

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
2008 Cross Country Media Brochure

Dustdevils



Coaching Staff and Honors



**Benny
Rodríguez**

**HEAD
COACH**

The Dustdevils have made great strides as coach Benny Rodríguez enters his fourth year as head cross country at Texas A&M International University. The former NCAA Division II distance runner and Laredo native Rodríguez guided both teams to solid campaigns last fall. The men and women improved throughout the season before registering impressive outings at the Heartland Conference Championships. The men finished fourth and the women seventh in the team standings at the conference meet.

Three runners achieved All-Heartland Conference honors with top-10 finishes on the men's side. Luis Beltrán finished seventh, followed by Gedyon Keflezgi in ninth place and Eddie González in 10th place.

In his first campaign as head coach, three of Rodríguez runners earned All-Red River Athletic Conference honors before advancing to the NAIA National Championships. Achieving that accomplishment were Eddie González and Mark Vela on the men's side and Anetra Matthews for the women's team.

Before entering the coaching ranks Rodríguez excelled at Laredo's J.W. Nixon High School and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Rodríguez lettered in both cross country and track and field at TAMUK. In cross country, he was a two-time All-Lone Star Conference honoree while also serving as team captain as a junior and senior. In track and field he specialized in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

He was a two-time cross country regional qualifier and one-time state qualifier during his career at Nixon. He capped his high school career by winning a cross country district championship and leading the Mustangs to a district title.

Rodríguez graduated with a bachelor's in kinesiology from TAMUK in 2000. He has taught physical education at J.C. Martin Elementary School since 2002.

Rodríguez and his wife, Melina, are the parents of a seven year-old daughter, Alexa.

All Time Honors

MEN

All-Heartland Conference

Luis Beltrán	2007
Eddie González	2007
Gedyon Kiflezgi	2007

All-Red River Athletic Conference

Michael Equigua	2004
Eddie González	2005
Mark Vela	2003. 04, 05

2003 NAIA National Championships

143. Mark Vela	27:17.6
----------------	---------

2005 NAIA National Championships

135. Eddie González	26:37.15
160. Mark Vela	26:49.00

WOMEN

All-Red River Athletic Conference

Anetra Matthews	2003. 04, 05
Cristina Saenz	2004

2004 NAIA National Championships

61. Anetra Matthews	19:12.30
---------------------	----------

2005 NAIA National Championships

50. Anetra Matthews	18:50.45
---------------------	----------



Dustdevils

Women

Name	Ht.	Class/Exp.	Hometown (Previous School)
Jenny Méndez	5-5	Jr./2L	Houston, Texas (Willowridge HS)
Gladys Peña	5-2	Sr./2L	Eagle Pass, Texas (Winn HS)
Marlene Gutiérrez	5-0	Fr/HS	Laredo, Texas (Lyndon B Johnson HS)
Genesis Ramírez	5-0	Fr./HS	Laredo, Texas (J. B. Alexander HS)
Amanda Salinas	5-5	Fr./HS	Laredo, Texas (J. B. Alexander HS)

Men

Name	Ht.	Class/Exp.	Hometown (Previous School)
Enrique Botello	5-10	Fr./HS	Zapata, Texas (Zapata HS)
Luis Beltrán	5-6	Jr./2L	Eagle Pass, Texas (Winn HS)
Robert Coronado, Jr.	5-5	Jr./2L	Laredo, Texas (J. B. Alexander HS)
Jorge Nazarin	5-5	So./1L	Zapata, Texas (Zapata HS)
Raul Quiñones	6-2	Sr./HS	Laredo, Texas (Nixon HS)
Javier Soto	5-7	Sr./1L	Laredo, Texas (J.B. Alexander HS)

