

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## DUCKWORTH - 8336

### Second Day at NAAs



**Hello Again.....**After a 2017 disappointing season Tim Duckworth, a 21 year old Kentucky senior, born in Phoenix, scooled in Arizona but who competes for Britain since both parents are British citizens, vowed to win both NCAA CE crowns. Half the promise was completed in March in College Station, And today he fulfilled his personal promise by winning the NCAA D-I decathlon with history's 5<sup>th</sup> highest meet score...8336 points. And the meet was not just about the Duck. Seven of the top ten came up with lifetime best scores but a large number of injuries prevented even better results. The major misfortune was the crash of Harrison Williams in the hurdle event. But generally conditions, facilities and the meet management could not have been better. Here's the tale:



**49th NCAA D-I Decathlon**  
**Hayward Field-U of O**  
**Eugene, Oregon**  
**June 6-7, 2018**

#### **110m Hurdles:** [10:00 – 10:22 pm]

After several athletes withdrew at the last minute the Games Committee frantically ordered a redraw of the hurdle sections. Temps were in the mid-60s° with little wind. Arkansas junior Game Moore bulled his way thru to win the first redrawn race in 14.86 and the meets defining moment came a minute later during the 2<sup>nd</sup> race, the top seeded section which matched the top pair of



**Tim Duckworth (right) sprinted, leaped, vaulted, threw and endured the NCAA decathlon. Rice senior Scott Filip on left.**

hurdlers, Duckworth (lane 3) and Williams (lane 5). The former ran strongly and held a step advantage late when the latter smashed the 9<sup>th</sup> barrier and, while stumbling, flew in to the tenth before crashing to the track, Bruised and dazed, he got to his feet and finished in 17.89 seconds, well after Duckworth had posted a fine 14.37 clocking. Since the Stanford junior had used his hands to break his fall touching the tenth hurdle he was dq'd since the NCAA rule does not allow the runner to use his hands on the hurdles. The rule is intended to prevent the athlete from deliberately pushing down the barrier. But falling into the barrier is a different situation. The rule needs to be adjusted since the use of

hands to break a fall is instinctive and natural. Let's rewrite the rule.

Anyway, if there was going to be a challenge to Duckworth here it was going to



Harrison Williams was obviously distressed moments after his hurdle crash in Eugene.

come from Williams who has excellent 2<sup>nd</sup> day skills. In fact, the moment Williams fell the battle for first place ended. Settled. Finished. Duckworth came out of the event with a 237-point and insurmountable lead.

Iowa's William Dougherty won the 3<sup>rd</sup> race in 15.07 and Tim Ehrhardt the 4<sup>th</sup> in 15.90. The final race went to Nick Guerrant in 15.11.

*After Six: Duck 5422, Erm 5185, Fili 5107, Salu 5088, Nyte 4948.*

**Discus:** [10:52- 11:18 am & 11:55am-12:16pm]

Looking as if he had been thru a war (he had) Williams limped out to the infield to contest the discus. He's a gamer. Battered, with his entire right side scraped and bleeding and his right calf/shin bandaged he trudged to the discus cage for Group #1 (better vaulters). Lanky Johannes Erm produced a 4 meter (!) discus PR (44.21m/145-0). Duck tossed 42.76m/140-5 in the second round while Williams had only one fair toss (39.10m/128-3). Liberty's rangy Markus Ballengee scared his best with a 43.48m/142-8 but the rest of the efforts were mediocre.

The efforts were better for Group #2 (weaker vaulters). After a pair of fouls Arkansas's Gabe Moore came up with a clutch effort to win the event with a 45.97m/150-11 spin.

*After Seven: Duck 6143, Erm 5936, Salu 5831, Fili 5728, Nyte 5624.*

**Pole Vault:** [12:03-1:42 pm & 1:01-2:45 pm]

The first discus group went to the vault pit on Hayward Field's east side. At the start 291 spectators dotted the old East Grandstand. By 5.01m/16-5¼, the crowd had expanded to 450 but only three jumpers remained: Tim Ehrhardt (who has 5.60m/18-4½ credentials), Johannes Erm and Duckworth. The Michigan State senior was over neatly as was Duckworth. Erm, who had passed the previous bar but was suffering from nosebleeds and stuffing nostrils with cotton, was not close. Only Duckworth managed 5.11m/16-9¼ and he had one ever-so-close try at 5.21m/17-1 before the group ended after 99 minutes, 75 attempts and 26 clearances.

Adrian Riley/UTSA opened Group #2 at 3.61m/11-10 and 14 bars later Karl Saluri had a 4.81m/15-9¼ win (104 minutes, 68 attempts 29 clearances). The event escaped the dreaded 'no-height' but did feature A&M's Nathan Hite. Duckworth's lead expanded to nearly 300 points.

*After Eight: Duck 7087, Erm 6788, Salu 6635, Fili 6462, Moore 6430.*

**Javelin:** [2:26 -2:51 pm & 3:25- 3:41 pm]

This had traditionally been America's weakest deca event and that fact was soooooo evident with the first Group. Duckworth speared a marginal PR in round #2 (57.27m/187-10) to win the event. 13 of 26 measured throws did not reach 50 meters! We need work here!!! At this level 40-meter efforts are distressing. As for this day Duck simply extended his lead. Ballengee improved his best by ten feet (54.56m/179-0).

Group #2 provided more consistent results (only 5 of 22 under 50m). Two (Trent Nytes- 56.37m/184-11 and Nick Guerrant- 55.48m/182-0) put up new lifetime bests. New Zealander Aaron Booth (57.55m/188-9) edged Gabe Moore (57.25m/187-10) for the group victory.

