1968 Men’s HEPS Champs Honored, New Coaching Endowment Announced at Annual Track Association Dinner in NYC

Over 115 Track and Field and Cross Country alumni/ae and friends gathered at the Yale Club of New York City on Friday, February 22, for the annual celebration of Track & Field and Cross Country at Yale. In what proved to be a truly spectacular evening for this storied program, the 2008 dinner commemorated the 40th anniversary of the 1968 men’s Heptagonal Championship team. As part of the festivities, many of the members of the ’68 team were in attendance. All were mesmerized by the three speakers who represented the team and offered their unique insights about the group and the interactions of its members and coaches throughout that championship season.

The evening culminated in the announcement by Track Association Co-President Louisa Garry ‘87 of a gift to establish the Mark T. Young ’68 Director of Cross Country and Track & Field. “I am thrilled to announce that an anonymous donor has come forward to endow the Mark T. Young ’68 Director of Track & Field and Cross Country position,” stated Garry. In her comments, she also noted that, “Due to his efforts, athletes on the women’s team were given the same opportunities as athletes on the men’s team and proved they were capable of successfully training, competing, and excelling at the highest level in the country.”

Director of Athletics Tom Beckett commented, “I am delighted that one of Coach Young’s former female student-athletes has chosen to honor his lifetime of dedication to teaching and coaching at Yale by endowing the Director position in his name. The University is forever grateful for her incredible generosity. The Mark T. Young ’68 Director of Cross Country and Track & Field endowment embodies the lasting influence that an outstanding teacher and coach like Mark can have on his student-athletes.”

Young, the team captain, played an integral role in the exhilarating victory to clinch the ‘68 HEPS title. He returned to coach at Yale in 1980, and has guided hundreds of student-athletes on and off the track ever since. Among his many accomplishments, Mark was named National Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1987, and has led his Yale teams to six cross country Heptagonal Championships. He was also named NCAA District I Outdoor Track Coach of the Year in 1987, winning the outdoor track HEPS title that year as well. Young was truly touched by the gesture of the gift, noting “I am profoundly humbled and honored by this tremendous tribute, which illustrates, above all, how participation in collegiate sports has an impact on athletes lasting well beyond their college years.”

The Director of Cross Country and Track & Field is the 19th head coaching position endowed at Yale. As part of the Yale Tomorrow campaign, the Department of Athletics is seeking funding to endow all 35 of its varsity head coach positions. For more information on the Campaign please call Tim Ford at: (203) 432-1419.
Yale Middle Distance Highlights

ECAC Championship

The Yale women’s track and field team finished competition at the 2008 ECAC indoor track and field championships in 27th place with ten points.

The Bulldogs’ points came from two sources. Senior Ingrid Sproll, by virtue of scratches (athletes that chose not to run in the final despite qualifying) ahead of her, was able to compete in the final of the 800-meter run. Sproll capitalized on the opportunity, finishing fifth with a time of 2:13.21, good for four points and All-East honors.

The 4x800-meter relay team of Kathryn Schlecker, Erika Mansson, Stephany Reaves and Meredith Leenhouts that stormed through the first day of qualifying with a blazing 9:05.75 came back the second day to improve upon that effort, finishing third in 9:02.91. The time ranks as sixth all-time indoors.

Sophomore Stephanie Pearl finished 22nd in the 3,000-meter run in a time of 10:08.36. The distance medley relay of Elizabeth Calle, Kate Grace, Kelli Buck and Bevin Peters finished 10th in 11:54.64.

For their efforts, Sproll, Schlecker, Mansson, Reaves and Leenhouts all receive All-East accolades.

Eleven Yale Athletes Earn All-East Honors

The IC4A Indoor Championships included eleven Bulldogs contributing to an eighth place finish among competition from around the Eastern region. Athletes receiving top-eight finishes at the meet were awarded All-East recognition for their efforts. Among these athletes were senior Victor Cheng (sixth, 55-meter dash), sophomore Eric DePalo (third, pole vault) and junior Murat Kayali (second, mile run) in individual events. The second place 4x800-meter relay team of senior Matthew Bordoni, junior Jared Bell, senior Tadhg O’Callaghan and sophomore Chris Labosky and the fifth place distance medley relay of sophomores Kevin Brown and David Soiles, senior Nate Clute and junior Jake Gallagher also earned All-East honors. Highlights of the meet included two new all-time indoor school records for Yale: Cheng broke a 22-year-old record in the 55-meter dash with a blazing time of 6.31, and the 4x800-meter relay surpassed another longstanding record with their effort of 7:29.53.

