

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## VALENTINE WEEKEND

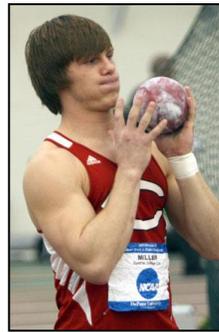
### Qualifying Continues

**Hello Again.....**The 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of February was much quieter than the first. A dozen indoor combined events were conducted nationally, all with the eye on qualifying for the season ending national/international meets. Lithuanian Darius Draudvilia produced the top score on Valentine weekend, a 5781 performance while winning the Iowa State Classic in Ames. Prepping for the European indoor championships in Paris on March 3-4, Draudvilia, who continues to train at Kansas State University in Manhattan, was a surprise 6<sup>th</sup> at the '10 European outdoor championships last fall.

'10 Big 12 outdoor champ Nick Adcock (ex-Missouri) was 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ames with 5669 points. Pat Woods (4<sup>th</sup> a year ago) and Dan Kinsey prepped for the USA indoor nationals in Bloomington (scheduled for March 5-6) with a 1-2 finish at the Akron open. Woods ('09 Big Ten outdoor champ while at Ohio State) workmanlike 5513 effort was a PR. He was 4<sup>th</sup> a year ago.

On the collegiate side, 6-7 Frenchman Romain Martin, a 22 year old freshman at Texas-Arlington, fashioned the weekend's top collegiate score, a 5647 mark for 3<sup>rd</sup> in Ames. His mark is now 8<sup>th</sup> on the NCAA D-1 roll. With cutthroat conference meetings coming up in the next two weekends it now appears that the only sure way of collecting a ticket to the NCAA I affair in College Station is to meet the auto standard of 5675, such has been the improvement in 2011 performances. (See the "Results Page"). A year ago a score of 5540 was sufficient to gain entrance to the annual 14 man field. Not any longer! AT present 5 have met the auto standard and another 4 have scored in excess of 5600 points. The D-I Conference championships begin next weekend and one can bet that, in the 1000 meter races of each of those 2 dozen meets, there will be a lot of energy expended. Never has the quality of the collegiate heptathlon been so elevated.

There was lots of news on other collegiate fronts. In NAIA meets Eastern Oregon junior Robbie Haynie, Mesa, AZ, won the Boise State Team



**Top weekend scores were posted by D-III Central College's Ethan Miller (left) in the pentathlon –3876; and a 5647 heptathlon mark at the D-I level by Romain Martin, (right) a Texas-Arlington freshman from Le Mans, France.**

Challenge heptathlon with a season leading 5225 score. His mark included a PR 5.25m/17-2¾. In other NAIA news, Azusa's Jeff Altizer won a home bound heptathlon in 4949.

At the D-III level the news came out of the Darren Young pentathlon at Grinnell. There Central College's Ethan Miller (junior, Seymour, IA) posted the season's top 5-event score, 3876, using a 2.04m/6-8 ¼ high jump. Senior teammate Kurtis Brondyke (Clinton, IA) also raised his lifetime best with a 3759 runner-up effort.

#### Ashton Eaton WR Tape on 'Net

For those who may have missed it, Ashton Eaton's indoor world heptathlon record is posted on the Oregon Elite track club web site. It's worth a look. Unfortunately the 60m hurdle race is not part of the video. I believe there were technical difficulties in the taping immediately before the race. The web address is: <http://www.runnerspace.com/OTCelite>.



**Robbie Haynie/Eastern Oregon vaulted (5.25m/17-2¾) to the top NAIA score of the season.**

A dozen additional meets are scheduled for next weekend (Feb. 18-19-20) including 4 east coast conferences (Big East, Atlantic Ten, Patriot League and America East).

The most eye-opening individual result of the weekend for CEers may have been the 60m hurdle performances turned in by K-State junior Mantas Silkauskas, at the Tyson meet in Fayetteville. His 3 hurdle races: 7.83, 7.74, 7.88. The indoor CR in a CE is Jangy Addy's (Tennessee) 7.74.

### USATF Reminder.....

A Reminder for collegiate coaches whose athletes (US citizens) put up big numbers by the end of the conference season yet do not qualify for the NCAA D I meet. ***Consider the USATF champs in Bloomington, IN on March 5-6.*** It is a high quality affair (Jake Arnold is 3x and defending champ) on a high quality facility at IU. Attached above are the qualifying standards which are a bit softer than those of the NCAA and the qualifying period extends from Jan of last year to Feb 27 of 2011. One can use indoor heptathlon or pentathlon scores, or last season's decathlon marks. The standards are: 7700 dec, 5450 hept, 3850 pent.