

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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MAJOR CONFERENCE WEEKEND

Weather Takes Toll

Hello Again....This weekend marked the end of the qualifying window for NCAA I athletes and eleven major D-I leagues held title meets. Decathletes rewrote the qualifying lists as unexpected spots opened up (at least 5) due to weather conditions, red-shirt decisions and no-heights. The weather was the major story as storms blew thru the mid-west and south, sites of 6 of the major meets.

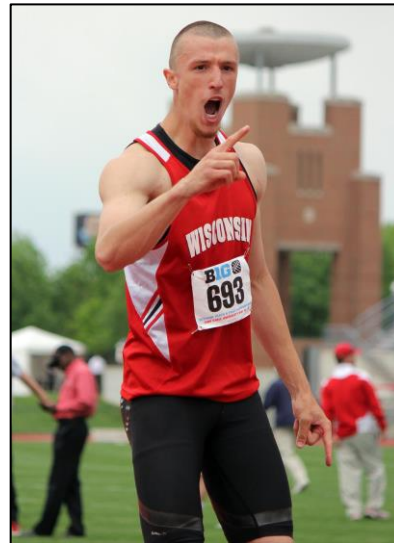
The NCAA D-I lists are now final (see accompanying box) but D-II and III windows remain open into next week. Final declarations are not due for D-I so the final Eugene start list may differ slightly. Here's the story of the final qualifying weekend:

Wednesday-Thursday, May 8-9



A trio of D-I western leagues met on Thurs-Fri where weather was not a major issue. Freshman Romain Martin/Texas-Arlington won the WAC crown (his school switched leagues) on his home facility. He had previously won a pair of Southland Conf titles. With a D-I auto qualifying score in the bank and a significant lead he did not have to finish the 1500 meters. Winning total: 6986.

In Portland, with Montana State Jeff Mohl red-shirting, Austin Emry of Montana was an easy winner at the Big Sky Conference meet with 7010 points. And in Las Vegas, the Mountain West Conference,



'Double Z,' Wisconsin's Zach Ziemek, was number 1 at the Big Ten meet at Ohio State held in less than ideal conditions.

sans red-shirting Richard York/New Mexico, went to Colorado State's Josh McMillin with 6873 points. So no additional qualifiers here/

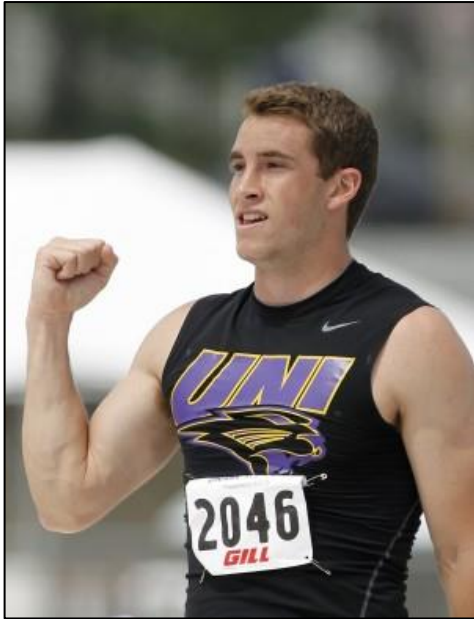
And Calvin Sullins, Adrian, MI, a redshirt freshman at D-II Saginaw Valley State, captured the Hillsdale Classic in 6877 in his initial decathlon.

Thursday-Friday, May 9-10



The story of May 9-10 was the weather which played havoc in the mid-west and knocked several out of national qualifying marks. The Mid-American Conference meeting in Akron saw the hosts' Alex McCune, a sophomore from Pittsburgh, notch up his career best to 7411 in cold, raw

conditions as the Zips went 1-2-4. The leagues' coming star, freshman Solomon Ijoh



Northern Iowa senior Dan Gooris collared a 4th Missouri Valley Conference crown, and got a 778 PR to boot

of Eastern Michigan, was 3rd.

The weather at the SEC meet in Columbia, MO was not much better and the new University of Missouri track with slippery surfaces did not help. Georgia's Estonian frosh Maicel Uibo, 20, won convincingly (7781) but with 440 point less than his earlier Bulldog win. NCAA indoor king Kevin Lazas, Arkansas, was working out the kinks and his 7579 runner-up score is a bit misleading as well. Georgia soph Garrett Scantling vault nh'd but still scored 6943. Arkansas managed another qualifier thru the 7520 effort of junior Nathanael Franks, Damascus, OR.

Rice hosted the Conference USA meet and Clayton Chaney, a senior, 23, Bellville, TX, did not disappoint getting a PR 7678 mark, an 80 point career improvement. German Luis Hanssler and Finn Tuure Hollo, both potential NCAA qualifiers from Memphis, fell short at 7163 and 7110.

