

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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Horn Collars Rise at Mt SAC Ayers Returns with Win at Dogwood

Hello Again.....A pair of major meets dominated the national decathlon news during the 3rd week of April, 2011 and the winners of each were Southeastern Conference mainstays. Gray Horn (21, Wapakoneta, OH), a junior at Florida, added 140 digits to his career best while winning (7791 score) the very deep Mt Sac Relays at Azusa (4/13-14). At the same time Georgia's Michael Ayers (22, Nashville, TN), returning to outdoor eligibility after transferring from Tennessee, captured the Sea Ray Relays in Knoxville, his previous home, with a fine 7659 effort. Both will meet in 4 weeks at the SEC championships on Ayers home turf in Athens, GA (May 12-13).

At Azusa Horn turned back a fine field where 11 surpassed 7k. Missouri's Norwegian Lars Rise came within 6 points of his own PR to place 2nd in a consistent performance that saw him scare 5 individual career bests. In the past 3 seasons Rise has improved at this meet from 7371 to 7693 to 7770. Come-backing Chris Randolph, now based in San Luis



Duck senior David Klech (left) took a big step in his transformation to the event with a 7533 score at Mt Sac, a mark that included 13.82 and 4:12.50.



Gator junior Gray Horn pasted a fine field at Mt Sac in Azusa with a terrific 7771 PR score, getting career bests in the 400m and 110m hurdles.

Obispo, got his USA national qualifier with a 7664 for 3rd, while Oregon senior David Klech opened some eyes with a 7533 in his initial career dec, a mark that included a 13.82 hurdles, the mark of the meet. Subpar on the throws, Klech finished with a sizzling 4:12.50 1½ k. Long Beach State's steady Nick Armstrong PR'd in 7468 for 5th. Day one was cloudy and overcast, leaving the athletes fresh for day two that, in meet director Kevin Reid's words, "was ideal."

Reid accommodates a ton of entries each year. In the accompanying California Invitational, Air Force Academy Falcon Noah Palacia caught Minnesota's Brock Spandl in the final event barely winning, 7385 to 7384 as both PR'd. Montana State's Jeff Mohl won a 'B' section as, in total 47 started and 38 completed all ten in Azusa. Meanwhile Ayers was dominating the Dogwood Relays where he schooled for 2 seasons until transferring

after legendary coach Bill Webb retired. He led a 1-2-3 Bull-dawg sweep. Ben Davies, an Ayers'



Georgia's Michael Ayers (left) led a 1-2-3 'dog sweep at Dogwood, managing a 7659 score.

Tennessee prep clubmate under Gary Kinder, took 5:14+ to finish the 1500m and finished with 7385, itself a PR and 22 more than teammate Tommy Barrineau. The significance of those totals? Given all of the other fine scores (already 13 >7400, even before the conference championship campaign begins) anything under 7400, perhaps even 7450, is likely a below D-I bubble effort.

A pair of Oregon NAIA contenders won low-key in-state meets. Last year's national runner-up, Bryant Sentman/Oregon Tech, was a winner at Mount Hood with a score 300 points higher than his victory in the same meet a year ago. And NAIA indoor champ Robbie Haynie/Eastern Oregon, the '10 NJCAA winner, won the Spokane CC meet with a 6752 score. They will meet at the NAIA nationals in Marion, Indiana in late may.

History was being made at the David Nobles Multis in San Angelo when Hewitt Holmes of the host school was greeted by the 2nd greatest wind advantage that I can recall.

Aiding his winning 6530 total was:

100 m	wind	+7.7 mps
Long jump	wind	+6.7 mps
110m H	wind	<u>+5.2 mps</u>
Total:		19.6 mps !!

I have, as an unofficial record, Ricky Barker using gusts of +5.9mps, +7.2mps and +7.1mps (total: 20.2mps) at the 1991 SWC affair in Waco, Texas. That is what last year's IAAF ruling should be all about. That is wind!

There were any number of fine open performances during the week. Olympic king Bryan Clay opened his outdoor season with a 13.81 hurdles at home. Trey Hardee followed at nifty 21.05 200m win at the Clay meet in Azusa with a 46.72m/153-3 discus at Mt Sac in Walnut. Ashton Eaton PR'd again in the discus in the open Mt Sac Multis with a 45.51m/149-2 toss.

A dozen meets dot next week's schedule including the Kansas Relays and the ACC title meet at Duke.

NCAA Decathlon qualifying

One final note....for D-I coaches.... the final day to qualify for the NCAA D-I championship decathlon is Sunday, May 15. The marks must be submitted by 11:59 pm on that date. The declaration procedure, which goes on in the following days, is completed on May 19 when the accepted entries will be posted. In other words the final day for qualifying is the same as for other events even though there are no multIs at the Regional level.

