

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

Volume XXXVI

Number 11

February (6), 2011

BARREFORS, HORN = 5816 SEC, Big 12 and Others Net Big Marks

Hello Again..... On Friday-Saturday (Feb 25-26) there were 14 collegiate championship meets and the revision of the USA lists continued (see inserts). Thus this 2nd weekend newsletter (Saturday evening) is necessary. A 3rd newsletter will follow tomorrow (Sunday) evening.

A trio of major stories emerged on Saturday afternoon...in Lincoln, NE (Big 12), in Fayetteville, AK (SEC) and in Seattle, WA (Mountain Pacific) where Bjorn Barrefors/Nebraska, Lars Rise/Missouri, K Staters Manta Silkauskas and Moritz Cleve, Gray Horn/Florida and Mike Morrison/Cal punched NCAA tickets. As well mid major meets....Conference USA, Big Sky, Southland and MAC had their day. Here's what happened for meets conducted Fri-Sat. Please note....*it's not over* as several major meets will conclude tomorrow.....Big Ten, Missouri Valley and others.



The day's top heptathlon efforts were found in Lincoln where Florida junior Gray Horn (left) and Nebraska's Bjorn Barrefors (right) won competitive SEC and Big 12 affairs with identical scores, 5816 points.

Big 12 Championships
Feb. 25-26
Lincoln, NE



NCAA D-I LIST [as of the *start of day*, Saturday, Feb 26, 2011]

5903	Moss, Miller	Clemson	1/28-29
5812	Beach, Curtis	Duke	2/24-25
5747	Horn, Gray	Florida	1/28-29
5746	Taiwo, Jeremy	Washington	1/28-29
5698	Cato, Japheth	Wisconsin	1/28-29
5691	Felix, Kurt	Boise St/GRN	2/24-25
5685	Klech, David	Oregon	1/28-29
	[7]		
5674	Soosah, Mateo	North Carolina/FRA	2/24-25
5668	Slupkowski, Krzysztof	Wichita St	2/4-5
5647	Martin, Romain	Texas-Arlington	2/10-11
5645	Brock Spandl	Minnesota	1/28-29
5578	Rise, Lars	Missouri/NOR	1/28-29
5572	Grzesiak, David	Wisconsin	1/28-29
5553	Ayers, Michael	Georgia	1/28-29
	[14]		
5551	Schwecke, Joey	Minnesota	1/28-29
5549	Greaves, Kenny	Texas	1/28-29
5537	York, Richard	New Mexico	2/4-5
5517	Gooris, Dan	N Iowa	1/28-29
5515	Murphy, Isaac	Texas	1/28-29
5509	Lazas, Kevin	Arkansas	1/28-29
	[20]		

Arguably the Big 12 is the strongest CE conference but, up to this point, *no one* had an NCAA I heptathlon qualifier. Not to worry. Speedy Lithuanian junior Mantas Silkauskas, 22, opened the 19 man (!) field with a verrrrrry fast sprint, 6.74, the 3rd fastest 60m ever by a collegian.. Behind him Nebraska junior Bjorn Barrefors (23, Stockholm) and Missouri senior Lars Rise (22, Trondheim, NOR) each equaled sprint PRs.

This meet was off and running. Silky also won the long jump and, by the break, had run up 3301 points. Given an early season 7.74 hurdles and improved vault he appeared a lock. After day one the scores read: Silky 3301, Barrefors 3279, Rise 3242. Comebacking K-Stater Moritz Cleve (24, Bochum, GER) was 6th, ending day one with a PR 2.00m/6-6 ¾ high jump. 7 had surpassed 3k.

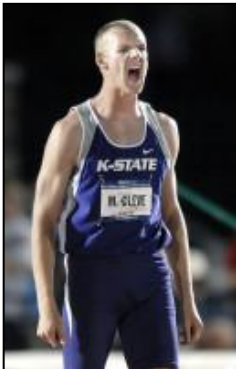
Silky, to no one's surprise since he had clocked 7.74 two weeks earlier, won the 60m hurdles in 7.89 seconds to pad his lead. Barrefors and Rise also put up fast marks, so, at this juncture, all they needed



Kansas State's braintrust, Steve Fritz (Left) and Cliff Rovelto, called the shots for Cleve and Silkauskas in Lincoln.

was to clear a single vault bar to earn a D-I invite. Yet all 3 competed frantically for the win.

Cleve too, ran a quick 8.20 seconds and it would be touch and go whether he could reach the 5675 standard. He had been a 2 x NCAA qualifier and the '09 Big 12 conference indoor and outdoor champ. But, after a season of leg injuries, he was up against it here. No matter. He hunkered down and managed exactly what he needed....4.70m/15-5 in the vault and



Moritz Cleve (left) had lots to shout about in Lincoln. Missouri's Lars Rise used a 16.10m/52-10 shot to nab 2nd.

a sub 2:41 1k and his 4th place 5698 score may have been the most satisfying.

