

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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SOUTHLAND, BIG-EAST NOISE

King, Wolfe with Wins

Hello Again...The Big East and the Southland conferences, a pair of mid-major multi event leagues (remember, we're not talking basketball here) made the most noise on the Feb 20-22 weekend, the first of two "conference championship" weekends. In both, the eventual winners/defending champs had an opportunity for 5500+ scores, a level now seen necessary for NCAA D-1 selection.

In Houston Tommy Wolfe, a 6-1, 185 lb senior from Texas-San Antonio took a big lead into the 1000m of the Southland Conference championship. He settled for a 5256 PR score that enabled him to defend his title, but the Raymondsville, TX native's 3:12.26 1k time left him just 21 up on the fast charging Cory Roberts/SE Louisiana State. In Houston five exceeded 5000 points.

The Big East meet at NYC's Armory attracted 10 starters and UConn's talented sophomore Aaron King led from wire to wire. His first day's marks of 7.11, 7.29m/23-11, 15.07m/49-5½ and 1.96m /6-5 raised aficionado's eyebrows. Needing a 2:57 for 5500 the 19 year old Wharton, NJ native (Morris Hill HS) also ran out of gas clocking 3:01.32 for a 5460 PR score. A year earlier he had become the first freshman to win the Big East indoor heptathlon. Syracuse senior Jon Buice also PR's getting 5399 but Rick Miller's Huskies, important in team consideration, took 4 of the top 7 spots.



Conference winners Tommy Wolfe/left and Aaron King/right both got PR scores over the weekend. Wolfe's 5256 won the Southland title while King's 5460 topped the Big East Conference.

Elsewhere at D-1 the weekend's other significant effort came from Lehigh's E.J. Schuck, Washington Twp, NJ, who captured the Patriot League crown with 5011 points in Annapolis. There were six D-1 conference affairs. The only NAIA league meet (Heart of American Conference) was won with 4882 by Graceland's Ben Brummit at home in Lamoni.

The most exciting multi of the weekend was staged at MIT in Cambridge, MA where Coast Guard cadet Jesse Cremeans, a sophomore from Gloucester, MA, went from 4th to first in the final event by virtue of a 2:36.90 1000 meters to win the New England Div III crown. His final 3429 was a D-III qualifier.

Earlier in the week Zach Preble/Bemidji St won the Northern Sun League meet with a PR 5012 score.

The Feb 27-March 1 weekend will be the busiest of the indoor campaign with 20! conference meets planned including big 5” -- SEC, Big 12, Mtn Pacific, Big 10 and Missouri Valley—which have supplied 70% of all NCAA entrants in men’s combined events, indoors and out, for the past 5 seasons.



Left: Jesse Cremeans/US Coast Guard Academy won NE Div III, and E.J. Schuck/Lehigh was the Patriot League winner.

What Does it Take to: Win-Score-Qualify at the NCAA I Indoor Men’s Heptathlon

We do this each year. 2009 will see the 6th NCAA I Men’s Indoor heptathlon.

Texas’ Donovan Kilmartin won three of the first four affairs. The following table may be useful for coaches and athletes; That is, what it takes to win, place (top 8) and qualify for this meet. Normally the NCAA Games Committee is looking for a field of approximately 16 (minimum 14) starters. The automatic qualifying standard is set relatively high so that the Committee will dip into the provisional qualifier list to fill the field. All meets have been at the Tyson Center on the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville. This years meet moves to Texas A&M in College Station.

	<u>Win</u>	<u>Top 8</u>	<u>Last qualifier</u>
2004	6136	5501	5483
2005	6004	5421	5402
2006	6048	5476	5412
2007	5998	5511	5478
2008	5951	5645	5511

Year by year Standards and Qualifiers