

## Track & Field Team History



Several early winners of the U of A's Bakewell (women) and Wilson Challenge (men) trophies as the school's top athlete took part in track and field, and in 2001 the men's team won its first CIS team gold medal.

The 1941 Wilson winner, Robert Freeze, was a member of both the track team and Golden Bears football, while back-to-back winner Jim Macrae – a rare feat at Alberta – ran track, wrestled and played football during the 1948-49 and 1949-50 seasons. Four other U of A athletes – Dave MacKay (hockey, 1939 & 1940), Heather Jones (field hockey, 1993 & 1994), Jenny Cartmell (volleyball, 1999 & 2000) and Danielle Bourgeois (hockey, 2004, & 2005) have received the Top Athlete honour in consecutive years.

No other track and field athletes took home the school's top, individual athletic prize until 1973, when Brenda Walsh, who tied the 300m world record, was the Bakewell winner.

Since the formation of Canada West in 1972, The U of A Track & Field teams have combined to win two national championships and nine conference titles, though there was no national CIA event until the spring of 1981. Much of Alberta's success, however, was experienced during a short time frame, 1978 through 1985, and both teams have surged again in the new millennium.

Brian McC Calder was Alberta's head coach when CW was formed, after conversion from the old WCIAA, before giving way to Gary Ness for the 1974-75 season. The Golden Bears and Pandas seemed to be stuck in the middle, finishing second, third or fourth in the conference, until the team's first long-term, modern era coach came along in the form of Gabor Simonyi.

Simonyi became coach of the track and field programs, along with the cross-country programs, in the fall of 1975. The team improved steadily over the next few years, eventually taking their first conference championship when the Bears grab team gold in 1978, with Lyle Kuchmak and Gerry Swan leading the way. The Pandas, in turn, finished a strong second, led by hurdler Sue Farley and distance 300m specialist Shauna Miller.

Alberta went on to take both the men's (R.E. DuWors) and women's (Eleanor Haslam) title in 1979, as sprinter and jumper Swan was named Most Valuable Athlete. Sprinter Frank Van Doorn and middle distance runner Ian Newhouse also excelled, while Farley, who won the '79 Bakewell, and Margo Howe set records on the women's side. Sean Kehoe, who went on to play for the CFL's Edmonton Eskimos & Winnipeg Blue Bombers, was a talented Bears sprinter, too.

The Bears claimed their third straight conference crown in 1980 and another in 1982. They grabbed team silver medals at each of the first two CIAU Championships in 1981 and 1982 as 1982 Wilson Trophy winner Newhouse set record after record in middle-distance events, including a new world record of 37.00 seconds in the 300m hurdles. The Pandas took gold in the 1981 and 1983 Canada West events and earned bronze at both the 1982 and 1983 Nationals.

Al Weicker succeeded Simonyi as head coach of the programs in 1984 and the Pandas broke through to win Alberta's first CIAU National Championship in 1985. Team captain Mary Burzminski led Alberta with two silver medals and was one of four school members named to the All-Canadian women's swimming team. Burzminski, also a cross-country star, was honoured later that spring with the Bakewell Trophy.

Alberta did not compete in track and field for the 1987-88 season, but resumed in 1988 under the guidance of Ted King. Oral Ogilvie, who would go on to compete at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, emerged as one of the team's best.

Overall results, however, began to slide and, in 1991-92, when King left to take over as coach of the Videotron Track Club in Montreal, the Golden Bears and Pandas squads saw former Polish National Track coach Marek Glowacki grab leadership of the team for an 11-year run. Glowacki arrived from Warsaw in 1982, and brought immediate improvement to overall results on the men's side.

Alberta men finished no worse than second overall at the conference level from 1992 to 1994, and in the top four at Nationals each of those years, led by three gold medals from the relay teams and other top performances by Rob Swartz (1000m) and Johnathon Moyle (sprints, jumps).

