

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION


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WISE USA JUNIOR WINNER Leads Des Moines Meet From Wire to Wire

 **Hello Again....**At 5-5 and 140 pounds South Florida, Neamen Wise, 19, became the smallest man to win the USA Junior decathlon crown by scoring a PR 7300 (with junior international implements) at the 38th USA junior nationals in Des Moines, IA. He led from the opening gun, never trailed (although at one point Brentwood's Kevin Lazas had cut his lead to just 2 points) and ran a gutsy 4 second lifetime best in the 1500 to turn back the challenge by Lazas.

Wow, what a barn-burner, and not just because this was one hot, sunny day. This decathlon went down to the final strides in the 1500m. Leading by just 33 points after 9 events Wise, Altamonte Springs, FL, needed to stay within 5½ seconds of Lazas to wrap up the crown. Heretofore his 1500m PR was 4:52 compared to 4:38 for the Lazas, who is headed to Arkansas in the fall. Predictably the stocky Lazas forced the pace and Wise hung tough...and at one point, with a lap remaining, the differential had grown to 6 seconds. But the Tennessee student who trains with former Olympian Gary Kinder and represented Kinder-Sport here, ran out of gas in the final 300m and Wise made up the difference, inch-by inch. At the finish, although talented Nathaniel Franks (Barlow, OR) had won the race in 4:29.86, Lazas clocked 4:44.69 with Wise almost exactly 4 seconds back at the finish. Wise's margin of victory was just 9 points (7300-7291).



Kevin Lazas, (left), a senior at Brentwood Academy, TN mounted a late challenge to USF's Neamen Wise (right), but fell 9 points short, 7300 to 7291.

Wise began day one with a 10.85 century and tacked on a 7.05m/23-1½ long jump and led by 17 points after 2 events. The wind readings for the long jump were spurious, for there were no constant breezes in the jumping area and the wind was significantly different at the beginning and at the end of the runway and 20 meters on either side of the runway. Meet officials tried to accommodate the athletes by jumping with the wind but there was just no telling at Drake Stadium where the wind was coming from. Most of the athletes could not handle the changing headwinds (up to -4.7 mps) and most leaps were well below expectations as many foot placements were anywhere but on the toe-board.

The shot was an eye-opener. By far the meet's smallest entrant, Wise's 12.74m/41-9½ put was impressive for someone his size. Lazas won the event at 13.73m/45-½ but Neamen maintained a 79 point margin.

Perhaps the meet's most impressive individual performance was Wise's 1.96m/ 6-5 high jump clearance, 12' higher than his height. Seasonal leader Gunnar Nixon, who had set a national dec high jump record earlier in the season at 2.12m/6-11½ (he has a PR 2.15m/7-½) won the event in 2.08m/6-9¾, yet this event, like the long jump, was a downer for most since, after the pits were settled, very strong winds from the north (officials had to manually hold the crossbar on) blew directly into the jumpers approach. After 4 events Wise led by 90 points.

The 400m produced a 2 second PR at



Dakotah Keys, Sweet Home, OR, faced a dq for a lane violation in the 2nd 400m race. Despite the zero he was in 9th place with one event remaining.

49.58 seconds by Nathaniel Franks, Barlow, OR, but he was dq'd for a lane violation. Ditto for Dakotah Keys, Sweet Home, OR. Nixon won the 1st unseeded section in 50.18 as the wind on the backstretch was straightening. Wise died on the homestretch but his 51.96 clocking was good enough to keep the overall lead by 10 points. Evan Weinstock, Las Vegas, won the 2nd race in 50.79 while Franks had apparently won the 3rd.

On Day Two Wise won the 110 hurdles in 14.50 seconds while Nixon gunned a 14.63 effort. Wise's lead over Nixon expanded to 26 points. Steady Austin Bahner, a freshman from Wichita State, was the discus victor at 42.63m/139-10 but Wise was not far off at 41.61m/136-6 and his lead after 7 was 218 points.

