



UTEP CROSS COUNTRY WRAPS UP 2011 CAMPAIGN

All-American Ripper Kimaiyo, has had a stellar season claiming five crowns this season in the Lobo Invitational, Lori Fitzgerald Invitational, Kachina Classic, Pre-National Invitational and 2011 NCAA Mountain Regional. The junior earned All-American cross country honors for the third consecutive year when she finished 25th at the NCAA Championships. Kimaiyo bested her time from last year's national meet clocking in at 20:12. The All-American was named the NCAA Mountain Region Athlete

Conference USA



of the Year for the second consecutive year. She has earned C-USA Athlete of the Week honors four times this season, lifting her career total to 11. Kimaiyo finished strong at the C-USA Championships, posting a season-best time of 16:14 in the 5K race taking second-place and earning All-Conference USA First Team honors. Kimaiyo was named to the 2011 C-USA Cross Country All-Academic team for her stellar performance in the classroom. The junior has a 3.67 GPA and is pursuing a degree in nursing.

Junior Karina Garcia was the second Miner to cross the finish line at the Mountain Regionals with a time of 22:43. Garcia posted a season-best at the Pre-Nationals Invitational in the 6K race clocking in at 22:42. Freshman Jackline Ekai had a stellar season registering a season-best at the Mountain Regional with a time of 23:16 finishing in 57th place. Ekai set another season-best at the C-USA Championships in the 5K race crossing the finish line in 29th place with a time of 18:23. El Paso native Laura Delgado clocked in a personal-best at the Notre Dame Invitational in the 5K race with a time of 18:42 going up against the nations top runners. Senior Kitria Stewart ran her best race of the season at the C-USA Championships posting a time of 18:58.

The UTEP men's cross country team had an outstanding season as they claimed second place at the 2011 Conference USA Cross Country Championships.

Leading the Miners is Elkana Rotich, who had six top-15 finishes and four top-three finishes. The junior crossed the finish line second at the C-USA Championships posting a season-best of 23:51. Rotich went on to finish 14th at the Mountain Regional with a time of 31:03 earning All-Region team honors. The Kenyan native posted a time of 32:07 at the NCAA Cross Country Championships. Rotich has earned the leagues athlete of the week honors three times this season for his performance in the Kachina Classic, Lobo Invitational and Pre-Nationals.

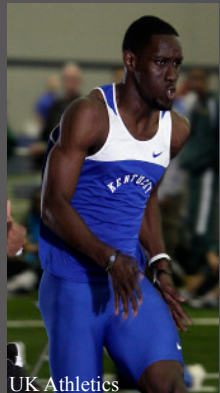
Justice Chirchir has shined this season, claiming the C-USA individual crown registering a personal-best of 23:39 in the 8K race. Chirchir crossed the finish line in 20th place posting a time of 31:12 and was named to the All-Region team. The junior was named the 2011 C-USA Male Athlete of the Year as he concluded the season with seven top-25 finishes and four top-10 finishes. Chichir became the fifth Miner to earn the honor since joining the league in 2005.

Teammates Solomon Gardea and Abel Koskey took second-team honors at the C-USA Championships setting respective season-best times of 24:30 and 24:36. Koskey posted a time of 31:58 at the Mountain Regionals crossing the finish line 47th place, while Gardea posted a time of 32:41.

Newcomer Juan Blanco set a personal-best at the conference meet with a time of 25:18 earning third-team honors. The freshman clocked in a time of 32:52 at the Mountain Regionals in the 10K race. Freshamn Ramon Garcia rounds up the six man squad also registering a personal-best at the C-USA Championship meet of 27:08.



TRACK AND FIELD NEWCOMERS



UK Athletics

The UTEP track and field program announces the addition of Kyron Joseph, Janice Jackson, Jallycia Pearson and Taylor Gunn to the 2012 men's and women's team.

A sophomore transfer from the University of Kentucky, Joseph posted 11 top-10 finishes as a freshman.

The Arima, Trinidad native

posted a personal-best of 6.79 in the 60m in the SEC Indoor Track and Field Championships. Joseph has also registered personal-best of 10.49 in the 100m and 21.15 in the 200m.

Jackson comes to UTEP after running her freshman campaign at Clemson. Jackson posted 15 top-10 finishes and five top-25 finishes, and set a personal-best of 24.67 in the 200m in indoor competition at the Virginia Tech Elite Meet. She crossed the finish line in sixth-place at the Bob Pollock Spring Invitational in the 100 hurdles with a time of 14.02. At the Clemson Invitational, Jackson set a personal-best of 41.46 in the 300m indoor race.

