

2006 SEASON REVIEW

The 2006 Air Force track and field season can be broken down by the numbers. There were 13 Academy records set, five national qualifiers, 13 regional qualifiers, 12 all-conference selections, two All-Americans, one Academic All-American and one national champion.

INDOOR SEASON

The season got underway with the annual Air Force All-Comers Meet, as the squad made immediate adjustments to the all-time record book. The men's distance runners made their mark at the Adidas Invitational, taking four of the top five spots in the 3000-meter run.

The Academy's pole vault team fared well at the prestigious Pole Vault Summit on Jan. 28, with five top-10 finishes in their respective events.

The team regrouped the following week to host the Air Force Invitational. Junior **Brian Walsh** won the heptathlon with a new program record, en route to his first career MWC Athlete of the Week award. Sophomore **Travis Picou** picked up a pair of event titles, while classmate **Calvin Glass** claimed another and junior **Olivia Korte** crushed her own Academy record in the weight throw.

The men continued to impress at New Mexico the following week, by winning every running event from the 400-meter dash to the 3000-meter run and posted seven top-six finishes from the field.

For the first time since the inception of the Mountain West Conference, the Falcons had to go on the road for the annual indoor championships. The squad traveled to Albuquerque, N.M., where the men picked up a fourth-place finish and the women finished ninth.

Air Force amassed six all-conference accolades, including a pair of MWC titles. Picou successfully defended his conference title in the 200-meter dash and clocked a new meet-record in the process, while Walsh came from behind in the final event to claim the Falcons' second straight heptathlon title with a new Air Force record.

Sophomore **Kelly Robinson** collected runner-up honors in the mile, while sophomores **Devin Hart** (long jump) and **Nick Luina** (400-meter dash) claimed third-place honors. In addition, Korte made an impact on the weight throw record for the third time in 2006, finishing eighth.

Air Force closed out the regular season with a pair of meets. The Falcons hosted the annual Don Barrett-Air Force Open and claimed 23 top-three finishes, while five others traveled to South Bend, Ind., for the annual Notre Dame-Alex Wilson Invitational.

Walsh and Picou qualified for the NCAA Championships, based on their stellar performances at the conference meet. Walsh took 13th in the heptathlon, while Picou earned the same placing in the 200-meter dash.

OUTDOOR SEASON

The outdoor season got off to a fast start, as Air Force took five event titles and 23 other top-five marks at the Potts Invitational in Boulder, Colo. The Falcons collected three of the top four marks in the women's high jump and triple jump and two of the top-three in the men's shot put.

Taking four of the top-five spots in the men's javelin throw and three of the top-five finishes in the men's 400-meter dash, Air Force made its first trip to California at the end of March. In addition to junior **Marcus Wells'** winning throw in the javelin and Luina's top time in the 400-meter dash, the Falcons collected for victories from Picou (100-meter dash, 200-meter dash), junior **David Lissy** (shot put) and senior **Dan St. Clair** (discus).

Several long standing program standards fell during victories as the Falcons headed north to Boulder once more. Junior **Dierra Poland** shattered the program's 100-meter hurdles record, which had stood for 21 years. In addition, Picou displaced the Academy's 18-year-old record in the 100-meter dash and topped the six-year standard in the 200-meter dash.

In addition to the Falcons' three record-setting winners, Air Force collected five other event titles, from Luina (400-meter dash), sophomore **Joel Nolan** (pole vault), Korte (discus throw), senior **Dana Pounds** (javelin throw) and the 4x400-meter relay team of Luina, Picou, sophomore **Kevin Hawkins** and senior **Billy Flynt**.

Four events were particularly heavy at the top with Air Force finishers. Four of the top-five spots in the women's javelin belonged to the Falcons, along with three of the top five in the men's pole vault, men's 110-meter hurdles and men's javelin.

Behind Picou's two Academy records and Pounds' NCAA season-leading javelin throw, the duo was named Athletes of the Week by the MWC.

