

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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CLAREMONT QUALIFIERS

First Major Weekend for Conference Championships

Hello Again.... This was the first of three weeks wherein collegians contest for conference titles and qualifying marks for national meets. The week covered (April 27 thru May 3) offered 28 meets nationwide, 26 of them collegiate conference affairs (7 NCAA D-I, 5 D-II, 8 D-III, 3 NAIA, 3 JC). Yet the open meet at Claremont, CA stood tall for top conditions and scores. I could never remember all the small, private colleges that, years ago, were folded into Claremont Consortium of Colleges, a dozen miles east of Los Angeles. Let's see, Pitzer, Claremont, Harvey Mudd, Pomona, Scripps, McKennadid I get them all? But this past weekend the names were replaced by Burt, Marsh, Hall and others who used the blue track on N. Mills Ave for breakthrough scores and national qualifiers. The top 3 scores, all PRs, went to talented post-collegians.

Desi Burt, 23, the former CCAA champ from Cal State-LA, held off Mike Marsh, 28, Cedarville '02, assistant coach at Azusa Pacific, 7645-7623. Former Heptagonal champion Andrew Hall, 25, Dartmouth '05, was 3rd with 7357, 139 points better than his lifetime best. Burt and Marsh earned their first USATF national qualifying scores (7550). Amazingly, with 281 athletes competing, only 4 (all at Claremont, Jon Collins the other) surpassed 7000 points.

In the week's only other non-conference meet, in Fargo at the Team Nodak affair, NDSU's Matt Bishoff used a 23



The top 3 finishers at Claremont, all of whom PR'd were: Desi Burt/Vs Athletics (l); Mike Marsh/unat (c), and Andrew Hall/Foundation elite (r).

second margin in the 1500 to defeat teammate Weston Leutz by a single digit, 6935-6934

At the D-I level UConn's Sean Smith, a senior from Scotch Plains, NJ, posted the highest effort, a PR 6946 provisional mark to win the Big East Conference meet at Villanova where teammates also went 3-4-5. Smith had to hold off Notre Dame soph Justin Schneider (6862), 19, Atlanta, who used a 4:20.62 to make up 94 points in the final event.

Other D-I champs included Lehigh's EJ Schuck whose first day lead and 6348 effort won the Patriot League crown in West



Lehigh's EJ Schuck, SR, Washington Twp, NJ, won the Patriot League crown.

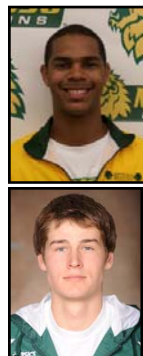
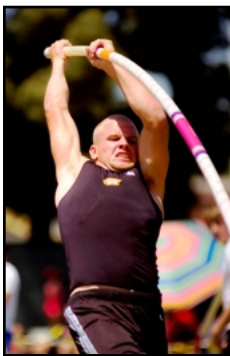


Dakari Taylor-Watson, (l) Morgan States junior from Williamsburg, VA, won the MEAC title. Justin Schneider, (c) Notre Dame's soph from Atlanta could not catch up to Sean Smith (r), Connecticut senior from Scotch Plains, NJ at the Big East Conf meet.

Point; Durante Ponder, Jackson St, who won the SWAC in Houston with 5964; Mike Savegnago/Illinois-Chicago whose 5932 won the Horizon title, and Dakari-Taylor-Watson of Morgan State who used a 6236 to win the MEAC in Greensboro.

Early in the week (4/26-27) Philip Horn, a Missouri Southern senior from Coffeyville, Kansas, won the MIAA meet in Marysville with a D-II provisional mark of 6664, a day before Bemidji's Zac Preble, who already had a solid qualifying mark, captured another Northern Sun meet in spite of no-heighting in the vault. German Carsten Krohn of Ashland won the Great Lakes IAC (6619) decathlon, but he too had a solid D-II qualifier coming in.

