



MAYER > WARNER at WORLDS

Ballengee, Lawson, Powers in Big Wins

Hello Again: France's 26 year old Kevin Mayer just managed to withstand a frenetic challenge from Canada's Damian Warner and added a world indoor title to his resume. The margin of victory in Birmingham, UK was just 5 points, 6348 to 6343. Former NCAA I outdoor champ Maicel Uibo was 3rd and American Zach Ziemek 6th. Interestingly there were four former NCAA D-I champs in the 12-man field in Birmingham but Grenadian brothers Lindon Victor and Kurt Felix did not finish.

Up next, the NCAA championships on March 9-10....
D-I in College Station, TX; D-II in Pittsburg, KS; and D-III in Birmingham, AL. Whew!

IAAF World Champs, Birmingham, UK March 2-3, 2018

60 meters: [10:00 am]

Damian Warner, relegated to the slower of two races since he did not have a seasonal mark, zipped smoothly away from field recording a career best 6.74 seconds. What a start! In the second (seeded) race Mayer, running in lane 7 with Ziemek to his immediate left, caught the quick ZZ and out-leaped him with a career best of his own, 6.85 to 6.89. Excellent start as 8 of 12 broke 7 seconds:

After One: Warn 977, Maye 936, ZZ 922, Dist 907
.....7th Vict 889, 11th Uibo 813, 12th Feli 809.



26 year old Kevin Mayer of France, just held on in Birmingham, UK to add the IAAF indoor title to his 2017 outdoor crown. His margin of victory over Canada's Damian Warner was a scant 5 points.

Long Jump: [10:40 am]

Warner led off with a 7.11m/23-4 and the primed Mayer led round #1 at 7.43m/24-4 ½. In round #2 German Kai Kazmirek took the lead with a 7.68m/25-2½ effort which proved a winner. Warner improved to 7.39m/24-3 but, at this point Victor had a pair of fouls. In round #3 he 'ran through' a measured 5.55m/18-2½. Ziemek improved to 7.21m/23-8 and Mayer got off a 7.55m/24-9 ¼ try to move within two points of the overall lead.

Even quality athletes sometimes have difficulty with a facility. Here 30% (11/36) of the attempts were foot faults.

After Two: Warn 1885, Maye 1883, Kasy 1818, Kazm 1810....6th ZZ 1786...9th Uibo 1726...11th Feli 1606, 12th Vict 1381.

Shot Put: [Noon]

In round #3 Mayer unleashed a 15.67m/51-5 toss to edge Victor's 2nd round



Warner (right) out-legged Germany's Kai Kazmirek (center) and Grenada's Kurt Felix in the 60 meter dash.

15.54m/51-0. Warner came up with his own PR, 14.90m/49-2¼ for 3rd.

Ziemek underperformed here managing just 13.48m/44-2¾ and dropped to 5th. Only 17 points separated 5th thru 10th. An 8 hour break ensued before the evening session high jump.

After Three: Maye 2714, Warn 2669, Kazm 2572....5th ZZ 2483...8th Uibo 2473...11th Feli 2358, 12th Vict 2204.

High Jump: [7:45 pm]

Jumping in adjacent pits Maicel Uibo and Kai Kazmirek held center stage for nearly half an hour. Kazmirek won Group A with a 3rd attempt clearance at 2.05m/6-8¾. Ziemek, Warner, Mayer and Oleksiy Kasyanov/UKR all managed one bar lower but could not negotiate 2.05m.

In Group B Uibo, whose career best outdoors is 2.18m/7-1¾, scuffed over 2.17m/7-1½ to move to 3rd behind the high flyers Mayer and Warner. Felix withdrew here and Victor, having a bad day, nh'd at 1.96m/6-5. When it rains it pours.

After Four: Maye 3536, Warn 3491, Uibo 3436....6th ZZ 3305.

Day Two

60 m Hurdles: [10:00am]

Overnight Lindon Victor withdrew. The first seeded race found Kai Kazmirek blasting a PB to win in 7.95 seconds. Zach Zienmek was a solid 2nd at 8.14 with Maicel Uibo's PR 8.19 claiming 3rd.

Damian Warner showed mid-season form in the second higher seeded race. His 7.69 clocking (Ashton Eaton holds the WR at 7.60) was decisive over Kevin Mayer whose

7.83 was no slouch. Warner cut the overall lead to just 4 points. The struggle for the bronze medal looked interesting. Oleksiy Kasyanov was injured in mid-race and



Ziemek (left), Kazmirek (center) and Rueben Gado (right) at the 2nd barrier.

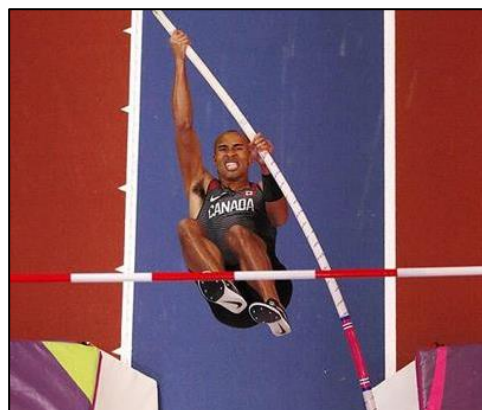
withdrew leaving a 9-man field.

After Five: Maye 4561, Warn 4557, Kazm 4416, Uibo 4371, ZZ 4252.

