

FLYIN' FROGS

TCU RELAY TRADITION

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RELAYS



DAVID WALKER

1983 BRINGS HOME A 4X400 NATIONAL TITLE

TCU's great relay tradition is dominated by its championship 4x100-meter units, but the Horned Frogs nabbed their first NCAA title of any kind in the 4x400-meter relay at the 1983 NCAA Outdoor Championships in Houston.

TCU's victory, in a time of 3:02.09 (just .11 off the collegiate record of the time) gave the Horned Frogs' quartet of Allen Ingraham, James Richard, Keith Burnett and David Walker the program's first title. Ingraham took the Frogs out to third place on the first leg, just .10 behind Alabama and race leader Baylor. The Frogs held third behind pre-meet favorite Baylor and the Crimson Tide as Richard ran a 45.5 leg to maintain within close range of Alabama's star sprinter, Calvin Smith.

Burnett took over for TCU on the third leg and ran a commanding lap in 45.0 to give the Horned Frogs a six-meter lead over Michigan State and Baylor.

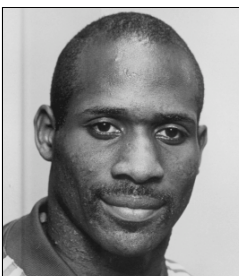
The lead eventually vanished as Michigan State's Eliot Tabron overtook TCU anchorman Walker on the final turn, but Walker had enough energy left to finish strong. Walker caught Tabron in the final 10 meters and held off a strong charge by Alabama's Lamar Smith while MSU's Tabron faded to third. Walker's final leg of 45.6 was fast enough to give TCU the victory and the senior thrust his arms skyward as he triumphantly crossed the finish line. The race featured no less than four teams from TCU's conference, the Southwest Conference, which dominated collegiate track & field for much of the decade as SMU, Baylor and Texas joined TCU in the final.



▶ Allen Ingraham



▶ James Richard



▶ Keith Burnett



▶ David Walker

1983 4x400 Relay Squad

- Allen Ingraham
- James Richard
- Keith Burnett
- David Walker

STORYLINE: Horned Frogs capture first NCAA Championship of any kind with a blazing 3:02.09, which at that point was only .11 off the collegiate record.

WINNING TIME: 3:02.09

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RELAYS

TCU'S FIRST 4X100 TITLE IN 1986

They entered the NCAA Outdoor Championships of 1986 as the pre-meet favorites, having won all seven races heading into the meet, but TCU's 4x100-meter relay unit knew it had its work cut out against a field that included four rival squads from the Southwest Conference.

After running 38.56 in the preliminary heat (just .03 off the existing collegiate record at the time), TCU's foursome of Roscoe Tatum, Andrew Smith, Leroy Reid and Greg Sholars knew it would take a similar effort - or an even better one - to win the final. And they came up with just such a performance.

Running without ace sprinter Raymond Stewart, lost for the season with a quadriceps injury early in the year, TCU relied on its incredible depth to produce a collegiate record 38.46 in the final. To that point, only nine nations had ever produced faster relay units. And TCU needed to produce a flawless race as the young Frogs (two sophomores, a junior and a freshman anchoring) held off the fastest all-freshman relay unit in history from SWC rival Texas A&M.

It was a smooth race for TCU, which held the lead from the start with the ever-present Aggies right behind. Sophomores Roscoe Tatum and Andrew Smith established the slight lead and junior Leroy Reid took it into the final curve. With TCU still maintaining a small advantage, freshman Greg Sholars took the Horned Frogs home in a collegiate record time, just .17 ahead of A&M. The time would have won the silver medal at the 1984 Olympic Games just two years earlier and was a world leading time for the season when it was produced. Most of all, it established TCU as a sprinting and relays power, a position the Horned Frogs have maintained for almost two decades.

A Record For TCU's "Flyin' Frogs"

Bubba Thornton's TCU 4 x 100 squad showed that its nickname "Flyin' Frogs" was most apt at the NCAA, speeding 38.56 in its heat for a low-altitude college best, then racing to a CR 38.46 in the finals.

Thornton explains that relaying was a team effort right from the start of the year at the Fort Worth school:

"We had a number of excellent sprinters who wanted to run on the relay team. But the key thing was that everyone wanted TCU to win the NCAA title, so everyone pulled for each other.