Since those days, however, the Golden Bears track team has consistently finished second or third in Canada West and in the top 10 nationally, even picking up their one and only National gold medal in 2001, led by throw specialist Murray Heber, an All-Cdn, Academic All-Cdn and winner of the Wilson Trophy as the U of A's top male athlete for 2000-01. The Pandas have been second to fifth in recent CW finals and generally place eighth to tenth as a team at Nationals.

In the summer of 2003, 1992 Olympian and seven-time Canadian shot put champion Georgette Reed took over the head coaching duties of the Bears and Pandas after one year as an assistant.

Coach Reed, the daughter of former CFL running back George Reed, brings a positive attitude and pure heart to the team. Many new, talented prospects have joined an expanding roster since her arrival, and Reed knows the U of A is on the way up. Alberta men took bronze at the 2004 Canada West Championships and were #8 nationally. The Pandas were also third in the conference, but had their best Nationals showing since 1999, coming sixth.

The 2005 team was particularly strong on the men's side, while the women's team continues to rebuild and did suffer some injuries. Neville Wright was the school's only double CIS gold medalist in 2004-05, leading the way in the 60m sprint and as a member of the provincial record-setting 4x200m team, clocked at 1:26.81 in the final at Winnipeg's Max Bell Arena on March 12, 2005. The Golden Bears won conference silver and were fifth overall in a tight points race at Nationals, while the Pandas finished fourth in Canada West

and eighth nationally.

In 2006 sprinter Carline Muir led the women's side with three gold medals, including two in relays events, to finish fifth overall, while Neville Wright and Matt Doherty led the men to a bronze medal. The team was well decorated with individual honours, too, as Muir was named CIS Rookie of the Year and Doherty was Field Athlete of the Year. At the conference level Head Coach Georgette Reed was male team Coach of the Year, with Muir picking up Rookie of the Year and Track Athlete of the Year. Doherty was Field Athlete of the Year and Wright Male Track Athlete of the Year, topped off by a Canada West Championship by the men's side, its first such title since 1993. Muir went on to partake in the Penn Relays and other world-class events during summer 2006.

<b>Alberta/Men's Track &amp; Field</b>					
<i>Season</i>	<i>Coach</i>	<i>Alberta</i>		<i>Winner</i>	
		<i>CW</i>	<i>CIS</i>	<i>Season</i>	<i>Coach</i>
1972-73	Brian McC Calder	3	*	UBC	*
1973-74	Brian McC Calder	3	*	Saskatchewan	*
1974-75	Gary Ness	3	*	UBC	*
1975-76	Gabor Simonyi	2	*	Saskatchewan	*
1976-77	Gabor Simonyi	2	*	Saskatchewan	*
1977-78	Gabor Simonyi	1	*	<b>ALBERTA</b>	*
1978-79	Gabor Simonyi	1	*	<b>ALBERTA</b>	*
1979-80	Gabor Simonyi	1	*	<b>ALBERTA</b>	*
1980-81	Gabor Simonyi	2	2	Saskatchewan	Toronto
1981-82	Gabor Simonyi	1	2	<b>ALBERTA</b>	Toronto
1982-83	Gabor Simonyi	4	6	UBC	York
1983-84	Gabor Simonyi	3	6	UBC	York
1984-85	Al Weicker	4	7	UBC	Toronto
1985-86	Al Weicker	3	4	UBC	Toronto
1986-87	Al Weicker	2	7	Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan
1987-88	Alberta Did Not Compete			Manitoba	Manitoba
1988-89	Ted King	6	16	Manitoba	Manitoba
1989-90	Ted King	5	14	UBC	Man./Toronto
1990-91	Ted King	4	5	Manitoba	Windsor
1991-92	Marek Glowacki	2	4	Manitoba	Windsor
1992-93	Marek Glowacki	1	2	<b>ALBERTA</b>	Windsor
1993-94	Marek Glowacki	2	3	Manitoba	Manitoba
1994-95	Marek Glowacki	5	11	Manitoba	Manitoba
1995-96	Marek Glowacki	3	3	Manitoba	Manitoba
1996-97	Marek Glowacki	5	10	Saskatchewan	Sherbrooke
1997-98	Marek Glowacki	3	10	Saskatchewan	Sherbrooke
1998-99	Marek Glowacki	2	11t	Calgary	Sherbrooke
1999-00	Marek Glowacki	2	3	Saskatchewan	Sherbrooke
2000-01	Marek Glowacki	-	1	Saskatchewan	<b>ALBERTA</b>
2001-02	Marek Glowacki	2	3	Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan
2002-03	Jim Slepica	2	6	Saskatchewan	Windsor
2003-04	Georgette Reed	3	8	Saskatchewan	Windsor
2004-05	Georgette Reed	2	5	Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan
2005-06	Georgette Reed	1	3	<b>ALBERTA</b>	Windsor
2006-07	Georgette Reed				