Pole Vault: [11:00 am]

With the exception of an Eelco Sintinicolass victory (a tie at 5.30m/16-4½) this event did not materialize as forecast. Well off form was Mayer, who managed just 5.00m/ 16-4¾ and Ziemek, 5.10m/16-8¾. The former had recently cleared 5.60m/18-4½ and ZZ has a 5.53m/18-1¾ best.

But on top of their game was Uibo (a



Warner's PR 4.90m/16-¾ put him into contention.

PR 5.30m), Kazmirek (5.20m/17-¾) and Warner (!) whose 4.90m/16-¾ equaled a PR.

Mayer had expanded his 4-point lead by just a single bar, now 34 points, roughly equivalent to 11 points/second. That gave Mayer a just a 3 second margin in the final event, too close for comfort. And only 13 points separated Kazmirek and Uibo for the bronze. The final event would be telling.

After Six: Maye 5471, Warn 5437, Kazm 5388, Uibo 5375, ZZ 5193, Sint 5188.

1000 Meters: [7:50 pm]

There would be no big scores today, but this event had drama. Mayer, clinging to a small lead, had a career best of 2:37.30, but that was 5 years ago (to the day!). Warner's best was almost identical (2:37.98) set in 2014. The 28 year old Canadian needed a 3 second (about 22 meter) margin for the win. For Mayer the reverse was the goal- stay within 3 seconds or about 22 meters for the gold. It seemed that Mayer had the advantage, although slight.

And the same situation affected the bronze battle between Kazmirek and Uibo, but the margin was smaller, just 1 second. Whew!

At the gun the veteran Sintinicolaas sprinted the front and made the pace an honest 32.4 seconds. Warner took over and forced the pace running the final 800m in 2:03. It was a brave attempt. But the field gamely hung on. The Canadian finished in a career best 2:37.12 having given it the 'college try.' But the field kept pace and as they streamed in the differential between Warner and Mayer was justone.....two.....two and a half seconds. He needed three! The Mayer victory by a scant 5 points was the smallest in meet history. WOW! Uibo's margin over Kazmirek was enough to give him the bronze meda. Ziemek was 2 seconds off his own career best and finished 6th overall.

All honor to Damian...that was brave.And that was that.

Results:



3/2-3 IAAF World Indoor Champs, Birmingham, UK

6348	Mayer, Kevin/FRA	6.85 755 1567 202 7.83 500 2:39.64
6343	Warner, Damian/CAN	6.74 739 1490 202 7.67 490 2:37.12
6265	Uibo, Maicel/EST	7.20 741 1430 217 8.19 530 2:38.51
6238	Kazmirek, Kai/GER	7.15 768 1455 205 7.95 520 2:41.15
5997	Sintinicolaas, Eelco/NED	6.96 715 1409 190 7.97 530 2:45.93
5941	Ziemek, Zach/USA	6.89 721 1348 202 8.14 510 2:51.73
5927	Gado, Rueben/FRA	6.99 726 1361 196 8.47 510 2:38.86
5908	Distelberger, Dominik/AUT	6.93 735 1304 193 7.98 480 2:41.49
5775	Dolezal, Jan/CZE	7.04 704 1482 196 8.20 470 2:47.99
dnf:	Kasyanov, Oleksiy/UKR	6.95 743 1416 202 dq withdrew
dnf:	Victor, Linden/GRN	6.98 555 1554 nh withdrew
dnf:	Felix, Kurt/GRN	7.21 693 1439 withdrew 12s,9f.



In the weekend's domestic action to top score was provided by Liberty soph Markus Ballengee at the IC4A meeting in Boston. He added 14 points to a career best, now 5537 to top Northeastern senior Nick Fofana, 5186. Johns Hopkins junior Grant Mosser qualified for the D-III nationals with a 4987 win at the ECAC IIIs at the NYC Armory. Another D-III qualifier came from the Wartburg qualifier in Waverly.

Platteville's Cody Faust ran up a 4926 score.

A pair of nationals went into the books. Vanguard junior Winston Lawson won the NAIA crown with a nice 5321 score while Westmont's Pieter Top and Anthony Cota went 2-3 in Pittsburg, KS. The NJCAA meet in Lubbock saw Garden City CC Denim

Rogers use 4 event PRs, including an 8.00 hurdles, to upset favorite Connor Williamson/Paradise Valley, 5465 to 5461.

Williamson, a premier vaulter, finally took the overall lead with a 4.90m/16-¾ clearance, but the lead was a precarious 4 points, 4710 to 4706 making the 1k decisive. Rogers won the final battle by two steps and got a 4 point win....5465 to 5461. A day of close finishes.



Demin Rogers/Garden City CC (left) won the close NJCAA crown. Vanguard junior Winston Lawson (center) was the NAIA king and Marcus Ballengee/Liberty (right) won the IC4A title.

For all of the weekend's results and details, see the next post, our *New Results* page.

Ashton Eaton's World Indoor Heptathlon Record			
6645			
3/10/12	at IAAF World Champs, Istanbul, TUR		
			<i>points</i>
60 meters	6.79 sec		958
Long jump	8.16m	26-9¼	1102
Shot put	14.56m	47-9¼	763
High jump	2.03m	6-8	831
60m Hurdles	7.68 sec		1064
Pole Vault	5.20m	17-¾	972
1000 meters	2:32.77		955
Total			6645