"We have always wanted a strong starter on our relay teams. Last year as a frosh, Roscoe Tatum was 3rd in the NCAA 60 indoors and 2nd in the Southwest Conference 100 outdoors. And he is a strong starter.

"But very few people know he had surgery on both knees midway through football season last fall. So he made a hell of a comeback. We stayed with Roscoe as leadoff man because he is a very dedicated athlete and we had the confidence in him to come back.

"On the second leg, we have soph Andrew Smith, who is a great top-end sprinter. He runs very strongly all the way through the zone, plus he handles the stick well.

"On the third leg, we ended up with junior Leroy Reid. We also have soph Byron Morrow and we ran 39.02 with Byron in the third slot. But Leroy is just a bit stronger and more mature, as well as faster.

"We started off the year with Raymond Stewart at anchor. He made good progress but then strained a quadriceps muscle. I have a policy that no matter how much we want to win, we won't risk an athlete who isn't 100% healthy.

"Frosh Greg Sholars is a strong runner and a fine stick man. So he made a perfect anchor.

"We also considered that if Roscoe didn't recover sufficiently, we could use Greg to open as he is a good starter. Frosh quartermiler Tony Allen runs a good straight and Smith could be a good anchor.

"So we actually had seven sprinters we felt we could move into various positions on the team and they would do a good job. Plus all four of the prime members stayed healthy all year.

"In the NCAA races, we never planned to run as fast as we did in the heats. We just wanted to get the baton around and not make any mistakes like last year when we bobbed the stick. We got good running on all the legs in

TCU'S AMAZING STREAK

1986 4x100 Relay Squad

It was one of collegiate track's most incredible winning streaks, spanning two calendar years and 25 races against the nation's finest 4x100-meter relay units. It started April 4, 1986, with a preliminary heat victory at the Texas Relays and ended April 30, 1988, at the Penn Relays. In between, TCU garnered consecutive NCAA titles, set numerous meet records, lowered the collegiate record and made an indelible mark on collegiate track and field.

1986

1. Texas Relays _____ Austin _____ 39.57
(Tatum, Smith, Reid, Sholars)
2. Texas Relays _____ Austin _____ 38.97*
(Tatum, Smith, Reid, Sholars)
3. UCLA dual _____ Los Angeles _____ 39.3
(Tatum, Smith, Reid, Sholars)
4. Penn Relays _____ Philadelphia _____ 39.58
(Tatum, Smith, Reid, Sholars)
5. Penn Relays _____ Philadelphia _____ 39.11*
(Tatum, Smith, Reid, Sholars)
6. SWC Championships _____ Houston _____ 39.02
(Tatum, Smith, Morrow, Sholars)
7. Texas Last Chance _____ Austin _____ 39.50
(Tatum, Smith, Reid, Sholars)
8. NCAA Championships _____ Indianapolis _____ 38.56
(Tatum, Smith, Reid, Sholars)
9. NCAA Championships _____ Indianapolis _____ 38.46*#
(Tatum, Smith, Reid, Sholars)

1987

10. TSU Relays _____ Houston _____ 39.02*
(Tatum, Allen, Smith, Sholars)
11. Florida Relays _____ Gainesville _____ 38.98*
(Tatum, Smith, Sholars, Stewart)
12. Texas Relays _____ Austin _____ 39.56
(Tatum, Smith, Sholars, Stewart)
13. Texas Relays _____ Austin _____ 39.13
(Sholars, Smith, Morrow, Stewart)
14. Penn Relays _____ Philadelphia _____ 40.49
(Sholars, Smith, Allen, Stewart)
15. Penn Relays _____ Philadelphia _____ 39.26
(Sholars, Smith, Allen, Stewart)
16. Mutual Life Games _____ Kingston _____ 38.9
(Sholars, Smith, Allen, Stewart)
17. SWC Championships _____ Lubbock _____ 39.06
(Sholars, Smith, Allen, Stewart)
18. Southwest TAC _____ Dallas _____ 39.46
(Sholars, Smith, Allen, Stewart)
19. NCAA Championships _____ Baton Rouge _____ 39.16
(Tatum, Smith, Sholars, Stewart)
20. NCAA Championships _____ Baton Rouge _____ 38.83
(Tatum, Smith, Sholars, Stewart)

