

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## UIBO, LAZAS, BEACH –LEAD 1st DAY High Jump Heroics

**Hello Again....**Early spring in Albuquerque, usually means chilly mornings and high, sunny skies. But there was nothing remotely cold about the 11th NCAA I men's heptathlon being conducted in the city's downtown Convention Center. With 10 returnees from last year's 16 man field including four of the top five and the return to NCAA wars of Curtis Beach/Duke, the 2012 national champ (from Albuquerque no less!), this meet duped to be the most competitive ever. Ever! And that's saying some since '13 winner Kevin Lazas/Arkansas and runnerup, the tall Jay Cato/Wisconsin were just itching for another round at one another. Last March in Fayetteville it was Lazas who won the collegiate title in the final strides of the 1000m by a scant 10 points. Inject Beach's legendary middle distance skills into this mix and it could produce one heckuva meet. Here's what happened on day one.

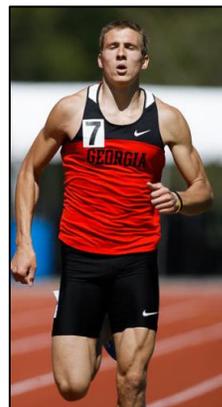
**11th NCAA I Heptathlon  
Convention Center  
Albuquerque, NM  
March 14-15, 2014**



**60 Meters:** [10:02 – 10:07 am]

240 spectators (most seemingly here for another day at their favorite Beach) greeted the 16 selectees at 10:00 am and were seeded into two sprint sections.

After a false start (Maicel Uibo/Georgia) in the first race Beach (lane 2), with



Three top collegiate heptathlon performers- top (l-r), Maicel Uibo and Curtis Beach, and (left) Kevin Lazas/Arkansas, cooked up a competitive stew at the 11th NCAA indoor heptathlon in downtown Albuquerque.



dependable Dakotah Keys/Oregon on his left and Estonian contender Uibo in lane 5, pulled away after 20 meters and clocked 7.06 seconds, just 3/100th off his career best. Surprising Devin Dick, a senior at Kansas State, took 6/100ths off his PR (7.14) for 2nd, and Keys just missed his (7.15) for 3rd.

Uibo (7.16) and UCLA's Marcus Nilsson (7.24) both recorded PRs.

The 2nd (seeded race) was loaded with 4 sub-7 men: Wichita's Austin Bahner (lane 2), Lazas (lane 3), and a pair of badgers, Zach Ziemek (lane 6) and Cato (lane 8). Incidentally the record for the most sub 7s in a single hept race is six (1997 World Champs in Maebashi).

Double Z pulled away from Lasas in the final 15 meters to win, 6.91 to 6.97. A much improved Alex McCune/Akron was 3rd in 6.98 seconds and the season's find, Buffalo's Mike Morgan was 4th in a PR 7.00 seconds.

*After One: ZZ 918, Laza 893, McCu 889, Morg 882.*

**Long Jump:** [10:45 – 11:05 am]

Two section in the long jump, both elevated runways. In Group #1 3 PR'd with McCune's 7.24m/23-9 PR tops. Morgan stayed hot with a 7.13m/23-4¾ PR and Arizona's lanky Paul Tonneson got 7.03m/23-¾ PR on the last jump of the group which noted but 3 recorded fouls.



Lazas (left) aborted one jump and ended with a 7.27m/23-10¼ distance. Beach (right) steadily improved winning with a 7.67m/25-2 mark and moved to the lead.

The competition was hot in Group #2 with Beach leading after round #1 with a nifty 7.55m/24-9¼ over Cato's 7.43m/24-4½. Beach took the overall lead.

Wichita State's Austin Bahner limped away after but a 7.06m/23-2 leap. Beach improved 2cm in round #2 and then covered 7.67m/25-2 of his home town's real estate and no one else was close. Group #2 became a novelty in decathlon circles, 22 attempts w/o a single foul. There were 260 seated spectators in the Convention Center at this point.

*After Two: Beac 1838, Ziem 1784, Laza 1771, McCu 1761.*

**Shot Put:** [11:35 am ??? - pm]

A single circle was used for one section of the shot put with Cato leading off With a nice 13.03m/42-9 put. Somewhere between the shot and the next event he aggravated an ankle injury and the shot proved to be the beginning of the end for the defending runner-up. Nilsson opened at 15.37m/50-5 to lead round #1 as both Ziemek and Lazas fouled.

