

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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GOPHER GOLDEN

McGinnis 5511 Score Dominates Weekend

Hello Again....It took a while for the indoor season to heat up but January's 3rd full weekend (Jan 22-23-24) of 7 heptathlons netted a dozen performances over 5000 points, one NCAA Div I auto qualifying score, a pair of provisionals, and a Div II auto mark. Vault no heights cost fine scores for two other (Fagan, Leutz), but this weekend belong to 6-5 Minnesota Junior R.J. McGinnis (Burnsville, MN) who won the Jack Johnson heptathlon in Minneapolis with a PR and D-I auto mark of 5511.

Third at last year's Big Ten decathlon and 16th at the NAAs at Drake, the 21 year old Gopher recorded PRs in all 3 running events (7.13, 8.31, 2:49.40) to post the nation's (admittedly it's verrrry early in the season) top 7 event score, 5511 points. Sophomore teammate Brock Spandl, (5.20m vaulter from Moorhead, MN) was 2nd with a provisional 5319 score. Five surpassed 5k.

Liberty University senior Dan Newell (6-0, Roanoke, VA) won the 14 man Liberty



At Indiana's Gladstein Invt IU frosh Derek Drouin (left) leaped 2.16m/7-1. But teammate Chris Sackman (right) won the meet at 4718.

Open in Lynchburg. Last year's IC4A bronze medalist outdoors, managed a 5346 effort putting on the NCAA provisional list.



Above: Minnesota Junior R.J. McGinnis, (6-5 Burnsville, MN), posted the weekend's top seven event score, a 5511 win at Jack Johnson in Minneapolis.

Below: Top efforts won posted by Brock Spandl/ Minnesota (left) who PR's at 5319. Center: Dan Newell, Liberty senior, who also PR's at 5346, and Phillip Horn, a 6-0 senior at Missouri Southern, who won the Razorback affair with a Div II qualifier of 5107.



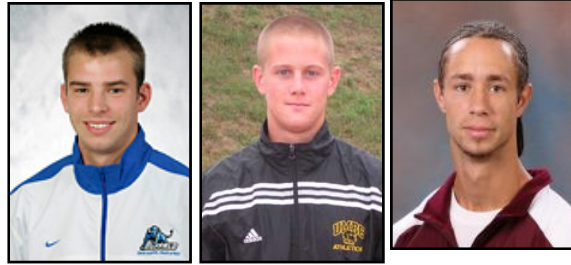
Isaac Combs, a 6-2 senior at Louisiana-Monroe (Manhattan, KS) was the winner at the LSU Combined Events meeting in Baton Rouge which kicked off the weekend. His 5071 score was 46 better than

Cory Roberts/SE Louisiana St. IU's redshirt Chris Sackman won the Gladstein affair in Bloomington where frosh teammate Derek Drouin (18, Corounna, Ontario-sister Jill was NCAA heptathlon scorer for Syracuse) opened eyes with a 2.16/7-1 high jump (total score 4673).

At the Razorback Invitational in Fayetteville, Missouri Southern senior (6-0, Coffeyville, KS) topped a 12 man field with a PR 5107 effort, an auto at D-II. Early leader Jon Fagan/Cowboy All Stars ('07 Southland champ from McNeese St) was on way to 5400+ before vault no height.

Buffalo junior Russell Cameron (6-0, Ballston Lake, NY) won the Upstate Challenge heptathlon at Cornell at 4880. Meanwhile former UMBCer Keith Onto (Point Pleasant, NJ) hammered a big field (23 starters) at the John Covert Multis at Lehigh University (John succeeded me at Lehigh in 1967!) in Bethlehem, PA with a 5096 effort, 98 more than Edwin Schuck of the host school.

A dozen meets, several of them major, fill next weekend's schedule. As always, check our 'Results Page' posting for full details.



Weekend indoor heptathlon winners included: (left) Russell Cameron/Buffalo who won at Cornell; (center) Keith Onto/ex-/UMBC who won at Lehigh; and (right) Isaac Combs/LA-Monroe, the LSU champ.