Finding Aid

The University of Texas at Austin Athletics Media Relations Women’s Track and Field Collection: 10 Boxes, 287 Folders, 1974-2011

Abstract

The University of Texas at Austin Athletics Media Relations Women’s Track and Field Collection documents the development of and the publicity surrounding the University of Texas at Austin’s women’s track and field and cross country programs between 1974 and 2011. UT Athletics Media Relations is the liaison between athletics personal, coaches, student athletes, and media outlets. The collection includes newspaper articles, meet programs, athlete performance statistics, promotional materials, and media publications about the UT women’s track and field and cross country programs.

Access

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**Preferred Citation**

The University of Texas at Austin Athletics Media Relations Women’s Track and Field Collection, H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture & Sports, The University of Texas at Austin.

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University of Texas at Austin, Intercollegiate Athletics

University of Texas at Austin, Media Relations Office

People

Crawford, Terry

Subject Headings

Cross-country running--United States

Long-distance running--United States

Administrative History

The University of Texas at Austin Athletics Media Relations Women’s Track and Field Collection was created and maintained by the Media Relations office of The University of Texas at Austin’s Athletics Department. The office is located within the Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium complex, and reports to the Deputy Director of Athletics.

The Media Relations office serves as the principal media liaison for all sports at the University of Texas at Austin, and is the main contact between outside entities (media, authors, and researchers) and internal groups (student-athletes, athletic directors, and coaches) seeking information about UT Athletics. The purpose of the Media Relations office is to manage the media demands of the University of Texas intercollegiate athletics programs and to actively publicize and promote these programs; to provide information to the public and the media by creating and distributing media guides, news releases, graphics, photos, and social media posts; to generate content for
TexasSports.com; to respond to media requests; and to arrange and prepare coaches, student athletes, and staff for all media interview requests. The functions of the office include collecting newspaper and magazine articles, preserving internal and external correspondence of athletics staff, and preparing information packages for the media. In addition, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) requires universities to keep files and statistics related to each athletic event, and Media Relations is the source for this data.

The UT women’s track and field and cross country programs were founded in 1974 with the launch of the women’s athletics department. UT was one of the first public universities to comply with the Title IX law, which was passed in 1972. This law prohibits any education program or activity that receives federal funding from excluding persons from those activities or programs on the basis of sex. By establishing track and field and cross country programs for women in 1974, UT created a more inclusive, equitable athletics program, and provided opportunities to all students at the university regardless of sex.

Head coaches who have overseen both the track and cross country teams include Jack Daniels (1974-1978), Phil Delaven (1978-1984), Terry Crawford (1984-1992), Beverly Kearney (1993-2013), and Mario Sategna (2013-present). The head coach is responsible for the overall performance of the team and receives additional support from assistant coaches who train student athletes in specialized events and activities such as sprints, hurdles, relays, field events, distance, and cross country.

country team won the 1986 NCAA Women’s Division I Cross Country Championship. Women’s sports at Texas began competing in the Southwest Conference in 1982-83. The cross country team has won a total of 4 conferences, while track and field has won 20 indoor and 21 outdoor conferences.

In addition to NCAA champions, the UT women’s track and field team has cultivated a number of Olympic athletes. Past medalists include Juliet Cuthbert (100 meter and 200 meter, 1992; 4 x 100 meter relay, 1996), Carlette Guidry (4 x 100 meter relay, 1992 and 1996), Nikole Mitchell (4 x 100 meter relay, 1996), Merlene Frazer (4 x 100 meter relay, 2000), Nanceen Perry (4 x 100 meter relay, 2000), Sandie Richards (4 x 400 meter relay, 2000 and 2004), Sanya Richards-Ross (4 x 400 meter relay, 2004 and 2008; 400 meter and 4 x 400 meter relay, 2012), Moushami Robinson (4 x 400 meter relay, 2004), Melanie Walker (400 meter hurdles, 2008), Bianca Knight (4 x 100 meter relay, 2012), Morolake Akinosun (4 x 100 meter relay, 2016), Michelle Carter (shot put, 2016), Courtney Okolo (4 x 400 meter relay, 2016), Chrisann Gordon (4 x 400 meter relay, 2016), and Ashley Spencer (400 meter hurdles, 2016).