\*no CIS championship

<p align="center"><b>Cumulative BTF Team Totals (1972/73 to 2005/06)</b>  <i>Conference Placing (#1-2-3): 6-11-8</i>  <i>CIS Placing (#1-2-3): 1-3-5</i></p>
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<b>Alberta/Women's Track &amp; Field</b>					
<i>Season</i>	<i>Coach</i>	<i>Alberta</i>		<i>Winner</i>	
		<i>CW</i>	<i>CIS</i>	<i>CW</i>	<i>CIS</i>
1972-73	Brian McCaldler	2	*	UBC	*
1973-74	Brian McCaldler	4	*	UBC	*
1974-75	Gary Ness	3	*	Saskatchewan	*
1975-76	Gabor Simonyi	3	*	UBC	*
1976-77	Gabor Simonyi	4	*	Saskatchewan	*
1977-78	Gabor Simonyi	2	*	UBC	*
1978-79	Gabor Simonyi	1	*	<b>ALBERTA</b>	*
1979-80	Gabor Simonyi	2	*	Saskatchewan	*
1980-81	Gabor Simonyi	1	8	<b>ALBERTA</b>	Western
1981-82	Gabor Simonyi	2	3	Saskatchewan	Western
1982-83	Gabor Simonyi	1	3	<b>ALBERTA</b>	Western
1983-84	Gabor Simonyi	2	14	Saskatchewan	York
1984-85	Al Weicker	2	1	Saskatchewan	<b>ALBERTA</b>
1985-86	Al Weicker	2	3	Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan
1986-87	Al Weicker	3	3	Calgary	Calgary
1987-88	Alberta Did Not Compete			Saskatchewan	York
1988-89	Ted King	4	11	Calgary	Toronto
1989-90	Ted King	5	9	Manitoba	York
1990-91	Ted King	4	9	Calgary	Calgary
1991-92	Marek Glowacki	6	16	Manitoba	Windsor
1992-93	Marek Glowacki	5	13	Calgary	Windsor
1993-94	Marek Glowacki	4	8	UBC	Windsor
1994-95	Marek Glowacki	5	13	Manitoba	Windsor
1995-96	Marek Glowacki	4	7	Manitoba	Windsor
1996-97	Marek Glowacki	3	11	Saskatchewan	Toronto
1997-98	Marek Glowacki	2	7	Saskatchewan	Toronto
1998-99	Marek Glowacki	2	4t	Saskatchewan	Windsor
1999-00	Marek Glowacki	3	14	Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan
2000-01	Marek Glowacki	-	-	Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan
2001-02	Marek Glowacki	4	10	Calgary	Western Ontario
2002-03	Jim Slepica	3	9	Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan
2003-04	Georgette Reed	3	6	Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan
2004-05	Georgette Reed	4	8	Calgary	Saskatchewan
2005-06	Georgette Reed	3	5	Calgary	Windsor
2006-07	Georgette Reed				

\*no CIS championship

<p align="center"><b>Cumulative PTF Team Totals (1972/73 to 2005/06)</b>  <i>Conference Placing (#1-2-3): 3-9-8</i>  <i>CIS Placing (#1-2-3): 1-0-4</i></p>
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**Lies Vanderstam Trophy**  
*(Pandas Track & Field MVP)*

