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Up Next For The Bears

USA OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 7-10, Indianapolis, Indiana
Missouri State's Tracy Partain will look to jump start her post collegiate career at the USA National Championships.

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 6	Ward Haylett Invitational (Kansas St Univ., Mahattan, Kan.)
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.)

Partain NCAA Runner-Up, All-American



Lady Bear heptathlete Tracy Partain closed out her NCAA competition with a runner-up finish Saturday at the NCAA Championships in Sacramento, Ca.

Finishing the two-day competition with a personal-best score of 5,827 points Partain's second place finish is the highest ever at the NCAA Division I championships by a Missouri State track and field athlete. Partain's score betters her own school and Missouri Valley Conference records. With her performance Partain has broken the Missouri collegiate record previously held by Teri LeBlanc of the University of Missouri (5,801 points). Partain is currently ranked number three in the United States

among all competitors (collegiate and professional).

Jacquelyn Johnson, of Arizona State, led the heptathlon through all seven events and took home the gold with 5,939 points. In third behind Partain was Washington State's Diana Pickler with 5,757 points. For the second year in a row Partain was named to the track and field All-American team for her efforts this season. Partain's honor is the 19th NCAA Division I all-America honor for the Missouri State track and field program. All 19 of Missouri State's all-American awards have been won under the direction of Missouri State Head Coach Ron Boyce and his staffs since Boyce began coaching at MSU in 1996.

Partain, a former Springfield Parkview High School standout, started the heptathlon off with a second-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles in a time of 13.69. She tied for fourth in the high jump, clearing a personal-best height of 5-08.75. In the third event, the shot put, Partain placed 13th with a throw of 38-02.00. In the final competition of day one, the 200-meter dash, Partain finished second in 24.43. On the second day of competition Partain tied for a fourth-place finish in the long jump with a leap of 19-03.50. In the javelin throw, she placed seventh with a distance of 125-08. In the final event of the day, the 800-meter run, Partain recorded a personal-best time of 2:17.11 that placed her sixth.



Partain currently holds four Missouri State records including the indoor 60-meter hurdles (8.56 seconds), the pentathlon (4,017 pts.), the outdoor 100-meter hurdles (13.38 seconds) and the heptathlon (5,827 pts.). In 2005, Partain

finished 13th in the heptathlon at the NCAA Championship with 5,399 points and was ninth in the pentathlon at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

With the collegiate season complete the Lady Bear track and field squad finishes the season ranked 33rd nationally. Missouri State's ranking is the highest of any team in the state of Missouri. The University of Missouri was the only other team from the state of Missouri to score at the national meet. The Tigers finished the season ranked 58th.

Partain will continue to represent Missouri State at the USA National Championships June 21-25 in Indianapolis, Ind. and through the summer as she attempts to earn the right to represent the United States in several international competitions. If Partain is able to earn a birth to a USA National team this summer she will become the third Missouri State athlete to represent the United States within the last year. In November 2005 graduate Casey Owens represented the USA at the Chiba Ekiden in Japan and 2003 graduate Blake Boldon represented the USA in several competitions in Ireland earlier this spring.

Spence Named Assistant Coach of The Year



Fritz Spence, a Missouri State track and field assistant coach, has been recognized by the U.S. Track and Field/Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) as the Mideast Region Assistant Coach of the Year for women's jumps and combined events category. The USTFCCCA honors the top assistants in four regions (East, Midwest, Mideast and West) in the categories of men's and women's throws, distances, sprints/hurdles

and jumps/combined events.

Spence has been an assistant coach with the MSU track and field teams for the last five years and has been recognized for his outstanding work during the 2006 outdoor season. He specializes in working with the Bears' jumpers, throwers and multi-event contenders. Tracy Partain, a 2006 outdoor All-American, was one of Spence's star athletes. Spence's other star pupils included MVC third place heptathlon finisher Kim Carter as well as MVC champion and indoor all-America team member Fabian Florant.

Partain Named District Athlete of The Year

Tracy Partain, a senior on the Missouri State track and field team, was selected by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) as the Midwest District Athlete of the Year. Six winners, including men's and women's coach, men's and women's track athlete, and men's and women's field athlete, were selected in each of the nine districts. Division I coaches nominated

and selected the winners.

