

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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CONFERENCE WEEKEND #1

Ehrhardt Wins USA Nationals

Hello Again..... This will be the first of two *Newsletters* covering the season's busiest indoor weekend which has over 40 meets on tap. Virtually every meet is an NCAA collegiate conference affair encompassing all levels, Divisions I, II and III. The meets go a long way in determining the national championship qualifiers, all of whom are selected off of national lists. This weekend also featured the 34th USA indoor nationals held at Ocean Breeze in Staten Island. Tim Ehrhardt/Santa Barbara TC and former Michigan State '18 standout held off Solomon Simmons for the win 5868 to 5766. It turned out to be a big weekend for Michigan State as consistent Nick Guerrant '20 took the Big Ten crown. Here's the tale:



Tim Ehrhardt (23, Addison, IL) won the 34th USATF national CE meet in Staten Island, NY. The former Michigan Stater now competes for the Santa Barbara TC.

USA Nationals: (2/22-23)

A three way Michigan battle ensued. Eastern Michigan vet Solomon Simmons, Michigan grad Steve Bastien and ex-Michigan Stater Tim Ehrhardt consistently found themselves atop the leader board.

Simmons was in the hunt immediately with a section winning 6.99 60 meter win. Ironically he was not matched with ex-Texas standout Wolf Mahler who won the 2nd race in 6.94 seconds. Mahler who was 2nd a year ago behind Jeremy Taiwo would withdraw after the long jump. Bastien won the long jump at 7.27m/ 23-10¼ and Simmons took over the lead with an eye-opening 15.45m/50-8½ PR shot.



Former Cincinnati standout Alex Bloom was the high jump winner at 2.11m/6-11 and ex Cortland State star Jack Flood won the hurdles in 8.08 seconds.

But the battle remained among the Michigan trio and the vault was critical. Bastien nh'd at 4.50m/14-9 leaving Simmons and Ehrhardt to contest. Simmons managed 4.70m/15-5 but when Ehrhardt cleared his opening bar, 5.00m/16-4¾, he took the overall lead by 3 points and never looked back. He eventually managed 5.30m/17-4½. The Michigan pair ran in tandem in the final event won by Curtis Beach in 2:35.28.

2/22-23 USA Nationals, Ocean Breeze, Staten Island, NY

5868 Ehrhardt, Tim/SBTC

7.02 706 1363 202 8.54 530 2:48.48

5766	Simmons, Solomon/unat	6.99 704 1545 187 8.10 470 2:48.87
5701	Jack Flood/unat	7.24 682 1386 208 8.08 460 2:48.55
5671	Frid, Teddy/unat	7.15 681 1223 199 8.20 490 2:43.04
5631	Bloom, Alex/unat	7.03 706 1294 211 8.48 440 2:50.03
5467	Beach, Curtis/unat	7.17 707 1208 184 8.52 450 2:35.28
5404	Black, Samuel/Saginaw Valley St	7.12 662 1346 208 8.75 420 2:47.63
5352	Bailey, Phillip/SBTC	7.21 717 1129 193 8.22 470 3:02.47
5267	Cornelius, Devin/unat,	7.20 684 1261 190 8.46 400 2:43.53
5265	Ghizzone, Andrew/unat	7.39 661 1107 187 8.32 470 2:41.51
dnf:	Bastien, Steven/unat	7.01 727 1262 193 8.29 nh
dnf:	Mahler, Wolf/unat	6.94 680 12s,10f

Early week: (2/18-21)

Two league heptathlons were held at Birmingham's CrossPlex arena, the site of this year's NCAA D-I title meet. New Zealand's Ben Collerton, a junior at Texas State U., had an easy time winning the Sun Belt meet with a 5379 score on Mon-Tue, one of five surpassing 5k. Half of those who posted team points were foreign exchange students. The Ohio Valley Conference took the CrossPlex field on Wed-Thurs. Eastern Kentucky senior Yoshua Reed was in control from the openign gun and finished 4 points shy of 5k.

Thursday-Friday: (2/21-22)

NC State senior Grant Rivers took over during the vault to win the Atlantic Coast Conference meet in Blacksburg, VA with a 5177 score. In Albuquerque comebacking Hunter Powell, a senior at Colorado State, won the Mountain West title with a 5437 score.

At Landover's PG Center Bethune-Cookman junior Brent Hehoit was the MEAC winner at 4590.

At the Big Sky meet in Bozeman, MT Portland State senior Donte Robinson came out on top with a 5394 score.

Friday-Saturday: (2/22-23)



Significant totals were posted by Solomon Simmons (left) while placing second at USAs; Nick Guerrant/Michigan State(middle) who won the Big 10 and Johannes Erm/Georgia (right) who was the SEC winner.

The major news came from Ann Arbor (Big 10), Lubbock (Big 12) and Fayetteville (SEC). At the latter was a barn burner as Georgia's Estonioan soph Johannes Erm prevailed over local Gabe Moore, 5996-5908 even though the latter won 4 of 7 events head-to-head.

At the deep Big 10 affair Guerrant turned back Nebraska's Jared Seay and Wisconsin's Trent Nytes: 5783, 5757, 5660.

At the Big 12 meet a pair of European freshman dominated. France's Axel Hubert (Texas Tech) was 15 points better than Estonia's Kristo Simulask (Oklahoma), 5675-5660.

The Mountain Pacific champs in Seattle was won by California senior Tyler Brendel with a 5553 effort. Kent's TJ Lawson won the Mid-American crown at home with a 5427 total. Dennis Perry/UMass-Lowell captured the American East crown (4936) in Boston while Wichita State senior Ben Johnson used a PR 5705 effort to win the American Conference in Birmingham,

At SPIRE the Big East winner was Butler's Wade Walder (5470), while the Summit League champ was NDSU's Ryan Enerson (5269). Grand Canyon's Grant Carpenter became the WAC kingpin with a 5323 effort in Albuquerque.

At the D-II level Mankato's Jack Curtis won the Northern Sun league title (5201) and Spencer Jahr, the Colorado Mesa junior, captured the Rocky Mountain crown (5190). NW Missouri's Kevin Schultz won the MIAA title in Maryville with a nifty 5309 score.

At Div III Platteville's senior Cody Faust walked away with the Wisconsin Intercollegiates at 5251. Southern Maine junior Charles Moody was the New England III champ (4963), while Cortland St soph Isaiah Brooks won the SUNYAC crown in Houghton, NY at 4804.

By the end of Saturday evening 31 meets had produced 73 5000+ totals. Another ten heptathlons were due to be complete on Sunday. A 2nd Newsletter will provide details for meets completed on Sunday. Whew!