

BRONDYKE SURVIVES at DRAKE

Dalton, Lebron Weekend Winners

Hello Again....Kutis Brondyke simply outlasted everyone, doing his best both to overcome 27 other competitors and some very bad weather at Jim Duncan Stadium in Des Moines. When the dust cleared (or should we say "when the rain stopped?") at the annual Drake Relays, Brondyke, 23, Clinton, IA, was simply the last man standing.

So bad were weather conditions that only half of the original starters made it to the finish line. And what a field of starters: five recent NCAA I qualifiers, a trio of D-II/III champions, three Europeans with plenty of experience, SEC/Big 10/Big 12/Valley athletes, all looking for quality qualifiers. But sub-50 degree temps and rain washed out any big marks. So what started for many as an opportunity for that quality score turned out to be an "old-fashioned" decathlon, one where simply surviving was paramount.

Brondyke is in his second season as a graduate assistant at Central Missouri after a successful decathlon career at Central (IA) College. He was the 2011 NCAA D-III indoor champ. Since the heptathlon winner was ex CMU's Lindsay Lettow, The Warrensburg school left with a multis sweep. The Drake Relays have always been special for me," Brondyke said. "I'm a Clinton High School kid that got to compete here and then with Central. It was a big deal back then and it is a big deal today."

Ironically Brondyke did not take the lead until the javelin event. Kennesaw State junior Andre Dorsey, 21, Chalmette, LA, led at the break with an eye-opening 4055 score



Central Missouri grad assistant Kurtis Brondyke made it a CMU Multis sweep at Drake.

in his first career decathlon. Dorsey, a prodigious talent who placed at the NCAA I indoor long and triple jumps, and who leaped 2.23m/7-3¾ indoors and who hurdled 14.21 the previous week, won the first three races but managed only 3.20/10-6 in the vault and withdrew. After day one Dorsey quipped "I'm still new to this running thing.

On taking the lead after the eighth event after the leader had to pull out ...

"I knew he (Dorsey) was done because his plane flight out of Des Moines was booked at



Newcomer Andre Dorsey/Kennesaw St (left) led at Drake for 8 events. Nathanael Franks/Arkansas (right) was a 7107 point runner-up.

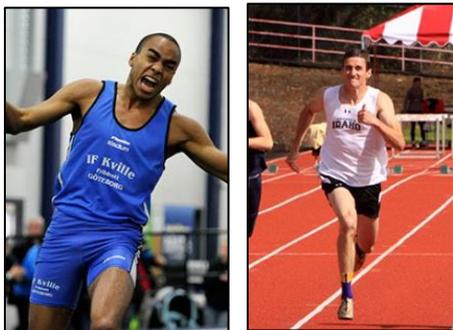
a bad time. Then the way Daniel (Gooris) pole vaulted that I was in a good position with my marks to take the lead as long as I put a good javelin toss out there and then go into the 1,500 and use what my training has done I would be in a good position.”

On joining his coach, Kip Janvrin, as a decathlon winner at the Drake Relays...

“Being a decathlon champion is special, but I’m able to train with Kip Janvrin, which makes it more special as he is one of the most honored athletes that has been here. He has his picture up on the outside of the stadium. It is nice to come back here, we are both Iowa people, it’s nice to come back and celebrate the relays that we fell in love with when we were younger and keep it going.”

On his future...

“I’m going to try and compete again in Ohio in June. Hopefully I can hit USA Championship qualification standards.”



Other weekend winners included Vincennes frosh Simon Gyllensten (left) who won the Gina Relays title and Austin Basterrechia/College of Idaho,(right) who defended his Cascade Conference crown.

Kudos go to Drake organizers who accommodated 28 (!) entries, a real service to the event.

In other week/weekend meets BYU’s Chase Dalton won at the Provo Robison affair with the week’s top score, 7403. It was his 2nd win in a month. D-II indoor champ Nick Lebron/Sn Conn St won at Penn by over 500 points with a 7160 total. Vincennes Swedish frosh Simon Gyllensten, Goteborg, came from 4th place at the break to win the Gina Relays



Chase Dalton/BYU (left) and Nick Lebron/Sn Conn St (right) won in Provo and Philadelphia respectively.

stamping himself as a contender for the NJCAA title.

Austin Basterrechia, a senior at the College of Idaho, and in spite of a day one downpour, won one of seven weekend small college conference meets. His 6601 point victory at the Cascade Conference champs in Gresham, OR was highly misleading because of the weather. More indicative of his dominance: he won by 1100 points. Even worse weather greeted the PacWest champs in Fresno where lightning postponed the decathlon on day one. The Southern Conference title went to Samford soph Stephen Bastien with a 6591 score.

Details of the 14 weekend meets are available on our Results Page. The upcoming week begins a 3 weekend stretch of collegiate conference championship meetings. Most of the two dozen affairs next week belong to East Coast or small college conferences. Hold tight and pray for better weather.