Here Lazas mounted his charge and , with Taylor Schmidt/Concordia U(OR) and Keys tied for the win in the vault at 4.50m/14-9, six bars higher than Wise. At this point he had carved the Floridian's margin to 97.

There was a bit of drama in the javelin event. Throwing back-to-back, Wise opened with a 49.42m/162-1 strike and Lazas answered at 55.78m/183-0 (the eventual winning toss) and pared the lead to just two points, 6642-6640. Lazas never did better the mark but Wise did, eventually getting off a 51.50m/169-0 spear and his lead expanded to 33 points, the margin he had at the start of the 1500m. More important



Tall Gunnar Nixon (left), Edmond, OK, found himself 10 points back at the break but weak discus and 1500 scuttled any chance for the high school seasonal leader.

for Wise was the stern lecture received from his father minutes before the 1500m and the "persuasion" must have worked for he ran a gutsy race and just held on for the victory.

The USA meet was a qualifier for the IAAD World Junior champs July 19-25 in New Brunswick (Moncton), Canada. Wise and Lazas earned spots.



RESULTS:

6/23-24 USA Junior Champs, Drake U, Des Moines, IA							
7300	Wise, Neaman/South Florida	10.85-0.8					
705-1.6	1274 196 51.96 14.50-1.9	4116 390 5150	4:48.67				
7291	Lazas, Kevin/Kinder Sport, TN	11.34-1.4					
691-3.0	1373 190 50.38 15.31-0.2	3640 450 5578	4:44.69				

7137 Nixon, Gunnar/E'side SteppersTC 11.08+1.8
663-1.7 1190 208 50.18 14.63+2.1 3206 410 5123 4:48.01
7133 Bahner, Austin/Wichita St 10.98+1.8
710-1.5 1173 184 49.76 15.85+1.9 4263 400 4949 4:39.01
6844 Schmidt, Taylor /Concordia(OR) 11.39+1.8
651-1.7 1311 181 53.51 14.82-0.2 3725 450 5413 5:09.12
6515 Weinstock, Evan/Nev HS 11.00+1.8
614-1.4 1275 184 50.79 15.14+1.9 3394 350 4444 4:56.48
6454 Glasnow, Ted/Notre Dame 11.73+1.8
641-3.0 1258 199 53.01 16.28+1.9 4026 370 3847 4:48.42
6235 Lindaman, Benton/Iowa United 11.68-0.8
613-0.5 1354 172 53.65 15.36+2.1 3642 300 5454 4:56.66
6190 Mohl, Jeff/Montana St 11.36-0.8
610-2.9 1132 184 52.23 15.67+2.1 3352 400 4107 5:14.39
6189 Critser, Justin/Idaho St U 11.80-1.4
617-4.7 1076 193 51.97 15.87+2.1 3133 370 3859 4:39.76
6180 Keys, Dakotah/Sweet Home TRC 11.43-1.4
679-1.3 1276 190 dsq 14.70-0.2 3789 450 4627 5:14.41
6123 Franks, Nathanael/Barlow(OR) HS 11.39-1.4
627-2.0 1329 199 dsq 16.03-0.2 3510 380 5207 4:29.86
6116 Odegard, Dean/Notre Dame 11.88-0.8
577-2.1 1101 175 51.64 16.92+1.9 3525 430 3630 4:30.80
5730 Boese, Tobias/Wichita St 11.66-0.8
590-1.4 nm 169 51.50 15.54+2.1 3718 420 4342 4:52.10
5645 Walashek, Dylan/Arizona Puma 12.29-1.4
583-0.7 1258 184 56.77 16.41+1.9 3744 360 4147 5:30.80
5513 Rieseke, Chandler/Utah Valley St U 11.85+1.8
559-3.2 1029 190 52.51 15.18+2.1 3463 nh 3955 4:54.49
dnf Tibbs, Michael/USAFA 11.71-0.8
635-1.5 1312 184 53.75 15.39-0.2 4024 nh, inj, withdrew
17s,16f.