1988

21. TSU Relays _____ Houston _____ 39.22
(Tatum, Sholars, Allen, Stewart)
22. Texas A&M Invite _____ College Station _____ 39.56
(Tatum, Sholars, Allen, Stewart)
23. Texas Relays _____ Austin _____ 39.35
(Tatum, Sholars, Allen, Stewart)
24. Texas Relays _____ Austin _____ 39.43
(Tatum, Sholars, Allen, Stewart)
25. Penn Relays _____ Philadelphia _____ 41.10
(Tatum, Sholars, Allen, Stewart)

(*meet record; #collegiate record)

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RELAYS

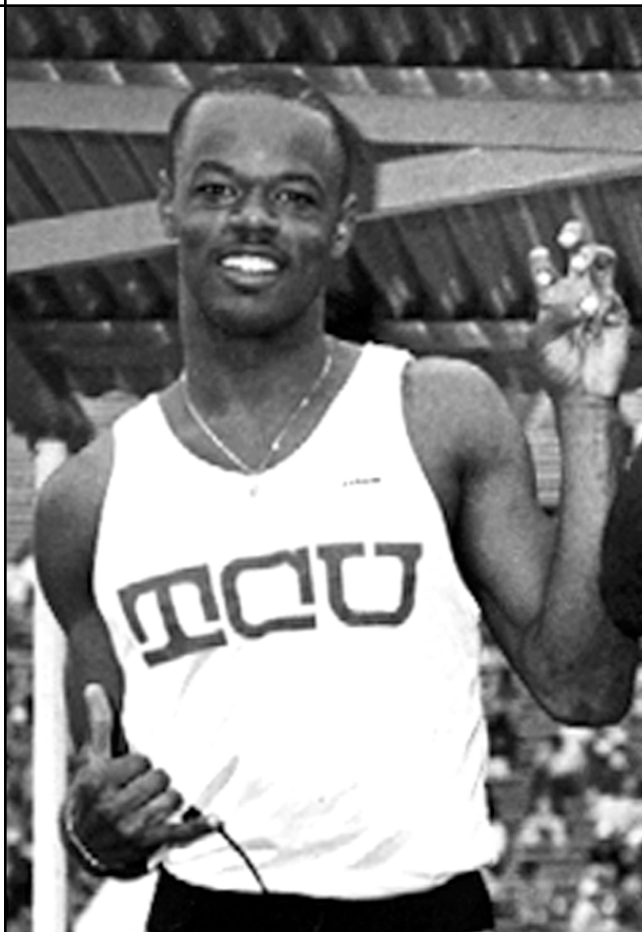
TCU REPEATS AS CHAMPIONS IN 1987

Unbeaten in 18 races, TCU's 4x100-meter relay unit entered the 1987 NCAA Outdoor Championships at Baton Rouge, La., squarely in the sights of several strong competitors. Their chief competition would come from an upstart quartet from Texas A&M, their main rival in the Southwest Conference.

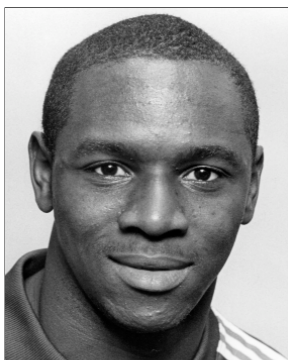
The defending NCAA champions, TCU was running slightly different unit than the 1986 quartet as sophomore Ray Stewart replaced Leroy Reid in the foursome after Reid had suffered a slipped disk in his back earlier in the season. Reid's absence precipitated a change in the relay order for TCU as former anchor Greg Sholars moved to the third slot (Reid's former position) with Stewart taking over as anchor man. As fate would have it, the race would come down to Stewart's final sprint.

A&M sent a message in the qualifying heats, running a stadium record 38.89 to erase TCU's previous track record of 39.10. The Frogs, meanwhile, won their heat in a pedestrian 39.16 as they safely passed the stick to reach the final. That set the stage for the final and a showdown between two teams from Texas.