Head Coach: Benny Rodríguez

Directory

Area Code: 956

Fax: 326-2889

Athletics Director

Dr. Debbie Snell.....326-2890
dsnell@tamiu.edu

Faculty Athletics Representative

Dr. Randal Brown.....326-2679
brown@tamiu.edu

Associate Athletics Director/SID

Dan Lathey.....326-2892
dlathey@tamiu.edu

Athletics Trainer

Ernst Feisner.....326-2905
efeisner@tamiu.edu

Compliance Officer

Christine Rebori.....326-3005
crebori@tamiu.edu

Staff Accountant

Brenda González.....326-2891
brenda.gonzalez@tamiu.edu

Office Coordinator

Petra Vela.....326-3000
pvela@tamiu.edu

Team Orthopedist

Dr. Phillip Holzknecht

Team Physician

Dr. John V. Puig II

Team Chiropractor & Nutritionist

Dr. Roland Hicks

History and Records



MeetSite	Date	Distance	Place
2007 Men's Team Results			
Rice Invitational-Houston	9/15	5.4K	6th
Texas A&M Invitational-College Station	9/22	8K	11th
Islander Splash-Corpus Christi	9/29	8K	9th
Incarnate Word Invitational-San Antonio	10/6	8K	5th
Texas Lutheran Invitational-Seguin	10/13	8K	5th
Heartland Conference Championships-San Antonio	10/20	8K	4th

2007 Women's Team Results

Rice Invitational-Houston	9/15	3.6K	6th
Texas A&M Invitational-College Station	9/22	5K	12th
Islander Splash-Corpus Christi	9/29	5K	12th
Incarnate Word Invitational-San Antonio	10/6	5K	9th
Texas Lutheran Invitational-Seguin	10/13	6K	10th
Heartland Conference Championships-San Antonio	10/20	5K	7th

All-Time Top Times 8K

MEN

1. Gedyon Kiflezgi	26:06	2006 Disney Classic
2. Mark Vela	26:14	2005 NAIA Region VI
3. Gedyon Kiflezgi	26:26	2006 Texas Lutheran Invitational
4. Mark Vela	26:32	2003 NAIA Region VI
5. Gedyon Kiflezgi	26:34.4	2007 Incarnate Word Invitational
6. Eddie González	26:37	2005 NAIA National Championships
7. Eddie González	26:44	2006 Disney Classic
Eddie González	26:44	2005 NAIA Region VI
9. Mark Vela	26:49	2005 NAIA National Championships
10. Gedyon Kiflezgi	26:51	2007 Texas A&M Invitational

All-Time Top Times 5K

WOMEN

1. Anetra Matthews	18:34	2005 NAIA Region VI
2. Anetra Matthews	18:50	2005 NAIA National Championships
3. Anetra Matthews	18:56	2004 NAIA Region VI
4. Anetra Matthews	19:00	2005 Texas A&M Invitational
5. Anetra Matthews	19:12	2004 NAIA National Championships
6. Anetra Matthews	19:14	2004 Red River Athletic Conference
7. Anetra Matthews	19:31	2005 Red River Athletic Conference
8. Anetra Matthews	19:51	2003 Red River Athletic Conference
9. Anetra Matthews	19:55	2004 Texas A&M Invitational
10. Anetra Matthews	20:09	2004 Southwestern Invitational
11. Cristina Saenz	20:16	2004 Red River Athletic Conference

QUICK FACTS

Location: Laredo, Texas

Founded: 1969

Enrollment: 5,971

Nickname: Dustdevils

Color: Maroon & Metallic Silver

Affiliation: NCAA Division II

Conference: Heartland

President: Dr. Ray Keck

Athletics Director: Dr. Debbie Snell

Head Coach: Benny Rodriguez

Alma Mater: Texas A&M University-
Kingsville (2004)

e-mail: brodriguez@tamiu.edu

Brochure Layout & Design: Daniel Tijerina



Marlene Gutierrez

Laredo, Texas (Lyndon B. Johnson HS)

5-0 Fr

Lettered in cross country, track and field, tennis, basketball, softball and volleyball at Laredo's LBJ High School ... two-time 1,600 meter champion ... district cross country champion as a senior ... two-time cross country state qualifier ... two-time defensive player of the year in basketball. **Personal:** Daughter of José and Carmen Gutierrez ... majoring in management information systems ... favorite book is "Tuesday's With Morrie" ... favorite athlete is Steve Prefontaine ... favorite vacation spot is San Marcos.



