

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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FINAL MARCH WEEKEND

Cuba's Suarez 8415, Texas Relays Next

Hello Again.....With decathletes starting their season later than normal in 2009, the final weekend in March (with 11 meetings) netted only a few national qualifying scores. A decade ago most decathletes would have posted their first score by this date. But the heptathlon inclusion in the NCAAs, the latter's late date, and the decathlon purging of some major meets (read: Florida Relays) the 2009 season won't really get under way until this week's Texas Relays.

Although former Longhorn notables Donovan Kilmartin (retired) and Trey Hardee (will open in Götzis) will not start in Austin the entry list reads like a collegiate "who's who." The decathlon will be held on Wednesday-Thursday (April 1-2).

From last week's meets Matt Bushnell/Fresno St (6828) and Kyle Mills-Bunje/Cal (6778) at Cal-Davis and Marshall Ackley/Oregon (6702) at Big Green in *Desert* posted the week's highest D-I scores, where 6900 is a provisional mark. At Davis veteran Mark Jellison, 26 (ex UConn) posted the top weekend score of 7254.

There were more positive results for athletes at the smaller schools at the other NCAA divisions. Chico's Jake Nelson scored 6734 at Davis. We overlooked that last week's 6954 auto D-II score of 25 year old recruit junior Carsten Krohn/Ashland from Steinberg, Germany (7254 PR in Ratingen '08) while winning at Shamrock in Myrtle Beach, NC.

At D-III level the Linfield Invitational was dominated by the host school's Lovell twins (Josh 6582, Jeremy 6172) while Case Western's Nwana Obinna's netted 6214 at Alabama Relays. As always, check our results page.

Top:(l) Leonel Suarez/ Cuba, Olympic bronze medalist, scored 8415 in Havana; (r) Ashland U's Carsten Krohn /Steinberg, GER, Won at Myrtle Beach. Bottom: (l) Josh Lovell, Jr, Vancouver, WA won at Linfield;(r) Oregon's Marshall Ackley, Jr, Nyssa, OR captured Big Green in the *Desert* in Mesa.



Since most of us are not familiar enough (perhaps I should say 'confused') with the metric system (recall please: our event is *metric!*) it may be time to bring out the conversion booklets. A poem overheard at Big Green in *Desert* recently:

"meters ?, meters?, meters?"
said Steel to McVein and Ackley
"them's numbers for other folks,
but not for us exactly."



2009 Qualifying Standards



	--Decathlon--		--Heptathlon--	
	auto	provisional	auto	provisional
NCAA I	7500	6900	5500	5050
NCAA II	6900	6400	4800	4400
NCAA III	6600	6050	4600	4100
USA Sr	7550		5500	5400
USA Jr	6200	6250(hs)	4200	

World Decathlon News

The Cuban team got an early start in Havana as talented youngsters Lionel Suarez, 21, and Yordani Garcia, 20, banged out eye-opening scores of 8415 and 8365.

March 6-7, Havana	
1. Suarez: 8415	[10.93+0.2 729+1.4 1398 211 48.97 14.38-0.8 4236470 7293 4:26.51]
2. Garcia: 8365	[10.70+0.2 733-0.3 1620 202 4857 14.31-0.8 4201 470 6838 4:44.94]