

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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DAY ONE of USAs in CRETE Cato-Beach in High Level Struggle



Hello Again....The first difference between the 2016 (31st annual) USA indoor national CE meet and virtually all previous editions was the size of the crowd. Hosted by Doane College (enrollment 1150, 125 of them on the track team!!) in rural Crete, NE, nonetheless 220 spectators were on hand, a total certainly a record for this meet which has been a USATF stepchild for years. Yet new host Doane College, an annual NAIA T&F powerhouse, placed spectators in the bleachers and they were treated to a terrific heptathlon first day. At stake was a potential spot on Team USA's entry to the upcoming IAAF World indoor championships in Portland, OR. So 13 qualifiers with a chance at a USA team ticket went at it at Fred Biele Track (with the iconic coach present) in Fuhrer Field House on the Doane campus.

The first day results were excellent as vet Curtis Beach, 25, Albuquerque, NM, held a slight margin over comebacking Jay Cato, 25, Crete (!), IL, a 4 time Big Ten indoor hept champ from Wisconsin. Both now train in the Phoenix, AZ area

When the dust cleared by early evening Beach's 3220 total was 24 up on Cato with surprising local (Lincoln, NE/ ex Kearney St) Dillon Schrodt standing 3rd at 3179. Seven (!) including last year's 2nd and 3rd place finishers Austin Bahner and Thomas Hopkins, as well as a pair of ex NCAA champs, Mike Morrison and Miller Moss, all put up significant numbers. Here's the story.



Curtis Beach (l) and Jay Cato (r) provided 3270 & 3246 1st day scores at the 31st Nationals at Doane College, Crete, NE.

31st USA Indoor CE Champs

Doane College

Crete, NE

February 26-27, 2016



60 meters: [2:30 pm -2:39 pm]

About 150 spectators were on hand to watch 2011 NCAA champ Miller Moss (ex Clemson) win the first section in a nice 7.06 seconds. 2012 Mid-American winner Bryan Jones (ex Akron) was 2nd in a career best 7.16.

Wesley Bray, 27, Houston, the 2014 outdoor runner-up, captured the second section in 7.19 seconds while Derek Masterson, SBTC, PR'd in 4th at 7.38 seconds.

Schrodt was an unexpected winner of the seeded race in a quick PR equalling 6.97 seconds, 1/100th ahead of Austin Bahner/Shocker TC and Hopkins/SBTC. Yet

the major story was 4th and 5th places as Beach recorded a PR 7.01 and Cato just missed his best clocking 7.05. One realizes that the facility is quick when 7.05 seconds is last (!) in a CE meet!

After One: Schr 893, Bahn 889, Hopk 889, Beac 879.

Long Jump: [3:16 – 3:54 pm]

The event was competitive although there were no lifetime bests. Beach led after the first round with a 7.36m/24-1¾ effort. Cato (7.31m/23-11¾) and Bahner (7.26m/23-10) got into the mix in round two but Beach still led the field after two rounds. Cato posted an identical 7.31m/21-11¾ mark in round #3 and Bahner duplicated it to pull within 2 points of Beach’s lead. The latter then responded by covering 7.42m/24-4¼ of SE Nebraska real estate and he left the event with a 17 point margin over Bahner as the athletes head to the shot circle. The crowd reach a highpoint on day one at 220 spectators (excluding officials and workers).

After Two: Beac 1794, Bahn1779, Hopk 1758, Cato 1753.

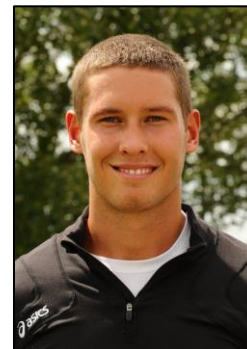
Shot Put: [4:26 – 4:57 pm]

Derek Masterson, 26, Placerville, CA, led after the first round with a 14.75m/48-5 toss. Moss took over with a fine 14.83m/48-8 push in round two, a significant PR. But it was round #3 which was telling. Beach, with a pair of weak efforts, responded with a near PR 12.93m/42-5¼ that barely kept him in the overall lead. Morrison and Bahner just missed lifetime bests and Hopkins surpassed his, managing 13.27m/43-6½. Nearly half the field scared PRs and only Cato disappointed managing only 11.85m/38-10½.

After Three: Beac 2457, Bahn 2456, Hopk 2442, Moss 2397.

High Jump: [5:31 – 6:55 pm]

Beach appeared invincible until he came a cropper at 2.04m/6-8¼, a setting handled by Cato with ease. The Wisconsin grad managed to cut into Beach’s lead to just 24 points with a 2.10m/6-10¾ clearance but could go no higher. Schrodt negotiated the



A pair of Mid-western athletes familiar with the Doane facility (Dillon Schrodt/ex-Nebraska-Kearney (l) and Auston Bahner/ex-Wichita State (r)), were 3rd and 4th after day one.

same height to share the event win as he too maxed here..

Surprising Justin Green, 23, Liberty Hill, TX and a 2x Mountain West indoor champ while at Colorado State, recorded the event’s on PR when he skied 2.07m6-9½.

Officials moved the event smartly as it took but 84 minutes to handle (in a single pit) 123 attempts and 50 clearances.

After Four: Beac 3270, Cato 3246, Schr 3179, Bahn 3135.



1st Day Results:

2/26-27 31st USATF Nationals, Fuhrer Field House, Doane College, Crete, NE

3270	Beach, Curtis/Nike	7.01	742	1293	201
3246	Cato, Jay/Az T&F Aca	7.05	731	1185	210
3179	Schrodt, Dillon/unat	6.97	683	1215	210
3135	Bahner, Austin/ShockerTC	6.98	731	1319	186
3102	Moss, Miller/ChulaVistaOTC	7.06	676	1483	189
3049	Morrison, Mike/TimMackPV	7.29	696	1318	198
3019	Hopkins, Thomas/SBTC	6.98	723	1327	174
2991	Green, Justin/unat	7.27	662	1205	207
2987	Sullins, Calvin/SBTC	7.25	688	1313	192
2961	Jones, Bryan/unat	7.16	685	1318	186
2930	Masterson, Derek/SBTC	7.38	662	1475	186
2925	Bray, Wesley/unat	7.19	681	1289	186
2892	FitzSimons, Thomas/SBTC	7.35	667	1249	195

13s,