A quartet of multi-event athletes traveled to the Mt. SAC/Cal Heptathlon and Decathlon in California. While there, Poland accumulated the second-best heptathlon total in Academy history, en route to a ninth-place finish. Walsh posted the fourth-best decathlon total in program history, taking second in the 26-competitor event.

Select members of the team took part in the prestigious Mt. SAC Relays. Korte won the discus, while Schenk (long jump) and Hawkins (800-meter run) finished second and third in their respective events. In addition, St. Clair (discus throw) and Pounds (javelin) picked up fourth-place finishes.

While in California, the Falcons also competed at the Pomona-Pitzer Invitational. That meet was highlighted by the driving rain that hampered competition throughout much of the day. Just one day after winning the discus at

the Mt. SAC Relays, Korte picked up a pair of top-10 finishes to lead the squad with senior **Amy Gilliland**, who finished second on the pole vault.

Backed by three first-place finishes and a sweep of the men's javelin, the Air Force men picked up a second-place finish at the Jack Christiansen Invitational in Fort Collins, Colo. Senior **Matt Schwandt** won the javelin with a personal-best throw that fell just shy of the Academy standard. Schwandt guided Wells and classmate **Brandon Murphy** to the top-three spots.

Nolan won the pole vault, while Poland took first in the 100-meter hurdles, nearly surpassing her record from earlier in the season. In addition, Picou and Luina were the top collegiate finishers in the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash, respectively.

The team split once again, as several athletes traveled to the important Drake Relays. Pounds picked up her third consecutive title in the javelin - becoming the first Drake competitor to accomplish such a feat. En route to her second MWC Athlete of the Week award, Pounds tossed the second-best distance in 20 years at the relays, falling shy to own mark for one year earlier.

Two Air Force relay records fell at Drake, highlighted by the men's 4x800-meter team of Glass, junior **Richard Elmore**, senior **Travis Patterson** and Hawkins. The quartet smashed the Academy's 16-year old record by nearly nine seconds. The women's shuttle hurdle relay also created a new standard, as senior **Genelle Chapman**, junior **Lindsay Bengard**, sophomore **Deb Durey** and Poland broke the Academy's record of one year.

In addition, Robinson picked up a second-place mark in the 1500-meter run, Schwandt collected a fifth-place throw in the men's javelin throw, Picou placed sixth in the 200-meter dash and senior **Jeff Gosselin** picked up a 10th-place finish in the 5000-meter run.

The remainder of the team returned to Albuquerque for the annual Don Kirby Invitational, where Murphy (javelin), freshman **Sebastian Ortiz** (800-meter run), Gilliland (pole vault) and junior **Casey Johnson** (triple jump) guided the Falcons to 15 top-five marks.

Air Force closed out the regular season by hosting the Ris Westen-Air Force Twilight Meet. With victories in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, Chapman highlighted 14 event winners, including four other seniors. Gilliland won the pole vault, while Pounds took first in the javelin. **Jason Jones** took the top mark in the men's pole vault, while St. Clair won the discus.

The Falcons headed to the annual MWC Outdoor Championships, where the squad claimed two conference champions and six all-conference honors, en route to fourth- (men) and eighth-place (women) finishes.

Using a record-shattering throw of 195'8", Pounds easily picked up her third conference javelin title in as many years. The throw was a new Academy, conference and championship-meet record, while matching the best collegiate throw ever. For her throw, Pounds earned the MWC Outstanding Performance Award - the first such award for the Air Force program.

For the second straight year, senior **Nick Wilson** won a conference title. One year after leading a sweep of the men's 5000-meter run, Wilson led the Air Force scorers in the 10,000-meter run for his second title.

With a second-place throw, Schwandt guided three Falcons to scoring finishes in the javelin. Hawkins was the runner-up in the 800-meter run with the third-best time in Academy history. Walsh picked up all-conference accolades in the decathlon with a third-place score, while Korte recorded a third-place distance in the discus.