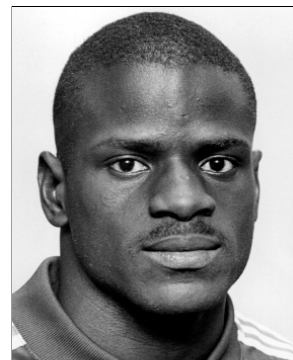
TCU was positioned in lane 6. The Aggies were directly to TCU's left in lane 5. The race was a close one from the starting gun. Leadoffs Roscoe Tatum of TCU and Lawrence Felton of A&M reached the first handoff in a virtual tie. Then, the Aggies pulled slightly ahead on the second leg as NCAA 200-meter champion Floyd Heard nudged ahead of TCU's Andrew Smith at the second exchange. On the third leg, TCU's Sholars made up the deficit to pull even with Aggie Greg Lewis at the final baton pass. It was up to Stewart and A&M anchor Stanley Kerr. Both runners blasted out of the final curve in a dead heat before Stewart came up with a final burst of speed to take a thrilling victory by .03 of a second. TCU's 38.82 was the fastest time by any collegiate team of the 1987 season while A&M's 38.85 was second on that season's list. "That last third of the race, I saw that Kerr was still there," Stewart said. "I said, 'OK, time for me to go'."



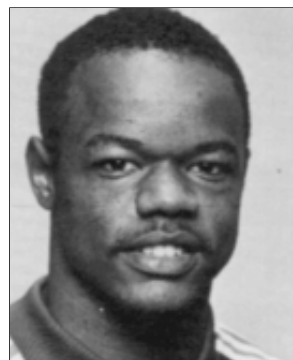
GREG SHOLARS



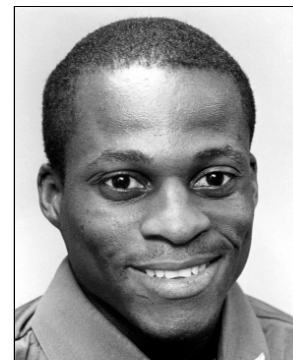
► Roscoe Tatum



► Andrew Smith



► Greg Sholars



► Raymond Stewart

1987 4x100 Relay Squad

- Roscoe Tatum
- Andrew Smith
- Greg Sholars
- Raymond Stewart

STORYLINE: TCU's 38.82 was the fastest time by any collegiate team of the 1987 season

WINNING TIME: 38:82

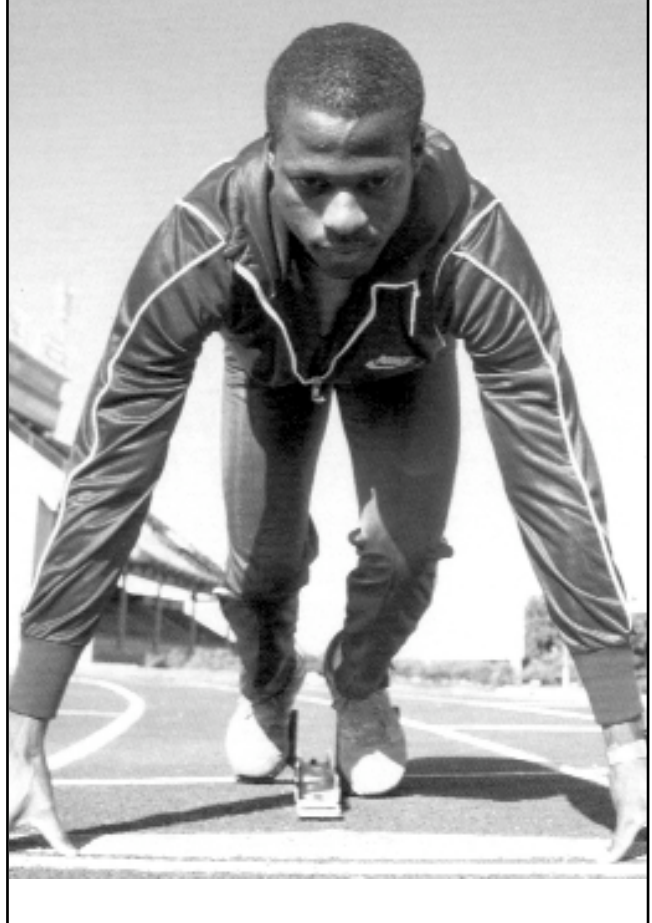
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RELAYS

STEWART'S BIG FINISH IN 1989

When sprinter Raymond Stewart came to TCU in 1985 he was already an Olympic medalist and a national hero in his native Jamaica. By the time he left TCU, Stewart had accomplished more than any Horned Frogs sprinter in history.

