

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

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OWENS COMPLETES NCAA DOUBLE Neugebauer, Garland 2-3

Hello Again... This 2022 NCAA D-I decathlon had more twists and turns than the 24 hour LeMans. While prohibitive favorite Kyle Garland/Georgia could not duplicate his 8720 CR of early May (down in 8 of 10 events), Arkansas' Ayden Owens-Delerme raced by to become only the 4rd to win the NCAA indoor/outdoor CEs in the same year (Ashton Eaton, '09-'10, and Tim Duckworth '18, Karel Tilga '21). And he tied Eaton's outdoor meet record of 8457 set back in 2010. And he did it on Eaton's playing fields, Oregon's historic Hayward Field. Whew!

The struggle between Owens-Delerme and Garland was much anticipated. 2019 champ Johannes Ern/Georgia-EST, who had been relatively inactive all spring, was a dark-horse candidate and nobody told Texas-German Leo Neugebauer he was not part of the equation. Ern's chances lasted less than 50 meters into the first event. He injured himself, clocked 14.26 seconds and took a seat in the new Hayward Stadium bleachers to follow the progress of teammate Garland. As for the Georgia soph/junior, he finished almost 400 points off his career best while winning just two events (high jump and hurdles).

Neugebauer, on the other hand, used ten solid marks, including PRs in five events (100, sp, hj, jav, 1500m) to hold off Garland's quest for the silver medal. At 6-7 (think Jürgen Hingsen) he is the tallest NCAA medalist since Drake's Rick Wanamaker who at



Arkansas's Ayden Owens-Delerme became just the 4th in NCAA history to win both the indoor heptathlon and outdoor decathlon in the same season. His 8457 total in Eugene tied Ashton Eaton's meet record and this was the finish to a 46.10 400m.....46.10 !

6-9, won the initial NCAA U Div crown in 1970! *(I PA announced that meet 52 years ago! Yikes!!!. And Wanamaker was that tall, the center on Drake's basketball team)*

Yet this meet was all about speed and not size. Owens-Delerme whose 2nd day throwing PRs put him in a comfortable position before the 1500 meters. There he had but to cruise while keeping a watching eye on Neugebauer and Garland who had little chance of out-legging him. His final clocking of 4:29.54 (16 seconds off his career best)

was just 9th place. Nine (believed to be the most ever in an NCAA D-I dec) broke 4:30. The 4:51.77 by TAMU-CC's Trpimir is also believed to be the fastest last place in a D-I final.

The meet's seminal moment and deciding factor came after a AOD PR high jump on Thursday evening at 9:05 pm. Running in lane 7 of the 3rd 400m section, Owens-Delerme bulled his way thru a new CR/PR 46.10 clocking. And that was that !! He bested Garland by 2.4 seconds and Neugebauer by 2.71. He did it on raw power and will. There was none of the smooth rhythmic smoothness of a Bill Toomey or Jeff Bennett or Ashton Eaton. Think Bruce Jenner bullying his way to the finish line. And the result..... 46.10! "Today I executed what I needed to do for a PR. Forty-five seconds has



been elusive, hopefully I'll get it soon. It feels good to go 46.10," he said afterwards.

Owens-Delerme was graceful afterwards. "Shoutout to my brother Dan (Spejcher who placed 7th), and definitely to Coach Geopfert and my family, along with everyone who has helped me on my journey." I need to give a lot of credit to the people I'm competing against," said Owens-Delerme. "As decathletes we get after it and to be in competition with some of these great decathletes is a blessing."



Emil Uhlén/Kansas St-SWE (left) just missed a PR while Lucas Van Klaveren/UT-Arlington-NED (right) posted a career best score at the NCAAs

Comments: The controversy over the large number of foreign decathletes (14 of 24 qualifiers) in the NCAA meet continues to buzz. This does not seem to be an issue for most other events. And while this was a high scoring affair at the top, only two athletes achieved lifetime best scores in Eugene..... Neugebauer, Dutchman Lucas Van Klaveren/UT-Arlington (8015 in 4th). 12th place Emil Uhlén, the Kansas State freshman from Sweden was close. He was elevated to the 24th and final qualifying spot when K-State teammate Tejaswin Shankar/ India (who deca PR'd earlier in the season at 7592) eschewed CEs for his specialty, the high jump, which he won in Eugene at 2.27m/7-5¼. 23 started as German grad student Felix Wolter of Pittsburgh was absent at the 100m starting line.



