

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## NCAA II, III & NAIA in the BOOKS Smith, Kenney, Larson are Winners

**Hello Again....**The trio of USA *small college* (misleading since some of the schools have 20,000+ enrollments --but I don't have a better term and prefer not to use 'minor') decathlon nationals are in the books. 50 of 52 athletes completed the entire schedule as J Patrick Smith (NCAA-II), Rob Kenney (NAIA), and Eric Larson (Central, IA) all earned the title 'national decathlon champion.'

I followed the progress of all three from my hotel room and the Pressbox in Götzis, Austria where the 39<sup>th</sup> Hypo Bank Meeting starts in a few hours.

### NCAA II Pueblo, Colorado May 23-24



J Patrick Smith/Chico St, still held a 104 point margin over Lake Superior's Justin Balczak with 3 events remaining. Balczak, the seasonal leader, had made up just two digits in the first two events. Chico teammate Ted Elsenbaumer and Brent Vogel of Central Missouri were also still in the hunt.

Smith opened successfully at 3.80m/12-5½ and eventually cleared a PR 4.50m/14-9 after which the verdict was never in doubt. His final tally, 7612 points, may even earn him a spot at the USATF nationals i



J Patrick Smith/Chico State successfully defended his NCAA II crown in Pueblo, CO.



in Des Moines next month. It's a provisional score and the field at Drake will be set at 18. Smith improved his PR score by 246 points, but teammate Ted Elsenbaumer wasn't so fortunate. He vaulted while in 4<sup>th</sup> overall and dropped to 9<sup>th</sup>.

The battle for 2<sup>nd</sup> came down to the final strides of the 1500 meters with Lake Superior's Justin Balczak holding off Brent Vogel of Central Missouri by just 3 points, 7387-7384. Saginaw Valley junior Tyler Grob used a 5.00m/16-4 ¾ clearance to nab 4<sup>th</sup> overall and indoor winner Nick LeBron/Sn Conn St, was 5<sup>th</sup>.

### 5/23-24 NCAA II National Champs, Colorado State U-Pueblo, Pueblo, CO



7612	Smith, J Patrick/Chico St '14	10.68+3.0
750+2.9	1171 196 49.33 14.95+0.5 3750 450 5827 4:53.04	
7387	Balczak, Justin/Lake Superior St '15	11.21+3.0
723+0.3	1337 196 49.80 14.34+0.5 3484 440 5461 4:49.61	
7384	Vogel, Brent/Central Missouri '13	10.97+3.0
700+0.6	1265 184 48.41 14.56+0.5 3520 460 5058 4:44.95	
7230	Grob, Tyler/Saginaw Valley St '14	11.03+3.0
628+1.2	1204 184 49.34 15.28+0.8 3828 500 4552 4:31.55	
7189	Lebron, Nick/Sn Conn St '15	11.16+1.9
663+1.9	1208 202 49.89 14.50+1.8 3596 400 4740 4:33.33	
6809	Maydew, Payson/Emporia St '16	11.43+1.9
615+1.2	1169 180 50.37 15.29+1.8 3823 430 4354 4:35.08	

6749 Holmberg, Henrik/Augustana '14-NOR10.98  
 +1.9 706+1.6 1131 196 50.69 15.45+1.2 3624 390 4359 5:15.83  
 6674 Hubbard, Scott/Cal St-LA '13 11.26+1.9  
 689+2.3 1189 175 54.81 15.91+0.9 3690 420 6043 5:07.35  
 6669 Elsenbaumer, Ted/Chico St '14 10.87+1.9  
 679+0.2 1282 187 48.65 14.81+1.8 3881 nh 5084 4:40.08  
 6662 Juell, Tandy/Mankato St '13 10.99+3.0  
 652+1.7 1342 187 52.77 16.04+0.9 3721 430 5467 5:05.55  
 6662 Schrodt, Dillon/Nebraska-Kearney '15 10.83+3.0  
 665+2.9 1111 193 50.16 14.70+0.5 2990 390 4433 5:12.88  
 6609 Pearson, Seth/Angelo St '15 11.14+3.0  
 676-0.4 1197 184 51.60 15.72+1.2 3728 390 5065 5:19.65  
 6373 Thomas, Cody/Alaska-Anchorage '15 10.92+3.0  
 593 +1.7 1133 184 49.45 15.11+1.8 3422 330 4471 5:05.42  
 6277 Maio, Kyle/Edinboro '14 11.53+1.9  
 659+0.1 1155 178 51.94 15.81+1.2 3714 400 4200 5:20.43  
 6241 Blackwell, James/Cedarville '15 11.30+1.9  
 640-0.9 1067 166 52.60 15.62+1.2 3181 450 4437 5:12.14  
 4351 Birtwhistle, Connor/Cal Poly-Pomona '13 11.96  
 +1.9 622+2.8 1037 181 55.46 dsq 2492 nh 5572 5:53.17  
 16s,16

