

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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SCANTLING USA INDOOR CHAMP

Indoor Season in Lull



Hello Again... The 2020 USA indoor season provided an early title meet as the 35th USA CE Championships were conducted at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis on February 7th and 8th. 26-year old Garrett Scantling of Jacksonville, FL used four new indoor bests on the way to a fine 6209 winning total. He took command during the shot put (3rd first day event) and was never challenged. Since the indoor season has been truncated because of the Coronavirus epidemic in China (which postponed the World indoors until next winter) Scantling's winning score might possibly stand as the season's best, both American and worldwide. The USA collegiate season continues until early March although mid-February usually provides a significant decline in the conduct of the number of indoor heptathlons nationwide. Only 5 meets are scheduled for the upcoming weekend. But then an avalanche of collegiate conference meets will dominate. The lone US challenge to Scantling's score may come at the NCAA I title affair in Albuquerque in mid- March.

As to the USA indoor champs, one must offer some credit to the terrific facilities provided by the Naval Academy. Wesley A. Brown Field House, with its hydraulic & adjustable banked 200 meter oval and spacious infield, was just the facility the combined events community was seeking for its indoor meet. The USA athletes had the facility to themselves on Friday (2/7) and



Garrett Scantling's comeback netted the USA indoor heptathlon title and a 6209 score.

shared it with the raucous Army-Navy dual meet on Saturday, which itself was a revelation in gutty performances, patriotism and singing (yes, singing). Both academy teams sing their alma mater at the meet's conclusion, but the winning team gets to sing last. Thus "to sing second" is each team's goal in what is now billed as *America's Meet*.



The Naval Academy's Wesley A. Brown Field House in was the ideal site for this year's USA CE nationals.

The heptathlon 1000-meter race was thrust into the middle of this military academy combat and thus more than 2200 spectators witnessed the final heptathlon event, which itself may be some sort of indoor CE record.

35th USA National Indoor Heptathlon

Wesley A. Brown Field House

U.S Naval Academy

Annapolis, MD

February 7-8, 2020



Twelve started yet the potential field had lost many because of the Olympic year (training thru to the Olympic Trials), no opportunity to compete at the now cancelled world indoors, collegiate commitments and injuries. Notable last-minute withdrawals included 2019 winner Tim Ehrhardt/SBTC, and former NCAA runners-up Gabe Moore/Arkansas and Hunter Price/Colorado State. At the last minute the field was filled to assure a dozen starters. The starting field for the concurrently run women's pentathlon was equally thin.

Day One

60 meters: 10:15 am

In the first race veteran Scott Filip caught the field at 40 meters and eased away for a 6.86 clocking equaling his career best. Scantling's 6.93 shaved 1/100th off his PR while former Big-10 champ Steven Bastien was 3rd in 6.95 seconds. Celebrating his 22nd birthday, Denim Rogers, redshirting the indoor season at Houston Baptist, was fourth in 7.07.

Ex Portland Stater Donte Robinson edged tall Jack Flood in the 2nd race, 7.16 to 7.22. The sprint straightaways are fast.

After One: Fili 933, Scan 907, Bast 900, Roge 858.

Long Jump: 10:50 am

Scantling's 7.45m/24-5½ leap early in round #1 was 6 inch PR and he immediately passed his remaining attempts. Later in round #1 Phil Bailey/SBTC also managed a career

mark at 7.59m/24-11, an effort that proved to be the winning leap.

Temporarily pushed from the lead, Filip's 7.57m/24-10 put him right back on top in round #2. Bastien's 7.39m/24-3 was a marked improvement in round #3.

After Two: Fili 1885, Scan 1869, Bast 1808, Bail 1759.

Shot Put: 11:55 am



Scott Filip (l), a Conference USA 4x indoor champ, and Jack Flood, a former NCAA III winner, went 2-3 in Annapolis.

