

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## FOCUS ON EAST

### King Wins Big East with 5444 Score

**Hello Again.....**The 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of February was much quieter than the first two. Seventeen meets were conducted nationally but the main focus was on the east coast where most of its collegiate conferences conducted championship CEs. The rationale: east coast collegians will get a final opportunity at NCAA qualifying in two weeks at the IC4A meet at Boston University on May 5-6. And so the MEAC, Atlantic Ten, Patriot League, America East and Big East leagues were busy on Feb. 17-18-19.

Major attention was drawn to the Big East heptathlon in Akron on Saturday and Sunday. It brought together: 2008-09 champ, Connecticut's Aaron King (21, redshirt junior, Wharton, NJ); defending champ and 5497 scorer Justin Schneider of Notre Dame (22, senior, Atlanta), and '10 USA junior champ Neaman Wise (19, soph, Altamonte Springs, FL) of South Florida. In the mix was Bates transfer Jesse Chapman, now a sophomore at UConn.

Wise led after two events, then King grabbed the mantle with a 13.96m/45-9 $\frac{3}{4}$  shot and never relinquished it. The 60m hurdle race told the whole story. King, although running an erect and somewhat ragged 8.30 (a seasonal worst), in the first section, he nevertheless won the event and padded his overall margin. The 5-5 Wise, a 13.98 high school hurdler, managed but 8.54 for the 60m sticks and the 6-3 Schneider, who has always found this event a nemesis, stumbled and clocked only 9.43. The meet was over and the only question was how far up the tables King could run his score. His final two events netted only 1303 points. Schneider, on the other hand, won the final two events (4.90m/16- $\frac{3}{4}$  vault and 2:38.53 1k). But the damage had been done and he finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with a 5227 score, 72 down on Wise. Chapman, like King, posted a seasonal best total, 5088, for 4<sup>th</sup>.

Other D-1 east coast conference winners included: Damon Dixon, who won the MEAC; Andrew Powell, the Patriot League; Keith Onto/UMBC who won the America East crown, and Andrew Reigstad of Rhode Island who was the Atlantic ten champ. All of



**Akron's Dan Kinsey (above) got his USA indoor qualifier winning the Ohio Wesleyan pentathlon with a 3902 score.**

the above mentioned are likely to meet in two weeks at the IC4A affair in Boston. It is the final meet that can be used as an NCAA qualifier.

3 NAIA conferences held championships. Josh Ewalt won the DAC 10 in Spearfish, SD; soph Rob Keeney of Doane (who doubles in the summer as a rodeo bronco rider) defended at the Great Plains AC affair in Lincoln; and '10 KU Relays champ Aaron Hannon/Baker, a senior, was the Heartland of America (HAAC) winner. D-II athletes were on hold and the only significant D-III meet was the New England's D-



**The Aaron's have it! Hannon of Baker U (above) and UConn's King (right) were weekend heptathlon winners.**

III where Williams' Isaac Nicholson posted a fine 3589 pentathlon score.

Significantly, Akron grad Dan Kinsey, got his USA indoor qualifier winning the Ohio Wesleyan pentathlon with a 3902 effort. Athletes can qualify for the USA indoor meet with either 7700 decathlon score,

5450 heptathlon score or 3850 pentathlon score, all dating back to January, 2010.



**Doane's Rob Keeney was the Great Plains AC champ with a 50006 score in Lincoln.**

Next weekend (Feb. 24-27) will be the busiest on the indoor campaign as 17 NCAA D-I meets conduct championship meets with NCAA qualifying on the line. As we go to press the 14<sup>th</sup> best collegiate score nationally is 5549. What a weekend that'll be!