*After Nine: Duck 7784, Erm 7454, Salu 7356, Fili 7106, Moor 7097.*

**1500 Meters:** [6:28 -6:33 pm]

A cautious Games Committee had scheduled an extended period before the final event... more than 3½ hours for the early jav

throwers and 2¾ hours for the later group. At the NCAAs one must learn how to handle the time schedule.

Conditions had cleared by six pm (warm and sunny) and a full house watched the final event. 18 started. Predictably Delgado jumped to an early lead towing Saluri with the peloton well back. Knowing something about running at Hayward Field, although this time he wore a red singlet, Delgado led wire-to-wire and won in a fine 4:22.36 and added nearly 200 points to his career best score. Saluri's 4:24.49 moved him to 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and a PR 8137 score.

The peloton was highly competitive and produced terrific results as 6 (!) more came up with career bests (Ehrhardt, Filip, Nytes, Riley, Ballengee (by 11 seconds) and Dartmouth's Ose). Although well back and struggling Duckworth's 5:01.27 was one half second off his own PR. Everyone ran hard. Great! Duck's 8336 winning total was the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in meet history. Way to Go!

1500m Splits		
3 laps remaining (300m)	48.8	Delgado
400 m	67.1	“
2 laps remaining (700m)	1:59.4	“
800 m	2:18.1	“
1 lap remaining (1100m)	3:12.7	“
1200m	3:30.6	“
Final	4:22.36	“

Sixteen of the original 24 finished and one of the few disappointments from Eugene was the number of injuries claiming US decathletes. And one final word....don't count out Harrison Williams.

*After Ten: Duck 8336, Salu 8137, Erm 8046. Delg 7852, Fili 7803.*

## Results:



### 6-6-7 49<sup>th</sup> NCAA D-I Champs, Hayward Field, UofO, Eugene, OR

8336	Duckworth, Tim/Kentucky-GBR'18 [8185] 10.57+0.5 801+0.8 1315 213 48.78 14.37-0.7 4276 511 5727 5:01.27
8137	Saluri, Karl/Georgia-EST'18 [7934] 10.59+0.5 770+2.7 1441 183 48.14 15.25-0.7 4295 481 5691 4:24.49

8046	Erm, Johannes/Georgia-EST'21 [8020] 10.86+2.3 798+0.6 1346 198 48.34 14.88-0.7 4421 481 5521 4:54.46
7852	Delgado, Joe/Louisville'18 [7566] 10.88+2.3 720+1.4 1379 195 48.41 15.13-1.5 4020 461 5401 4:22.36
7803	Filip, Scott/Rice'18 [7876] 10.66+0.5 778+2.8 1299 201 49.13 15.17-0.7 3784 441 5371 4:37.35
7736	Ehrhardt, Tim/Michigan St'18 [8044] 10.87+0.5 743+2.4 1273 201 47.92 15.90-0.7 3361 501 5049 4:27.35
7722	Ballengee, Markus/Liberty'20 [7537] 11.24+2.2 660+2.2 1324 201 49.72 14.72-0.7 4348 481 5456 4:30.17
7695	Nielsen, Kevin/BYU'18 [7475] 10.93+2.2 742+1.2 1275 201 49.30 15.11-0.7 3741 461 5063 4:28.70
7670	Moore, Gabe/Arkansas'19 [7901] 11.02+0.5 706+0.6 1405 192 49.51 14.86-0.7 4597 451 5725 4:57.73
7619	Guerrant, Nick/Michigan St'20 [7569] 10.90+2.3 716+0.7 1256 198 49.67 15.11-1.5 4329 441 5548 4:43.80
7609	Nytes, Trent/Wisconsin'19 [7683] 11.03+2.2 738+2.2 1333 204 49.34 15.27-1.5 4104 411 5637 4:45.87
7520	Riley, Adrian/UTSA-JAM'18 [7576] 10.82+0.5 791+1.7 1230 195 51.12 15.51_0.1 4270 421 5381 4:52.51
7467	Dougherty, William/Iowa'18 [7673] 11.02+2.3 689+2.1 1432 192 49.76 15.07+0.1 3747 451 5017 4:35.31
7458	Booth, Aaron/KansasSt-NZL'20 [7508] 11.13+2.2 708+2.4 1295 192 51.02 15.85+0.1 4228 451 5755 4:36.04
7237	Ose, Ben/Dartmouth'19 [7491] 11.01+2.2 696+2.9 1177 180 50.39 15.62-1.5 3843 471 5238 4:36.32
7236	Jacobus, Derek/Arkansas'18 [7566] 10.93+2.3 736+1.5 1322 189 49.29 16.25-0.7 3643 441 4690 4:44.61
6583	Smith, Sawyer/Wisconsin'18 [7496] 10.88+2.2 728+1.7 1414 189 50.47 16.04-0.7 4215 441 3770 dnf
6518	Hite, Nathan/Texas A&M'19 [7723] 10.99+0.5 619+2.6 1385 186 49.57 15.63+0.3 4014 451 5005 dnf
dnf	Williams, Harrison/Stanford'19 [7925] 10.63+2.2 766+1.9 1393 195 48.01 dsq [17.89] 3910 dns
dnf	Lawson, TJ/Kent St'20 [7724] 10.96+2.3 710+1.9 1396 195 50.92 withdrew
dnf	Liitmae, Rauno/Missouri-EST'18 [7524] 11.38+2.2 657+1.8 1377 186 51.70 withdrew
dnf	Wasik, Steele/Texas'19 [7588] 11.04+2.3 693+2.2 1314 189 dns
dnf	Veith, Hunter/Wichita St'18 [8046] 10.96+0.5 710+1.5 1248 dns
dnf	Mechler, Nathaniel/Houston-CAN'20 [7722] 10.83+2.3 744-0.1 1211 nh dns

24s,18f