The throwing was uniformly good. Scantling opened with a near PR 16.25/53-3¾ and moved permanently to the overall lead. Baily and Jackson Walker came up with career bests. Filip's 14.10m/46-3 kept him in 2nd place.

After Three: Scan 2736, Fili 2619, Bast 2495, Floo 2354.

High Jump: 1:15 pm

Scantling managed only 1.99m/6-6 ¼ here and last year's find Jack Flood (ex NCAA III champ from Cortland State) and Alex Bloom held center stage. The latter won with a nifty 2.11m/6-11 effort while Flood negotiated 2.08m/6-9¾, just 2 cm shy of a career best.

The day ended with the conclusion of the women's pentathlon and Scantling holding a 157 point margin over Filip (3490-3333).

Day Two:

60m Hurdles: 8:59 am

Attendance was minimal. Scantling was never headed in the first section, winning in a PR equaling 7.91 seconds over the surprising Flood (8.10) and Filip (8.15). Bastien was a casualty, unable to finish the race. He immediately withdrew.

23-year old Donte Robinson, who had qualified for just one week earlier in Seattle, won the 2nd race in 8.44m

After Five: Scan 4495, Fili 4227, Floo 4189, Roge 3989.

Pole Vault: 10:00 am

The number of spectators, mostly Academy Midshipman, surged during this event and the Field House bellowed. Bailey nh'd at 4.50m/14-9, erasing a fine score. Rogers too struggled managing just 4.00m/13-1½.

Former D-III runner-up Cody Fault (Wisconsin-Platteville), now a specialist in the Wisconsin National Guard, managed 4.50/14-9.

But Scantling was at the top of his game here and vaulted alone at the last three bars. He ultimately cleared 5.20m/17-¾, a 10cm PR, while stretching his lead over Filip to 459 points.

After Six: Scan 5467, Fili 5008, Floo 4920, Bloo 4669.

1000 meters: 1:04 pm

By now the Field House was packed and every event, including the hept 1k, drew a raucous response. Needing a 2:46.22 to tie Jeremy Taiwo's meet record, Scantling cruised... getting 2:52.26 clocking. His 6209 total becomes the 8th performer and 15th performances on the all-time US list.

Andrew Ghizzone/ Shore AC was the victor at 2:39.50. And that was that. Immediately all of the attention turned to the athletes in Navy blue and Army grey. Whew!

Elsewhere.....

Last weekend was moderately busy, with 16 meets and one (weather) cancellation. 3x D-III champ Will Daniels has transferred from Central (IA) College to the University of Iowa and won the Husker Invt in Lincoln impressively with a 5689 score. Marquette junior Joe Keys won the Windy City Rumble in Chicago with a fine 5667 total. Both Daniels and Keys likely punched NCAA I tickets.

The top D-II totals were posted by Jonathan Harper, a junior at Kingsville (5561

in Maryville, MO) and Tyl Woelber, a soph at Augustana, SD, (5235 in Fargo). Mesa's soph Makel Hubbard went to the top of the JC list with a 5331 score in Mesa, AZ.

In all the 16 meets produced two dozen 5000+ scores. Several of the meets drew inordinately large fields: 25 at Bison Open in Fargo, 19 at Bearcat Invt in Maryville. Yea! Next week only 5 meets are on the docket.



Navy's head coach Jamie Cook (l) and assistant coach Joe Delgado (r) (whose decathlon PRs are nearly identical: Cook-7853; Delgado-7852), were responsible for the successful CE champs.

A Finale.....

Although the fields were thin this was a good meet. It's conduct and the facility were top class. The credit for the meet's preparation goes to a pair of decathletes. On the men's side the Academy is coached by former decathlete Jamie Cook (3rd season). His assistant and multi coach is decathlete Joe Delgado, (2nd season) a Cook protégé at the University of Oregon. Navy won both the men's and women's duals. Cook and Delgado were the reasons for Navy "singing second" last weekend.