

COLLEGIANS ROLL BIG NUMBERS

A Weekend for Lazas, Keys, Bahner

Hello Again....The two dozen Jan 28-Feb 1 weekend CE meets highlighted collegians, produced the nation's top score, added 28 5000 point marks to the books and uncovered some impressive young talent.

The weekend belonged to the current NCAA kingpin Kevin Lazas, 22, Brentwood, TN. The Arkansas senior demonstrated his fitness at the Razorback Invitational in Fayetteville. No event PRs (although the 1k was close), just consistent, solid marks at the Tyson Center produced 5923 points to take over the US lead. Junior teammate Nathanael Franks was second.

Oregon senior Dakotah Keys, 22, Sweet Home, OR, also displayed early season fitness and was an easy winner at Washington's Dempsey Field House scoring 5730 points (with a 1cm shot PR and =60m hurdle best). He led a Duck 1-2-3-5 performance in Seattle and his score is now # 2 on the USA list and # 3 on the collegiate list.

At the Varsity Apartment meet in Wichita senior Austin Bahner, 22, Wichita, produced career bests at 60m, 60H and vault and went on to easily win with a PR 5666 score. The Shockers went the Ducks one better with a 1-2-3-5-7-8-10 finish, actually starting 8! A Webb Cup statement?

One meet that did not produce the desired results was the Ed Jacoby Multis in Nampa, Idaho. Defending indoor national champ Gunnar Nixon, seemed to be well on his way to a PR score and IAAF world qualifier, finding himself down just 17 digits



A pair of seniors, Dakotah Keys/Oregon (left) and Kevin Lazas/Arkansas (right) punched tickets to the NCAA indoor affair in March in Albuquerque.

After 3. Recall his 6232 '13 effort. The high jump is normally a big asset for Nixon (2.17m/7-1½). Yet he came a cropper after opening at 2.02m/6-7½ and passing 2.05m/6-8¾. He was unable to manage 2.08m/6-9¾ and found himself now 129 behind on PR pace. He withdrew and will try to get a world qualifier at a later meet. Note, the IAAF selects,

among others, 3 off of the current years hept scores. In his absence College of Idaho senior Austin Basterecchia, Gooding, ID, (*above*) won with the NAIAs top seasonal score, 5231.





Lots of non-D-Iers were in action. Eric Larson/Central, IA (left) and Nathan Hancock/Minnesota-Mankato placed top marks on the D-III and D-II lists respectively.

The top D-II effort was turned in by Mankato junior Nathan Hancock, 22, Independence, MO, whose 5371 won the Mankato Multis. And Eric Larson, a junior at Central College, IA, went home to Waverly and notched the season's top D-III score, 5271 at the Wartburg Select meet.

Other top scores included a 5596 effort by ex UNI's Dan Gooris who won the Jack Jennett meet in Cedar Falls and a 5505 performance by Kansas State senior Devin Dick who captured the smallish Bill Bergan meet at Iowa State, Ames.

The weekend unveiled several top newcomers to combined events. The most impressive may have been Robert Cardina, Lancaster County, PA, a redshirt freshman at Penn State whose 5257 was tops at home in University Park. Also new to the US collegiate scene was Washington State frosh Dino Dodig, 20, Serbia, who used 5 event PRs to win at home in Pullman with a nifty 5483 effort.



Two of the top newcomers were Robert Cardina/Penn State (left) and Dino Dodig/Washington St (right), both of whom made noise on home turf.