



# Barringer aims for 3rd title

## Buff senior seeks NCAA steeplechase crown

By Ryan Thorburn  
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BOULDER, Colo. — The forecast today in Fayetteville, Ark., calls for a high temperature of 85 degrees with 45 percent humidity.

This weather on the University of Arkansas campus for the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships isn't exactly Beijing in August. Still, the conditions will present a challenge for the six Colorado athletes who have been preparing in the cloudy, cool conditions in Boulder.

Jenny Barringer is making her fourth consecutive appearance at the meet. The other Buffs on the trip -- Emma Coburn, Jordan Kyle, Matt Tebo, Christian Thompson and Brandin Williams -- are making their outdoor nationals debut.

"We actually moved our practice times to later in the morning hoping to train in hotter weather, but beautiful Boulder has given us some nice cloudy days," Barringer said. "But I'm from Florida and given my background and experience I think the different climate is something that will be easy to overcome."

Barringer will compete in the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase, seeking her third NCAA title in the event. She won in 2006 (9:53.04) as a freshman and is the defending champion after winning again in 2008 (9:29.20).

The semifinals for the women's steeplechase are set for 6:50 p.m. tonight with the finals at 5:25 p.m. on Friday at John McDonnell Field.

"It would mean so much to win a third NCAA title in the same event because few people can add that to their resume, so that would be very exciting," said Barringer, who competed in the steeplechase at the Olympics last summer. "I keep trying to remind myself that this is my last (NCAA outdoor) track meet."

Barringer placed seventh in 2007 after having her shoe clipped in the finals. She is currently the American record holder in steeplechase and recently ran the fastest time in the world this year with a time of 9 minutes, 26.20 seconds.

Michigan State's Nicole Bush ranks second in steeplechase nationally with a mark of 9:39.38. Coburn is ninth with her PR of 10:06.54.

"Humidity is a really big factor for me. I grew up in the mountains and 80 degrees is about as hot as it ever gets and it's super dry," said Coburn, a freshman from Crested Butte. "But running at regionals and at the Big 12's was a good little taste of what it's going to be like in Fayetteville."

Mark Wetmore obviously has a lot of confidence in Barringer, who nearly stole all of the headlines at the Prefontaine Classic last Sunday by finishing a second behind Gelete Burka in the 1,500 with a time of 3:59.90 (the third American woman to run sub-four minutes). CU's head coach also has high hopes for Coburn this week.

"We are very pleased with Emma's freshman year," Wetmore said. "Her performances until now are indeed comparable to Jenny's (as a freshman). I think a fair aspiration for Emma would be to run near the performances that got her there and that would give her a chance to make the finals and maybe make the podium. If she did that that would be the culmination of an excellent year."

In the men's distance events, Thompson ranks 19th on the descending order list in the steeplechase with a PR of 8:49.38. The best time is held by Texas' Jake Morse (8:34.57). The prelims are at 7:15 p.m. tonight with the finals at 5:40 p.m. on Friday.

Tebo ranks 19th overall in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 13:56.39. The top mark of 13:27.79 is held by Arizona State's Brandon Bethke. The prelims for the 5K are at 8:25 p.m. tonight and the finals will be run at 7:40 p.m. on Friday.

Kyle ranks 17th in the 10,000. The Indiana transfer became the ninth fastest performer in the event in CU history when he ran 28:52.29 at the Payton Jordan Invitational on May 2. There is not a prelim for the event and the finals will be at 8:45 p.m. on Thursday.

"It's always fun to try to outrun your ranking and we would certainly be happy if Jordan was able to do that," Wetmore. "Matt and Christian are in the position that if they run well, they will advance to the finals. I think those are fair goals for them."

Williams will join Ken Yob and Dick Clack as the only CU athletes who have competed in the javelin throw at nationals. Yob took fifth in 1957 while Clark was sixth in 1962. The qualifying round of the javelin is at 7 p.m. tonight and the finals are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Friday.



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