Air Force sent 13 of its athletes to the annual NCAA Midwest Regional Championship Meet. There, Pounds successfully defended her regional title in the javelin, recording a new meet record in the process, to earn an automatic bid to the national championships.

In addition to Pounds' automatic inclusion, Korte (discus) and Hawkins (800-meter run) earned at-large berths to the national meet, as did Picou (200-meter dash).

Prior to the NCAA Championships, Pounds was awarded the Mountain Region Female Field Athlete of the Year Award, as chosen by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Pounds repeated as the national champion in the javelin, defeating the runner-up by over 12 feet. She became the Falcons' first Division I back-to-back champion, while also earning that distinction at the conference level.

The Falcons weren't done picking up the hardware, as Korte claimed All-America honors in the discus. With an impressive seventh-place finish, she joined Pounds as the Falcons' only female All-Americans at the Division I level.

Also at the national meet, Hawkins and Picou finished 25th and 27th in their respective events during the preliminary round of competition.

Pounds continued to collect awards following the national championships, as the USTFCCA selected her as the Midwest Region Female Field Athlete of the Year.

Pounds officially closed out the 2006 season with a pair of meets. She picked up a second-place finish at the prestigious U.S. Track and Field Championships, falling just shy of the American record-holder. She also participated in the annual North America-Central America-Caribbean Championships, setting a new meet record while claiming her second championship in as many appearances at the NACAC meet.

The regional and national recognition for Air Force's athletes also came from their work off of the field. Wilson and classmate **Margaret Frash** both earned ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America All-District honors for track, field and cross country athletes.

Wilson went on to be awarded ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America honors, as voted on by members of the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), while Frash was named to the NCAA Division I All-Academic Team, as decided by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

In addition, 23 Falcons were named to the Mountain West Conference All-Academic Team, six of which also earned the MWC Scholar-Athlete distinction.

TEAM FINISHES

AIR FORCE INVITATIONAL (FEB. 3-4)

MEN: 1. Colorado State 141.5; 2. Colorado 125; **3. AIR FORCE 115.5**; 4. Arizona State 98; 5. Cal St. Sacramento 48; 6. Utah State 44; 7. Western State 22; 8. Fort Hays State 19; 9. Wyoming 17; Colorado-Colorado Springs 12. **WOMEN:** 1. Colorado State 181.5; 2. Arizona State 127; 3. Wyoming 66; 4. Cal St. Sacramento; 5. Fresno State 46; 6. Utah State 40.5; 7. Colorado 36; **8. AIR FORCE 25**; 8. Colorado-Colorado Springs 25; 10. Cal-Irvine 17; 11. Fort Hays State 10; 12. Western State 4.

MWC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (FEB. 23-25)

MEN: 1. Brigham Young 206; 2. Colorado State 143; 3. TCU 106; **4. AIR FORCE 105**; 5. New Mexico 67; 6. Wyoming 27. **WOMEN:** 1. Colorado St. 156.5; 2. BYU 155.5; 3. TCU 98; 4. San Diego St. 76; 5. New Mexico 57; 6. Utah 42; 7. Wyoming 31; 8. UNLV 29; **9. AIR FORCE 16**.

JACK CHRISTIANSEN INVITATIONAL (APR. 22)

MEN: 1. Colorado State 179.5; **2. AIR FORCE 147**; 3. Wyoming 84.5; 4. Colorado 76; Chadron State 64; 6. Nike 30; 7. Northern Colorado 28; 8. Black Hills State 27; 9. Colorado School of Mines; 10. S.D. School of Mines 17; 11. Colorado-Colorado Springs 14; 12. Phenetix International 12. **WOMEN:** 1. Colorado State 211; 2. Wyoming 129; **3. AIR FORCE 81.5**; 4. Colorado 59; 5. Black Hills State 54; 6. Chadron State 43.5; 7. Northern Colorado 39; 8. Colorado-Colorado Springs 15; 9. Colorado School of Mines 9; 10. S.D. School of Mines 6; 11. Regis 4.

