

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## NCAAs, OH MY ! Owens, Harper, Rogers Champs

**Hello Again...** Arkansas soph Ayden Owens pulled off a little bit of 2<sup>nd</sup> day magic to win the 18<sup>th</sup> NCAA D-I national indoor heptathlon in Birmingham, AL. With a dramatic Detmer-like 1000m performance Owens, needing a whopping 13½ seconds, made up 14½ seconds on the steady and penultimate leader Kyle Garland to secure a gaudy final 6211-6200 margin.

Early leader Leo Neugebauer/Texas (6148) and seasonal find Andrei Iosivas/Princeton (6069) completed the assault on 6k.

Pittsburg State U hosted the D-II champs and Kingsville's senior Jon Harper upset favorite, soph Trey Miller of Central Missouri.

A major miscue by Eau-Claire favorite Marcus Weaver in the hurdles (likely on way to meet record score) turned the meet over to Loras senior Ryan Rogers (5484) who was 224 points in arrears at the time of Weaver's 'dq.'



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**NCAA D-I Champs  
CrossPlex, Birmingham, AL  
March 11-12, 2022**

This was the third try at the D-I meet for the CrossPlex (2016, 2019) and the 16 finalists overcame some of the facility deficiencies (lack of banked turns, a single vault pit, dead long jump) to place a record four over 6k and the highest final scorer (5851) in history. No doubt this season's high



**In his 3<sup>rd</sup> NCAA indoor appearance Ayden Owens used an eye-opening 2<sup>nd</sup> day (2871) total to overcome a 262 point deficit at the break.**

scores were accommodated by generous NCAA 5<sup>th</sup> year eligibility rules, the relaxed transfer portal and a field with a record ten (of 16) foreign athletes.

Iosivas (22, Honolulu), pronounced i-O-see-vash, surprised with a meet record tying (Ashton Eaton) sprint, 6.71 seconds and six dipped under "7." Tall 21-year German Neugebauer (6-6) then took over covering 7.75m/25-5½ of bounce-less Alabama real estate and pushing 15.72m/51-7 in the shot to assume the overall lead which he held (using a 2.06m/6-9) halfway thru the high jump.

Georgia's Garland and SF Austin's Asani Hylton (24, Westmoreland, Jamaica) then put on one of the best high jump shows in meet history. When the dust had cleared

both managed 2.18m/7-1¾ career bests and Garland had taken the overall lead while Hylton moved ahead of Owens to 4<sup>th</sup>.

But the second day was the real story as Owens' track record 6.80 clocking opened some sleepy eyes at 10:30 am, moving to 4<sup>th</sup> and 39 points closer to Garland.

After Owens PR'd at 4.86m/15-11¼ to make up another 61 points on Garland, the trio of Leo Uusimaki, a 23-year old Finnish freshman at Ohio State, Gary Haasbroek (23, Melbourne, AUS) of Texas Tech and Virginia Tech's Jake Spotswood (23, Fairhope, AL) dominated the vault, all getting 5.16m/16-11. The lack of double pits elongated this event which lasted 160 minutes.

The stage was now set for Owens' heroics. He bolted at the gun, was 57+ at 400m and 1:59+ at 800m, at the time leading Iowa's Austin West by 55 meters. Amid the din from 1200 spectators Owens bore down and covered the final 200m in and agonizing 32 seconds, clocking 2:31.55, a time only ever bettered by legends Curtis Beach and Joe Detmer. He was running in sand during the final 50 meters but never lost form. He then had to wait for the struggling Garland who slowed perceptively on the final lap and clocked 2:46.07. 14½ seconds..... Nine others clocked career bests in a spirited race since eight scoring places were up-for-grabs twelve contenders.

**Flash Results Timing** has the scores displayed quickly and Owen's had his margin of victory. Whew!

**On a personal note:** I sought out Owens on the infield after his victory to tell him how much I appreciated his effort and that he won the last race I'll ever announce. It is time to retire. This year completed 50 years of NCAA T&F PA announcing for me. He had made the final moments memorable. Of the thousands of races I've called, at distances from 60 meters to marathons, this one was a doozy.



### NCAA D-I Champs Pittsburg State U, KS March 11-12, 2022

The D-II affair in Pittsburg, KS was not as dramatic but the results were universally good. A&M-Kingsville Jon Harper took care of favorite Trey Miller, a junior at Central Missouri and seasonal leader/defending champ Trey Mooney, a junior at the host school. Harper's 4.95m/16-3 vault the game changer.

Jon Harper/Texas A&M-Kingsville used vault skills to improve from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> at the D-II indoor nationals.



Harper 5751..... Miller 5688....Mooney 5585



### NCAA D-I Champs JDL Fastrack, Winston-Salem, NC March 11-12, 2022

At the break seasonal leader and D-III reigning outdoor kingpin (7510) Marcus Weaver. A soph a Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Weaver was on approximately 5600 points pace (61 points up on PR 5533) when he was 'dq'd' in the 60 meter hurdles. His lead was well over 200 points at the time. Weaver then vaulted 4.50m/14-9 before retiring.

Loras College senior Ryan Rogers then added 212 digits to his career best score to win at 5484.



Ryan Rogers, Loras, was the NCAA D-III champ.