Partain won the outdoor Missouri Valley Conference heptathlon with a score of 5,756 points before going in to finish second at the NCAA championships in the same event with a record score of 5,829 points.

Three Bears Earn Academic Honor

Three members of the Missouri State men's track and field/cross country team have earned ESPN The Magazine/Academic All-District honors. Michael Breshears and Travis Mack have been named to the All-District First Team and will advance to the national ballot with the opportunity to earn Academic All-American honors, while Mike Wahlig was named to the second team.

Breshears claimed his first individual conference title at the 2005 State Farm MVC Cross Country Championship. His winning 8K time of 24:12.32 ranks third on MSU's list of all-time top performers. In the 2006 outdoor season, he finished third in the 5,000-meter run and second in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a season-best time of 9:02.86. At the NCAA outdoor regional meet, Breshears placed 18th in the steeplechase in 9:12.28. The MSU junior has a cumulative 4.00 grade-point average in administrative management.



Mack, an MSU graduate student, has maintained a 4.00 grade-point average throughout his college career. He just completed his master of business administration and has earned a B.S. in management with an entrepreneurship emphasis. Mack placed fifth in the 800-meter run at the 2006 MVC Indoor Championship with a time of 1:55.29. In his final outdoor season, Mack finished third in the 800-meter run at the

Mississippi State Bulldog Invitational with a personal-best time of 1:52.14, as well as placing 11th in the event at the conference championship.

Wahlig earned second team all-district honors with a 3.89 GPA in cell and molecular biology. The MSU senior finished fifth in the 400-meter hurdles in 54.47 at the Tulsa Duels in March to begin the 2006 outdoor season. Wahlig also had a seventh-place finish in the 400-meter hurdles in 56.45 at the Valley Outdoor Championship.

10 Compete At NCAA Regional Championship

The Missouri State track and field teams sent 10 athletes to the NCAA Regional Championships at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn. May 26-27. To gain acceptance into the regional championship athletes must have earned a qualifying performance during the regular season.

Kareem Samuel's performance in the 400-meter hurdles led the Missouri State squads. Samuel ran two personal best times at the championship. In the prelims of his event he clocked a 51.87-second time to qualify on to the elite final. In the final Samuel ran another personal best to finish seventh with a 51.83-second clocking. Samuel's time ranks him fourth on the Missouri State all-time top performers list.

Senior Fabian Florant finished 6th in the triple jump with a leap of 51-00.75. Florant's mark was 1-centimeter short of earning him a berth to the national championships. MSU's Michael Breshears finished 18th in the 3,000-meter steeplechase in a final time of 9:12.28. Casey DeWitt finished 12th in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 10:43.76.

MSU's Kenroy Dixon hit a personal-best mark in the 100-meter dash preliminaries in a time of 10.44. He placed 19th overall. Lady Bear senior Danielle Norville competed in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. MSU's Tracy Partain finished 22nd in the 100-meter hurdles in 13.80 and 22nd in the 400-meter hurdles in 1:03.72. Tanya Cyrus also competed for Missouri State and finished 17th in the 400-meter dash preliminaries in a time of 54.73.

MSU's Kim Carter competed in the finals of the long jump competition and placed 23rd with a leap of 18-06.50. Ryan Taylor competed in the men's long jump finals and placed 23rd for the Bears with a mark of 23-07.25.

Breshears Is Scholar Athlete of The Week

Missouri State student-athlete Michael Breshears was named the Prairie Farms/Missouri Valley Conference Scholar Athlete of the Week for the week of May 8-14, Commissioner Doug Elgin announced.

Breshears, a member of the MSU track and field team, placed second in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the State Farm MVC Track and Field Championship in Wichita, Kan., on Saturday, May 13. His time of 9:02.68 is an NCAA Regional qualifying time. Breshears, who has a 4.00 cumulative grade-point average in administrative management, also added a third-place finish in the 5,000-meter run in a time of 14:51.51.



The honor is the third Scholar Athlete of The Week honor for a Bear distance runner this spring. Distance runners Kevin Born and Jonathan Rono won the honor earlier this spring. The Scholar Athlete of The Week award is chosen from all sports athletes in the MVC.