At the Summit League meet in Muncie, IN North Dakota State's Andy

Lillejord, the Mount Sac Relays winner, stumbled thru an injury riddled 13.44 second 100 meters, ending his season. The Jamestown, ND, junior was seen as a national shoo-in having placed 7th indoors (5793 pts in Fayetteville). Teammate Ryan Jenson won with 6789

In other meets ex-Long Beach star Nick Armstrong got the win at the Claremont Invitational (6968) while S Connecticut St's Justin Escaravage won the all division New Englands (NEICAAA) at 6567 in Easton, MA..



Friday-Saturday, May 10-11

The major tale was in Columbus, OH as Ohio State played host to the Big Ten meet which held a minimum of 6 NCAA qualifiers even after the injury to Wisconsin favorite Jay Cato (Achilles tendon). The temps reached a high of 62 degrees and when the dust cleared



Tim Wunderlich (left) was the UVA Invt winner; Matt Johnson/Sam Houston St won the Southland title; Tom Bechert/Manhattan(right) was the IC4A winner.

on Saturday Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium was littered with disappointed decathletes, all victims of chilly conditions. Potential NCAA qualifiers fell like the raindrops Consider: there was defending champ Bjorn Barrefors of Nebraska (a 7987 performer at the same meet a year earlier) who managed just 7369 points. And Minnesota's Jack Szmanda, last year's runner-up at 7862, who high jump nd'd! 2011 champion Heath Nickles, senior

from Ohio State with a 7635 career best, could score but 7150 for 7th!

That backdrop makes the winning performance by Wisconsin senior Zach Ziemek that much more remarkable. His 7640 winning effort in Columbus would have placed 5th a year earlier. Nebraska's steady Teran Walford (7432) and Michigan's Kurt Reichenbach (7412) likely punched tickets to Eugene. What might have been!

| NCAA I Decathlon List, 5/12/13 | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 8293 | Johannes Hock | Texas-GER |
| 8223 | Maicel Uibo | Georgia-EST |
| 8011 | Curtis Beach | Duke |
| 8001 | Dakotah Keys | Oregon |
| 7998 | Jeremy Taiwo | Washington |
| 7904 | Romain Martin | Tex-Arlington-FRA |
| 7824 | Garrett Scantling | Georgia |
| 7780 | Dan Gooris | N Iowa |
| 7767 | Tom Bechert | Manhattan-GER |
| 7758 | Isaac Murphy | Texas |
| | [10] | |
| 7640 | Zach Ziemek | Wisconsin |
| 7624 | Dominic Giovannoni | UCLA |
| 7612 | Marcus Nilsson | UCLA-SWE |
| 7599 | Austin Bahner | Wichita St |
| 7678 | Clayton Chaney | Rice |
| 7579 | Kevin Lazas | Arkansas |
| 7520 | Nathanael Franks | Arkansas |
| 7505 | Tomas Kirilieus | Kansas St-LTH |
| 7496 | Matt Johnson | Sam Houston St |
| 7437 | Jesse Chapman | Connecticut |
| | [20] | |
| 7432 | Teran Walford | Nebraska |
| 7412 | Kurt Reichenbach | Michigan |
| 7411 | Alex McCune | Akron |
| 7406 | Reinis Kregers | Kansas St-LAT |
| | [24] | |
| 7397 | Andy Lillejord | N Dakota St |
| 7394 | Jake Waruch | Connecticut |
| 7393 | Evan Weinstock | Brown |

Predictably Matt Johnson, a Sam Houston State senior, 23, Port Neches, TX, nailed the Southland title during two days of intermittent thunderstorms and delays. His 7496 score (PR 7721) was 600+ up on his nearest competitor.

The weather was mostly dry at the Missouri Valley meet in Des Moines. Northern Iowa's Dan Gooris, 23, Albuquerque, made it 4 for 4 at the 'Valley' with a fine 7780 effort, using PRs in the hurdles and javelin. He caught Wichita State's Austin Bahner, 21, Wichita, on the 9th event. Bahner's 7599 was itself a PR.

Tom Bechert was the IC4A winner. The 25 year old graduate student from Cologne, Germany rode a pair of 2nd day PRs (vault, 1500m) past 1st day leader Evan Weinstock of Brown. Bechert's consistent 7767 effort was 435 points better than that of Josh Weirich of BYU, a new IC4A member. Weinstock, on the same track that brought him the Ivy league crown 6 days earlier, could not sustain a 3994 first day pace. He finished 3rd with 7265 on the weekend & 27th on the NCAA I qualifying list (7393). The top 24 advance to the nationals in Eugene in early



Nathanael Franks/Arkansas (left), Teran Walford/Nebraska (center) and Austin Bahner/Wichita St (right) will be new faces at the NCAA I affair in Eugene.

June.

The other significant meet was a last chance affair (mostly for ACC'ers) in Charlottesville, VA. Ex-Ivy champ Tim Wunderlich used a nearly 3800 point 2nd day to race past Tommy Barrineau, the former Georgia star who now competes for Finland, 7394 to 7382.