

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## WOLTER IN FORM

### Conference Week Promises List Changes

**Hello Again...** There are so many collegiate conference championship meets that we'll publish at least two Newsletters this week. Up for grabs are tickets to the trio of NCAA titles meets in two weeks as the top 16 will be selected for Divisions I, II and III. For the period Feb 22 thru Feb 25 (Tues-Fri) eight important title hepts were conducted nationwide, seven at the D I level.

A pair of major stories developed involving foreign student athletes. On Thur-Fri German Felix Wolter (24, Munich), a Pittsburgh grad student, defended at the deep Atlantic Coast Conference meet in Blacksburg, VA with a PR 5979 effort, 144 points up on fast improving Jake Spotswood, now a grad student at Virginia Tech. The latter had already punched his nationals ticket but it was the initial indoor meet for Wolter who was 4<sup>th</sup> (5907) at the nationals a year ago. Seven exceeded 5000 points in Blacksburg with speedy Duke freshman Gage Knight third in a PR 5466 effort.

The Sun Belt Conference affair in Birmingham went down to the 1k's final step as Dutchman Lucas Van Klaveren/UT-Arlington nipped New Zealand's Ben Collerton/ Texas State, 5734 to 5731, both PRs and likely NCAA qualifiers. Both are seniors. Van Klaveren's four second margin in the 1000m was *jussst* enough for the victory. It will be the first NCAA appearance for both. UL-Lafayette's Chandler Mixon was 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5521.

In additional D I meets, New Mexico's Camillo Dünninger (22, Ratingen, GER) won the Mountain West champs in Albuquerque(5489) but fell short in a bid to improve an earlier 5684 score posted on the same track. He'll finish outside the nationals qualifying range. Wyatt Murphy/Air Force was runner-up.



**Felix Wolter/Pittsburgh successfully defended his Atlantic Coast Conference title in Blacksburg, VA.**

Gardner Webb senior Cameron Donoghue won the Big South crown; Shea DeGraaf/SEMO soph the Ohio Valley meet; and Camren Wynder-Hill, a Norfolk State soph was the MEAC winner.

Ten additional D I meets will be decided on Saturday (26<sup>th</sup>); four on Sunday (27<sup>th</sup>) and the final two on the Monday, (28<sup>th</sup>). The USATF Nationals (26-27) is also in the mix as well as a bevy of D-II and D-III title meets.



**Jake Spotswood/VaTech (l) (5835), Lucas VanKlaveren /UT-Arlington (5734) (c) and Ben Collerton/Texas State (r) (5731) will all likely meet in Birmingham.**