Jenny Méndez

Houston, Texas (Willowridge HS)

5-5 Jr.

Two-year letterwinner has participated in 11 career races ... three career top-30 finishes ... team's top finisher in all 11 career races ... season-best 5K last season was at Heartland Conference Championships, good for 26 th place ... lettered in cross country, volleyball, basketball and track and field at Willowridge High School ... Academic All-Conference. **Personal:** Daughter of Julio and Ana Méndez ... majoring in biology ... favorite book is "Forged By Fire" ... favorite vacation spot is Hawaii.

2007 Results

Meet	Distance	Place	Time
Rice	3.6K	27	17:26
Texas A&M	5K	90	25:02
Islander Splash	5K	78	23:04
Incarnate Word	5K	53	22:20
Texas Lutheran	6K	53	28:40



Gladys Peña

Eagle Pass, Texas (Winn HS)

5-2 Sr.

Two-year letterwinner has participated in eight career races ... best overall finish was 32nd at last year's Rice Invitational ... lettered in cross country and track and field at Winn High School ... National Honor roll. **Personal:** Daughter of Félix and Rosa Peña ... majoring in psychology with a minor in sociology ... favorite book is "Man's Search For Meaning" ... favorite athlete is Steve Prefontaine ... most admired historical figure is Cesar Chavez.

2007 Results

Meet	Distance	Place	Time
Rice	3.6K	32	18:37
Texas A&M	5K	91	25:22
Islander Splash	5K	83	23:54
Incarnate Word	5K	61	23:11
Texas Lutheran	6K	64	29:53
Heartland Conference	5K	43	23:16



Genesis Ramirez

Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)

5-0 Fr.

Lettered in cross country, track and field and softball at Laredo's Alexander High School ... helped lead Bulldogs to back-to-back district cross country titles ... regional qualifier in 800 meters and mile relay. **Personal:** Daughter of Martha and José Ramirez ... majoring in biology ... favorite book is "Digital Fortress" ... favorite athlete is Alan Webb ... most admired historical figure is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Runner Profiles



Amanda Salinas

Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)

5-5 Fr.

Lettered in cross country, track and field and softball at Alexander High School ... helped lead Bulldogs to back-to-back district cross country titles ... 800 meter district champion as a sophomore. **Personal:** Daughter of Rosalinda and Lauro Salinas Jr. ... majoring in biology ... favorite book is "Deception Point" ... favorite athlete is Alan Webb ... favorite vacation spots are California and South Padre Island.



Luis Beltrán

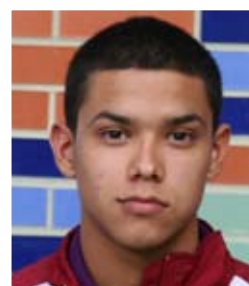
Eagle Pass, Texas (Winn HS)

5-6 Jr.

Two-year letterwinner has participated in 11 races over the last two years ... six career top-25 and one top-10 finish ... opened last season with 23rd place finish at Rice Invitational ... earned All-Conference honors with seventh place finish at Heartland Conference Championships ... lettered in cross country and track and field at C.C. Winn High School ... district champion in one and two mile races ... state qualifier. **Personal:** Son of Victor and Vicenta Alvarado ... majoring in criminal justice with a minor in psychology ... favorite vacation spot is Virginia Beach ... most admired historical figure is Steve Prefontaine ... aspires to a career with the D.E.A.

2007 Results

Meet	Distance	Place	Time
Rice	5.4K	23	19:35
Texas A&M	8K	68	27:56
Islander Splash	8K	42	28:48
Incarnate Word	8K	24	28:08
Texas Lutheran	8K	21	28:48
Heartland Conference	8K	7	27:14



Enrique Botello

Zapata, Texas (Zapata HS)

5-10 Fr.

