

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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BIG 10 AWESOME

Barrefors, Murphy with Major Crowns; D-I Qualifying Complete

Hello Again.....This is the second of two weekend Newsletters (the Sunday edition) covering the extensive college conference championships. This offers coverage of the Fri-Sat, May 11-12 action. The major news came from Madison Wisconsin where Nebraska's Bjorn Barrefors beat back a great field to earn a PR 7897 victory. Consider: 13 exceeded 7000 points, 5 bested 7600, all while indoor king Jay Cato of Wisconsin (who already had a 7616 score and who open long jumped 7.66m/25-1¾) did not compete. The addition of Nebraska to an already strong league made for a conference deca classic. And the loss of Nebraska weakened the Big 12 meet which was won by seasonal leader Isaac Murphy of Texas.

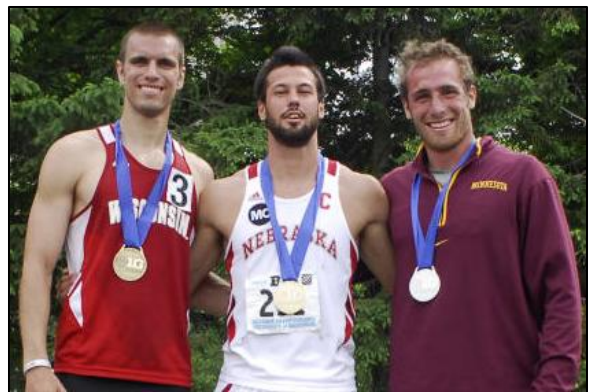
NCAA D-I qualifying is now complete and, although our lists are unofficial it now appears that the last and final (24th) qualifier was Kansas State junior Tomas Kirielius who came up with a 300 point PR (including 3 event PRs) for a 7508 score. The wave of good scores has been building for several years and now (with the NCAA advancing the top 24 w/o an automatic standard) it takes a minimum of 7500 points to compete in the June nationals. 5 years ago 7280 was enough to qualify for the nationals. No longer! The popularity of the event, judicious coaching preparation and the continued influx of foreign nationals (5 of the top 7 collegians are foreign

born) has combined to make the NCAA-I meet one of the world's most difficult to gain entry.

Here is the major news:

Big 10 U of Wisconsin, Madison May 11-12

What a difference a year makes. In 2011 a deluge washed out all the Big 10 performances in Iowa City, IA and not a single conference decathlete qualified for the NCAA nationals. In 2012, in Madison, WI, with great weather and the addition of the University of Nebraska to the league rolls, terrific scores were the order of the day. Nebraskan Swede



Dave Grzesiak/Wisconsin (l) (7832), Bjorn Barrefors/Nebraska (c) (7897) and Jack Szmanda/Minnesota(r) (7862) provided one of the highest scoring conference meets in history.

Bjorn Barrefors never trailed after the 2nd event and pasted a quality field that included 4 other D-I qualifiers. Consider: defending



Badger senior Derek Steinbach, Nashotah, WI, was the Big-10 conference surprise.

champ Heath Nickles, a junior at Ohio State, PR'd by nearly 200 points yet placed just 5th overall in Madison. Barrefors, Nickles and Badger senior Derek Steinbach, Nashotah, WI all added their names to the NCAA entry list. Wisconsin will join Arkansas with a trio

surprising. Longhorn teammates did not fare as well: Swedish frosh Petter Olsen came a cropper in the pole vault and senior Kenny Greaves (last year's runner-up) never got untracked. But the host school provided the noise. Kansas State junior Tomas Kirielius won two events, PR's in 3 others and ran up a 250 point career best 7508 points. It appears that he grabbed the last NCAA D-I qualifying spot. Teammate Devin Dick, a Wichita State transfer, came to the Big-12 meet with a 6600 point PR. In spite of having his hand in a cast (vaulting thumb injury) and iced for most of the meet, the Hutchinson, KS Tomas Dvorak look-alike, demonstrated an eye-opening 7425 score and an awful lot of upside talent.

of June entries. So deep were the marks in Madison that 7150 did not warrant a scoring place. What a difference a year makes.

**Big 12
Kansas State U, Manhattan, KS
May 11-12**

From the opening gun Texas junior Isaac Murphy never trailed at the Big 12 championship meet in Manhattan, KS. Only 11 entered at K-State's R.V. Christian track, but past Murphy's winning 7642 score, the results were



Texas junior Isaac Murphy, Fort Hood, TX, never trailed at the Big 12 meet in Manhattan, KS. Here he PRs in the shot at 13.38m/43-11.

Other Major Conferences

Northern Iowa's Dan Gooris won the Missouri Valley Conference affair in Wichita (7608) after local Aaron Young was dq'd in the hurdles. The Southland meet was won by Romain Martin/Texas-Arlington(7426). Both Gooris and Frenchman Martin had previously achieved NCAA qualifiers. Rice's Clayton Chaney was the Conference USA winner and holds the dubious distinction of holding the 25th best collegiate score, 7475.

In all, 204 USA collegians lined up this past weekend and 40 7000 scores were the result.

As of Sunday, May 13, here are the top 24 NCAA I scorers:

8067	Murphy, Isaac	Texas	
		Texas R, Austin	3/28-29
8065	Barroilhet, Gonzalo	Florida St	
		ACC, Charlottesville	4/19-20
7977	Martin, Romain	UT-Arlington-FRA	
		Texas R, Austin	3/28-29
7972	Felix, Kurt	Boise St-GRN	
		Texas R, Austin	3/28-29
7897	Barrefors, Bjorn	Nebraska-SWE	
		Big 10, Madison	5/11-12
7862	Szmanda, Jack	Minnesota	
		Big 10, Madison	5/11-12
7857	Olson, Petter	Texas-SWE	
		Texas R, Austin	3/28-29
7832	Grzesiak, Dave	Wisconsin	

	Big 10, Madison	5/11-12
7793	Keys, Dakotah Oregon Pac-12, Eugene	5/5-6
7778	Lazas, Kevin Arkansas SEC, Baton Rouge	5/10-11
	[10]	
7764	Beach, Curtis Duke ACC, Charlottesville	4/19-20
7739	Steinbach, Derek Wisconsin Big 10, Madison	5/11-12
7660	Nixon, Gunnar Arkansas Mt Sac R, Azusa	4/18-19
7635	Nickles, Heath Ohio State Big 10, Madison	5/11-12
7632	Huber, Nick Cornell Heptagonals, Phila	5/5-6
7630	Mohl, Jeff Montana St Big Sky, Bozeman	5/9-10
7624	Gorris, Dan N Iowa Drake R, Des Moines	4/25-26
7616	Cato, Japheth Wisconsin Mt Sac R, Azusa	4/18-19
7597	Waruch, Jake Connecticut UConn, Storrs	4/10-11
7585	Prentice, Terry Arkansas SEC, Baton Rouge	5/10-11
	[20]	
7558	Masterson, Derek UCSB Sam Adams, S Barbara	4/2-3
7539	Nilsson, Marcus UCLA-SWE Pac-12, Eugene	5/5-6
7513	York, Richard New Mexico Mtn West, Colo Spgs	5/8-9
7508	Kirieliuss, Tomas Kansas St-LTH Big 12, Manhattan	5/11-12
	[24]	