

HYLTON-PLY BURNER at JCs

Small Colleges & Götzis Next

Hello Again....After the frenetic week of NCAA D I and D-II qualifying, the 3rd week of May was a bit calmer. Four D-III final qualifying meets were on the docket as well as the national Junior College affair.

In Hobbs, NM Central Arizona JC star Jonathan Ply, the overwhelming favorite (defending champ and seasonal leader-7131-by 600 points) had his hands full with South Plains Jamacian Asani Hylton who led the NJCAA nationals from start to finish in a 12 man field. Both are sophs.

Hylton, the Kansas Relays winner, built his margin during the first day by winning four of the five contests vs Ply while tying the other (2.00m/6-6 $\frac{3}{4}$ high jump). Yet, given 2nd day skills, Ply was always in contention. The 6-4 soph won all five 2nd day events, he still trailed by 175 points with but the 1500m remaining. Needing a margin of 28 seconds to defend, Ply got 21 (4:30.02 to 4:51.66) seconds and all but 40 points back.

In the end Hylton's speed differential (one-half of a second in the sprint) and PR vault (4.15m/13-3 $\frac{1}{2}$) proved crucial. This was a two man show. Cowley College soph Nathan Vann was 3rd at 6200.

Four D-III last chance qualifiers ended on Thursday (5/16). Significantly, Hope College (MI) junior Josh Izenbart, in spite of vault woes, managed his qualifying score, 6557, for the win at North Central's Gregory meet in Naperville, IL. Case Western junior Dominic Oddo was 70 oints back.



Asani Hylton of South Plains (TX) JC (above) used a PR 2.00m/6-6 $\frac{3}{4}$ high jump on the way to a NJCAA upset win over defending champ Jon Ply (r) of Central Arizona. Ply's 21 second margin in the 1500 Just fell short.



Next week will feature national champs for the nation's smaller colleges/universities (NCAA D-II, D-III and NAIA) and the annual American trek to Götzis, Austria where Santa Barbara teammates Tim Ehrhardt and Lindon Victor as well as Devon Williams are entered.