

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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JEREMY & DAVID SHOW IN TUCSON

Taiwo Over Klech at Pac-10

Hello Again....The first 7 days of May, 2011 witnessed 28 (!) college conference decathlons, the most notable being the Pac-10 affair at the University of Arizona. There was little drama during the past three Pac-10 decathlons. On each occasion (08-09-10) Oregon's Ashton Eaton had been an easy winner. This year's meet in Tucson was a different story. Unlike the recent two weeks nationwide, the weather was not the issue. The story was the emergence of Washington junior Jeremy Taiwo, 21, Ballard, WA, as an NCAA gold medal contender and confirmation that Oregon senior David Klech, San Ramon, CA and a week past his 23rd birthday, has completed his transfer from long hurdler to decathlete.

The final scores, Taiwo 7752 and Klech 7581 (in only his 2nd ten eventer) are a bit misleading. Taiwo led Klech after 5, 4215-4127. An 8k score appeared in the cards for the leader whose father, Joseph, was a 2x Olympic triple jumper representing Nigeria.

Day 2 started with Klech getting a fine 13.94 hurdles clocking while Taiwo PR'd in 14.41. The Oregon senior platted a discus PR but faltered in the vault, managing just 4.20m/13-9¼, 2 bars below his recent best. Taiwo, on the other hand, managed a near PR 4.82m/15-9¾. With two events remaining the scoreboard read:

Taiwo 6581

Klech 6355

with the remainder of the field far in arrears.



At the Pac-10 Champs in Tucson Washington junior Jeremy Taiwo (left) and Oregon senior David Klech (above) went 1-2, both with major PR scores.



An elbow injury forced the right-handed Taiwo (who has a 53.71m/176-2 '09 lifetime best) to throw the javelin with his left hand. He managed just 32.85m/107-9 and led Klech by 157 with the 1500m remaining. At the Mt Sac Relays Klech's 4:12.50 had bettered Jeremy by 17 seconds. A repeat would not have been enough for the Oregon senior to take the overall lead, but the final scores would have been considerably closer.

"He's a tremendous competitor and we had a lot of fun with everyone out there," Taiwo said of Klech. "When it came down to the (1500m) I knew I could sit back and just run close to a 4:30, but my mom said don't just try to follow him, go beat him, so I

realized I had a little bit more with 150-meters to go and he wasn't really pushing it so I figured I might as well finish the race well." Jeremy chased down and passed David on the final lap getting a 4:18.69 clocking. His final tally, a PR by 231 points, may be the highest on record with a 107 foot javelin toss.

3rd-4th and 5th at Drachman Stadium were a trio of UCLA Bruins: Trent Perez's, 7315 and Dom Gionannoni's 7117 sandwiched newcomer Marcus Nilsson. Nilsson is so new to the Westwood campus that the UCLA roster lists no background information other than his hometown is "Sweden." Let me help....Nilsson is a 20 year old freshman (born 5/3/91), 6-0, 170, whose 7751 PR with junior implements came last year at the IAAF world junior champs in Moncton (3rd place). He has a 7318 '10 PR with senior implements at '10 Euro Cup Super league in Tallinn. Lane CC transfer Kevin Godfrey was 6th for the Ducks (PR 6853).



Long Beach junior Nick Armstrong won the Big West affair but his season best of 7478 may not be enough to earn a ticket to the NCAAs in Des Moines. Upcoming conference meets will determine his fate.

This was a busy week. 28 collegiate conferences conducted decathlons in the first 7 days of the month (8 D-I; 7 D-II; 6 D-III; 4 NAIA; and 3 JC). The most productive D-I league, other than the Pac-10, was the Big West at Irvine, where 4 surpassed 7k. But Long Beach's Nick Armstrong, seeking an NCAA auto mark (7500), suffered jav and vault woes and fell 91 points shy. His 7478 Mt Sac score will remain a bubble mark as we look to next weekend's major conference avalanche. Five D-I meets were in the east (there is a final opportunity at the

annual IC4As) and UConn's Aaron King posted the best score, a disappointing 7042. The very first event at Villanova took the sting out of the 9 man field. Headwinds of -3.4 and -3.1. Track and Field New's *Big Gold Book* estimates that a 100m reversal direction would make approximately .28 to .30 seconds difference, a 60-65 point differential. No one can say for certain, but that sort of decision at Villanova likely would have prevented some of the 5½ 1500m shuffling.

Brent Vogel of the Central Missouri Mules posted the top D II score last week, getting 6913 points while winning the MIAA affair in Pittsburg, KS. Resurging teammate Darius Walker was 2nd at 6636.

Dan Drewek/Wisconsin-Stout captured the Wisconsin Intercollegiate with the top D-III mark, 6379. Logan Petz/William Jewell College, won the Heart of America Conference crown with the highest NAIA score, 6506.

Open and D-I athletes tuned up for forthcoming meets. At Clemson's Pollak meet, NCAA indoor winner Miller Moss clocked a fast 14.39 hurdles, 48.69 400m and then PR'd in the discus at 38.17m/125-3 and scared another lifetime best spearing 48.67m/159-8. In Eugene, at University of Oregon's Twilight meet, (Fri-May 6) hampered by cold (never above 54 degrees) and persistent showers (hey, it's Oregon!) Ashton Eaton continued his tune-up for the USA nationals. After a 45.91 relay leg on the OTC distance medley relay, he long jumped 7.81m/25-7½ and THEN....won the 110m hurdles with a lifetime best 13.52 (wind+0.9).

One can check out the video performances at www.runnerspace.com. I recommend watching his hurdle race....he was flying over the first barrier! 13.52 *in the rain*.

OK, now to the year's busiest week. 23 meets are scheduled including most of

the major collegiate conferences (Big 12, Big 10, SEC, Big Sky, Conference USA, Mountain West, WAC and so on) and two important last chance qualifiers (Wake Forest on Tues-Wed) and Claremont (Thurs-Fri). Hold on.