

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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CHICO DOMINATES ADAMS MEET

Eaton's 45.86 400m Top Mark

Hello Again....34 athletes were on tap for the annual Sam Adams Multis in Santa Barbara but when the winds died down it was a trio of D-II Chico State athletes, all seniors, who took home most of the hardware. Yes, there were decathletes from five nations on the Westmont College campus yet many were competing in individual events, most notably world record holder Ashton Eaton.

The decathlon itself was divided into 2 sections with defending champ Gray Horn at the starting line. Back troubles forced his withdrawal after the high jump, so, for the final six events Chico decathletes stole the show.

Chico's 2x NCAA II champ J. Patrick Smith, 22, competing in his first decathlon in hometown Santa Barbara (Dos Pueblos HS '09), since 2009 was in firm control and never out of the lead after Horn's exit. He led at the break with a 3921 score and then used a PR 42.44m/ 139-3 to guarantee the victory.

Chico's John Brunk, 22, Oakdale, CA and teammate Ted Elsenbaumer, 23, Ventura, CA were 3rd and 4th, with seasonal bests of 7262 and 7260, sandwiched Kansas State soph Reinis Kregers, 22, Vecumnieki, Latvia.

The Chico scores had Webb Cup implications since a trio of freshmen were up the road in Stockton, all getting PR efforts.

Eaton used the Santa Barbara affair to open his outdoor season where he'll focus on the 400m hurdles. Here he won the 100m in 10.43 and 400m in 45.86.

France's CE team provided 7 entrants. Other top marks were recorded by Canadian



In The first Sam Adams 100m section Ashton Eaton (r) cruised to a 10.43 event win but the trio of Chico Staters: l-r, J. Patrick Smith, Ted Elsenbaumer and John Brunk stole the show as all recorded seasonal best scores placing 1-3-4.

Damian Warner, 47.86 400m and a 7.62m/25-0 long jump, 2cm behind Horn's 7.64m/25-3/4. Gunnar Nixon tried 3 events getting PRs in the hurdles (14.46) and shot (15.03m/49-33/4) and a near career best in the discus.

Drayke Jackson/Sacred Heart U won the 'B' section.

The Santa Barbara affair is named in honor of former UCSB and Westmont coach Sam Adams (right). Don't be confused with the number of 'Adams' meets. Whitworth



University in Spokane also conducted the 9th annual Sam Adams Classic over the weekend (no relation) and last week Hartnell College, Salinas, CA hosted the Ed Adams Invt.

There were ten weekend decathlons nationwide. A notable score (7002) was posted by Rhode Island senior Trent Baltzell on the way to a win at UConn's Invt.

Most undergrads did individual events over the weekend and a trio of 4x400m relays teams, made up of all decathletes, raised some eyebrows. The Razorback 'B' foursome of Nathanael Franks, Lane Austell, Kevin Lazas and Brad Culp sped 3:28.97 at the Arkansas Spring Invt in Fayetteville.

At the Pepsi Dual (vs Arizona) Oregon went one better capturing the 4x4 in 3:17.04 using Dakotah Keys, Mitch Modin, Alec Fellows and Jack Galvin. But it was Duke's Blue Devils who posted the fastest collegiate time **ever** (we believe) using an exclusive decathlon foursome 3:11.74 at High Point's VertKlasse meet in High Point, NC.

Freshman Chaz Hawkins and junior Ian Rock combined for a 1:38.13 split over the first two legs. Soph Robert Rohner moved the Blue Devils to the lead with a 47.50 carry and senior Curtis Beach's 46.12 nailed the coffin for a Duke school record!

On tap next week are 20 meets including the Arcadia Prep and majors in Tucson, Athens, GA and Fayetteville.



J. Patrick Smith/Chico State (left) won the Sam Adams war with 7351 points. Ashton Eaton (right) posted the top individual mark, a 45.86 400m clocking.