Stewart's collegiate career ended spectacularly with his performance at the 1989 NCAA Outdoor Championships in Provo, Utah, as he won the 100-meter dash in 9.97 seconds (the second-fastest time ever by a Southwest Conference sprinter).

His final race in a TCU uniform, the 4x100-meter relay, ended appropriately with Stewart carrying the baton across the finish line in a collegiate record 38.23, breaking the mark of 38.46 set by TCU's 1986 championship quartet. But Stewart was just one of three members of the relay squad to finish outstanding careers this day. For second leg Andrew Smith and third leg Greg Sholars, it was the third NCAA relay title of their careers.



RAYMOND STEWART

1989 4x100 Relay Squad

- Raymond Stewart
- Horatio Porter
- Greg Sholars
- Andrew Smith

STORYLINE: "Only two nations (U.S. and the former Soviet Union) have ever run faster than TCU's 38.23."

WINNING TIME: 38.23

TCU Meets its Goal

"All year, the aim for these guys was to win the NCAA," said a visibly emotional Bubba Thornton after TCU's 38.23 CR.

"This was the last meet for three of them and they wanted to go out winners."

The coach's analysis of his record setting quartet, comprised of a pair of Ft. Worth natives (fresh Horatio Porter and senior Greg Sholars) and a pair of Jamaicans (seniors Andrew Smith and Raymond Stewart):

"Horatio starts and has great confidence, even though he is just a freshman. All year long, the seniors helped him develop a belief in his starting ability."

"Andrew always runs a great backstretch. He may not be as fast as some guys in the flat 100, but with a baton, he has as much top-end speed as anybody."

"Greg on the third leg is just a terrific competitor. We know we always will get nothing less than an all-out effort from Greg."

"And the whole team knows that when Raymond gets the stick, the team has tremendous finishing speed."

"Ray is the most experienced of the sprinters, but he doesn't dominate the team. All four of them know they are of equal importance."

"At the same time, they know that with Raymond anchoring, the team has a guy that few sprinters in the world don't."

4x100: CR For TCU

Has the Southwest Conference dominated the short relay in the '80s? Five SWC squads made this final, matching the event high set in '86. No other loop can claim more than a pair this decade.

Of those five SWC teams, TCU and Texas A&M have recently led the way. TCU won in '86 and '87 ahead of A&M; the Aggies won in '88 with TCU 3rd.

Everyone was fairly even on the opening leg, but A&M's Derrick Florence got away late at the exchange. TCU's Andrew Smith burned the backstraight after a great pass from freshman Horatio Porter.

Greg Sholars stormed the curve for TCU with Andre Coxson right behind, but once 100 champ Ray Stewart got the stick, the race was over. Howard Davis headed Stewart in vain as TCU won in a Collegiate Record 38.23.

That cut the Horned Frogs' own '86 CR by 0.23. Smith and Sholars also won the '86 team, while Stewart joined them on the '87 winners.

Texas A&M (38.53), Houston (38.93), LSU (38.97) all came home under 39 seconds, with NC State next at 39.07.

State aided or not, note that only two nations (U.S. and Soviet Union) have ever beaten TCU's 38.23. (Just not!)

1989 NEWSPAPER CLIPPING | FW STAR TELEGRAM

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RELAYS



HORATIO PORTER

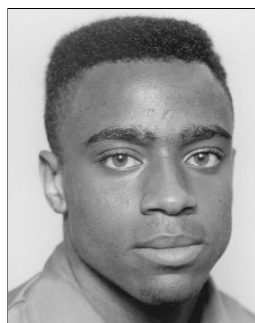
TCU BORN TO LEAD IN 1991

When TCU leadoff man Jon Drummond bolted from the starting blocks at the beginning of the 1991 NCAA Championships 4x100-meter relay finals, a race that figured to be a tight one between Drummond's Horned Frogs, upstart Clemson and defending champion Alabama was already decided. Such was Drummond's start and ensuing first leg of the relay that TCU cruised to an easy victory and its fourth NCAA 4-by-1 title in six years.