In round #2 Nilsson improved to 15.49m/50-10, Ziemek managed a nice 13.23m/43-5 but Lazas, looking for a big toss, could not stay in the circle and zeroed again.

Round #3 brought another big toss from Nilsson, 15.97m/52-5 and he moved to 6th overall. Morgan (12.18m/39-11¾) and Dick (13.87m/45-6) continued hot streaks by just missing career bests. Lazas, with his title on the line, safed a fine 14.20m/46-7¼ to move to the lead. An anxious Beach pushed 12.11m/39-8¾, then fouled twice trying for that 'big throw.' The electronic measuring device failed on the final attempt (by Tonneson) and the steel tape confirmed a big PR of 13.97m/45-10 4 minutes after the event ended at 12:20 pm.

*After Three: Laza 2512, ZZ 2465, Beac 2451, Uibo 2443.*

**High Jump:** [12:57 – 2:09 pm]

The jumpers held center stage as no there events were in progress and officials moved the event along briskly as more than 300 spectators watched. The jumpers were adequately grouped. 5 of the 8 jumpers in



Beach won Group #2 with a 2.06m/6-9 leap.

Group #2 were 7 footers. But Jay Cato



This meet took a dramatic turn when an injured Jay Cato (above) a 7-2 high jumper, no heighted at 1.97m/6-5½.

promptly nh'd at his Group #1 opener at 1.97m/6-5½. The hope was that the Wisconsin senior would help press the meet record of 2.11m/6-11 that he co held with Ashton Eaton ('10) and Garret Scantling ('13).

While Beach was winning group #1 handily with a 2.06m/6-9 3rd attempt effort, the jumping was even hotter in Group #2. There, at 2.06m/6-9 only Lazas had been eliminated and he had looked solid getting 2.00m/6-6¾ and exhibited new jumping talent.

At a new meet record 2.12m/6-11½ four remained: Michigan State's Kurt Schneider, Uibo, Keys and Tonneson and ALL cleared.....Key's on a dramatic 3rd try...netting 4 new meet records. Whew! When the bar went to 2.15m/7-½ Uibo and Keys were dropped but Schneider (=PR) handled it easily on his first try and Tonneson (PR) did so on his 3rd.....netting two more meet records. The tenure of Uibo (who had moved to the overall lead) and Keys as meet record holders lasted a whole 6 minutes.

The meet record was broken or tied 6 times (!) perhaps a record itself. Neither Schneider nor Tonneson (both of whom had one very good attempt each) could handle a



Michigan Stater Kurt Schneider walked away from the final first day event with a PR score and the NCAA I heptathl HJ meet record, 2.25m/7-½.

facility record 2.18m/7-1¾ and the event abruptly ended, after 72 minutes, 147 attempts (averaging one every 29 seconds) and 69 clearances at 14 different heights.

Chances for three or four 6k scores tomorrow and half the field is ahead of PR pace at the break.

After Four: Uibo 3358, Laza 3315, Beac 3310, ZZ 3296.

## First Day Results



### 3/14-15 NCAA D-I, Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM

3358	Uibo, Maicel/Georgia'16	7.16	737	1377	213
3315	Lazas, Kevin/Arkansas'14	6.97	727	1420	200
3310	Beach, Curtis/Duke'14	7.06	767	1211	206
3296	Ziemek, Zach/Wisconsin'15	6.90	722	1323	203
3289	Schneider, Kurt/Michigan St'14	7.07	708	1279	215
3266	Keys, Dakotah/Oregon'14	7.15	706	1342	212
3263	Tonneson, Pau/Arizona'15	7.32	703	1397	215
3175	Morgan, Mike/Buffalo'16	7.00	713	1218	203
3158	McCune, Alex/Akron'15	6.98	724	1311	191
3149	Nilsson, Marcus/UCLA'14	7.24	685	1597	191
3133	Emry, Austin/Montana'14	7.19	711	1265	203
3123	Dick, Devin/Kansas St'14	7.14	714	1387	191
2974	Dalton, Chase/BYU'14	7.23	697	1238	194
2963	Bahner, Austin/Wichita St'14	7.11	706	1267	182
2937	Green, Justin/Colorado St'15	7.32	683	1170	200
2424	Cato, Jay/Wisconsin'14				7.13 743
1303	nh				

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