

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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OUTDOOR SEASON UNDERWAY

Day, Nelson with Solid Early Season Marks, Texas R Next

Hello Again..... The 2019 outdoor decathlon campaign is underway and a pair of California collegians put up solid scores over the third weekend of March. Tyler Nelson, a UCSB senior from Del Norte HS in San Diego, won the Jim Klein meet at Westmont College with a PR 7336 effort. The 6-6 Texas Tech transfer (6th at '15 Big 12 dec) improved his career best by 116 points and walked away with career bests in the hurdles (14.53) and vault (4.35m/14-3¼). Soph teammate Sam Pica was runnerup as the Gouchos started and finished five decathletes.

Nelson was injured a good deal of the 2017 season. In 2016 he won the Big West Conference crown by a scant 22 points over Herman Day of Long Beach St. 100 miles south on the same two days Day was winning the Spring Break meet at Riverside with a career best 7410 score. The redshirt senior and communications major from Ridgeview HS added 161 points to his career best, set at the same meet in 2016. Senior teammate John Broadhead was runner-up as Long Beach also started and finished five.

Nelson and Day will meet again at this year's Big West Conf final. Both efforts, given past results, are likely to be NCAA I bubble scores so the Conference meet (May 3-4 at UCSB) will have added significance.

Both meets sported big fields: 21 at Westmont, 15 at Riverside. A number of the host Santa Barbara TC athletes contested individual events in preparation for the upcoming Sam Adams meet in early April.



Seniors Herman Day/Long Beach State (left) and Tyler Nelson/UCSB (right) opened the season with career best totals in California meets.

At the top D-II action, NW Missouri senior Kevin Schultz made up 170 points in the final two events to catch TAMU-Kingsville sophomore Jonathan Harper of the host school, 7145 to 7125. Central Missouri freshman Trey Miller (6792 PR) won the weather hampered Herm Wilson meet in Wichita by over 600 points.

The annual Texas Relays will draw most of the attention in the upcoming week.



The best NAIA score also came from the Klein meet as junior Pieter Top (left) of host Westmont made up all but three points on Japan's Tomohiko Muranaka, 6871 to PR 6868.