Lies Vanderstam was an active Alberta track and field athlete who previously competed for the Dutch at the 1936 Olympics. Vanderstam subsequently came to Canada, where she lived in Calgary. She continued to be very involved in track and field, and was even scheduled to be an Olympic official, but passed away before the event. Vanderstam's daughter, Liz McBlain, was a prominent University of Alberta athlete who was inducted to the Wall of Fame on April 9, 1999, and donated the trophy the Pandas MVP trophy that honours her Mother's memory.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>
1974-75	Debbie Ryan	1990-91	Jane Cox
1975-76	Sue Farley	1991-92	Tara Parker
1976-77	Sue Farley	1992-93	Rosemary Ball
1977-78	Becky Sjare/Margo Howe	1993-94	Esther Medema
1978-79	Sue Bell	1994-95	Esther Medema
1979-80	Margaret Howe	1995-96	Esther Medema
1980-81	Janet Shulha	1996-97	Pamela Posein
1981-82		1997-98	Jennifer Koelbl
1982-83	Nancy Gillis/Mary Burzminski	1998-99	Sintra Lewis
1983-84	Carmella Hunka	1999-00	Sintra Lewis
1984-85	Mary Burzminski	2000-01	Jenny Danilowich
1985-86	Nancy Gillis	2001-02	Laurel Sharun
1986-87	Noella Lee Pong	2002-03	Lindsay McMaster
1987-88		2003-04	Elaine Hua
1988-89	Carmelle Hunka	2004-05	Jenilee Way
1989-90	Carmelle Hunka	2005-06	Carrah Bouma

**Outstanding Contribution Trophy**  
*(Golden Bears Track & Field MVP)*

Donated by the 1974 U of A Track & Field team in appreciation of the efforts of Brian McCalder, who coached the team between 1970 and 1974.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>
1974-75	Damien Gynane	1990-91	Oral Ogilvie
1975-76	Darrell Menard	1991-92	Rob Swartz
1976-77	Simon Brane/Gerry Swan	1992-93	Rob Swartz
1977-78		1993-94	Ran Huget
1978-79	Gerry Swan	1994-95	Darcy Molstad
1979-80	Brian McFadden	1995-96	Rohan Neil
1980-81	Ian Newhouse	1996-97	Kevin Olson
1981-82	Ian Newhouse	1997-98	Kevin Olson
1982-83	David Alton/Vlad Dzavik	1998-99	Murray Heber
1983-84	Danny Lanovaz	1999-00	Murray Heber/Grant Chapman
1984-85	Brian Monaghan	2000-01	Murray Heber
1985-86	Danny Lanovaz	2001-02	Grant Chapman
1986-87	Angus McDonald	2002-03	Grant Chapman
1987-88	Jason Chamney	2003-04	Rob Fisher
1988-89	Jason Chamney	2004-05	Neville Wright
1989-90	Jason Chamney	2005-06	Matt Doherty

## Gabor Simonyi Trophy

*(Pandas/Golden Bears T&F Field Events Outstanding Contributor)*

Born and raised in Hungary, Simonyi excelled in athletics, especially as a jumper, from a young age. He emigrated to the UK and eventually Iceland, heading up the National Team at each stop before moving to Canada, where he became a high school teacher and athletic coach in North Battleford, SK. He was named Golden Bears and Pandas Head Coach in the summer of 1975 and held the position for nine years, retiring after the 1983-84 season. Soon after retirement he donated the Field Events trophy while remaining involved in the local athletic community. He retired to B.C., where he passed away early in the new millennium.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>
1985-86	Danny Lanovaz	1996-97	John Kistenkas
1986-87	Nancy Gillis	1997-98	Murray Heber
1987-88	no team	1998-99	Jason Woycheshyn
1988-89	Jane Cox	1999-00	Grant Chapman/Murray Heber
1989-90	Jane Cox	2000-01	Murray Heber
1990-91	Oral O'Gilvie	2001-02	Darren Peters
1991-92	Oral O'Gilvie	2002-03	Jesse Smith
1992-93	Jonathan Moyle	2003-04	Jamie Johnson
1993-94	Ran Huget	2004-05	Jenilee Way
1994-95	Cory Choma	2005-06	Matt Doherty
1995-96	Ran Huget		