

BIG 12 10TH ANNIVERSARY TEAM

The University of Colorado cross country program placed five of its former athletes on the Big 12 10th Anniversary Team. Jorge Torres, Adam Goucher and Dathan Ritzenhein made up the men's team and Sara (Gorton) Slattery and Kara Grgas-Wheeler were selected to the women's team. Colorado garnered five of the six selections on the team.

The teams of three were selected by the league's head coaches. In order to be eligible for consideration, former athletes must have had a top three finish at Big 12 Championships at least once in their careers. The Big 12 Conference formed in 1996. Amy Mortimer, Kansas State, was the third woman named to the team.

Torres won the Big 12 individual crown three times (2000-02) and was named the Big 12 Newcomer of the Year in 1999. Torres was the 2002 NCAA Champion as he finished the season undefeated. The three-time All-American was the NCAA runner-up in 2001 and placed third in 2000.

Goucher took top honors in the Big 12 on two occasions (1997-98) and won the NCAA crown in 1998. With the win, he set the Rim Rock Course record at 29:26.9. Goucher, a four-time All-American, was the national runner-up in 1994, took sixth in 96 and earned a third-place finish in 97. He was also the Big Eight Champion in 1995 before the Big 12 was formed.

Grgas-Wheeler, won two Big 12 title (1999, 2000) and was the 2000 Champion as she led the CU women to their first national championship. In that same season, she went undefeated and became the first individual national champion since 1994 to be on the national championship team. Grgas-Wheeler was a two-time All-American.

Ritzenhein won the Big 12 and NCAA Championships in 2003. A two-time All-American, he was named the Big 12 Newcomer of the Year in 2001 and was the highest finishing freshman in a national championship race since Adam Goucher's second-place finish in 1994.

Slattery was a three-time All-American (2000, 02, 04). She finished fifth at the 2002 NCAA's and led the Buffs to a fifth-place finish. At the 2000 NCAA Championships she was the highest finishing Colorado freshman in the program's history with an eighth-place effort. With the finish, she also became the Buffs first female freshman All-American.



Adam Goucher



Jorge Torres



Dathan Ritzenhein



Kara Grgas-Wheeler



Sara (Gorton) Slattery