



2024 MEET NOTES

NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS • NOV. 23RD



2015 & 2017 NCAA WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS

19 WOMEN'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP APPEARANCES
11 MEN'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP APPEARANCES



24 MOUNTAIN WEST XC CHAMPIONSHIPS

16-TIME MW WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS (2008-2022, 2024)
8-TIME MW MEN'S CHAMPIONS (2009-2014, 2023-2024)

UNM 2024 XC SCHEDULE

DATE	MEET	RESULT
Aug. 31	Lori Fitzgerald Open Las Cruces, N.M. (New Mexico State)	M: 1st W: 4th
Sept. 14	Lobo XC Invitational Albuquerque, N.M. (New Mexico)	W: 1st
Sept. 28	Cowboy Jamboree Stillwater, Okla. (Oklahoma State)	M: 2nd W: 1st
Oct. 19	Wisconsin Pre-Nationals Madison, Wisc. (Wisconsin)	M: 4th W: 6th
Nov. 1	MW Championships Colorado Springs, Colo. (Air Force)	M: 1st W: 1st
Nov. 15	Mountain Regionals Reno, Nev. (Nevada)	M: 2nd W: 3rd
Nov. 23	NCAA Championships	W: 8:20 a.m. M: 9:10 a.m. (MT)

UNM COACHING STAFF



DARREN GAUSON

Head Coach / Director of Track & Field and Cross Country (2nd season)
Alma Mater: Butler

JARED BERRYMAN

Director of Operations (2nd season)

BRIAN MATY

Assistant Coach (2nd season)

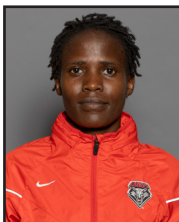
JENNA SCHWARTZ

Assistant Coach (1st season)

UNM ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

PRIMARY CONTACTConnor Gilbert
EMAIL.....connorgil@unm.edu
SID PHONE(509) 481-3375
UNM ATHLETIC COMMS PHONE(505) 925-5520
OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS:
UNM Athletic Communications Office
1155 University Drive
Albuquerque, N.M. 87106

LOBOS TO WATCH



PAMELA KOSGEI

- Individual champ in all three races, smashed course record in Madison by more than 20 seconds. MW Athlete & Freshman of the Year.
- Sister of World Marathon Record Holder Brigit Kosgei



CHRISTINA NISOLI

- PR'd in each of her last three races and has been UNM's No. 3 at MW Championships and Mountain Regionals in adverse conditions.



HABTOM SAMUEL

- 5-time All-American and NCAA 10,000m Champion as a true freshman in 2023-24.
- 2023 Mountain Region Champ and Athlete of the Year, 2023 + 24 MW Champ



VINCENT CHIRCHIR

- The Lobos' second finisher in each of their last four races.
- MW Freshman of the Year after a runner-up finish at conference championships.
- All-Region Finisher

2024 NEWS

A resurgent 2024 season for New Mexico Men's and Women's Cross Country is set to reach its climax at NCAA Championships on Saturday in Madison, Wisc., with both squads ranked among the Top 10 nationally and looking to make good on lofty expectations one more time.

Fresh off a second-place finish and automatic team qualification last Friday at Mountain Regional Championships, the Lobo men have matched a program-best with a No. 5 national ranking and set their sights on the highest team finish at NCAA Championships in history.

They're led by Habtom Samuel — who finished as an NCAA XC Runner-Up in 2023 and racked up four All-American honors and a 10,000m national championship in the time since — and four more point-scorers that all packed into the individual Top 30 in Reno last week as the Lobos went toe-to-toe with No. 1 BYU.

HOW TO FOLLOW

Results will be posted to all Lobo XC social accounts @UNMLoboXCTF, as well at GoLobos.com/XCResults.



The race will be streamed via the MW Network at GoLobos.com/WatchXC.

The No. 10 UNM women are back at NCAA Championships in a big way after missing out as a team last season to snap a 15-year streak of appearances. They've finished in the Top 10 nationally in their last 13 team appearances at nationals.