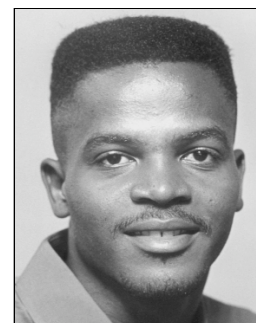
During practices throughout his TCU career, sprinter Horatio Porter liked to wear a shirt with the words "Born To Lead" across the front. In the 4x100 final of 1991, Porter and his relay mates brought that motto to life.

The runner-up in the 100-meter dash earlier in the meet, Drummond passed smoothly to second leg Carey Johnson whose excellent run enlarged an already sizable TCU advantage. From that point, it was just a matter of safety and time before TCU regained its perch atop the collegiate relay world. Ralston Wright took a perfect exchange from Johnson and ran an excellent curve before handing to anchor leg Horatio Porter who cruised home to the title in 38.88.

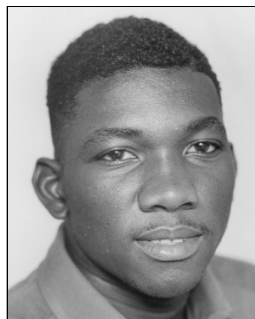
"We had to scratch from the '90 final, so we've been looking forward to this all year," Porter said. "We're just happy to win - we could have run 40-flat and still be thrilled to win."



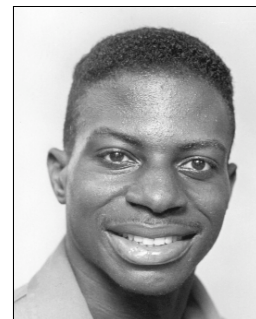
► Jon Drummond



► Carey Johnson



► Ralston Wright



► Horatio Porter

1991 4x100 Relay Squad

- Jon Drummond
- Carey Johnson
- Ralston Wright
- Horatio Porter

STORYLINE: TCU cruised to an easy victory and its fourth NCAA 4-by-1 title in six years

WINNING TIME: 38:88

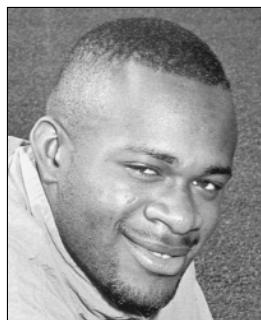
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RELAYS

TCU NIPS LSU BY .01

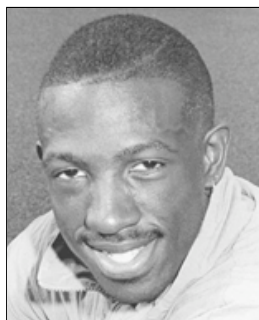
As the LSU Tigers dominated collegiate track & field during the early 1990s, the Tiger relay squads racked up three consecutive NCAA 4x100-meter relay championships. LSU seemed destined to extend their streak to a record-tying four straight, but TCU's quartet of Donovan Powell, Brashant Carter, Lloyd Edwards and Hosia Abdallah had other ideas.

In a tight race between LSU, TCU and Kentucky, Powell gave TCU the lead through into the first exchange before Kentucky's Tim Harden briefly surged in front. But it was an outstanding third leg in which Edwards ran an excellent curve for the Horned Frogs to give TCU a two-meter lead when he handed off to anchorman Abdallah. LSU's Rohsaan Griffin made a strong bid to overtake Abdallah, but the TCU anchor held him off for a slim victory. TCU's winning time of 38.63 was the eighth fastest in collegiate history at the time.

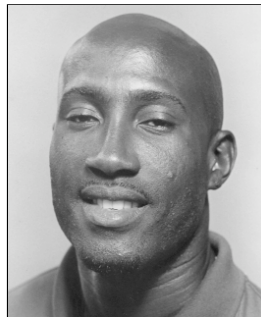
"We just finished fast and smooth like we practice every day," Abdallah said.