The UT women’s cross country team has produced several conference champions. Southwest Conference champions include Lori Nelson (1982), Tara Arnold (1983), Annie Schweitzer Bennett (1985 and 1986), and Tina Hall (1989). Marielle Hall (2013) was a Big 12 Conference champion.
**Scope and Content**

The University of Texas at Austin Athletics Media Relations Women’s Track and Field Collection: 10 Boxes: 287 Folders, 1974-2011

The collection documents the development of and the publicity surrounding the University of Texas at Austin’s women’s track and field and cross country programs between 1974 and 2011. The UT Athletics Media Relations office gathered this material to provide documentation about the women’s track and field and cross country programs to UT administration, coaches, and student athletes, as well as local and national media outlets. These materials were retained in order to provide information for writers in the Media Relations office, and to fulfill external media requests.

The materials in this collection are arranged into two series: Track and Field and Cross Country. The two sports are separated because their seasons occur at different times—track and field predominantly in the spring, cross country in the fall—and different coaches and student athletes are involved. Both of these series contain season binders, press clippings, and media guides, while the Track and Field series also contains programs, magazines, and other publications.

Season binders contain press releases, meet results, individual athletes’ performance information, and coaching notes. Typically, there is one binder per season. Note that a single document in the 2003 track and field season binder has been redacted due to sensitive information.

Press clippings collected by the Media Relations office, from both print and online news publications, such as *The Daily Texan* and the *Austin American-Statesman*, document the
accomplishments of individual athletes and coaches on the UT women’s track and field and cross country teams on the local, state, and national level.

Media guides provide summary information on the outcomes of individual seasons and are produced by the Media Relations Office as press kits. They contain information related to team and program history, coaching staff, student athletes, and performance statistics for individual seasons.

As noted above, programs, magazines, and other publications are found within the Track and Field series but not in the Cross Country series. The programs describe different meets and championships the UT women’s track and field team participated in such as the Texas Relays, the Big 12 Championship, the Southwest Conference, and the NCAA Championship. The magazines feature the accomplishments of prominent UT track and field athletes and coaches on a national level. In particular, the magazines highlight the achievements of head coach Beverly Kearney during her tenure leading the UT women’s track and field team. The additional publications consist of notes from the Media Relations office comparing Big 12 track athlete statistics, documentation and questionnaires about athletes from the 2010-2011 season, and the publication Texas Track & Field Records & History.

The UT Athletics Media Relations Office will continue to add to this collection in both paper and digital formats.
Collection Arrangement

The University of Texas at Austin Athletics Media Relations Women’s Track and Field: 10 Boxes, 287 Folders, 1974 - 2011

Series 1: Track and Field, 1974-2011

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Box 1, Folders 1-3: Season Binder, 1976
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Box 1, Folders 11-14: Season Binder, 1979
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Box 8, Folders 4-5: Press Clippings, 2004

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Box 8, Folder 8: Press Clippings, 2010

Subseries 3: Programs, 1975-2011

Box 8, Folder 9: Programs, 1975-1982

Box 8, Folder 10: Programs, 1983-1984

Box 8, Folder 11: Programs, 1985
Box 8, Folder 12: Programs, 1986-1988

Box 8, Folder 13: Programs, 1989

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Box 9, Folder 1-2: Programs, 2003

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Subseries 4: Media Guides, 1977-2010

Box 9, Folder 4: Media Guides, 1977-1986

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Box 9, Folder 6: Media Guides, 1991-1995

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Box 9, Folder 11.5: Media Guides, 2004 - 2005


Box 9, Folder 12.1: Media Guide, 2007-2008

Box 9, Folder 12.5: Media Guide 2008-09

Box 9, Folder 12.6: Media Guides 2009-10
Subseries 5: Magazines, 1981-2011

Box 9, Folder 13: Women’s Track World, June 1981


Box 9, Folder 15: Alcalde, May-June 2010

Box 9, Folder 16: NCAA Champion, Winter 2010

Subseries 6: Notes, Athlete Documentation and Additional Publication, 1975-2011

Box 9, Folder 17: Big 12 Comparison Project, circa 2009

Box 9, Folder 18: Athlete Documentation and Questionnaire, 2010-2011

Box 9, Folder 19: “Texas Track & Field Records & History” publication, 2010

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