



Dodson aims to finish fast as outdoor season begins

Sprinter opens final outdoor season today at Potts Invite

By Ryan Thorburn
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BOULDER, Colo. — Jeremy Dodson's career at Colorado has gone by, well ... fast.

But the senior sprinter's impact on the program should be long lasting.

Dodson capped his indoor career at the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships last weekend in College Station, Texas. He did not qualify for the finals in his signature event but finished owning nine of the top 10 CU marks in the 200, including the school record.

"I wanted the ultimate accomplishment to be a national title at the end, so I'm not too happy that didn't happen," Dodson said. "But I am satisfied. ...

"That's the ultimate goal: to set a record. Whether it's a personal record or a school record. That's satisfying. But as a sprinter I've always want more."

The Buffs will open the outdoor season today when they host the Potts Invitational, beginning with field events at 10 a.m.

Dodson is also the CU outdoor record holder in the 200 and looking to improve on his 20.37 standard this spring.

"I want a national championship," Dodson said when asked what his goals for the season are. "And to get that you have to set more school records."

Over the years CU has been home to some very fast athletes, from Cliff Branch to Ryan Campbell to Ben Kelley.

Dodson -- who transferred to CU from Arkansas -- has paved the way for the coaching staff to recruit sprinters into a program known more for its distance runners.

"Jeremy has been a great athlete for us," CU sprints/hurdles coach Brandon Coutts said after the indoor championships. "He's the first to break 21 seconds indoors and set the school record. He will truly be missed as a fierce competitor and team leader for the sprint group. He has raised the bar for future Buffs to come."

Dodson simply views himself as a part of the tradition.

"There were always good sprinters here when you talk about Cliff Branch and all of them," he said. "I guess in the middle some of it kind of got lost and I was that end point to help tie it all back together."

When the outdoor season ends Dodson will officially pass the leadership baton to his younger brothers, Quinton Dodson and A.J. Whitaker, both of whom are freshmen in the program.

"I think the perception changed a lot," Cassie Hirschfeld, a sophomore sprinter, said of Dodson's footprints on the program. "I definitely look up to him, and his younger brothers will have a big impact on the team. Just seeing how much success one of our sprinters has had will serve as a lot of motivation."

Hirschfeld and seniors Veronica Maul and Dymond Seay hope to record some fast times on their home track in the first meet of the outdoor season.

Jenny Barringer and some of CU's other top distance runners will not be competing as they exhale after the NCAA indoors.

The men's team is the reigning Big 12 outdoor champion and coming off a 10th-place finish nationally.

Colorado College, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State, Metro State, Northern Colorado, UC-Colorado Springs, South Dakota Tech and Wyoming will make up today's field. The invitational is a non-team scoring meet.

The Buffs will also host the CU Invite on April 11 as well as the Front Range Classic on May 2.



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