This will be the Lobos' second time running at Zimmer Championship Course this season after both put down strong performances at Wisconsin Pre-Nationals on Oct. 19. Behind individual wins and impressive course records from Samuel and Kosgei, the men finished fourth in the team score and the women finished sixth to outpace 15 ranked teams each — a result that moved the men to No. 6 and the women to No. 8 in the national rankings the following Monday and solidified both Samuel and Kosgei as favorites to win individual titles this weekend.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

LOCATION	Albuquerque, N.M.
FOUNDED	1889
ENROLLMENT	8,800
NICKNAME	Lobos
COLORS	Cherry and Silver
AFFILIATION	NCAA Division I
CONFERENCE	Mountain West
PRESIDENT	Garnett Stokes
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS	David Williams (Interim)
FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE	Karen Gaudreault
ATHLETIC DEPT. PHONE	(505) 925-5521

MOUNTAIN REGION RANKINGS

USTFCCCA: WEEK 5 RANKINGS

MEN'S TEAM	CONF.	LAST WEEK
1. BYU	Big 12	1
2. NEW MEXICO	MOUNTAIN WEST	2
3. Northern Arizona	Big Sky	3
4. Colorado State	Mountain West	8 (+4)
5. Wyoming	Mountain West	5
6. Texas Tech	Big 12	9 (+3)
7. Colorado	Big 12	6 (-1)
8. Utah State	Mountain West	4 (-4)
9. Montana State	Big Sky	7 (-2)
10. Weber State	Big Sky	12 (+2)

WOMEN'S TEAM	CONF.	LAST WEEK
1. BYU	Big 12	1
2. Northern Arizona	Big Sky	2
3. Utah	Big 12	3
4. NEW MEXICO	MOUNTAIN WEST	4
5. Utah Valley	WAC	5
6. Colorado State	Mountain West	6
7. Texas Tech	Big 12	12 (+5)
8. Colorado	Big 12	11 (+3)
9. Air Force	Mountain West	8 (-1)
10. Wyoming	Mountain West	9 (-1)

NATIONAL COACHES' POLL

USTFCCCA: WEEK 5 RANKINGS

MEN	WOMEN
1. BYU	1. BYU
2. Oklahoma State	2. Oregon
3. Arkansas	3. Northern Arizona
4. Iowa State	4. West Virginia
5. NEW MEXICO	5. Notre Dame
6. Northern Arizona	6. Washington
7. Wisconsin	7. Alabama
8. Alabama	8. Stanford
9. Stanford	9. Georgetown
10. North Carolina	10. NEW MEXICO
11. Virginia	11. Providence
12. Washington	12. Utah
13. Notre Dame	13. NC State
14. Wake Forest	14. Wisconsin
15. Oregon	15. Florida
16. Villanova	16. Oklahoma State
17. Syracuse	17. Virginia
18. Princeton	18. Florida State
19. Cal Baptist	19. Penn State
19. E. Kentucky	20. Gonzaga
21. Butler	21. North Carolina
21. Harvard	22. Tennessee
23. Utah State	23. Minnesota
24. Furman	24. Arkansas
25. Georgetown	25. Syracuse
26. Virginia Tech	26. Toledo
27. Ole Miss	27. Boston College
28. Colorado	28. Lipscomb
29. Wyoming	29. Michigan State
30. Tulane	30. Texas

2024 USTFCCCA NATIONAL XC RANKINGS

	PRESEASON	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6
MEN	#8	#8	#8	#8	#6	#6	#5
WOMEN	#20	#21	#17	#17	#8	#10	#10

RANKINGS UPDATE

- The UNM men matched their highest ranking in program history after moving up to No. 5 and the women remained at No. 10 in the USTFCCCA's final polls released on Monday — the third consecutive week with both teams ranked among the Top 10.
- It's only the second time in program history that the UNM men have cracked the Top Five, when both UNM men's and women's squads came in at No. 5 in the final poll of the 2010 season. It's also only the second time in history that both teams enter NCAA Championships ranked among the Top 10 in the nation and the first since that 2010 season.
- Should the Lobo men hold to their ranking at NCAA Championships, it'd be their best finish in program history. They've only finished in the Top 10 in the team score at nationals twice with a 9th-place finish in 2004 and an 8th-place finish in 2009.
- In the women's poll, the Lobos held steady at No. 10 even after beating out a No. 9 Utah team to finish third at Mountain Regionals on Saturday behind an individual title from Pamela Kosgei. The true freshman remains undefeated in collegiate races with an average margin of victory of 26.95 seconds.
- In the last 10 seasons in which the Lobo women have secured a team qualification to NCAA Championships, they've entered ranked among the top 10 nationally. It's their 16th team appearance in the last 17 seasons.

• This is only the ninth weekly USTFCCCA poll in program history in which both squads are ranked in the Top 10 at the same time — three of which are the last three polls this season. Prior to this year, the two teams were both ranked No. 9 in the Week 5 poll in 2013 and both cracked the Top 10 in Weeks 4, 5 and 8 of 2010 before both being ranked No. 5 in 2010's final poll ahead of NCAA Championships.

