



Barringer wins NCAA title in record fashion

Camera staff report
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COLLEGE STATION, Texas -- Colorado senior Jenny Barringer set another record on Saturday.

Barringer won an NCAA indoor track national title in the women's 3,000-meter run with a record time of 8 minutes, 42.03 seconds -- nearly seven seconds faster than the previous NCAA record.

The old NCAA record was 8:48.77, set by Texas Tech's Sally Kipyego. Barringer's previous best time in the 3k was 8:53.88.

"I wanted to run for time -- get something out there that would stay around for awhile," Barringer said.

Barringer, who went to last year's summer Olympics in the steeplechase, owns three NCAA indoor records -- all of which she set this season -- in the mile, 3k and 5,000-meter run. She also holds an NCAA outdoor track record in the steeplechase, an event she has won twice in the NCAA national championship outdoor meet.

"The records are special to me because I believe the frontier of women's track and field is improving on every level," Barringer said. "I hold three distance records amongst some of the best female athletes ever to step on the track, in my opinion."

Barringer won all four indoor races she ran this season and in three of her four meets she set an NCAA record.

"We felt they were attainable," Colorado coach Mark Wetmore said. "She has done a lot of hard work and made a lot of good decisions in her life, so if anyone deserves this, she does."

In winning her first indoor track national title, Barringer beat second-place finisher Susan Kuijken of Florida State by about 14 seconds at the Gilliam Track and Field Stadium.

It was CU's first indoor track national champion since Renee Metivier won the 3k in 2005. The only other Buff to win a women's national indoor title was Sara (Gorton) Slattery.

Barringer actually hit some traffic during her record-setting run.

Barringer began to lap the end of the pack with about 150 meters to go. She had to maneuver her way around the pack on the final lap.

"Technically, I'm sure it slowed me down a second or two because I had to swing really wide," Barringer said. "I do remember thinking, 'Why do I have to pass them on the top of the bank?' But other than that, they pushed me and made me better. It was fun to swing around them with 100 meters to go

and the crowd was going crazy so I wouldn't replace that with any other circumstance."

Barringer plans on competing in the upcoming outdoor track season and has said she wants to run cross country for CU next fall. Barringer does not own a national title in cross country.

"We achieved the goals we had set out to achieve," Wetmore said. "She is finishing the season healthy. Our only concern is that there is still a whole outdoor season and perhaps some things in Europe after that, and then perhaps a cross country season after that. So there is a long way to go and it's time to rest for a little while."



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