



Edition:  
#18 / 2005-06

## Up Next For The Bears

**TULSA INVITATIONAL**  
MAR. 25, Tulsa University

Missouri State track and field will open its outdoor season shortly in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the Tulsa Invitational. A large contingent Bear and Lady Bear athletes are expected to compete.

## Missouri State Schedules Indoor Track and Field

Date	Event
Dec. 3	Kickoff Classic (Arkansas State, Jonesboro, Ark.)
Jan. 13	Arkansas Invitational (U. of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark.)
Jan. 20-21	Razorback Invitational (U. of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark.)
Jan. 28	Jayhawk Invitational (U. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas)
Feb. 3-4	Husker / Frank Sevigne Invitational (U. of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska)
Feb. 10-11	Iowa State Classic (Iowa State Univ., Ames, Iowa)
Feb. 24-25	Missouri Valley Championships (U. of N. Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa)
Mar. 10-11	NCAA National Championships (U. of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark.)

## Outdoor Track and Field

Date	Event
Mar. 26	Tulsa Invitational (Tulsa Univ., Tulsa, Oklahoma)
Mar. 31-	Stanford Invitational
Apr. 1	(Stanford Univ., Palo Alto, California)
Apr. 2	Mississippi State Invitational (Miss. St. Univ., Starkville, Miss.)
Apr. 13-15	Sea Ray Relays (U. of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.)
Apr. 13-15	Tom Botts Invitational (U. of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri)
Apr. 20-22	Kansas Relays (U. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas)
Apr. 27-29	Drake Relays (Drake Univ., Des Moines, Iowa)
May 12-14	Missouri Valley Championships (Wichita State U., Wichita, Kansas)
Mar. 26-27	NCAA Mideast Championships (U. of Indiana, Bloomington, Indiana)
Jun. 7-10	NCAA National Championships (Sacramento State, Sacramento, Ca.)
Jun. 22-25	USA National Championships (Indianapolis, Ind.)

## Florant Is All-American, Partain Top 10



Missouri State track and field sent two to the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships at the University of Arkansas last weekend. Fabian Florant competed in the triple jump while Tracy Partain represented the Lady Bears in the five event pentathlon.

Florant, a Missouri State senior, finished sixth in the triple jump with a distance of 53'1". His jump sets a new MSU school record. The previous mark was held by Greg Crookendale at 52'5 1/2", set in 1998. Florant was also named to the All-America team for his efforts.

The senior Partain finished 10th in the women's indoor pentathlon with a total score of 4,017 points. This score raises Partain's MSU school

record, that she set last season, by two points. The score is also a new Missouri Valley Conference all-time best. Partain ran a time of 8.57 in the 60-meter hurdles, jumped 5'7" in the high jump, threw 35'11 1/2" in the shot put, leaped 18'7" in the long jump and ran a time of 2:21.67 in the 800-meter run.

In the teams scores Florant's three points for the men placed the Bears 47<sup>th</sup> nationally. The finish places Missouri State ahead of instate foes University of Missouri and Southeast Missouri State who tied at 52<sup>nd</sup> place.

Florant's all-American team selection is the 18<sup>th</sup> time a Missouri State track and field athlete has earned that honor since 1997, the most of any MSU athletic team.

The NCAA meet concludes the Bears' 2006 indoor track and field season. The outdoor season will begin Mar. 25 as Missouri State travels to Tulsa, Okla., for the University of Tulsa Invitational.

## Bears Among Best In Classroom

Missouri State's men's cross country team is ranked second in the nation on the 2005 list of All-Academic teams as compiled by the US Cross Country Coaches Association. The Bears' roster of 12 runners had a combined grade-point average of 3.56. Belmont University, with a roster of 8 runners, topped the list with a 3.65 grade-point average. The Bears also boasted the top GPA in the MSU athletic department.

The Lady Bears team grade-point average of 3.51 will also earn All Academic Team honors. The Women's Cross Country Coaches Association has yet to release its rankings. Those rankings will be reported in Bear Tracks at that time.

This fall 25 of Missouri State's 26 men's and women's cross country runners had semester and or cumulative grade-point averages above 3.0. The team also boasted nine perfect 4.0 GPA's for middle and long distance runners.

## Bears Forced To Cancel Home Meet

Missouri State's Big Bear Invitational is being forced to cancel due to stadium upgrades that Missouri State President Michael Nietzel and Athletic Director Bill Rowe will soon announce.

The Plaster Sports Complex, which is the home base for track and field, football and field hockey, will receive a major upgrade. A new field turf system will be installed for the teams that use the stadium. The installation will begin Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.



The track and field coaching staff was informed of the project this past Monday and researched all possible options to avoid cancellation of their only home college event of 2006. With the short notice MSU's coaches were unable to acquire another facility. Springfield's JFK stadium, which features a similar track as Plaster Stadium, had already been reserved for another sporting event that weekend.

The 2006 MSU Big Bear Invitational was to feature teams from the University of Tulsa, Missouri-Kansas City, Central Missouri State, Southwest Baptist University, Drury, Evangel and William-Woods University. The event was also to be the last home competition for Missouri State's men's track and field program which is being eliminated after this season.

MSU's coaches intend to bring back the Big Bear Invitational next year for the women's track and field program and the meet will include individual and team competition for both men and women in 2006.

While the construction takes place Missouri State's track and field teams will make use of Springfield's newly renovated Harrison Stadium just two miles north of the MSU campus. While the stadium's features do not meet the needs for a college competition, its practice facilities are excellent. Harrison Stadium has a six lane rubber surface and a field turf infield.

High school coaches and fans should not fret. The 2006 Aldo Sebben Missouri State Relays is still on. MSU's athletic administration has confirmed that the facility will be ready for the April 26<sup>th</sup> event. Born in 1923 the relays are the oldest high school only track and field invitational in America. In 2006 the relays featured over 1200-athletes from around Missouri. With already received entries the meet is again expected to be one of the highlights of the annual high school calendar.

## 2006 NCAA Men's Academic Rankings

1. Belmont 3.65
2. **Missouri State 3.56**
3. Drake 3.52
4. Indiana State 3.51
5. Wright State 3.46
6. Yale 3.46
7. Mississippi State 3.46
8. Idaho 3.44
9. Eastern Washington 3.42
10. Detroit Mercy 3.38
11. Stanford 3.36
12. North Carolina State 3.36
13. Bucknell 3.34
14. Arizona State 3.34
15. BYU 3.34
16. Wisconsin-Green Bay 3.31
17. UCLA 3.31
18. Central Michigan 3.28
19. Missouri 3.28
20. Niagara 3.28
21. Siena 3.28
22. Vermont 3.27
23. Evansville 3.26
24. Portland 3.26
25. Liberty 3.26