

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## BEACH'S 5862 MAULS ACC WAC, SoCon Decided

**Hello Again.....** This will be the first of three weekend newsletters covering the collegiate conference weekend. Three college conference meets (ACC, SoCon and WAC) were decided on Thursday-Friday (Feb 23-24).

I'll post a second newsletter covering the Friday-Saturday (Feb. 24-25) affairs (many of the Bigs---10, 12, Sky, West and the super SEC) and a third newsletter Sunday evening for the Saturday-Sunday (Feb 25-26) meets. In all 23 championship heptathlons are scheduled.

Duke junior Curtis Beach, 21, Albuquerque, was the entire story on Thurs-Fri as he took the Atlantic Coast Conference first day lead at Boston's Reggie Lewis Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> event (7.09m/23-3¼), then banged at PR 12.29m/40-4 shot, his first career 40 footer. He then recorded an undercover PR 2.06m/6-9 high jump to take a 195 point lead with day two remaining. He was just ten points down on his PR pace (when he scored 5816) from last year's ACC meet in Blacksburg.

On Friday Beach, who enrolled at Duke after a terrific prep CE career, disappointed no one in Boston. He exhibited improved hurdle skills, getting 8.25 seconds (in a 2 man section!?!), a solid vault, 4.69 m/15-4½ and then turned on his well-known 1k skills, cruising alone to a 2:29.64 clocking, less than 2 seconds off his own WR. His PR 5862 score was the 9<sup>th</sup> NCAA I auto qualifier (A standard is 5750), missed the meet record by 19 digits (Clemson's Miller Moss won a year ago with



Curtis Beach, Duke, put up big numbers at Boston's Reggie Lewis Center, site the 2012 Atlantic Coast Conference meet. His 5862 PR score was 19 shy of the conference record.

5881 before capturing the NCAA title), and # 5 on the USA and collegiate seasonal list. Whew! Great job Curtis!

The meet was all Duke/Carolina. Frosh Joe Hutchinson led the North Carolina Tarheels with a 2-3-4 finish and 19 team points. Pentathletes from Duke/UNC also went 1-2 in the women's CE.

In Boise, Idaho, with Boise State's Kurt Felix on the sidelines having already qualified for the NCAA I meet in 2 weeks, Idaho senior Andrew Blaser had an easy time, getting 5342 points for the win in a 7 man field which although exhibiting great vaulting (Jeremy Klas/Idaho went 5.40m/17-8½), saw

only 1 athlete in a seven man field break 3 minutes for the 1000m. In Birmingham, AL, Samford's Bo Ackerson-Gilroy put up 7 solid marks and set a meet record 5127 to win the Southern Conference meet.