtually tied with one event remaining. In 2011 their finish was reversed.

In another pentathlon, at Gladstein Fieldhouse on the IU campus in Bloomington, 2x NCAA high jump champion Derek Drouin/Indiana (a Canadian senior) won easily (4007 points) using his specialty, a 2.15m/7-3/4 vertical leap.

The Doane College Multis in Crete, NE, turned out to be a virtual dual meet between D-II and NAIA power contingents.



Justin Balczak/Lake Superior St (l), Dexter Shreve/Kent State (c), and Cory Kunze/Ohio St (r) posted near identical totals at Kent's Golden Flash Gala.

Brent Vogel, a senior at Central Missouri who red-shirted last spring (a 7519 decathlon scorer in '12) outlasted NAIA indoor scorer Robbie Keeney of the host school, 5450 to 5157. They added 135 and 66 points to undercover PRs respectively.

As for Emry, UM's CE coach Adam Bork had this to say: "Austin looked really good today. He hurdled just like he has been in practice, he looked great in the pole vault, and he ran a great 1,000 meters, which can be tough when you're running by yourself." (ed. Emry competed alone). Bork continued..."I think he can improve 50 points per event, minimum, which would get him close to 6,000 points. And you put him in a big competition like nationals and the adrenaline would add even more."

Given last year's plethora of high qualifying NCAA indoor scores, Emry's 5623 cannot yet be considered a shoo-in qualifier. In 2012, an unusually deep year, there were 22 USA collegians with scores in excess of 5624.



Devin Dick/Kansas State(l) and Brent Vogel/Central Missouri (r), a pair of seniors, got early season wins.

Who's New:

Decathletes New to Collegiate Scene:

7032 Luis Hansler/GER to Memphis

3855i Jake Lazas/Nashville, TN to USAFA

Did not return:

Petter Olsen/Texas-SWE check this???

Return:

7722 Jeremy Taiwo at Washington

Decathlon Coaching changes:

Chris Huffins from Oklahoma to Clemson

Will Thomas from California to Kentucky

Tim Wunderlich from C Missouri to Marietta

Eric Broadbent to North Carolina State

Steve Dolan from Princeton to Penn

Jack Hoyt from CP-SLO to UCLA

Andrew Blaser to Utah State

