

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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CLEVE'S 8004 HIGHLIGHT WEEKEND

Speedy Big 12 in Lubbock

Hello Again....what a weekend to have computer glitches! By the time I got my computer back on Saturday evening the entire collegiate qualifying picture had altered. And what news! Of the 16 meets (13 collegiate conference champs plus 3 invitationals) conducted near the end of last week (May 12-16) almost all had an impact on the USA lists and who gets invited to the national meets.

No meet was more influential than the Big 12 meet in Lubbock, Texas on May 15-16. When, a month ago, Kansas State coach Cliff Rovelto remarked that "...it might take an 8000 score to win the Big 12," he was being prophetic. When the dust cleared (it was windy on the Texas Panhandle) K-State soph Mortitz Cleve, 22, Bochum, GER, had posted an 8004 winning effort, the 30th collegian score ever over 8k. The Big 12 meet was so deep that a 7030 (9th place score) had no impact on team standings. Cleve was not alone in the Wildcat parade...freshman teammate Mantas Silkauskas, 20, Kaunas, Lithuania, PR'd with a 7706 effort, while soph Rok Derzanic, 21, Artice, Slovenia, was 5th with a PR 7535. Sandwiched in between was Texas A&M senior Trinity Otto, 22, Lindsay, TX, and Missouri soph Lars Rise, 20, Trondheim, Norway who both posted 7600+ PR efforts.

The very first event signaled what was to come. The speedy Silkauskas, who had a 10.65 sprint PR, coasted in with an eye-opening 10.34 clocking, 1/100th better than



Kansas State's Moritz Cleve (right) nailed an eye-opening 8004 score to win the Big-12 meet in Lubbock, Texas. His score stand #2 on the US collegiate list.



Trey Hardees three year old collegiate record. The first 6 runners in section I PR'd.

'Home field advantage' provided useful for a trio of Ohioans, two who were prep teammates: Big Ten winner Patrick Woods, Ohio State, a senior from East Liverpool (Beaver Local HS), won on his home track in Columbus while upsetting Minnesota's R.J. McGinnis, 7405 – 7330, and Dan Kinsey, junior from East Liverpool and



Northern Iowa senior Mat Clark, Ames, IA used a big 2nd day to post a 7785 winning effort at the Missouri Valley Conference meet in Terre Haute, IN.



Likely NCAA qualifiers over the weekend include: left-Clemson's Miller Moss, 2nd at Deacon; center-Notre Dame's Justin Schneider won at Gregory; right-Idaho State's Nathan Capps, who won the Big Sky title.

Beaver Local, won the Mid-American meet at Akron with a 7445 PR. Meanwhile Florida frosh Gray Horn, 19, Wapakoneta, OH, upset Tennessee's Michael Ayers at Percy Beard Track in Gainesville, 7389-7366. The week started with a pair of invitationals, (*May 12-13/Tues-Wed*) both of which netted big scores. At the Demon Deacon meet in Winston-Salem former Badger Joe Detmer used a signature 4:10.66 to run up a fine 7760 score. Clemson's Miller Moss, 21, a soph from Sumter, SC, earned his first national invite scoring 7323.

At the Gregory Multi's in Naperville, IL, a meet usually segmented for D-III athletes, Notre Dame soph Justin Schneider, 20, a soph from Atlanta, netted a nice 7307 winning score, adding 334 points to his PR.

May 13-14/Wed-Thurs

At the Big Sky champs in Missoula, Idaho State senior Nathan Capps, 25, Jerome, Idaho, added 201 points to his PR by winning his 3rd league crown. Defending champ Nick Trubachik/Portland State, 20, Estacada, OR, wound up second with a 178 lifetime improvement, to 7236. Skylar Morgan, USAFA, captured the Mountain West league meet in Laramie, WY (6750) after favorite and leader Meelis Kosk, BYU and Estonia, vault no-heighted.

May 14-15/Thurs-Fri

Phillip Adam/Rice and Morgan Floyd/Houston waged a terrific battle at the Conference USA affair in Tulsa. Adam, 21, a junior from Santa Maria, CA, added 304 points to his lifetime best, netting a 7331 score, sure to be good enough for a ticket to

Fayetteville. Floyd posted a 128 point improvement, to 7135w.

North Dakota States Matt Bishoff (7026) led a 1-2-3-4-5-7 Bison sweep of the places (perhaps the most dominating team scoring in any meet history) at the Summit League meet in Cedar City, UT. And Utah State's John Strang (7030) won a 3rd WAC on his home track in Logan.



At Wake Forest's Demon Deacon decathlon Joe Detmer (left) ran up a fine 7760 score while the host's Brent LaRue (right) did not make it to the discus throw.

