

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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D II-III Completes Indoor Campaign CNU's Roethel Nets 5454 in 1st D-III Heptathlon

Hello Again..... The NCAA D-II and II heptathlons, plus the New Balance High School meet completed the 2012 indoor campaign over the past weekend (March 9-10).

At Iowa's Grinnell College, host of the NCAA III champs, Richard Roethel, a junior from Virginia's Christopher Newport University, posted an impressive 5434 winning score in D-III's initial heptathlon. For the past 3 seasons D-III had conducted a pentathlon. His total, which included a 2.11m/6-11 high jump, will go into the books as the meet standard. Three exceeded 5000 points and it took 4749 to score.

Roethel won 5 of 7 individual events (the first 5!) and led at the break at 3207. CNU coach Tyler Wingard noted that "He recovered really well from the pole vault to get a clearance and secure the overall win. He had to run the last event of the heptathlon, the 1000m, in between jumps of the open High Jump competition." Roethel was 3rd in the open high jump (2.08m/6-10).

At the NCAA D-II affair in Mankato, MN, Central Missouri veteran Darius Walker had things pretty much his own way until he came a cropper in the vault. Walker, a senior from Lee's Summit, MO, won 3 of the first 5 events and took a whopping 138 point lead to the pole vault pit. He is the 2010 NCAA II heptathlon (5377) and decathlon champion. Yet he was unable to clear his opening bar of 3.60m/ 11-9 ¾. A clearance just at this bar



CNU's Richard Roethel (podium and insert) had a busy weekend winning the NCAA III hept with a meet record 5434 and placed 3rd in the high jump.



would have been enough to win the overall title. The crown fell to Nick LeBron, a soph from Newington, CT who PR'd at 5225. The New Haven school went 1-3. Nine posted 5k scores and it took 5008 to place.

Brent Vogel, Central Missouri, the division's seasonal leader (5315 on December 10) was injured in December and will appeal for a medical redshirt. The senior from Jefferson City, MO (7072 decathlon) was 3rd at the 2010 NCAA II title meet.

The NYC Armory hosted the New Balance Indoor Prep nationals (replacing the confusing previous situation of dueling high school championship meets). There Jake Lazas, Brentwood, TN, younger brother of



S Conn St's Nick LeBron (left) was the NCAA II heptathlon winner. 2010 champ Darius Walker/Central Missouri (right) led until the 6th event.

Kevin, took the pentathlon crown with a 3855 score. He topped Kindersport (the club coached by former decathlete Gary Kinder) and Brentwood HS teammate Eric Hoff by 269 points. All this occurred while older brother Kevin was placing 3rd at the NCAA I meet in Nampa, ID.

Jake Lazas (right) Brentwood, TN, who has signed with the US Air Force Academy, won the New Balance Indoor Prep nationals pentathlon at the NYC Armory.