MWC OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (MAY 10-13)

MEN: 1. Brigham Young 248; 2. Colorado State 178; 3. TCU 143; **4. AIR FORCE 96**; 5. New Mexico 79; 6. Wyoming 69. **WOMEN:** 1. BYU 183; 2. Colorado St. 150.50; 3. TCU 144; 4. San Diego St. 121; 5. New Mexico 67.50; 6. Utah 65; 7. Wyoming 43; **8. AIR FORCE 29**; 9. UNLV 16.

2006 NCAA JAVELIN CHAMPION DANA POUNDS



A three-time All-America honoree, Pounds capped off a stellar career at the Academy, winning her second consecutive national championship title in the javelin after successfully defending her NCAA regional title. Pounds claimed her third consecutive Mountain West Conference title this past May with an Academy, conference and championship-meet record throw of 195'8". That throw was the best in the nation during the 2006 season, matched the best toss ever by an American-born collegian, was the second-best throw by any U.S. athlete and registered as the ninth-best throw in the world during 2006.

In addition, Pounds became the first three-time javelin champion in the history of the prestigious Drake Relays. Tossing a throw of 178'10", Pounds recorded the second-farthest distance at Drake since 1986, falling just shy of her own throw from 2005. She also set a new meet record at the North America-Central America-Caribbean Championships, en route to her second title.

Pounds collected numerous awards during her final collegiate season. She was named the Mountain District Female Field Athlete of the Year, en route to being named the Midwest Region Female Field Athlete of the Year. The two-time captain claimed the Academy's Most Valuable Female Athlete award after earning her third straight team MVP honor. Most recently, Pounds was honored by the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame as one of the state's Athletes of the Year for 2006, joining DU Hobe Baker winner Matt Carle and Denver Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey.

2006 INDOOR BEST MARKS

MEN'S SEASON-BEST TIMES & MARKS

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>MARK</u> | <u>ATHLETE</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 60-METER DASH | 6.83 | Travis Picou | 24 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| 200-METER DASH | 21.11 | Travis Picou | 25 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| 400-METER DASH | 47.64 | Nick Luina | 04 Mar. | Alex Wilson Invitational at South Bend, Ind. |
| 800-METER RUN | 1:50.78 | Kevin Hawkins | 04 Mar. | Alex Wilson Invitational at South Bend, Ind. |
| MILE RUN | 4:08.86a | Mark Walter | 11 Feb. | Albuquerque Invitational at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| 3000-METER RUN | 8:22.52a | Nick Wilson | 25 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| 5000-METER RUN | 14:40.62a | Nick Wilson | 24 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| 60-METER HURDLES | 8.45 | John Payne | 13 Jan. | Air Force All-Comers Meet at USAFA, Colo. |
| MILE RELAY | 3:17.77 | Luina-Hawkins-Patterson-Walsh | 25 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| DISTANCE MEDLEY RELAY | 9:55.06 | Patterson-Luina-Hawkins-Walter | 03 Mar. | Alex Wilson Invitational at South Bend, Ind. |
| HIGH JUMP | 6'4 1/4" | Brian Walsh | 24 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| POLE VAULT | 16'11 1/2" | Jason Jones | 25 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| LONG JUMP | 23'0 1/4" | Brian Walsh | 10 Mar. | NCAA Championships at Fayetteville, Ark. |
| TRIPLE JUMP | 47'9 1/4" | Addison Schenk | 11 Feb. | Albuquerque Invitational at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| SHOT PUT | 55'4 3/4" | Bryan Jones | 25 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| 35-LB. WEIGHT THROW | 54'11 1/2" | Henry Chikaodi | 25 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| HEPTATHLON | 5412 | Brian Walsh | 23-24 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |



WOMEN'S SEASON-BEST TIMES & MARKS

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>MARK</u> | <u>ATHLETE</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 60-METER DASH | 7.83 | Genelle Chapman | 03 Mar. | Air Force Open at USAFA, Colo. |
| 200-METER DASH | 26.55 | Ayana Floyd-James | 24 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| 400-METER DASH | 59.44 | Jen Neville | 24 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| 800-METER RUN | 2:16.59a | Kelly Robinson | 04 Feb. | Air Force Invitational at USAFA, Colo. |
| MILE RUN | 4:53.16 | Kelly Robinson | 04 Mar. | Alex Wilson Invitational at South Bend, Ind. |
| 3000-METER RUN | 10:01.56a | Margaret Frash | 25 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| 5000-METER RUN | 18:40.71a | Danielle Pozun | 11 Feb. | Albuquerque Invitational at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| 60-METER HURDLES | 8.75 | Genelle Chapman | 03 Mar. | Air Force Open at USAFA, Colo. |
| MILE RELAY | 4:08.05 | Neville-Robinson-Durey-Bengard | 25 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| HIGH JUMP | 5'2 1/4" | Lindsey Bengard | 03 Mar. | Air Force Open at USAFA, Colo. |
| POLE VAULT | 11'4 1/2" | Amy Gilliland | 03 Feb. | Air Force Invitational at USAFA, Colo. |
| LONG JUMP | 17'6 1/4" | Casey Johnson | 13 Jan. | Air Force All-Comers Meet at USAFA, Colo. |
| TRIPLE JUMP | 38'7 1/2" | Casey Johnson | 03 Mar. | Air Force Open at USAFA, Colo. |
| SHOT PUT | 44'10 1/4" | Olivia Korte | 21 Jan. | Adidas Invitational at Lincoln, Neb. |
| 20-LB. WEIGHT THROW | 57'1 1/2" | Olivia Korte | 24 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| PENTATHLON | 3046 | Deb Durey | 23 Feb. | MWC Championships at Albuquerque, N.M. |

a = converted for altitude using existing NCAA conversion factors

2006 OUTDOOR BEST MARKS

MEN'S SEASON-BEST TIMES & MARKS

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>MARK</u> | <u>ATHLETE</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---|
| 100-METER DASH | 10.46 | Travis Picou | 08 Apr. | Colorado Invitational at Boulder, Colo. |
| 200-METER DASH | 20.73 | Travis Picou | 08 Apr. | Colorado Invitational at Boulder, Colo. |
| 400-METER DASH | 46.90 | Nick Luina | 13 May | MWC Championships at Provo, Utah |
| 800-METER RUN | 1:48.78a | Kevin Hawkins | 13 May | MWC Championships at Provo, Utah |
| 1500-METER RUN | 3:46.37a | Travis Patterson | 13 May | MWC Championships at Provo, Utah |
| 3000-METER STEEPLECHASE | 9:29.31 | Matt Williams | 01 Apr. | Stanford Invitational at Palo Alto, Calif. |
| 5000-METER RUN | 14:36.91 | Nick Wilson | 13 Apr. | Mt. SAC Relays at Walnut, Calif. |
| 10,000-METER RUN | 30:48.68a | Nick Wilson | 12 May | MWC Championships at Provo, Utah |
| 110-METER HURDLES | 15.32c | Joel Nolan | 08 Apr. | Colorado Invitational at Boulder, Colo. |
| 400-METER HURDLES | 54.73 | John Payne | 05 May | Air Force Twilight Meet at USAFA, Colo. |
| 4x100-METER RELAY | 41.78 | Flynt-Picou-Hart-Luina | 22 Apr. | Jack Christiansen Invitational at Fort Collins, Colo. |
| 4x400-METER RELAY | 3:14.94 | Meakins-Hawkins-Glass-Luina | 13 May | MWC Championships at Provo, Utah |
| HIGH JUMP | 6'2¾" | Andrew Galbraith | 22 Apr. | Jack Christiansen Invitational at Fort Collins, Colo. |
| POLE VAULT | 16'2¾" | Joel Nolan | 13 Apr. | Mt. SAC Multi-Events Meet at Azusa, Calif. |
| LONG JUMP | 26'6¼" | Devin Hart | 18 Mar. | Potts Invitational at Boulder, Colo. |
| TRIPLE JUMP | 46'5¼" | Devin Hart | 22 Apr. | Jack Christiansen Invitational at Fort Collins, Colo. |
| SHOT PUT | 54'3¼" | Bryan Jones | 22 Apr. | Jack Christiansen Invitational at Fort Collins, Colo. |
| DISCUS THROW | 177'7" | Dan St. Clair | 25 Mar. | Spring Break Classic at Irvine, Calif. |
| HAMMER THROW | 172'10" | Henry Akalaonu | 05 May | Air Force Twilight Meet at USAFA, Colo. |
| JAVELIN THROW | 218'7" | Matt Schwandt | 22 Apr. | Jack Christiansen Invitational at Fort Collins, Colo. |
| DECATHLON | 6940 pts. | Brian Walsh | 11-12 May | MWC Championships at Provo, Utah |