6969 Larson, Eric/Central(IA) '15 11.29+2.4  
 697+3.2 1122 204 52.08 14.96+1.7 3409 405 4452 4:38.89  
 6860 Zarnoth, Brandon/Wisc-Eau Claire '14 11.01+2.4  
 687+2.2 1188 180 49.45 15.22+1.7 3379 395 4307 4:36.91  
 6714 Mestelle, Bart/Wisc-Eau Claire '13 11.13+2.2  
 647+2.7 1127 183 50.92 15.34+0.9 3699 375 4704 4:37.52  
 6560 Cerne, Joe/Puget Sound '14 11.59+2.9  
 614+4.1 1024 180 52.17 16.82+2.6 3738 455 5342 4:37.48  
 6541 Hardison, David/Bates '13 11.35+2.2  
 640+5.4 1083 177 50.25 15.27+1.7 3170 375 5066 4:40.17  
 6529 Cord, John/Simpson '13 11.42+2.2  
 671+2.7 1135 189 51.35 16.65+2.6 3507 335 5621 4:46.80  
 6528 Blair, Michael/Tufts '13 11.85+2.9  
 651+2.1 1120 195 52.00 15.67+3.7 3985 365 4488 4:46.58  
 6471 Boockmeier, Brad/St Norbert '16 11.28+2.4  
 627+1.5 1374 183 53.20 15.95+3.7 3561 365 4882 4:56.38  
 6454 Wagner, Kevin/St Scholastica '16 11.25+2.4  
 651+4.2 1175 180 51.44 15.36+3.7 3390 395 4260 4:42.71  
 6454 Dunne, Max/St Thomas(MN) '13 11.39+2.2  
 657+3.4 1220 183 53.83 16.42+1.7 3259 445 4039 4:44.91  
 6308 Yseth, Gavin/St Thomas(MN) '13 11.82+2.9  
 623+4.5 1194 183 52.60 15.86+0.9 3035 415 4108 4:38.11  
 6207 Depo, Ben/Plattsburgh St '13 11.45+2.2  
 633+4.6 1118 171 52.66 16.40+1.7 3376 365 4721 4:39.45  
 6175 Kosack, Cory/Coast Guard '14 11.29+2.2  
 599+4.4 1121 156 50.26 16.47+2.6 3317 395 4586 4:43.45  
 6172 Hunter, Matt/Ohio Wesleyan '15 10.84+2.4  
 660+3.2 1044 183 51.73 14.81+1.7 2630 395 3254 5:19.95  
 6104 Austin, Quenten/Carthage '16 11.73+2.9  
 607+3.3 1116 180 52.95 16.48+1.7 3362 365 4478 4:39.99  
 6093 Anderson, Zach/Wisc-Stout '14 11.40+2.9  
 662+3.5 1155 186 50.28 15.33+0.9 3751 nh 3433 4:29.26  
 6077 Delap, Peter/Whitworth '14 11.29+2.4  
 653+0.2 1032 192 52.20 16.61+2.6 2828 395 4248 5:20.71  
 5488 Kennedy, Carson/Willamette '15 11.39+2.4  
 nm 1001 183 51.57 15.85+0.9 3215 355 4310 4:54.97  
 dnf Kovalik, Alex/Mt Union '14 11.59+2.2  
 598+1.8 1107 168 withdrew  
 dnf Sisler, Dan/St Norbert '15 20.00+2.9 withdrew  
 20s,18f

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**NCAA III**  
**LaCrosse, Wisconsin**  
**May 23-24**



**Matt Hunter/Ohio Wesleyan**, as he did on the preceding day, opened the competition with a victory, a 14.81 time in the hurdles. 1<sup>st</sup> day leader **Eric Larson/Central (IA)** clocked a fine 14.96 but this was still anyone's meet. His margin was a

**Eric Larson won a 3<sup>rd</sup> straight D-III title for Central (IA).**

precarious 68 over **Brandon Zarnoth/Wisconsin- Eau Claire** with 4 events to go.