Bulldogs Debut in Irvine

The UC Irvine Springbreak Collegiate Classic meet represents one of the first opportunities for many track and field teams to stretch their legs on the standard outdoor 400-meter track, and as such attracts many strong track and field programs. Teams in attendance included host UC Irvine, UC Riverside, Southern Utah University and fellow Ivy League rival Cornell.

The Bulldogs tallied many top ten finishes: Sophomore Bailey Carroll had the highest finish for Yale, finishing second in the pole vault with a height of 10-00.00. Junior Jennifer Lin finished third in her signature event, the grueling 400-meter hurdles, with a time of 64.21.

Other top finishers included senior Mary Kuder (7th, 400-meter (57.60) and 8th, 200-meter (26.07)), freshman Kate Grace (7th, 800-meters (2:13.38)), senior Meredith Leenhouts (7th, 1500-meter run (4:39.54)), freshman Eve King (4th, high jump (5-03.00) and 7th, long jump (17-08.75)), freshman Emily Standish (8th, high jump (4-11.00)) and 10th, triple jump (33-04.50), freshman Stephanie Scaramella (9th, shot put (38-11.75)), and team captain Elizabeth Calle (6th, 3000-meter steeplechase (11:02.57)).

Bulldogs Shine in Golden State for Outdoor Debut

The UC Irvine Spring Break Collegiate Classic marks the beginning of the outdoor season. Local competition included UC-Irvine, UC-Riverside, Cal Poly Pomona and Occidental, in addition to the familiar challenge of Cornell, also training in California over break. Yale had three first-place finishers: sophomore Eric DePalo in the pole vault, sophomore Reynolds Holmes in the long jump and senior Victor Cheng in the 100-meter dash.

In the pole vault DePalo tied Josh Kirkpatrick of Cornell at a height of 10.00m, placing second based on misses at previous heights. This weekend, both sophomores vaulted 4.70m, tying for first-place. This could be a rivalry to watch at the Outdoor Heptagonal Championships this May.

Holmes added another win to the Bulldogs’ tally, earning a first place finish with his initial jump of 7.13m.
WOMEN'S SPRING 2008 SCHEDULE

04/19/08 vs. Harvard * Cuyler Field/Dwyer Track / All Day
04/24/08 Penn Relays Philadelphia, Pa./All Day
04/25/08 Penn Relays Philadelphia, Pa./All Day
04/26/08 Penn Relays Philadelphia, Pa./All Day
04/27/08 Yale Springtime Invitational Cuyler Field/Dwyer Track All Day
05/10/08 Heptagonal Championship * Cuyler Field/Dwyer Track All Day
05/11/08 Heptagonal Championship * Cuyler Field/Dwyer Track All Day
05/16/08 ECAC Championship Princeton, N.J./All Day
05/17/08 ECAC Championship Princeton, N.J./All Day
05/18/08 ECAC Championship Princeton, N.J./All Day
05/30/08 NCAA Regional Championship TBA / All Day
05/31/08 NCAA Regional Championship TBA / All Day
06/11/08 NCAA Championship Des Moines, Iowa / All Day
06/12/08 NCAA Championship Des Moines, Iowa / All Day
06/13/08 NCAA Championship Des Moines, Iowa / All Day
06/14/08 NCAA Championship Des Moines, Iowa / All Day