Lettered in cross country and track and field at Zapata High School ... state cross country qualifier as a senior. **Personal:** Son of Eduardo and Maricela Botello (deceased) ... majoring in art with a minor in education ... favorite athlete is Leo Manzano ... most admired historical figure is Steve Prefontaine.



Robert Coronado Jr.

Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)

5-5 Jr.

Two-year letterwinner has competed in 11 career meets ... three top-20 finishes ... opened last season with 29th place finish at Rice Invitational ... lettered in cross country and track and field at Alexander High School ... three-time cross country regional qualifier. **Personal:** Son of María and Robert Coronado ... majoring in biology ... favorite vacation spot is Hawaii ... most admired historical figure is Billy Mills.

2007 Results

Meet	Distance	Place	Time
Rice	5.4K	29	20:47
Texas A&M	8K	89	31:24
Islander Splash	8K	65	30:24
Incarnate Word	8K	43	29:55
Texas Lutheran	8K	40	30:07



Jorge Nazarin

Zapata, Texas (Zapata HS)

Participated in three meets last season as a freshman ... turned in season-best 8K at Heartland Conference Championships ... lettered in tennis and baseball at Zapata High School ... first singles district champion in school history ... graduated 8th in senior class. **Personal:** Son of María G. Mercado and Jorge Nazarin (deceased) ... majoring in business finance ... favorite book is "A Catcher In The Rye" ... favorite athlete is Michael Phelps ... most admired historical figure is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

5-5 So.

2007 Results

Meet	Distance	Place	Time
Incarnate Word	8K	73	39:41
Texas Lutheran	8K	80	37:33
Heartland Conference	8K	41	33:58



Raul Quinoñes

Laredo, Texas (Nixon HS)

Joins cross country after a standout four-year career with the Dustdevil soccer team ... finished career ranked fifth on the Dustdevil all-time lists for goals (16) and total points (42) ... two-time second-team All-Heartland Conference selection ... lettered in soccer, cross country, track and field and football at Nixon High School ... first-team All-District in soccer as junior and senior. **Personal:** Son of Raul and Velia Quinoñes ... majoring in criminal justice with a minor in psychology ... favorite book is "El Esclavo" ... favorite athlete is Ronaldhino ... most admired historical figure is God.

6-2 Sr.



Javier Soto

Laredo, Texas (Alexander HS)

Participated in six meets in his first season as a Dustdevil last year ... recorded best 8K effort at Incarnate Word Invitational ... lettered in cross country and track and field at Alexander High School ... district qualifier in cross country all four years ... district cross country champion as a junior. **Personal:** Son of José and Beatriz Soto ... majoring in psychology with a minor in sociology ... favorite book is George Orwell's "1984" ... favorite athlete is Manu Ginobili ... most admired historical figure is Aldous Huxley.

5-7 Sr.

2007 Results

Meet	Distance	Place	Time
Rice	5.4K	34	25:38
Texas A&M	8K	92	34:07
Islander Splash	8K	89	34:45
Incarnate Word	8K	57	32:34
Texas Lutheran	8K	71	34:39
Heartland Conference	8K	37	32:46

TAMIU ATHLETICS MAROON CLUB



The Maroon Club is a reasonably priced marketing package that offers local business partners a chance to affiliate with Texas A&M International University Athletics, a program that will compete at the highest level of NCAA Division II and the Heartland Conference. For more information contact Associate Athletics Director Dan Lathey at 956.326.2892.

2008

Texas A&M International University Cross Country Schedule

Date	Meet	Location
Aug. 30	Incarinate Word Relays	San Antonio
Sept. 19	UTSA Ricardo Romo Invitational	San Antonio
Sept. 27	UIW Cardinal Invitational	San Antonio
Oct. 4	Texas Lutheran Invitational	Seguin
Oct. 18	Heartland Conference Championships	Dallas
Nov. 8	NCAA South-Central Championships	San Antonio