Yet **Larson** prevailed with consistent marks throughout day 2 and his winning 6969 score (PR by 252 points) keeps the **Central College (IA) D-III** streak alive (now at 3) of national titles.

5/23-24 NCAA III National Champs, U of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, LaCrosse, WI



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**NAIA**  
**Marian, Indiana**  
**May 23-24**

When first day leader **Austin Basterrechia/College of Idaho** struggled in the discus it appeared that **Doane** senior **Ron Kenney** had a clear path to the **NAIA** crown. With 2 vents remaining he was 206 points up on teammate **Kale Wolken** with **Basterrechia** in third.

**Kenney** struggled in the vault (only a 4.00m/13-1¼ clearance) yet was solid in the final two events and finished with a career best score of 7195, more than 200 over **Basterrechia** (4:20.03 1500m!) who also got a



**Rob Kenney (left) and Kale Wolken (above) gave Doane (NE) a 1-3 NAIA finish.**

611-0.4	1130	194	56.07	16.98+1.3	3302	390	5385	5:09.18
5792	Conely, Cameron/Okla Baptist '14							12.14+0.7
637+0.2	1141	191	53.77	16.96+1.1	3408	380	3431	5:17.81
5765	Adger, Bryce/Grand View '14							11.67+0.6
660-0.9	971	164	52.86	16.73+1.1	2747	370	3975	4:47.51
5626	Kemper, Kyle/Westmont '15							11.83+0.7
599-0.3	1008	161	53.73	17.56+1.1	3099	360	4989	4:53.58
16s,16f								

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PR, 6991. Surprising was Doane frershman Kale Wolken who was another 19 points back. Ed Fye's Tigers made a dent in the team battle with their 1-3 finish.

Kenney moved up from 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2011 while Wolken, Tecumseh, NE, may be a major factor at the USA Junior meet in Des Moines. Morningside (IA) soph Andy Dougherty, 3<sup>rd</sup> a year ago at 6696, improved 233 points yet musterd only 4<sup>th</sup>,(6929) as NAIA depth improved markedly.

**5/23-24 NAIA National Champs, Indiana**  
**Weslevan U, Marian, IN**



7195	Keeney, Rob/Doane '13							11.35+0.6	
694-0.8	1268	206	50.91	14.88+1.1	3694	400	4864	4:40.00	
6991	Basterrechea, Austin/C of Idaho '14							11.53+0.7	
723+1.0	1195	203	49.98	15.78+2.2	2578	420	4408	4:20.03	
6972	Wolken, Kale/Doane '16							11.24+0.6	
706-0.9	1251	188	51.67	16.18+1.1	3628	440	5592	5:00.92	
6929	Dougherty, Andy/Morningside '14							11.55+0.7	
653-1.7	1251	185	50.52	14.98+1.1	3845	390	5585	4:47.42	
6689	Staehele, Ivan/British Columbia '13							11.49+0.6	
652+0.1	1255	188	52.45	16.51+1.3	3439	380	5800	4:37.79	
6425	Rosenau, Ryan/Eastern Oregon '15							11.54+0.6	
641-0.7	997	194	52.10	15.34+1.1	2909	400	4606	4:45.36	
6354	Derscheid, Travis/Siena Height '13							11.78+0.8	
605+0.7	1318	176	55.11	15.82+1.3	3692	460	5372	5:28.19	
6333	Strickland, Maurice/CSU-San Marcos '14,								
	11.26+0.6	603+0.4	1052	164	49.71	14.72+2.2	2579	440	
	4383	4:53.20							
6259	Higgins, Brad/Doane '13							12.28+0.7	
627+0.8	1152	182	55.32	16.53+2.2	3760	440	4259	4:35.63	
6092	Ritchie, Brandon/Sn Oregon '13							11.35+0.7	
602+1.2	1079	173	50.71	16.02+1.1	2713	390	3747	4:37.04	
6035	Mirich, Wyatt/Dickinson St '15							11.42+0.6	
665	0.0	1082	182	52.18	15.39+1.3	2973	340	3606	5:04.51
6018	Fox, Deon/Cornerstone '16							11.79+0.7	
630-1.4	974	185	54.85	15.27+2.2	3068	450	4163	5:28.55	
6000	Connealy, Jacob/Benedictine(KS) '15							12.13+0.6	