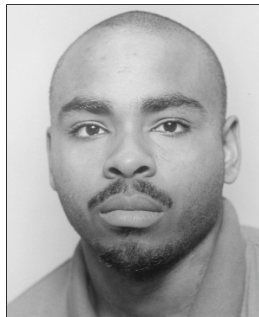
► Donovan Powell



► Brashant Carter



► Lloyd Edwards



► Hosia Abdallah

4 x 100: TCU Breaks String

TCU narrowly throttled LSU's shot at a record-tying fourth straight short relay title in the meet's closest race, decided by just 0.01 (38.63-38.64). The Horned Frogs, who won 4 of 6 titles between '86 and '91, reclaimed the crown they last won in Eugene before the onset of the Tiger streak.

Donovan Powell handed the Frogs an early lead which was briefly surrendered to Kentucky's Tim Harden on the second leg, but in the third segment Lloyd Edwards ran a nifty turn and handed Hosia Abdallah a 2m lead. He barely staved off LSU's fast closing Rohsaan Griffin by inches.

Said the Frog anchor, "We just finished the race fast and smooth like we practice every day."

Century winner Harden lamented, "I missed [Ronnie Williams'] hand on the first try and it cost us the race."

TCU's collegiate-leading 38.63 was the =No. 8 time in collegiate history. The next four finishers also established seasonal bests, with 3rd-place Kentucky (38.81) establishing the meet's fastest 3rd ever. Prelims were not needed for the first time since '79. //John Auka/

RESULTS: (June 2; no prelims): 1. TCU 38.63 (CL) (=8 C) (Powell, Carter, Edwards, Abdallah); 2. LSU 38.64 (10 C) (B school) (J. Grant, Cummings, Kennison, Griffin); 3. Kentucky 38.81 (=8 school) (Lindsay, Harden, Williams, Jackson); 4. USC 39.10 (Volsan, Hervey, Ekpenyong).

1995 NEWSPAPER CLIPPING | FW STAR TELEGRAM

1995 4x100 Relay Squad

- Donovan Powell
- Brashant Carter
- Lloyd Edwards
- Hosia Abdallah

STORYLINE: TCU's winning time was the eighth fastest in collegiate history at the time

WINNING TIME: 38.63

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RELAYS



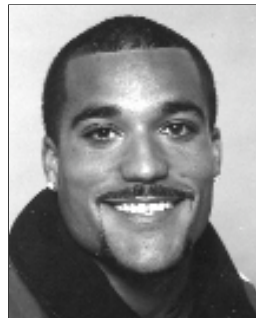
KENDRICK CAMPBELL & ANTHONY AMANTINE

TCU'S FIRST INDOOR CROWN CLOCKED AT 3:06.69

The final event of the 2000 NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships, the 4x400-meter relay, produced TCU's first NCAA indoor relay title ever, a breakthrough for a program that has produced seven outdoor NCAA relay crowns.

The TCU quartet of Roy Williams, Anthony Amantine, Kendrick Campbell and Johnny L. Collins II edged Oklahoma by three-tenths of a second with a winning time of 3:06.69.

The performance capped a monumental indoor season for TCU, which won its first conference team title ever two weeks prior by winning the Western Athletic Conference indoor crown. The NCAA meet set new TCU standards by almost any measure as the Horned Frogs set new standards for indoor All-Americans, team points and team finish. The fourth place finish by TCU, while the highest at an NCAA indoor meet, had only been topped twice previously at NCAA Outdoor meets as TCU placed third at the outdoor championships in 1987 and again in 1988.



► Roy Williams

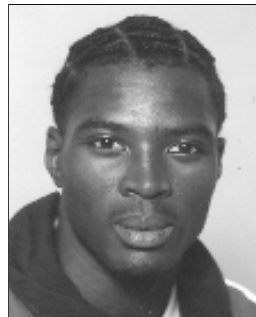


► Anthony Amantine

2000 4x400 Relay Squad

- Roy Williams
- Anthony Amantine
- Kendrick Campbell
- Johnny L. Collins II

STORYLINE: Edged Oklahoma by three-tenths of a second
WINNING TIME: 3:06.69



► Kendrick Campbell



► Johnny L. Collins II