MEN'S SPRING 2008 SCHEDULE

04/19/08 vs. Harvard * Cuyler Field/Dwyer Track / All Day
04/24/08 Penn Relays Philadelphia, Pa./All Day
04/25/08 Penn Relays Philadelphia, Pa./All Day
04/26/08 Penn Relays Philadelphia, Pa./All Day
04/27/08 Yale Springtime Invitational Cuyler Field/Dwyer Track All Day
05/10/08 Heptagonal Championship * Cuyler Field/Dwyer Track All Day
05/11/08 Heptagonal Championship * Cuyler Field/Dwyer Track All Day
05/16/08 IC4A Championship Princeton, N.J./All Day
05/17/08 IC4A Championship Princeton, N.J./All Day
05/18/08 IC4A Championship Princeton, N.J./All Day
05/30/08 NCAA East Regional Championship/All Day
05/31/08 NCAA East Regional Championship/All Day
06/11/08 NCAA Championship Des Moines, Iowa/All Day
06/12/08 NCAA Championship Des Moines, Iowa/All Day
06/13/08 NCAA Championship Des Moines, Iowa/All Day
06/14/08 NCAA Championship Des Moines, Iowa/All Day
Dear Alumni/ae and Friends,

The Indoor season was highlighted by the Men’s Team finishing 3rd at HEPS and 6th place at the IC4A’s. Our top men’s performers at HEPS were runner-up performances by Victor Cheng ’08 in the 60 Meter Dash, Eric DePalo ’10 in the Pole Vault and the 4 x 800 Meter Relay team of Matt Bordoni ’08, Jared Bell ’09, Tadhg O’Callaghan ’08 and Chris Labosky ’10.

On the women’s side Lindsay Donaldson ’08 won her 3rd HEPS Indoor 3000 title while also finishing runner-up again in the 5000 Meter Run. Ola Awolesi ’08 finished her fine Yale career by garnering 2nd in the Long Jump. Sadly, her placing jump also resulted in a torn ACL and finished Ola’s collegiate jumping career.

At the IC4A’s there were several strong performances, but none were better than the aforementioned 4 x 800 Relay team of Bordoni, Bell, O’Callaghan and Labosky which finished 2nd with a new Yale Record of 7:29.53. Truly an outstanding performance.

Also establishing a new Yale Record at the IC4A’s was Victor Cheng’s 6.31 in the 60 Meter Dash in the preliminary rounds. Murat Kayali ’09 ran outstanding back-to-back mile runs of 4.07.87 in the preliminaries and then 4.08.07 to finish 2nd in the finals.

Another highlight of the Indoor season was our 3rd Annual Alumni Banquet at the Yale Club in New York City. As has become the tradition, the current year’s seniors and their parents join with alumni in celebrating Yale Track and Field and Cross-Country and in honoring an individual or individuals from the storied past.

This year’s honorees were the members of the 1968 Outdoor Track Team which won the HEPS by one point over Army and three over Harvard by winning the final two relays in dramatic fashion. Many of the team members were present in spite of a winter storm which prevented several others from attending.

For me, it was especially gratifying to be reunited with Rich Robinson (who won the 100 and 220 that day, in addition to anchoring the 4 x 100); Chuck Hobbs, Larry Kreider and Steve Bittner; my mile relay cohorts, Kwaku Ohene-Frempong, Earl Downing and many others with whom I trained and went into battle (as Gieg would have it).

It was a splendid evening of catching up with old friends and connecting an older generation of Yale athletes with the current seniors. Now we are looking forward to hosting the Outdoor HEPS on May 9-11 and hope that you will make an effort to attend some of the events. We will offer a hospitality area (at Yale Field-Baseball pavilion) throughout the competition for alums and friends of the program, along with a reception in Coxe Cage on Saturday evening.

We look forward to seeing you at a spring meet, or one of our upcoming alumni get-togethers.

Yours in Yale Track & Field,

Mark Young

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Letter from the Presidents

Dear Yale Track Association Members and Friends of Yale Track/Cross Country

On behalf of the Yale Track Association, we would like to thank you for your support and contributions this year! We are truly fortunate to have alumni/ae and friends who are willing to assist in our efforts to attract and develop the very best track and cross country student-athletes and assure that their experiences at Yale are unforgettable.

We are making good progress toward reaching our goal of $105,000 necessary to cover the costs to the Association of running both the men’s and women’s track programs this year. To date, over $80,000 has been raised, with 220 members participating. If you have not made a gift to the Association, we urge you to consider doing so at this time.