LAST TIME OUT (MOUNTAIN REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS, 11.15)

Pamela Kosgei remained undefeated in her dominant freshman season with an individual title and Habtom Samuel narrowly finished as individual runner-up on the men's side to anchor third- and second-place team finishes for New Mexico Women's and Men's Cross Country at NCAA Mountain Regionals Friday

afternoon at Washoe County Golf Course, with the Lobo men securing an automatic qualifying bid to NCAA Championships with their best finish and lowest point total (61 points) since 2010.

In total, six Lobos finished in the Top 25 of their respective races to take home All-Mountain Region honors — Mercy Kirarei (7th) ran a new personal best to finish behind Kosgei as both secured NCAA individual qualifications, with Samuel, Vincent Chirchir (7th), Evans Kiplagat (10th) and Collins Kiprotich (16th) all earning All-Region status. For Samuel and Kiplagat, it's their second All-Region finishes after the duo finished first and fifth in 2023.

The women's 111-point score marked a 67-point improvement from their seventh-place finish in 2023 that snapped a streak of 12 consecutive automatic bids to NCAA Championships. With today's results, they're in as solid of a position as they can be to join the Lobo men in Madison next week.

In wintry conditions with snow on the ground, Kosgei surged ahead of runner-up Juliet Cherubet (Texas Tech) over the final stretch to win by 13.7 seconds after keeping pace through the first 4.7 kilometers, finishing with a 19:30.9 time to become the eighth woman from New Mexico to win a Mountain Region title and first since Weini Kelati in 2019.

In the men's race, Samuel hung back with Chirchir, Kiplagat and Kiprotich to help them stay packed into the Top 10 through the first six kilometers before challenging TTU's

HABTOM'S ROLL CONTINUES

An NCAA Runner-Up as a true freshman in 2023 before winning his first NCAA title in at outdoor championships in the 10,000m in June, Habtom Samuel solidified his status as a frontrunner to win an individual NCAA title in November with a course-record showing on this year's championship course, earning a new honor -- USTFCCCA National Co-Athlete of the Week -- as a result.

Since the start of the 2023-24 season, Samuel has racked up accomplishments at a pace unseen by any true freshman in UNM history. Last week, he added his first NCAA title and another All-American finish today to a lengthy resume:

- 2023 & 2024 Mountain West Athlete of the Year (XC)
- NCAA Runner of the Week (2023 XC)



NOTES, CONTINUED...

- USTFCCCA National Athlete of the Week (2024 XC)
- USTFCCCA Mountain Region Athlete of the Year (2023 XC)
- 2023 and 2024 Mountain West Champion (XC)
- NCAA Mountain Region Champion (2023 XC)
- NCAA Championship Runner-Up (2023 XC)
- Mountain West Championship Record Holder (2023 XC)
- UNM Program Record Holder – 5,000m, 3,000m, Mile (Indoor)
- Fastest collegiate mile ever ran at the Albuquerque Convention Center (2024, 3:59.12)
- 11th-Fastest 5,000m time in NCAA History (2024 Indoor)
- 2024 Mountain West Championship Performer of the Meet (Indoor)
- Mountain West Championship Record Holder – 5,000m, 3,000m (2024 Indoor)
- Mountain West Champion – 5,000m, 3,000m (2024 Indoor)
- USTFCCCA First Team All-American – 5,000m, 3,000m (2024 Indoor)
- No. 2 10,000m time in NCAA History (2024 Outdoor)
- 2024 Mountain West Indoor Track Athlete of the Year
- 2024 Mountain West Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year
- Mountain West Champion – 1500m, 5,000m (2024 Outdoor)
- 2024 NCAA Champion – 10,000m (Outdoor)
- 2024 USTFCCCA First Team All-American – 5,000m, 10,000m (Outdoor)
- MW Hal Rothman Sportsmanship Award

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

- The UNM men will be making their 12th appearance as a team at NCAA Championships and second in a row after finishing 18th in the team score in 2023. Their highest finish in program history came in 2009, when they finished tied for 8th place with 350 points.
- In total, 16 men from New Mexico have finished among the Top 40 to earn All-American status at NCAA Championships. After an individual runner-up finish in 2023, Habtom Samuel aims to become only the fourth Lobo men's runner to finish as an XC All-American multiple times – Matt Gonzales (2001, 2004), Luke Caldwell (2012-2013) and Abdirizak Ibrahim (2020-21) are the only other athletes to accomplish that feat.
- Gonzales and Samuel are the only two men from New Mexico to finish as individual runners-up at nationals – UNM has never had a male NCAA individual cross country champion.
- The Lobo Women are making their 16th appearance in the last 17 seasons – and their 11th in which they enter as a Top-10 team in the national polls – after a 15-year streak of team qualifications was snapped last fall. UNM won women's NCAA Team Championships in 2015 and 2017 and finished in the Top 10 for 13 consecutive seasons from 2010-2022, most recently finishing as NCAA

team runners-up in 2022 with a 140-point total.

