

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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GARLAND SHINES at SEC

Ten (!) Collegians Surpass 5700 in Frenetic Day

Hello Again... Remember the date...Feb 26, 2022, the day that ten US collegians surpassed 5700 points while trying to qualify or solidify their positions for the NCAA D I meet. The avalanche of goods scores was spread around the country on 'College Conference weekend' as ten leagues crowned indoor heptathlon champions. We would be remiss if we did not note that six of the ten 5700+ scores and 5 of the ten titles went to foreign athletes. An additional five 5600+ efforts went into the books, totals that used to easily qualify for the NCAAs, but this year have become footnote scores.

Georgia's Kyle Garland turned in the top effort, 6205 (PR), in defending his Southeastern Conference title, a league so deep in talent that 5206 was but tenth, even though former champion Karel Tilga has departed and Johannes Erm remains on the Georgia roster but has been inactive. In College Station terrific scores grew on trees: Alex Spyridonidis/ Auburn-Greece (5786), Yariel Soto/Tennessee-Puerto Rico (5760), Dan Specher/Arkansas (5751), and Israeli Etamar Bhistekar/Arkansas (5652) all PR'd while chasing Garland.

In other league action 23 year old Finnish frosh Leo Uusimaki of Ohio State nipped Iowa's Austin West at the Big Ten meet at *SPIRE*, 5789 to 5783. Australian Gary Haasbroek/Texas Tech will return to the NCAAs by winning the Big 12 meet in Ames, Iowa over Kristo Simulask, Oklahoma's Estonian senior, 5833 to 5727. A pair of Swedish freshman at Kansas State, Emil Uhlin and Carl al Forselles, both PR'd at 5639 and 5586 for third and fourth.

Marquette senior Joe Keys defended his Big East title in Chicago (Chicago? East?) at 5833. Max Vollmer/Oregon-Germany, won the



Kyle Garland was the SEC winner with a fine 6205 total.

Pac 12 Invt with a nice 5801 sum. Kent State's Alex Shied was the Mid-American champ (5423) and Spain's Adria Navajon of Wichita State was the American Conf champ. Namibia's Thomas Dresselhaus/Central Arkansas was the Atlantic Sun winner.

An additional six D-I league will complete their title meets on Sunday or Monday (watch for Ivy, Horizon and Southland scores) so the qualifying list for the D-I champs is still not complete but the bubble (final qualifying) score zoomed past 5700 points today.



Joe Keys/Marquette (l), Leo Uusimaki/Ohio State-Finland (c) and Max Vollmer/Oregon-Germany all surpassed 5800 points over the weekend.