May 15-16/Fri-Sat

Pittsford, NY senior Matt Joseph, RPI, captured the ECAC Div III meet in Springfield, MA with a 267 point PR scoring an auto 6602. More significant, Joseph had stood 17th on the NCAA D-III list (where the top 16 are invited to the nationals) beforehand. He bumped Baldwin-Wallace's Steve Price to 17th.

Nick Chernikow/East Tennessee State, set a meet record (6197) while winning the Atlantic Sun Conference meet in Jacksonville, FL. In Columbus, as noted above, Woods topped McGinnis while both Minnesota soph Joey Schwecke (7014) and Michigan State frosh Cliff Miller (6903) struggled with the javelin and recorded provisional marks.

Northern Iowa's Mat Clark added 94 digits to his PR in winning the Missouri Valley Conference meet (7785) by over 800 points. His discus, vault and javelin all lifetime bests.



Three Ohioans won major conference crowns: left-Patrick Woods/Ohio State was the Big Ten champ; center-Dan Kinsey/Akron won the MCA crown; right-Gray Horn was the SEC titleist.

Liberty U senior Dan Newell, Roanoke, VA easily won the IC4A meet at Princeton with a 7020 score, no improvement over his earlier seasonal effort of 7255 which stood 27th on the NCAA D-I list. In 2008 the top 26 scorers were invited to the national meet. The deadline date for D-I qualifying is May 31.

As expected there were plenty of disappointments along the way. Half a dozen expected D-I qualifiers found vexing problems over the weekend. For example, NCAA indoor qualifier Brent LaRue of Wake Forest, 22, Kernersville, NC, after running a huge 47.58 400m PR, was unable to finish the next event. LaRue, listed as a senior, has been injured so frequently it is difficult to tell what sort of future eligibility he has. At present, he has no qualifier.

Another indoor qualifier, John Strang of Utah State, who was 6th in College Station (with PR 5532 heptathlon) fell victim to the shot put an managed only a 8.90m/29-2½ stand. A normal toss and motivation to race the final event likely would have moved him into qualifying position. In Columbus talented Wisconsin soph Derek Steinbach dragged a trail leg around a hurdle (I didn't think that was possible nowadays?) and his

Rice junior Phillip Adam, right, was the Conference USA winner in Tulsa.



'dq' blew any chance of advancing.

Even the Big 12 meet in Lubbock was not without its frustrations. For example, Kansas State senior and 2007 outdoor qualifier Adam Fretwell may have been on his way back to the nationals when he threw a trio of discs out of bounds. Yet the major news, as it often does, surrounded the vault. Missouri's Nick Adcock, 21, Kansas City, MO, nh'd at his opening bar. 4th indoor and out at the past two NCAA affairs, it is up in the air if he'll find another qualifying opportunity before the May 31 cut-off-date. To his credit, Adcock stayed with the meet and finished with a strong javelin and six second lifetime best (4:29.94) in the 1500m. It's pretty easy to project what his final score would have been in Lubbock had he just made the opening height of 4.05m/13-3½ (7690). Adcock has a lifetime vault best of 4.65m/15-3.



Big 12 PR efforts were posted by: left-Rok Derzanic/Kansas State soph (7535); center- Trinity Otto/Texas A&M senior (7655); and right-Lars Rise/Missouri soph (7617).

What is Wind-Aided?

Finally, a short note about what is a wind-aided mark for decathlons. There was so much wind at many of the weekend meets that it may be useful to summarize the windy rules, especially in light of the fine sprint mark by K-States Mantas Silkauskas.

Two points: first, no *individual* mark, for record purposes, is considered wind-aided if the wind reading is 4.0 mps or less. Thus the 10.34 sprint by Silkauskas should be

considered a record, in this case, the American collegiate mark (breaking the 3 year old 10.35 by Trey Hardee/Texas at 2006 Texas Relays). Second, the rule for a **total score** has not changed in the last year and I repeat the ruling first discussed in Newsletter 19, April, 2008:

IAAF-USATF-NCAA rules:

For the decathlon: a decathlon score is approved for “record” purposes if one of the following conditions is satisfied:

- wind velocity in each events (100m, long jump, 110mH) does not exceed +4.0 mps.
- The mean (not median!) velocity does not exceed +2.0 mps. *Saying this another way-- the total of wind readings can not **exceed** +6.0 mps*

Thus the mark for Houston’s Morgan Floyd (at Conference USA in Tulsa) has to be carried as a windy score. More disturbing is the fact that some major meets (eg, Big Sky championships over the past weekend) do not report wind readings?