

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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MODIN CAPTURES PAC-12

Robinson, Horn, Knowles, Obst, Seitz are League Winners

Hello Again....The first of two crowded weeks of “Collegiate Conference Season” provided 41 (!) decathlon meets and numerous significant scores at many levels. By far most weighty affair, the Pac-12 Conference champs in Corvallis, Oregon, produced the week’s topmost scores.

Oregon senior Mitch Modin (22, Bend, OR) christened the new facility at Oregon State University with a 7530 score, a certain NCAA qualifier. He improves on his 3rd, 4th and 2nd place performances in the previous three league meets and returns to the NCAAs for the fourth time. A 60.05m/197-0 PR javelin assured the win. Teammate Joe Delgado (22, Ontario, OR) provided the meet’s highlight, a 4:14.75 1500m clocking to move to the runner-up spot at 7432. His earlier 7566 performance at the Mount Sac Relays assures that both Ducks will be busy during the first week of June. Their 1-2 finish in Corvallis and 18 team points will become a factor at the upcoming Pac-12 affair. "It's going to be really, really close," Modin said, peeking ahead to next week. "It's going to be a race. I think me and Joe definitely started the fire."

Oregon’s sweep was not the only dominate single school performance over the weekend. Dartmouth’s trio of senior Nico Robinson (Stanford, CA) and soph’s Ben Ose (Eden Prairie, MN) and Ben Colello (Sudbury, MA) went 1-2-4 (moving the Big Green up several teams standing spots) and were the entire show at the Ivy League



Oregon senior Mitch Modin wpon the Pac-12 crown (7530 points) qualifying him for a 4th NCAA outdoor show.

Heptagonals in New Haven, CT inspite of a vault ‘nh’ by the latter. Robinson used 5 event PRs to total a nice 7338 points. Ose’s 7192 effort had 7 event PRs including the meet’s highlight, a record tying 4.85m/15-11 vault. One of the few meet records surviving (javelin) belongs to Tim Wunderlich, now the Dartmouth coach. He became the league’s first coach to *both* win a decathlon Ivy



Decathletes making a team scoring difference: left: Joe Delgado of Oregon at Pac-12; center/right: Dartmouth’s Nico Robinson and Ben Ose at the Ivy/Heptagonals.



Kris Horn/UMass (left) and Trevor Knowles/Lehigh (right) won a pair of D-I east coast titles: the A-10 and Patriot League respectively.

individual title (2008) and coach an Ivy win.

Other Eastern D-I conferences that produced significant totals included home wins at the Atlantic Ten in Amherst where senior Kris Horn (Pembroke, MA), and at the Patriot League meet in Bethlehem, PA as junior Trevor Knowles (Lebanon, NJ) produced PR scores of 7295 and 7197 respectively. Cal Poly's Billy Scranton won the Big West title in Fullerton at 7143.

NCAA's Division II delivered noteworthy efforts at three league affairs. Chico rested its top trio but junior Lane Andrews (Antelope, CA) still won the CCAA meet at home with a career best 7263 effort. Senior Florian Obst (Emmering, Germany) of Texas A&M-Commerce captured the Lone Star Conference title at home with a very windy (+5.3, +6.5, +3.1 =12.9mps!!) 7395 PR endeavor. At the Mid America (MIAA) conference Central Missouri's senior Blake Seitz (Napoleon, MO) came away with a career best 7222 win in Bolivar, MO.

The top D-III score came at Rock Island's CCIW, a 6435 score from Leif Van Grinsven of Wheaton(IL). Doane freshman Levi Sudbeck posted the week's top NAIA total while winning at GPAC in Fremont, NE. The premier JUCO meet was held at Lane



D-II league winners included: left-Blaken Seitz/Central Missouri; center: Lane Andrews/Chico State; right: Florian Obst/Texas A&M Commerce.

Communit College in Eugene as Lane Shurtliff's 6731 prevailed.

The season's top weekend is coming up as 37 meets are scheduled including the top D-I leagues. For the first time since 1972 the enduring IC4A, will not afford a decathlon to its student-athletes. This is unfortunate because East Coast collegians will be deprived a fine developmental chance at the right time of year. The IC4A meet had been a premier annual and a prominent NCAA qualifying opportunity in the past. I conducted the first IC4A decathlon in Emmitsburg in 1973 when it was only the 2nd college conference to offer the event. In recent years it had become strictly developmental but crucial for aspiring undergrads. Hopefully this decision will be reversed.