

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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INDOOR SEASON TREKS AHEAD

Bassett, Lebron, Moore with Big Marks

Hello Again....The 2014 season tramped thru the second week of January with eight more CE meetings and a handfull of notable performances. The indoor campaign will heat up dramatically in the next two weeks as 40 (!) additional meets threaten to overhaul all USA seasonal lists.

The January 15-18 weekend's top score was posted Wed-Thurs by Samford senior Brandon Bassett who won a Birmingham Metroplex affair with a 5534 score, the early season's 3rd best mark. Bassett, 22, Tallahassee, used a significant 2.10m/6-10³/₄ high jump career best. The 2011 Southern Conference champ was but a 2:50 1k mark away from a 5700 score. He will be the leading contender for the SoCon champs meet early March in Winston-Salem, NC.

Two days later Southern Connecticut junior Nick Lebron made it two for two, winning the U Rhode Island qualifier with a nifty 5496 score. He had just 6 days rest after him Darmouth Relays pentathlon win. The 22 year old, Newington, CT, stamped himself as the D-II favorite in March. The 2012 NCAA II champ was just 22 points off his '13 PR score without regeresting a carre best Lebron, Justin Balczak of Lake Superior State and Dillon Schrod of Nebraska-Kearney.

The weekend most interesting meet was held at Bates College in Lewiston, ME where D-III Southern Maine junior Jamie Ruginski trailed his former teammate Tristan individual mark. The D-II nationals appears to be shaping up as a 3way challenge among



Samford senior Brandon Bassett (left) and S Conn St junior Nick Lebron (right) posted the weekend's top heptathlon scores.

Wortman/Maine by 78 points after the pole vault. Ruginski, a notable triple jumper and transfer from U of Maine, then made up 79 points in the 1000m to win by a digit, 4726 to 4725. Had Ruginski run 1/100th of a second slower or had Wortman run 2/100ths faster, their scores would have been equal but Ruginski would have won 4-3 on the countback rule. Whew!

The Liberty Open (VA) was captured by Freeport, FL HS standout Gabe Moore (right) who posted a formidable 5153 score while competing unattached. The Arkansas signee is part of a momentous class of senior prep decathletes.

