

ARIZONA WILDCATS ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011 – CONTACT: MOLLY O’MARA (momara@arizona.edu)

TRACK AND FIELD

PAC-10 T&F: DAY ONE QUOTES

Marissa Minderler, USC, Women's Hammer Throw

“Today really felt great. I was mentally focused and everything just clicked and came together.”

Nick Ross, Arizona, Men’s High Jump

“It was a good start for me. Edgar (Rivera-Morales) had a rough start, wore new shoes today that gave him blisters, but he was a champ and fought through it. I was confident and a little nervous but with the stops, I knew I just had to stay focused for my team. If I lose focus then I’m just being selfish. I just had to hold it down for the team.”

“I just prepared for today like every other meet. If you try too hard, it’ll come back and bite you. It really helps that Edgar and I are the same year. We’ll be together for a while, and we both know how to push each other to be our best.”

Marissa Tschida, Washington State, Women’s Javelin

“Winning two-in-a-row feels great. I was just happy to get the throw in. I knew that throw was coming and it’s great to have it come in such a big competition in front of so many people. It just feels great to compete and get a personal best.”

Julie Labonte, Arizona, Women’s Shot Put

“It’s amazing. We talked about going one, two, three, and to actually have it happen is just amazing. Amazing is really the only word I can think of. If we can get one, two, three in as many events, it’ll be great for the team.”

“Having a new personal best is great. My goal today was to throw 18 meters and I smashed through that. Last year I won the Pac-10 and it’s important to me that I was able to do it again. Getting the Canadian record is great and having a new personal best is great, too.”

Steve Finley, Oregon, Men’s 3,000-Meter Steeplechase

“Conference races are never easy and I really just wanted to be a good part of the environment for us. I think it was important for us to get this win today to get set for the finals tomorrow. Being as competitive as possible is so important for us. The Pac-10 steeplechase is one of the toughest to run in the country and I got ahead early, which gave me some time in the middle to regain some of my strength, so near the end, I was able to keep up for the last leg. I’m just glad I was able to do something for the team.”

Maggie Callahan, Arizona, Women’s 3,000-Meter Steeplechase

“I had to jump through some hoops with the team doctor in order to get cleared today and I guess it really motivated me. I’m just glad I was able to get this win at home. This has never happened to me before. I’ve never won a steeplechase so this is just really great. I felt good, in control. I was able to stay ahead, stay confident. I’ve never felt this good at the end of a race.”

Jordan Clarke, Arizona State, Men’s Shot Put

“It feels very good. It’s my first title and I just knew I was having a good week at practice and leading up to today. We still have a lot of races to finish tomorrow but I know that this is definitely going to help us a lot. I’m just doing everything I can to contribute.”

Katerina Stefanidi, Stanford, Women's Pole Vault

"It feels good. I jumped really badly tonight and it was my worst technique but I just did what I had to do for the team. I know we have a lot of goals and I'm glad I could get us more points than we expected in pole vault. It's really great to be here in Tucson. It's hot, which has made things interesting but I'm loving it."

Stephanie Marcy, Stanford, Women's 10,000-Meter

"It feels good. My patience really paid off. It was a slow race for the most part, which was exactly how I thought it would be. I know the team had a good day, and I heard a lot about girls who did better than they thought they would, and it was a big confidence booster. I just want to keep contributing. We showed today that we had a good day one, and we can do just as well on day two."

Stephen Sambu, Arizona, Men's 10,000-Meter

"It was a really steady race. I'm so happy to win, that was my goal for the Pac-10 Championships. My plan was to go with the pack for three km, and start moving up after five, and then kick it up for the last five km. I knew that they would beat me if I stayed with them for twenty laps. I really think we have a good chance to win it all. We haven't won in a long time, and we are just trying to win the last Pac-10 title. It would be awesome."

Brendan Ames, USC, Men's Long Jump

"I just came out, I knew that I would have to put out a big jump, and hold onto it. Last year, I was beat by one centimeter, and it was really bittersweet. I just wanted to come out today and be the Pac-10 champ for my senior year. These points should really help our team. I haven't jumped a lot this year, but we just have to pick up the points wherever we can. I know that what I did today will really help us going into tomorrow."

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