



Women's Heptathlon Champion

Megan Wheatley, Nebraska, RFr., Perth, Australia

On Winning the Big 12 Championship

"Amazing. I've had a hard year with injuries—I've had stress fractures—so this is my first heptathlon in two years. Just to be out here, for my foot to feel good, to get personal bests and then to win—it's more than I could have ever asked for. I'm ecstatic."

On Her Stress Fracture

"It's one of those things that just pops up and you have to manage it—and it took us a little bit longer than we expected. Six weeks ago—or even four weeks ago—I wasn't even sure if I was going to be able to compete today and I was listed as the wild card. The wild card's done it."

On The Elevation

"I felt it. In the last 200 hundred meters for the 800 my hamstrings were shot. But, it's ok—I didn't have the best time, but it's alright."

On Fourth Straight Nebraska Heptathlon Champion

"Yeah, it is quite an honor to be number four. It really stamps Nebraska's dominance on the multi event. We have a great program. It's really not just me, though—we have Chantae McMillan, Rachel Butler, Erin Hannon and Kim Shubert, who's a senior, but had to pull out because of injury. There are a whole bunch of us and we just work really well together and we are always pushing each other at training. It really helps to have their backing and their support."

Women's Shot Put Champion

Patience Knight, Texas Tech, Jr., San Antonio, Texas

On Winning The Big 12 Championship

"I feel pretty good but I still have work to do because I still have other goals that I want to reach."

On Her Performance Today

"It wasn't bad but I feel like I could have thrown a little farther. I didn't quite get it like I wanted to, but I still feel blessed that I threw well and finished first—that's a plus."

On Going Forward

"Going to regionals I just want to keep working towards nationals, because at nationals I want to win the national championship."



Men's Decathlon Champion

Donovan Kilmartin, Texas, Sr., Eagle, Idaho

On Winning The Big 12 Championship

"I feel pretty good, I came in with a slight tweak of my ankle, but I was feeling 85-90 percent so I was dealing with that all day. Then I went to the javelin and everything felt fine, everything felt great and on my second throw I went to go put some heat on it and I pulled my groin. I didn't get to finish the second throw or the third throw and I was not looking forward to the 15 (1500m run) but I gutted it out and did my best."

On His Groin Effecting His Performance In The 1500m

"It bothered me. I kept thinking that all of these people came out and supported me, all of my family, all of my friends, all of my teammates and I could hear them supporting me all the way around the track. I put that in my head and I could feel the groin real quick on my steps but I just kept running through each step. I couldn't have done it without the support of everyone."

On How He Is Feeling

"Tired. It was really hard, the whole thing—I came in last in the ninth event. It came right down to the wire, it was a matter of seconds. It was hard fought, all of the competitors—especially the Missouri guys that are tough competitors."

On Winning His Second Big 12 Decathlon Championship

"It feels great, two years ago I was able to win at Big 12's and last year I was able to take some time off. It feels great to come out here and start the meet off right for my team. It was great to compete with all of these guys, all of the guys on the field were real great guys—real level headed competitors."

Women's High Jump Champion

Kim Shubert, Nebraska, Sr., Lincoln, Neb.

On Her Expectations Coming in to the Meet

"This is my last meet ever. I just wanted to come in and enjoy the experience. There are so many good jumpers from Nebraska, we had four people here that were in the finals, and I'm just happy to be a part of it."

On Winning the Big 12 Championship

"It hasn't really set in yet. I'm just thankful for all of the support that I have gotten from my family and my coaches. I'm from Lincoln, Nebraska too, so it is kind of cool to be a local girl from my university and win a championship."

Men's Long Jump Champion

Julian Reid, Texas A&M, Fr., Kingston, Jamaica

On His Performance In The Finals

"My performance was below par, but my goal was to get 10 points for my school (Texas A&M) today."

On Taking The Lead During The Finals

"It was a clutch jump and I knew what I needed to do to win."



Women's Long Jump Champion

Candice Mills, Kansas State, Sr., Omaha, Neb.

On Her Expectations Coming In To The Competition

"I never expect to win because my coach says to do the very best that you can, because you can't control how well your competition will do. I have been jumping tremendously lately in practice and I expected to do well here."

