

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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TEXAS RELAYS REPORT

Dalton, Lazas, Hock Top Field

Hello Again....The weather was not the whole story at the '14 Texas Relays decathlon. In spite of temps fluctuating between 60 and 83 degrees with intermittent showers on Wednesday and Thursday (26th & 27th), the real story was the readiness of a trio of NCAA champions for the outdoor season.

Could they post national qualifying scores since each had issues? '14 outdoor champ Johannes Hock of the host school, recovering from Tommy-John surgery, and had announced that he's have to toss the javelin left-handed. '13 indoor kingpin Kevin Lazas/Arkansas, was shy on training due to a February family tragedy. And the current indoor champ, Duke's Curtis Beach, faced questions about his long throws.

As it turned out Hock, 22, Cologne, GER, did throw left-handed (managing 35.79m/117-5) while dropping an estimated 25 meters and approximately 320 points. And Lazas, 22, Brentwood, TN, posted a workmanlike 7592 effort. Beach managed only the first day so his questions remained unanswered. Amid all of this 25 year old BYU senior Chase Dalton, Tigard, OR, caught Lazas with 300m remaining in the 1500m and topped the Razorback senior by 8½ seconds to win, 7642 to 7592. Hock was another 19 back. All three efforts are likely qualifiers. Dalton's consistent PR score included lifetime bests in the 100m and 110m hurdles, both of which were conducted with *very favorable* tailwinds. Many scores were windy (depending on the definition).



BYU senior Chase Dalton, 25, Tigard, OR, won the Texas Relays crown with a PR 7612 score.

A pair of freshman, Penn State's Robert Cardina, 19, Lancaster, PA, and Karl Saluri/New Orleans, 20, Tallinn, Estonia (not, incidentally, as the NO website suggests, a town of 300 people!) were 4th and 5th with scores of 7508 and 7497, and, unless improved, will sweat out the qualifying process. 14 of the 24 starters got thru all ten events.

The weekend saw a dozen meets. USC



2013 NCAA outdoor champ Johannes Hock/Texas (left) and 2013 NCAA indoor champ Kevin Lazas/Arkansas (right) were 3rd and 2nd at the Texas Relays.



Viktor Fajoyomi/USC-HUN senior (left) and Atsu Nyamadi/Wiley College (TX)-GHA (right) won weekend meets with PR scores.

senior Viktor Fajoyomi, 23, Hungary, won the Aztec affair in San Diego with a PR 7439. Maurice Strickland, a senior at Cal Sate-San Marcos, PR'd in 3rd with a 6924 score which lasted but a few minutes as the NAIA's top score. It was surpassed at the Bobcat Invt in San Marcos, *Texas*, by Wiley College soph Atsu Nyamadi, 21, Ghana, who managed a 7033 score, identical to that of Wes Gonzalez/UL-Lafayette. Nyamadi won on the countback, 5-4-1.

A dozen meets are schedule for the first week of April.