A graduate from Coronado High School, Pearson led the girls' squad to the 2011 District 1-5A Track and Field Championship title. The freshman won four individual gold medals in the 100-meter hurdles, 300 hurdles, long jump and triple jump. She also anchored the mile-relay team to a second-place finish. The El Paso native posted a personal-best of 44.83 in the 300m hurdles at the Region 1-5A Track and Field Championships where she finished third overall.

Pearson set a new personal-best at the 2011 UIL Texas 5A State Track and Field Championships crossing the finish line with a time of 14.57 in the 100m hurdles finishing in sixth-place. The freshman finished in seventh-place in the triple jump at the 2011 UIL Texas 5A State Track and Field Championships with a mark of 38' 2.25.

Gunn comes from Southfield, Mich. and has registered 17 top-15 finishes. Gunn posted two personal-best marks in the shot put and the discus with 41' 9.5 and 143' 7, respectively. Gunn finished first at the MHSAA Division I L.P. State Finals in the shot put and discus. In 2010, Gunn was the Division 1 runner-up in the shot put and discus at the state finals.

To register for the track & field newsletter go to: <http://www.utepathletics.com/sports/c-track/spec-rel/track-newsletter-form.html>

OBADELE THOMPSON INDUCTED TO UTEP HALL OF FAME



Obadele Thompson was inducted to the 10th class of the UTEP Athletics Hall of Fame on Oct. 28, 2011 at the Larry K. Durham Center Hall of Champions.

UTEP has always had rich history of producing outstanding student-athletes who excel at the Conference, NCAA, and international levels," Thompson said. "It's a great honor for me to be selected this year by the Miners Athletic Club for induction into the UTEP Athletics Hall of Fame among so many notable and accomplished athletes. I feel truly blessed to have had the support of countless people at UTEP and in El Paso throughout my college career. Their contributions to my life - on and off the field - played a tremendous role in my success."

Obadele Thompson was a four-time NCAA champion at UTEP. He established a school-record time of 20.36 to win his first national title in the 200 meters at the 1996 NCAA Indoor Meet. He claimed three NCAA crowns in 1997 - in the 200 meters indoors and outdoors, and the 100 meters outdoors. Thompson was an 11-time All-American during his career. He was a 16-time WAC champion, setting four conference records - all of which still stand: indoor 200m (20.36), indoor 200m (20.52) and indoor 55-meter dash (5.99). His time in 55-meter dash remains a world record to this day. Thompson has posted eight school records - six which still stand in the 55m, 60m, 200m indoor and outdoor, 800m relay and 1,600 relay. In 1996, Thompson came close to winning an Olympic medal, finishing fourth in the 200m with a time of 20.14. Thompson became just the 11th Miner to win an Olympic medal, taking the bronze in the 100m at the 2000 Olympics. He became the first Olympic medalist from Barbados in the process.

"I particularly want to thank my family, Bob Kitchens, and the entire UTEP track and field staff. I also want to thank my teammates, the trainers (especially Dawn Hearn and Joe Norton), the staff in the Athletics Department, my professors, our "team family" (The Demings), my local church family (Destiny Family Church), Dr. Natalicio, and of course, the UTEP fans and officials," Thompson adds. "I hope that in some way my legacy will inspire other UTEP student-athletes to strive to become the best that they came be in the classroom, on the field, and in their personal lives."

UTEP Track & Field and Cross Country Donation Form

Send the attached form and become a member of the UTEP Track & Field Club

Contributions to the UTEP Track & Field Club will help fund areas of the program that will enable our student-athletes to compete among the nation's elite on and off the field.

- \$50-\$149 _____ Signed poster
- \$150-\$249 _____ T-shirt (Navy blue with all-time school records)
- \$250-\$499 _____ UTEP T&F cap (one size fits most)
- \$500-\$999 _____ UTEP T&F backpack
- \$1000-\$1499 _____ UTEP T&F sweats (top and bottom)
- \$1500-\$1999 _____ UTEP T&F sweats and silver level donor polo
- \$2000-\$2499 _____ UTEP T&F sweats and gold level donor polo
- \$2500+ _____ UTEP T&F sweats and platinum level donor polo

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