WOMEN'S SEASON-BEST TIMES & MARKS

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>MARK</u> | <u>ATHLETE</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 100-METER DASH | 12.48 | Ayana Floyd-James | 29 Apr. | Don Kirby Invitational at Albuquerque, N.M. |
| 200-METER DASH | 25.87 | Dierra Poland | 12 Apr. | Mt. SAC Multi-Events Meet at Azusa, Calif. |
| 400-METER DASH | 59.14 | Jen Neville | 22 Apr. | Jack Christiansen Invitational at Fort Collins, Colo. |
| 800-METER RUN | 2:13.96 | Kelly Robinson | 05 May | Air Force Twilight Meet at USAFA, Colo. |
| 1500-METER RUN | 4:26.81 | Kelly Robinson | 29 Apr. | Drake Relays at Des Moines, Iowa |
| 3000-METER STEEPLECHASE | 10:48.76 | Margaret Frash | 01 Apr. | Stanford Invitational at Palo Alto, Calif. |
| 5000-METER RUN | 18:27.62 | Andrea Pinchak | 14 Apr. | Pomona-Pitzer Invitational at Claremont, Calif. |
| 10,000-METER RUN | 39:55.66a | Andrea Pinchak | 12 May | MWC Championships at Provo, Utah |
| 100-METER HURDLES | 13.77 | Dierra Poland | 08 Apr. | Colorado Invitational at Boulder, Colo. |
| 400-METER HURDLES | 66.17 | Jen Neville | 05 May | Air Force Twilight Meet at USAFA, Colo. |
| 4x400-METER RELAY | 3:57.45 | Neville-Robinson-Floyd-James-Durey | 13 May | MWC Championships at Provo, Utah |
| HIGH JUMP | 5'5" | Dawn Higginbotham | 22 Apr. | Jack Christiansen Invitational at Fort Collins, Colo. |
| POLE VAULT | 11'7¾" | Amy Gilliland | 08 Apr. | Colorado Invitational at Boulder, Colo. |
| LONG JUMP | 18'1" | Dierra Poland | 12 May | MWC Championships at Provo, Utah |
| TRIPLE JUMP | 38'7½" | Casey Johnson | 08 Apr. | Colorado Invitational at Boulder, Colo. |
| SHOT PUT | 44'9½" | Olivia Korte | 08 Apr. | Colorado Invitational at Boulder, Colo. |
| DISCUS THROW | 171'10" | Olivia Korte | 01 Apr. | Stanford Invitational at Palo Alto, Calif. |
| HAMMER THROW | 165'6" | Olivia Korte | 12 May | MWC Championships at Provo, Utah |
| JAVELIN THROW | 195'8" | Dana Pounds | 13 May | MWC Championships at Provo, Utah |
| HEPTATHLON | 4576 pts. | Dierra Poland | 12-13 Apr. | Mt. SAC Multi-Events Meet at Azusa, Calif. |

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