All around him top performances abounded. Barrefors grabbed the lead from Silky during the vault by clearing 6 more bars while Rise equaled all three second day career bests. When the dust cleared Barrefors had an impressive 5816 win, 60 points ahead of Rise with Silkauskas another 5 digits back. *All three scores were lifetime bests.* Wow. Yet the most jubilant athlete in the house was Cleve who not only was headed back to the nationals after a year of injuries, but who also virtually slammed the door on anyone who did not achieve the D-I qualifying measure.



**Mountain Pacific Conference
Feb. 25-26
Seattle, WA**

23 year old Cal senior Mike Morrison (Chesapeake, VA) had suffered a sluggish season. Inside the cavernous Washington field house he fashioned 4 workmanlike marks on day one of the big Mountain Pacific Conf meet (17 starters) to lead Oregon freshman Dakotah Keys, 3157 to 3043 after 4. Morrison, with a 5826 PR, had been 3rd at the NCAAs in both 2008 and 2010 and this was PR pace. Keys, 19, Sweet Home, OR, was mild surprise.

Morrison was close to a career best in the final hurdles race (8.29) by Keys was well off his best (8.67) to start day two. After 1 4.67m/15-3³/₄ vault Morrison was left with an insurmountable lead and needed needing 2:47 to achieve the D-I qualifying standard.....not a given since his PR was just over 2:44. Morrison ran within himself the entire way and clocked 2:24.17. His score.....5694/ He was in!



They're in....Cal's Mike Morrison (left) won the Mountain Pacific meet and Mantas Silkauskas used hurdle skills for 3rd at the Big 12 meet...both qualified for the NCAAs.

Southeastern Conf Champs

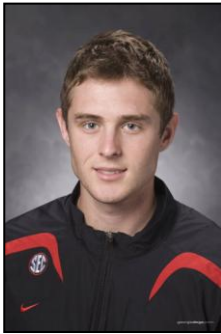
Feb. 25-26

Fayetteville, AK



Florida junior Gray Horn (Wapakoneta, OH), 5 days after his 21st birthday, made gator meat of the day one of the SECs. Even though he was on PR (5743) pace the story was whether pair of Tennesseans: Georgia junior Michael Ayers, 22 (Nashville, TN), and Arkansas frosh Kevin Lazas, (19, Brentwood, TN) could reach the 5675 goal. Lazas posted 3 1st day PRs and stood with 3186 points, 65 up on Ayers who had transferred from Tennessee after the retirement of Bill Webb in 2009.

On day 2 Horn was supreme, managing 8.00 hurdles and a PR 4.80m/15-9 vault, then cruised the 1000m and finished with....5816, the identical winning score at the Big 12 meet. But the story in Fayetteville was whether Lazas, who put together a sound 2nd day, could run



Much different outcomes at the SEC meet for a pair of former Tennessee prep champs....Michael Ayers (left) Georgia junior, was 3rd while Arkansas freshman Kevin Lazas(right) was 2nd, 1 point shy of the NCAA standard.

2:47.63, necessary for 5675. His PR was 2:49.00. Oh boy, it was the Sossah story, day two.....and, freakishly, with the *identical* outcome. Needing 2:4763 he clocked a PR 2.....47.....71 and scored, you guessed it, 5674 points and 1 point shy of the auto standard. Oh boy...does this set up and ethical dilemma for the NCAA selection committee.

Ayers, not back to where he was 2 years earlier, was 3rd with fine 5578 total.

Other Fri-Sat Meets

As if the action in Lincoln, Fayetteville and Seattle were not enough, there was plenty of noise with the CE 'mid-major' conferences. At the Southland affair in Norman Texas-Arlington's new recruit Romain Martin upped his PR to 5728. With one event remaining he needed a 2:51.44 clocking and did not cut it close, getting 2:46.33. He waged a terrific battle with Matt Johnson of Sam Houston State who posted a terrific 5563 PR, a score that has allowed athletes in to the D-I meet every year until now. Looking at the final weekend tally, it likely will not even be in the top 20 collegiate score.

At the same time drama in the form of "can he or can't he" was playing out at the Conference USA champs in Houston where Houston senior Wesley Bray needed exactly his PR (2:49.43) for the 5675 total. He managed.....are you ready?....2.....49....78 and came up 4 points short. The same scene was playing out again and again.

Elsewhere Russell Cameron captured the Mid-American meet in Bowling Green with a 5364 score. And Idaho State vaulter (he cleared 5.20m/17-¾) won the Big Sky champs with a PR 5456 total.

In non-D-I action, Saginaw's Tyler Grob was the Great Lakes IAC winner (5012) while Central Missouri's Brent Vogel topped teammate Shawn Boss for the MIAA title. Both are D-II leagues. Although qualifying is not over, last year's champion, Darius Walker (also of Central Missouri and 5th here) is in danger of not qualifying for the national II meet. Ben

Thill/Steven's Point, won the Wisconsin Intercollegiate pentathlon with a 3592 total.

Be reminded that there's plenty of national action tomorrow, but, as of Saturday evening, there are 13 NCAA-I auto qualifiers and three others within 4 points. Stay tuned.

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