The week's top D-II score was posted in Chico, at the CCAA decathlon, by Cal State-LA senior Josh Linker, Angels Camp, CA, a 6782 provisional. Peter Hollenbeck,



D-II winners included CCAA champ Jeff Linker/CSULA (l); Phil Horn (top) Missouri

Southern, the MIAA winner, and Bemidji's Zac Preble, the Northern Sun winner.



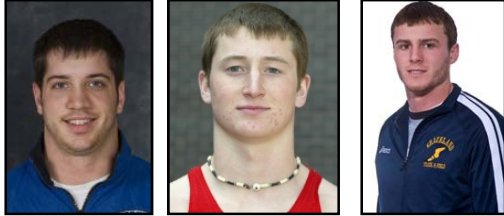
D-III winners included: (l) Kurtis Brondyke, Central (IA) soph from Clinton; and James Spaulding (r), Lewiston, senior from Southern Maine.

Missouri S&T, was the Great Lakes Valley winner (6202) in Indianapolis.

The week's D-III action began in Ithaca where Cory Petermann of the host school, captured the NYSCTC meet with 6216. On May 1st James Spaulding, a Lewiston senior at Southern Maine cranked the season's 3rd best D-III mark, getting a PR 6679 to win the New England's in Springfield, MA. On the same day Braydon Wagner/St Johns, was the Minnesota Intercollegiate winner with a lifetime best 6435, a provisional likely to get him into the nationals in Marietta, OH. Wagner held a 7 point penultimate lead, then ran 4:25.78 to secure the win. Justin Del Piano won the Mid-Atlantic Conference meet in Elizabethtown, PA, while, down the road in Lancaster, Adam Waddell of Johns Hopkins PR'd at the Centennial League meet with a 6450 provisional, sure to get him to Marietta also.

Kenton Rauderdink/Carthage was victorious in Kenosha at the CCIW affair (6269) and Kurtis Brondyke (6491) led a 1-2-3 Iowa Intercollegiate sweep for the Dutch and Central College coach Guy Mosher. Ethan Miller (6444) is certain of a national ticket, but bronze medalist Jim Whorley (6335) will be on the bubble. Mike Dellerman/Stevens Point, was a winner at the Wisconsin state meet in Oshkosh. In all the week produced one auto and a dozen D-III provisional scores.

The NAIA normally accepts the top 16 seasonal scores for its nationals ('09 in Edwardsville, IL). The winning 6080 for Trevor Willis of Dickinson St, while winning the Dakota AC in Jamestown, will be close. But Aaron Steensma, the talented freshman at



A trio of additional small college winners included: Adam Waddell (l), Altoona, PA, a Johns Hopkins U senior who won the Centennial League crown; Braydon Wagner(c), St Johns(MN) senior from Englevale, ND, who won the Minnesota Intercollegiates; and Ben Brummit (r), a Graceland senior from Unionville, MO, the Heart of America conference champ.

Roberts Wesleyan (Rochester, NY), who won the National Christian College meet in Marion, IN (6200) and Ben Brummit, Graceland's senior from Unionville, MO, who

won the Heart of America affair with 6215, are sure of national invites. Both won easily.

In Junior College action Phil Noble (6-1 soph, Vale, OR) of Treasure Valley CC (the Chukars of Ontario, OR) won the NWAACC meet in Spokane with a fine 6622 score, the weekend's top JC score.

In all 282 athletes went to the starting line this past week and 26 achieved national qualifying scores (3 auto, 23 provisional).

A reminder for NCAA decathletes /coaches-- the deadline date for qualifying for the 2009 meets (as I read the rulebook) are:

<u>Meet-qualifying deadline- deca meet date</u>		
D- I	May 31	June 11
<i>-2nd Sunday prior to preliminary rounds-</i>		
D-II	May 10	May 21
<i>-2nd Sunday prior to meet-</i>		
D-III	May 15	May 21
<i>-Friday prior to meet-</i>		