On Winning The Big 12 Championship

"It's great. I have always had the privilege of competing against amazing athletes, and finally it was my time as a senior to go out on top."

On Perfecting Her Performance

"I just want to improve. Anything that I need to work on and tweak, I want to have perfected in time for nationals."

Men's Shot Put Champion

Nate Englin, Missouri, Sr., Shoreview, Minn.

On Winning the Big 12 Championship For The Third Time

"I feel pretty good, very relieved. Keith (Lloyd) and (Harrison) Bengamin gave me a scare there but it makes it more exciting."

On How He Felt He Threw Today

"I threw pretty good, I had a good first throw then I tried to hard and kind of flopped—fell over. I came back and had two decent throws in the final and I was able to win it."

On Moving On To Nationals

"I just need to keep doing what I've been doing and putting up good marks."

Women's Pole Vault Champion

Kate Sultanova, Kansas, Sr., Krasnodar, Russia

On Winning the Big 12 Championship

"Well, it's great. It's a good feeling. I was sick for like four days and three days ago I started trying to do something. I tried—I tried so hard."

On the Elevation

"I try to concentrate and not think about the elevation. But, I was really struggling with the wind. It changed when I started jumping with my second attempt. I know how to jump with the pole, but the wind can throw me off and it can be scary."



2008 BIG 12 OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

QUOTES

Hosted by the University of Colorado, May 16-18, 2008, Potts Field, Boulder, Colo.

Hugh Charles, Colorado, Sr., Keller, Texas

General

"That's one of my duties here—to get us points. Especially in the field events, because we don't have too many field event guys except for the heptathletes. That is a big role that I play on this team—getting points in the long jump. Come tomorrow I hope the 4x100m relay team can rock the house—I know it will."

On Having A Lack Of Practice

"I did, I think I accomplished a lot. Fourth is alright, third would have been better and second would have been even better. But without much practice and traveling from (NFL) team tryouts I am pretty pleased with my performance and I think the coaches are too. I think I did my job today. I've had one day of long jump practice during the outdoor season, that was last Wednesday. I practiced about 20 minutes, it was more of a refresher. I've always been pretty good at long jump but I wish I would have had more time with Coach Malone—she's a great coach. With my schedule I'm happy with how I did, I just wanted to help the team and do my job."

On Getting The Crowd Into It

"I did that in high school but this was the first time I've done that in college. It's great to be here at my home stadium. It was great to be able to compete at home and to have a lot of consistent jumps."

Mark Wetmore, Colorado Head Coach

General

"It was a great day. **Hugh (Charles)** jumped very well for someone who has been job hunting (NFL tryouts). **James Begley** had a nice personal best in the shot put—he got us some points that were not on the form chart. **Jeremy (Dodson)** got through in two events, the 100m and the 200m, and **(Ryan) Campbell** squeaked through in the 200m to get us some more points that weren't on the chart. Other than **Brent Vaughn** not having a great 1500m everybody else exceeded our expectations. I haven't tallied the scores but I know that we are ahead of where I had hoped to be after Saturday."

On Brent Vaughn

"He didn't run the race, tactically, that he had planned to run and nothing got in the way to stop him from doing it—so it is okay that he is a little distraught. I think he has a little head cold, and he says 'I'm fine, I'm fine, I'm fine' but when you get to 1000m and the bravado is over and there is nothing left except your repertory system. I think he is 90% but that is a great field and you have to be 100% to do well. The 1500m is a marquee field in this meet, there must have been four or five sub-four-minute milers. But with the elevation and a well executed mile he could have made the mile. Tactically it wasn't great and he wasn't completely honest with himself about his wellness, but he'll come back tomorrow and be fine."

On Getting The Crowd Into It

"The main thing we needed to happen, happened today. That was to get some points in some of our other events and better performances there. We did better in the shot put than we expected. We got people through in the 100m and the 200m. Hugh jumped better than expected. The great thing about tomorrow is that they are all finals, so unless Ryan doesn't show up he's going to score. Jeremy is going to score, James Begley is back in the discuss and that is his specialty, and Pifer in the 1500m and the 5k. We're looking forward to it, it should be a great day."