

Written: July 12, 2006
Contact: Jeremy Martin

For Immediate Release
Jeremy.Martin@uc.edu

Bearcat Track Signs Four State Champs, National Champ

Men, women welcome 21 newcomers for 2007 season

CINCINNATI, Ohio - The University of Cincinnati track and field teams have signed a total of 21 student-athletes to national letters of intent. The men's team will add 12 newcomers, while the women's squad will have nine student-athletes continue their academic and athletic careers at UC. Of the 21 student-athletes to sign with the Bearcats, 18 hail from Ohio, including Cincinnati natives **Tommy Morgan** of Kings High School and **Jonathan Spatz** from Indian Hill High School.

"The 2006 recruiting class will prove to be one of our best ever. Not only did we fill losses in the pole vault and sprints, but we added talented athletes in the distances and the high jump as well," said men's head coach **Bill Schnier**. "All of our scholarship recruits placed in the state meet with many placing very high. Since we always strive to field a complete, all-around team, this class will keep that tradition alive."

The Bearcat men added two state champions and a national indoor champion as well as five regional champs. The class, comprised of two sprinters, two hurdlers, one middle distance runner, two distance runners, three high jumpers and two pole vaulters, will begin competition in the 2006-07 season.

"Our coaching staff spent a lot of time and energy on this recruiting class and it has really paid off," commented women's head coach **Jim Schnur**. "These nine athletes will strengthen our team and add to our depth. We have also received verbal commitments from three student-athletes that will improve the strength of an already superb class. We will be better in every event next season."

A balanced class consisting of a pair of sprinters, two hurdlers, two distance runners, two throwers, and a heptathlete will sport their wares for UC's women's squad. Seven state qualifiers, including two state champions, and a national runner-up highlight the group.

Individual student-athlete information is included on the following pages.

-- UC --

Sam Benjamin

Sprints • Findlay, Ohio/Liberty Benton HS

•2006 state runner up in the 100 meters, 4x100 relay and 4x200 relay...finished fourth in the 200 meters at 2006 state championships...2006 regional champion in 4x200 relay.

Anthony Busselato

High Jump • Hilliard, Ohio/Hilliard Davidson HS

•Fourth-place finisher in high jump at 2006 state championships...2006 district and regional high jump champion.

Brandon Fitch

High Jump • Beavercreek, Ohio/Beavercreek HS

•2006 national indoor high jump champion...2006 district and regional champ in high jump...finished third in high jump at 2006 state championships.

Dayo Igeleke

Sprints • Las Vegas, Nev./Liberty HS

•2004 state champion in 100 meters...finished third in 200 meters at 2005 state championships...2006 state and regional runner-up in 100 meters.

Ernest Kerr

•Sprints/Mid-Distance • Cleveland, Ohio/Collinwood HS

•Finished sixth in 400 meters at regional championships...placed fourth in 400 at districts...eighth-place finisher in 800 meters and 4x800 relay at state championships.

Allen Moore

Hurdles • Trotwood, Ohio/Trotwood-Madison HS

•2006 state runner-up in 4x400 relay...placed fourth in 4x800 relay at 2006 state championships...2006 district runner-up in 300 hurdles...fourth-place finisher in 300 hurdles at 2006 regional championships.

Tommy Morgan

Distance • Maineville, Ohio/Kings HS

•Third-place finisher in 2005 cross country state championships...2006 district champion in 3200 meters...third-place finisher in 2006 regional competition (3200 meters)...2006 3200 meters district champion.

Chase Petzinger

Sprints/Hurdles • Twinsburg, Ohio/Twinsburg HS

•Helped 4x400 relay team to fifth-place finish at state championships.

Shane Shockey

Pole Vault • Bluffton, Ohio/Bluffton HS

•Produced top pole vault mark (15' 5") in all of Ohio in 2006...2006 state runner-up in pole vault...2005 state champ...2006 regional champion and district runner-up.

Jonathan Spatz

High Jump • Cincinnati, Ohio/Indian Hill HS

•2006 district champion in high jump...placed third in high jump at regional championships...fifth-place finisher in high jump at 2006 state championships.

Graham Turlington

Distance • Brookville, Ohio/Northmont HS

•Placed 25th at 2005 state cross country championships.

Elliot Vocke

Pole Vault • Napoleon, Ohio/Napoleon HS

•2006 district and regional pole vault champion...finished third in pole vault at 2005 state championships...placed seventh in pole vault at 2006 state championships.

Natasha Aguiar

Sprints • Canton, Ohio/Glen Oak HS

•Regional qualifier in 400 meters in 2004, 2006...2006 state runner-up in 4x200 relay...school record holder in 400 meters and 4x200 relay...Cincinnati Scholarship recipient...United States Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award winner...also played volleyball and ran cross country.

Ashley Arnold

Sprints • Huber Heights, Ohio/Wayne HS

•2006 state and regional qualifier in 400 meters, 4x400 relay and 4x800 relay...12th-place finisher in 400 meters at state meet in 2005...2004 state qualifier and regional champion in 400 meters...three-time qualifier for Nike Indoor National Championships in 400 meters...fifth-place finisher in 400 meters at 2005 Ohio Indoor State Championships...finished fourth in 400 at prestigious Arcadia (Calif.) Invitational in 2005.

Krystal Barnhill

Throws • Mansfield, Ohio/Ontario HS

•2006 state champion in shot put...2004 state qualifier in shot put...2006 regional qualifier in discus.

Boudine Bouma

Jumps/Multi • Purmerend, Netherlands/DaVinci HS

•Second-place finisher in 100 hurdles at Dutch Junior Championships in 2006...won 60 hurdles, finished second in heptathlon and finished third in 200 meters at 2004 Dutch Junior Championships...placed fourth in heptathlon at 2005 Dutch Junior Championships.

Chelsea Honigford

Dist./Cross Country • Van Wert, Ohio/Lincolnview HS

•Four-time all-conference performer in cross country...2005 state champion in 800 meters...2004 state runner-up in 800...four-time regional qualifier in both cross country and track...holds school records in 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800 relays.

Tamara Masters

Dist./Cross Country • Sylvania, Ohio/Northview HS

•Four-time regional qualifier in cross country...finished third at district championships in 2005...two-time regional qualifier in 1600 meters (2004, 2006)...2005 regional qualifier in 3200 meters...Cincinnati Scholarship recipient.

Emily Taylor

Throws • Bellaire, Ohio/Bellaire HS

•2006 state runner-up in discus...fifth in shot put at 2006 state championships...finished third in shot put and sixth in discus at 2005 state championships.

Sharika Thompson

Hurdles • La Mesa, Calif./Helix Charter HS

•Two-time state qualifier in 100 and 300 hurdles...three-time league champion in 100 and 300 hurdles...2005 sectional champion in 100 and 300 hurdles...2006 sectional runner-up in 100 hurdles and champion in 300 hurdles...also earned three letters in basketball.

Jennifer VanSickle

Hurdles • Marion, Ohio/Marion Harding HS

•Three-time regional qualifier in 300 hurdles and long jump...school record holder in 300 hurdles...2004 state qualifier in 300 hurdles...2004 and 2005 team MVP...also four-year letterwinner in volleyball.