

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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NIXON – 6022 WORLD JUNIOR RECORD

Big Weekend Nets Plethora of Top Scores

Hello Again..... To say that the 2012 indoor season is finally underway would be an understatement. The last weekend of January provided so many top performances that it completely rewrote the US indoor lists. And there is no doubt where we should start....in Fayetteville with the Razorback Invitational. There, 19 year old Arkansas freshman Gunnar Nixon posted an eye-opening 6022 score, a world junior record, surpassing the previous mark of 5953 by Germany's Michael Kohnle in 1959. In addition to his world junior record, Nixon became the fifth collegian to eclipse the 6,000-point mark in the heptathlon (see accompanying table). His mark also represents a 2012 world leader, American junior record, top mark in the NCAA this year and school record.

"I was pretty pumped with where I was with 200 (meters) to go (in the 1,000 meters)," the 6-4, 180 pound Nixon said. "I actually didn't know what the record was coming in. I just knew the 6,000-point barrier would be something awesome to achieve in my first-ever heptathlon so that's what I was going for."

The former American junior record holder, teammate Kevin Lazas finished 2nd with a 5920 score, a 246 point PR. The Razorbacks are the deepest CE collegiate aggregation since Tennessee's squad of the early 1990s (Brophy-Long-Shelton, et.al). Six Razorbacks finished inside the top 15 and scored more than 5,100 points in this affair. Yet that was far from the entire story.



19 year old Arkansas freshman Gunnar Nixon made a statement in his first collegiate multis.....6022 points.

Consider Arizona senior Nick Ross whose inaugural multi netted him a 5261 score. 8th at last year's NCAA outdoor high jump, Ross recently told Wildcat coach Sheldon Blockburger that he wanted to pursue a coaching career. Blockburger recommended that Ross not only learn and train for all of the events, but that he also contest them: in an indoor hept and outdoor dec. So Ross, a 20 year old soph from Murrieta, CA, promptly tied the world, American and collegiate multi indoor high jump mark of 2.24m/7-4¼ on the way to his 11th place mark.

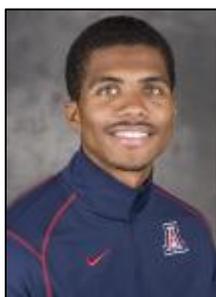
As well, the 1000 meters was an eye-opener as 6-3 Arkansas soph Nathaniel Franks, 20, Damascus, OR, cranked out an impressive 2:28.94, # 2 all time and approximately 1 second off the world best of Curtis Beach set in 2010. Yet 7-4 high jumps and 2:28 1ks were not the real story...it was the depth of the final scores. Oft-injured Georgia senior Cory Holman PR'd with a 5809 total and was barely noticed. 14th place (!) was 5122. Texans Isaac

Murphy and newcomer Petter Olson/SWE also posted 5700+ scores. See the Results Page.

Florida senior Gray Horn dominated the Texas A&M Challenges in College Station, TX, getting a 5971 total while stamping himself as one of the NCAA pre-meet favorites. Tall Frenchman Romain Martin, a junior at UT-Arlington, tried out the NCAA oval at Nampa, ID and came away with a nifty 5796 score. Lithuanian Mantas Silkauskas/Kansas State was the Iowa State Bergan winner notching an impressive 5780 score. His 6.78 60m and 7.85 60 hurdles were nothing to blink at. In fact, they were so quick that if you did blink you would miss them.

In all six collegians ran up NCAA I auto qualifying marks (5750) and a trio of mothers surpassed 7673 pushing Ohio State's Heath Nickles, who topped the collegiate and national lists as the weekend began, to 10th overall! For example, at the Penn State Open Central Michigan senior Josh Kettlewell surprised with a 5673 winning total. One can speculate whether his fine mark will hold up for NCAA I qualifying. My guess...it'll be close.

The top non-collegian efforts were posted by Eric Broadbent (5790 at Liberty), Wesley Bray (5677 at Houston) and Ben



Arizona soph Nick Ross (left) and Arkansas soph Nathaniel Franks (right) came up with world shaking individual performances. Ross leaped 2.24m/7-4 ¼ in the high jump while Franks gunned a 2:28.94 1000 meters, both in the elongated (7 hour 2nd day) Fayetteville meet.

All Time Collegiate List [as of 1/29/12]

6499	Ashton Eaton	Oregon	2010
6256	Eaton		2010
6208	Trey Hardee	Texas	2006
6174ot	Eaton		2009
6136	Donovan Kilmartin	Texas	2004
6048	Kilmartin		2006
6035	Maurice Smith	Auburn-JAM	2005
6022	Gunnar Nixon	Arkansas	2012
5998	Kilmartin		2007
5988	Eaton		2009
	[10 performances]		
5986	Miller Moss	Clemson	2011
5971	Gray Horn	Florida	2012
5951	Gonzalo Barroilhet	Florida St-CHI	2008
5939	Nick Adcock	Missouri	2010
5928	Smith		2004
5920	Kevin Lazas	Arkansas	2012
5917	Chris Helwick	Tennessee	2006
	[10 performers]		
5909	Jake Arnold	Arizona	2007
5906	Raven Cepeda	Northern Iowa	2008
5902	Lars Rise	Missouri-NOR	2011

Davies (5505 in Birmingham). In all, 15 of the 271 CE athletes who toed the starting line in 26 separate meets, posted scores over 5500 points. And there were 57 (!) new marks exceeding 5000 points. Fifty seven on a single weekend. Check the Results Page.



Gray Horn/Florida leaps 2.07m/6-9½ at A&M
Ashton Eaton Watch

World indoor record holder Ashton Eaton opened his 2012 indoor campaign doing individual events at the Texas A&M Challenge in College Station, Jan 27-28.

Long jump: 8.04m / 26-4½
60m Hurdles 7.73
400 meters 47.97