This is an exciting time for our Association, as the programmatic endowments now total over $4 million in market value, with a yield of over $149,000 for the current year. With the addition of the Mark T. Young ’68, Director of Cross Country and Track & Field endowment, the future looks brighter than ever. However, your support is essential to our continued success. Annual gifts to the Association pay for the teams’ equipment, out of region travel, recruiting expenses and alumni/ae communications, all of which are vital to the quality of the experience we offer the members of our teams.

We are hosting HEPS this spring at Yale, on May 9-11 and hope that you will make an effort to attend some of the events. We will offer a hospitality area (at Yale Field-Baseball pavilion) throughout the competition for alums and friends of the program, along with a reception in Coxe Cage on Saturday evening.

We look forward to seeing you at a spring meet, or one of our upcoming alumni get-togethers.

Sincerely,

Larry Kreider ’69
Co-President
Track & Field Board
larry@kreider.net

Louisa Gerritz Garry ’87
Co-President
Track & Field Board
louisa_garry@fa.org
Save-The-Date
Join us for
Reunion Weekends at Yale
May 30 - June 1, 2008
June 6 - 8, 2008

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
Thank you for your continued support to the Track Association! Our numbers to date are good, but we still need increased participation to reach our projected goal for the program. If you have not made a contribution for the 2007-2008 academic year, we hope you will consider sending in a gift today. You can make your contribution using the enclosed donor brochure or on-line at http://yaletomorrow.yale.edu/give_online/index.html - please designate other in the pull down menu and type in Track Association #03919. If you already made a gift, we thank you. If you are making a reunion gift this year, or in future years, you can direct your gift to the Track Association and still receive the appropriate reunion credit.

All financial contributions to the Association are greatly appreciated by everyone associated with the program. Membership is a great way to stay connected with both Yale and the Yale Track Program. The Association supports the track team in a variety of ways including assisting the coaches in bringing the best and the brightest to Yale.

Thank you again in advance for your support of Yale Track.

This historical campaign for Athletics, focusing on facility renovations and program endowments, will provide the next generation of Yale student-athletes with the resources necessary to achieve continued excellence both in the classroom and on the playing fields. We hope you will continue to help us provide a world-class experience for our student-athletes for many years to come.

Thank you, in advance, for your help with this important effort.
Thomas A. Beckett
Director of Athletics

For more information on the Yale Tomorrow Campaign and current athletic opportunities, please call: 203-432-1434 or visit our web site at: http://yaletomorrow.yale.edu/schools_units/athletics.html

REUNION GIVING
A great opportunity to support our endowments, special projects, or trips abroad. Did you know that a gift to the Yale Track Association can be credited to your reunion giving total? Even a pledge up to 4 years in advance of a 5 year reunion can be earmarked for support of Yale Track. Some or all of your reunion giving can be designated to support the Track program in the following ways:

• Contribute to one of our endowments:
• Support the foreign trip (once every 4 years)
• Support special projects

We greatly appreciate all the generous support of our wonderful alums and friends of Yale Track!

YALE ATHLETICS RECEPTION DURING REUNION WEEKENDS
The Department of Athletics cordially invites you to a reception for all Athletic alumnae, their families and guests. Learn more about Yale Athletics and see new facilities in Payne Whitney Gymnasium.
Saturday May 31, 2008 and/or Saturday June 7, 2008

Yale Athletics Career Network
Bulldogs Career Core

Are you willing to help our current undergraduate athletes find summer internships or career opportunities? All you have to do is sign up to be a mentor at http://bulldogs.careercore.com. You can provide job advice to students who played the same sport as you or are looking to enter similar industries in their careers after college. Yale Student Athletes need your help to become the future leaders of our country, so please register today! If you have any questions or comments regarding the Yale Athletics Careers Network contact:

jordan.skolnick@yale.edu. Any information about how else to get involved can be reached through:

Don Scharf ’55 at: donald.scharf@yale.edu or by phone at (203)-432-7678.

REMINDER: ALWAYS ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!

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