

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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CEs HEAD OUTDOORS

Walker, Wildman and Janvrin(!) with Big Scores

Hello Again....This is a catch-up edition of the Newsletter to cover the final indoor championships from the March 12-14 weekend and note some early outdoor meetings. The heptathlon world record in Fayetteville by Ashton Eaton and a 1-2 finish at the IAAF World Championships in Doha by Bryan Clay and Trey Hardee deservedly attracted all of last week's attention. This newsletter recognizes two additional indoor national collegiate winners and a pair of prep national winners. And we cover several outdoor decathlons. In one case, the same individual was both an indoor and outdoor winner.

While Ashton Eaton was winning the NCAA Div-I crown with a world record in Arkansas (6499 points) Central Missouri's Darius Walker and Trinity U's Todd Wildman were claiming the Div-II and Div-I crowns. Walker, 20, a soph from Lee's Summit, MO, started strongly in Albuquerque then caught favorite Zac Preble of Bemidji State, 5377 to 5294. Preble led by 10 digits with one event remaining but Walker out-legged him by 9+ seconds in the 1000 meters. Coach Kip Janvrin's Mules (now really, here's a nickname that *has to be changed*...perhaps to Kippers) went 1-4-6 in the team scoring.

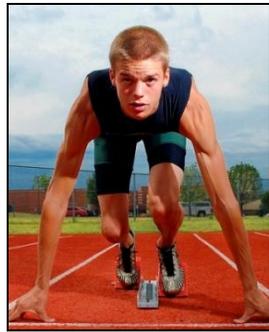
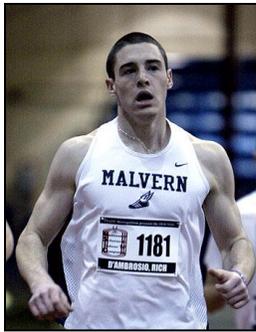
At the D-III affair in Greencastle, IN, Trinity's Todd Wildman, grad student, defended his pentathlon title with a 3751 effort, 87 more than outdoor decathlon champ



Darius Walker, (left), Central Missouri and Todd Wildman (right), Trinity, TX, won the undercover D-II and D-III crowns.

Josh Lovell of Linfield, OR. Six exceeded 3500 points. *Suggestion to D-III...let's move to the heptathlon.*

On the same weekend the prep scene produced outstanding pentathlon results. The Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury, MA hosted the premier indoor boy's pentathlon. At the Nike Indoor Nationals, Gunnar Nixon, a junior from Santa Fe HS in Edmonds, OK, had an easy time of it in the much anticipated matchup with Brentwood, TN senior Kevin Lazas. The difference was nearly 200 digits as the angular Nixon used hurdling (8.16 seconds) and high jump (2.15m/7-1/2) to set a junior class record 4141. Lazas, committed to the University of Arkansas, produced a 14.90m/48-10³/₄ shot while posting a PR 3942 effort. Meanwhile, at the Armory in NYC, Rich D'Ambrosio, a junior at Malvern Prep in Collegetown, PA, overcame a 167 point lead by Andre Davis, Old Bridge, NJ in the final event. With the latter 1k lumbering around in 3:22.07, D'Ambrosio's 2:55.43 was enough for the 3590 score victory. "I never threw the



Chris D'Ambrosio/Malvern Prep, PA (left) and Gunnar Nixon/Santa Fe HS, OK (right) won the major prep indoor pentathlons.

shot or ran the 1,000 before, so I didn't know to expect," said D'Ambrosio. "I am pretty surprised right now. I thought I could get on the podium (top six), but winning this??? It's pretty amazing." D'Ambrosio said it wasn't his idea to try the pentathlon. "My coach told me he thought I could do well in it, so I figured I'd give it a shot," said D'Ambrosio. "I'm glad I listened to him." In all, 54 athletes competed in the two prep decathlons.

2010 Outdoor Season

In early outdoor action Philip Adam/Rice opened with a PR at home (7396) over Chris Dickman, (7086) just five days after the Wichita State senior placed 7th at the NCAA indoor affair in Fayetteville. Northridge senior Lance Gonzales also found the home environs friendly as he won the Spring Break meet with a 7170 score.

An eye-opening Spring Break meet at Angelo State produced several, well, eye-opening marks. First, Central Missouri soph Darius Walker, just 6 days removed from his D-II indoor victory in Albuquerque, got the win with a 6989 effort. AGAIN, he came from behind in the final event to win by just 6 points over Aaron Harlan (younger brother of Ryan)/SF Austin St. Yet the bigger story was the 4th place finisher, Walker's coach, 44 year old Kip Janvrin. We are still checking whether his 6657 score is a 44 year old world

best. Janvrin already holds the world's best of 8621 (using lighter implements) at the San Sebastien world champs in 2005. But he retired soon thereafter and this entry as a complete surprise. Already the American



Kip Janvrin (left) ended retirement with his 90th decathlon completion in San Angelo, TX, while Philip Adam/Rice (right) PR's in his win in Houston. record holder for 8000+ scores (26) and world record holder for 7000+ scores (78), this was his 90th completed decathlon. He'll need 2 more completions for a 9th Ten Ave. And, more important in San Angelo, it gave him the option to run alongside Walker for encouragement during the 1500 meters.

Notes:

Did anyone notice that Ashton Eaton came back a day after his indoor WR heptathlon in Fayetteville with a 46.42 400m relay leg in the 4x400m relay final. The Ducks were 6th in 3:08.42. Eaton opened the outdoor season on March 20th with a 40.05m/131-4 discus and 47.37m/155-5 javelin at the Oregon Preview meeting in Eugene.