

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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CATO, HORN LEAD HIGH SCORING WEEKEND

Hello Again..... This will be the second of three weekend newsletters covering the collegiate conference weekend. One correction to Fridays post: I overlooked the Mountain West Conference. Confused over collegiate alignments I thought that Boise State was still in the WAC whose conference indoor meet was hosted at Boise State (Nampa). Rather, they are part of the Mountain West Conference whose meet was held in Albuquerque. Understand ? Kurt Felix/Boise indeed won the MWC heptathlon with a nifty 5703 score on Thurs and Friday. Here was happened on Friday and Saturday, meet-by-meet.

Big 12 –College Station, Texas



Texas teammates Petter Olson (left), a 21 year old freshman from Allhögona, Sweden and Isaac Murphy, a 22 year old senior from Fort Hood, Texas came to College Station with the express purpose of getting the 5750 NCAA auto

standard. Both were bubble athletes with early season scores that may or may not get them to Boise: Murphy 5748, Olson 5709.

They dominated the Big 12 meet from the opening gun and Olson led his teammate 3072 to 2985 after the first day. Both had hurdle, vault and 1k skills and originally this shaped up to be close. But Olson registered a



Wisconsin soph Jay Cato (left) and Florida senior Gray Horn(right) used vertical jumping skills to win the Big 10 and SEC conference crowns respectively.

trio 2nd day PRs and went after the D-I standard in the 1000m and, although he was an easy winner here, fell less than a second short and managed a 5745 total. Murphy cruised the 1000m and finished with 5445 points. Now the Longhorn pair *really* were on the NCAA bubble...5748 and 5745. Their NCAA fate would be determined elsewhere. Kansas State junior Tomas Kirilieus/LTH, was 3rd with a 5221 total.

Big Ten, Lincoln, Nebraska



Jay Cato, 20, Cretre, IL,(below) a soph at Wisconsin, came to Lincoln with the nation's #3 collegiate mark (5939) and led from wire-to-wire. He led after day 1 and won 4 individual events to post his 2nd "59" of the season.

What was surprising in Lincoln were the improved vault skills of Husker senior Björn



Barrefors,(left) 24, Stockholm, Sweden. When the dust cleared he was in possession of a 5792 auto qualifier. Minnesota senior Jack Szmanda and Michigan State's Kurt Schneider both ran up PR 5600 efforts for 3rd and 4th. 16(!) scored over 5000 points.

Southeastern Conf, Lexington, KY

Florida senior Gray Horn built up an insurmountable 1st day lead (3418 points) at the SEC affair in Lexington, KY and coasted thru the final two events for a 5885 score and 44 point margin over the seasonal leader, Arkansas freshman Gunnar Nixon. Nixon pair of career bests in the 60 hurdles and vault cut into Horn's lead but the differential was 154 points with one event remaining. So the Gator senior coasted while Nixon narrowly missed a 3rd PR (2:40.95).



Georgia senior Cory Holman's (left) eye-opening 7.86 hurdles to open day #2 had moved him to within 44 points of the frontrunner. But he surrendered the silver medal to Nixon (5841-5826) on the final lap of the 1000m. Arkansas soph Kevin Lazas posted a solid 5773 score for 4th but this meet netted no new NCAA qualifiers and a pair of Longhorns sighed with some relief.

Mountain Pacific, Seattle, WA

UCLA soph Marcus Nilsson, 21, Sweden, caught Oregon soph Dakotah Keys, 19, Sweet Home, OR in the final event and won by a scant 40 points, 5700 to 5660. The marks were PR for both. Last year's national JCcham,p Michael Bolligar, Washington St, was 3rd at 5406.

Mid-Majors



Montana State senior Asa Staven, 22, Georgetown, TX, (left) set a Big Sky conference mark and PR 5731 to win at Flagstaff. VMI's Antonio Wood won the Big South meet in Blacksburg with a 5168 total.

Central Michigan's Josh Kettlewell had no problem handling the Mid-American Conf field in Akron with a 5465 total, a 325 point margin over 2nd place.

North Dakota State soph Andy Lillejord was the Summit champ getting 5517 points in Fort Wayne, IN.

NCAA Div II

2010 indoor champ Darius Walker. A central Missouri senior who experienced a 2011 slump, returned to top form in winning the MIAA title with a nifty and relaxed 5162 effort. Saginaw Valley's Tyler Grob was the Great Lakes Conf champ (5092) while Logan Pettz of William Jewell College was the Great Lakes Valley Conf champ (4827). Ben Kolb, Bellarmine, the pre-meet favorite, was dq'd in the hurdles.



Southern Connecticut frosh Connor Coleman, (left) Gunnison, CO, (5047) led a 1-2 sweep of the New Englands in Boston.

NCAA Div III

Joe Hletko/North Central was the CCIW winner (4408) in Bloomington, IL. In the weekend's closest 7 eventer, Eric Larsen/Central(IA) College, a freshman from Waverly, hung on to a 2 point win over Luther College's Dalen Dirth at the Iowa Inter-collegiates in Mt Vernon, IA. Dirth who had put 5 seconds between the two in the final event. He needed another step.