Kyle Garland/Georgia (left) was as 3rd and Texas' Leo Neugebauer-GER 2nd at the recent NCAA I affair in Eugene.

Results:



6/8-9 NCAA D-I National Championships, Hayward Field, U of Oregon, Eugene, OR

8457	Owens, Ayden/Arkansas-PUR'25	10.41-0.4	729+1.2 1509 201 46.10 13.93-0.4 4625 451 5607	4:29.54
8362	Neugebauer, Leo/Texas-GER'24	10.87 0.0	760+0.8 1600 207 48.91 14.67+0.7 5077 481 5312	4:42.68
8333	Garland, Kyle/Georgia'24	10.63-0.4	751+1.3 1535 207 48.60 13.87-0.4 4200 481 5588	4:41.96
8015	Van Klaveren, Lucas/UT-Arl-NED'22	11.10-0.3	721+1.5 1360 195 46.77 14.38+0.9 3782 481 5750	4:24.22
7886	West, Austin/Iowa'24	10.83-0.3	731+1.2 1410 189 46.90 14.91-0.3 4272 421 5918	4:34.48
7748	Hylton, Asani/SF Austin-JAM'22	10.92 0.0	705+2.3 1282 210 49.91 14.54-0.3 3282	451 5892 4:27.48
7744	Spejcher, Daniel/Arkansas'23	11.09-0.3	698+1.2 1470 183 49.53 14.38+0.9 4205 481 5808	4:56.33
7739	Ply, JJ/Abilene Christian'22	11.17 0.0	705+0.9 1144 201 49.92 14.39-0.4 4187 471 5523	4:26.03
7708	Martin, Isaiah/Purdue'22	11.15-0.3	709+0.7 1344 192 49.37 14.41+0.9 3994 421 6172	4:28.80
7668	Soto, Yariel/Tennessee-PUR'24	10.80-0.3	728+0.4 1248 186 46.77 15.28-0.6 4182 471 4812	4:27.48
7592	Vorkink, Dallin/BYU-'23	11.38 0.0	662+2.6 1356 195 50.95 15.33+0.7 4232 491 5497	4:22.92
7546	Uhlin, Emil/Kansas St-SWE'25	11.61 0.0	694+1.3 1318 198 50.24 15.29+0.6 4096 491 5172	4:23.85
7538	Baldwin, Heath/Michigan St'24	11.31 0.0	669-0.2 1446 201 51.76 14.48-0.3 3867 451 6092	4:47.57
7519	Farmer, Josh/UC-Irvine'23	10.71-0.4	718+1.8 1383 186 48.10 15.28-0.9 3817 451 4664	4:38.40
7473	Thomer, Oliver/Washington-GBR'24	11.05-0.3	677+0.7 1305 189 49.89 15.78+0.6 4015 481 5136	4:24.59
7457	Simulask, Kristo/Oklahoma-EST'23	10.94-0.4	725-0.6 1337 198 49.74 15.19-0.9 3759 441 4635	4:37.70
7431	Siroki, Trpimir/TAMU-CC-CRO'23	11.01 0.0	732+0.6 1231 204 51.30 14.65+0.9 3522 471 4880	4:51.77
7341	Jung, Alaxander/Kansas-GER'25	11.30-0.3	670+1.2 1297 192 51.67 14.97+0.7 4058 491 5324	4:49.92

6958	McMorris, Hakim/California'23	10.68-0.4	735+0.9 1341 195 46.97 14.24-0.4 3499 nh 4857	4:45.59
6863	Talbot, Ryan/Michigan St'24	10.78-0.4	675+1.3 1303 189 47.52 14.82-0.9 4510 nh 5157	4:46.60
dnf	Vollmer, Max/Oregon-GER'23	10.90-0.3	715+0.8 1540 198 48.55 14.93-0.3 3997 nh 5476	dns
dnf	Spyridonidis, Alex/Auburn-GRE'22	11.23 0.0	699+0.1 1504 dns	
dnf	Erm, Johannes/Georgia-EST'22	14.26-0.4	dns	
dns	Wolter, Felix/Pittsburgh-GER'22	10.		
dns	Shankar, Tejaswin/Kansas St-IND'22			

