

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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SMALL COLLEGE REPORT

NAIA, D-II and D-III

Hello Again....The final weekend of May is devoted to the small college championships (NAIA, D-II & III). Favorites Marcus Weaver/Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Sam Black/Saginaw Valley St, predictably captured the D-III and D-II titles by overwhelming scores. The NAIA affair was much closer with Carroll U soph Lee Walburn victorious.

The NCAA I champs, scheduled for the refurbished Hayward Field, is scheduled for June 9-10(Wed-Thur).

Here is a summary of the recent weekend action.

Wednesday-Thursday



NAIA National Champs
Gulf Shores, AL
5/26-27/2021

Carroll University sophomore Lee Walburn (Whitefish, MT) led a parade of PR scores at the NAIA meet in Gulf Shores, AL. Scores had been down for the past years but the top dozen turned that around abruptly recording lifetime best totals and nine were underclassmen.

Clearing 4.90m/16-¾ and 5.00m/16-4 ¾ on 3rd tries Doane senior Levi Sudbeck (Hader, NE) briefly took the overall lead. He had a pair of NAIA indoor hept titles on his resume. But Walburn's javelin win (56.61m/185-8) and solid 1.5k (3rd at 4:33.79) provided his margin. Hayden Hackman (Glasgow, MO), a junior at Central Methodist(MO), won the



Left to Right: Sam Black/Saginaw Valley; Marcus Weaver/Wisconsin-Eau Claire; Lee Walburn/Carroll Won the D-II, D-III and NAIA crowns.

final event decisively (4:26.97) to place 3rd overall (6890), behind Southern Oregon's Joe Dotson (senior, Florence, OR) steady 6957 effort. First day leader Cadin Gustafson (Derby, KS), a junior at Friends U, was 5th with a 245 point career improvement.



NAIA scorers included (top-l-r):
2. Joe Dotson/Sn Oregon; 3. Hayden Hackman/C Methodist; 4. Phil Stomne/Keiser; 5 Cadin Gusstafson /Friends; Levi

Sudbeck/Doane.

Thursday-Friday



**NCAA D-II National Champs
Allendale, MI
5/27-28/2021**



Sam Black/Saginaw Valley St never seriously challenged. He continued his hot pace on day two with a vault career best and had the luxury of cruising the 1500 meters. His winning margin was almost 400 points and he now owns D-II top two seasonal scores. *The 7807 Mount Olive score two weeks ago was prophetic.*

Pittsburg State soph Trey Mooney (Lamar, MO) was runner-up leading four who scored over 7100 points. Colorado Mines senior Connor McLean's (Highlands Ranch, CO) vault (5.20m/17-¾) was the meet's individual highlight. Angelo State, which owned two of the top three qualifiers, has seen better days. Croatian junior Trpimir Siroki vault 'nh'd' and finished 11th. Cyprian freshman Elvis Kryukov managed but 7 events before withdrawing.

Only two of the 13 starters were seniors.



D-II scorers included- bottom of previous column (l to r): 2. Trey Mooney/Pittsburg St; 3. Jon Harper/TAMU-Kingsville; 4. Connor McLean/Colorado Mines; (left) 5. Garrett Francis/Central Missouri

Thursday-Friday



**NCAA D-III National Champs
Greensboro, NC
5/27-28/2021**

Seven of the top ten decathletes recorded career best scores but this one was over early. Soph Markus Weaver (Lewiston, MN) the Wisconsin-Eau Claire D-III seasonal leader, ran up the 3rd highest score in meet history (7510) and led an Eau Claire 1-2-4 finish for 18 year coach Chip Schneider. Soph teammate Mitch Stegeman (Coleman, WI) PR'd (6952) was runner-up and senior Jordan Lacey (Greenville, WI) was fourth. Whitworth senior Nick McGill placed 3rd.

Winning the decathlon was not Weaver's only duty. After the 1500m he tackled the javelin final and won the competition on his final toss, 67.68m/222-0.

Thanks to Weaver, etc antics the Blugolds sat atop the team scoring entering the final day of competition at North Carolina A&T in Greensboro. The Blugolds



Wisconsin-Eau Claire personnel: l-r, Coach Chip Schneider, Mitch Stegeman and Jordan Lacey

performance might have been even more impressive had senior Abrahm Schroedl (De Forest, WI) not fallen in the hurdles. He placed 13th even though he was the D-III #3 qualifier.

The Blugolds
their top 4



averaged 7091 for
decalthletes.