

2008 Conference USA Indoor Championships

University of Houston Team Quotes

March 1, 2008

Houston Head Coach Leroy Burrell

On the teams' performance during the C-USA Championships

"We are a really strong team from top to bottom. We have some talented areas in the field, especially the jumps. We also have a lot of senior leadership, and they are a really good team. They are accustomed to the pressure. I can't say enough about the freshman. I think they scored somewhere around 50 points themselves. When you have that kind of talent returning, it makes us a formidable team to compete with. I'm excited about the performance. We have some work to do with the women; we're just really young and a little thin. We'll just need to rebuild through recruiting. We just need to get the women to perform a little bit better. I'm very excited about it, they did a great job this weekend. But, as a coach it's always bitter-sweet when they both can't pull it out."

On Jumper Ed Turner winning Freshman of the Year honors

"I knew that either Ed Turner, Chris Carter, Derrick and Thomas Lang would have the opportunity to win that award. I told all of them that it's all just a matter of who performs the best that day. Ed just stepped up and got it done. It was a close race, though, and they all had a chance. I'm very happy with them all. We need to nurture these guys. We need the seniors to really work with them to help leave a legacy of excellence here. "

Senior High Jumper Ivan Diggs

On winning the men's high jump competition on Friday

"It felt really good taking gold. I finally got one underneath my belt, and I was very happy about that. I feel really good heading into the NCAA's. I really wanted clear even more yesterday, so I would feel even more confident heading in. But, hopefully I can get it at the nationals."

Freshman Jumper Ed Turner

On winning the men's long jump competition on Friday

"It felt really good to win. As a team, we know we can do it. We all train hard every day together. We feel we are one of the better jump crews out here. So, we just try hard every day. We compete every day in practice and just let it roll over into the meet so it's easy. It feels good to win as freshman, though."

On competing and winning in his first career C-USA Championships

"I wasn't really nervous of the competition, I was more nervous of messing myself up. I live for the competition. There isn't anything I can do but do what I can do and just

take care of business. I was a little nervous but more on my behalf than on anyone else's.

Freshman Jumper Chris Carter

On winning the men's triple jump Saturday

"It wasn't one of my best performances. I just want to do my best. That's what really matters to me. I just want to go out do what I know I can."

Junior Morgan Floyd and Sophomore Wesley Bray

On posting top-five school finishes in the heptathlon Saturday

Bray: "It always feels good to perform well. I know we both could have performed better. We both scored at Conference, so we did what we had to do.

Floyd: "We both can do a lot better. We had a few average events. We PR'd in a couple of events, but you always feel like you could do better in all of them."

Junior Hurdler Seun Adigun

On winning the 60-meter hurdles on Saturday

"I felt really good. I definitely felt like it was an improvement on yesterday's performance. I came in a little discouraged because I bruised my heel. I just wanted to come out here today and run the race I knew I could. I'm very grateful that I had my teammates', my family's and my coaches' support. I am so happy for that. Winning gold feels great. It's great just knowing that all your hard work paid off in the end. I just really hope I was able to start some momentum for my team."

Senior Sprinter Tremaine Smith

On winning the 200-meter dash

"It felt good to get the win. I wanted to come out here and get the win for my team to help us get the championship. I just ran my heart out there. That's all I know how to do – run."

On using his second-place finish in the 60-meter dash as motivation

"It really was a big motivation for me. I was expecting to win the 60-meters, too. But, luck of the draw, it just didn't work out. The 200-meter is really my event; it's what I run for. It just added more fuel to the fire. It gave me more motivation."