

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## SEC UPSET, LONGHORN STAMPEDE

### Williams Defeats Lindon; Terrific Scores

**Hello Again....**This is the second of three weekend newsletters covering USA heptathlons of February 24-25 (Fri-Sat). Of the 19 meets and 56 (!) 5000+ scores the most significant news came from the Southeastern Conference meet in Nashville (Vanderbilt U) and the Big 12 league meet in Ames, Iowa (Iowa State U). In the former Georgia senior Devon Williams (23, Marietta, GA) upset 21 year old Olympian Lindon Victor of Texas A&M & Grenada, 6047 to 5851. So deep was the Nashville affair, in spite of conference leader Tim Duckworth/Kentucky (6006) bypassing the meet, that 13th place (!) registered a 5160 score. Estonia's Karl-Robert Saluri was third (5731) while a 4-5-6 finish by Arkansas trio Gabe Moore, Brad Culp and Derek Jacobus insured the Razorbacks their 22nd indoor men's team win. The top performances came from Williams --7.77 in 60 m hurdles and Culp --5.20m/17-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in the pole vault. But the battle for first was between the two hulks who both stand 6-3+ and weigh over 200 lbs, relatively large for CEers. Both posted big shot PRs. But it was Williams (who entered Georgia at 6-3, 180 three years ago) who prevailed with a 212 point indoor score best.

As for Duckworth (20, Phoenix, AZ), he enjoyed a relatively easy day competing in only 3 open events—a 4th in the high jump (2.14m/7-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>), a 4th in the long jump (7.80m/25-7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>) and 6th in the vault (5.20m/17-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>), all PRs.



One of the day's top individual performances came from Arkansas senior Brad Culp who nailed 5.20m/17-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> at the SEC indoor champs in Nashville.

Meanwhile, the Big 12 meet was not quite as deep but a trio of Longhorns were quite impressive...PR scores for transfer Steele Wasik (5817), junior Wolf Mahler (5804) and talented frosh George Patrick (5482) going 1-2-3. The Big-10 meet in Geneva, OH was notable for who did not compete/finish. Won by Nebraska junior Cody Walton (21, Forest Lake, MN) with a



Notable weekend scores were posted by Lindon Victor/Texas A&M-5851 (left), Devon Williams/ Georgia - 6047(center) and Mitch Modin/Oregon -5747 (right).

fine 5672 PR effort, the 7-eventer was distinguished by the absence of collegiate leader and 2015 NCAA indoor champ Luca Weiland of Minnesota who sat out the heptathlon and by the 3 long jump fouls by Michigan's rising notable Steven Bastien

who, minutes before had rased eyebrows with a 6.88 sprint clocking. Runner-up at the Big Ten was Wisconsin 'super-soph' Trent Nytes (5526).

Other major winners included: Oregon senior Mitch Modin (21, Bend, OR) who captured the Mountain Pacific affair in Seattle with a PR 5754 score; Canadian frosh Nathaniel Melcher/Houston who came out on top at The American Conference meet in Birmingham (5636) and the Mid-American winner was Mike Morgan/Buffalo (5439) slow in recovering from a 2015 achilles injury.

By the end of Saturday (25th) 16th place on the NCAA D-I qualifying list was Illinois's Joanthan Wells (5685). There are another ten college conference meets which finish on Sunday (Feb. 26th) and that will be the focus of the final weekend *Newsletter*.

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**Cody Walton/Nebraska (left) won the Big Ten title; Tim Duckworth/Kentucky (center) eschewed the hept for individual contests at SEC; and Gabe Moore/Arkansas was 4th in Nashville.**