- UNM women's runners have racked up 40 All-American finishes in those appearances, with Ednah Kurgat (2017) and Weini Kelati (2019) both winning NCAA Individual Championships. The Lobos have finished with multiple All-Americans in each of the last 11 NCAA Championship races in which the UNM women have qualified as a team and have finished with at least one in 12 of their last 13 appearances.

ZIMMER CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE: THE STAGE IS SET

In the early 2000's with a significant donation from Badger alum Thomas Zimmer, the University of Wisconsin built a permanent standalone cross country course consisting of rolling hills and switchbacks – to help spectators enjoy the competition – paired with lush, green grass suitable for fast times. Over a decade later, the course has become known for the prestigious Nuttycombe Invitational in mid-October — but this year, since the Wisconsin course will also be the NCAA Championship

SPEEDY SUMMARY

- **THE LOBO WOMEN** have one of the best low sticks in the country in Pamela Kosgei, who's won MW Freshman & Athlete of the Week twice and was named MW Freshman & Athlete of the Year after winning her first three races at the Cowboy Jamboree, Wisconsin Pre-Nats and MW Championships – all against nationally-ranked competition. Kosgei broke the Zimmer Championship Course Record by more than 20 seconds at Pre-Nats to win Co-National Athlete of the Week honors.
- The UNM women have been ranked in the USTFCCCA Polls for 16 straight seasons and remain in the Top 10 at No. 10. They first moved up to No. 8 – their first time in the top 10 since 2022 – in the Week 4 poll after beating five teams ranked above them in Wisconsin – No. 5 NC State, No. 11 Florida, No. 13 Wisconsin, No. 14 Furman and No. 15 Tennessee.
- UNM women had their streak of 12 consecutive automatic NCAA Championship berths snapped with a seventh-place finish in 2023.
- The Lobos return All-MW XC finisher Klara Dess (12th in 2023) and Regional Steeple Qualifier Sophia McDonnell and bring MW Indoor 3,000m & 5,000m champ and All-MW XC finisher Mercy Kirarei into the fold.
- Other notable newcomers include 2023 D-III Runner-Up Natalie Bitetti and transfers Tilly Simpson (Michigan) and Jasmine Wood (Durham U, U.K.) – the three finished 37th, 154th and 174th in Madison.
- After going 1-2-3-4-5 for the first perfect men's team score in MW history, **THE LOBO MEN** are one spot shy of their highest ranking ever and looking to secure a return ticket to NCAA Championships.
- Habtom Samuel – last year's NCAA Runner-Up,

MEN'S COMPETITORS

ATHLETE	YR./EXP.	10K XC PR
Habtom Samuel	So. / 1V	28:40.7
Vincent Chirchir	Fr. / HS	29:29.0
Collins Kiprotich	Fr. / HS	29:40.3
Evans Kiplagat	So. / 1V	29:03.9
Lukas Kiprop	So. / 1V	29:00.0
Rikus Van Niekerk	Sr. / TR	23:54.0
Iker Sanchez	Fr. / TR	N/A
Corne De Fouw	Fr. / HS	31:07.2

WOMEN'S COMPETITORS

ATHLETE	YR./EXP.	6K XC PR
Pamela Kosgei	Fr. / HS	18:59.1*
Natalie Bitetti	Sr. / TR	20:06.8*
Mercy Kirarei	Fr. / HS	20:07.5*
Klara Dess	So. / 1V	20:19.3*
Sophia McDonnell	Sr. / 1V	20:37.3*
Christina Nisoli	Jr. / 2V	20:43.3*
Tilly Simpson	Jr. / TR	20:46.5^
Jasmine Wood	Jr. / TR	21:09.7*
Meadow Drebert	Fr. / HS	22:01.2*

* indicates PR is from last race (Wisconsin Pre-Nationals, 10/19)
^ indicates time is from institution prior to UNM.

Bold indicates that athlete competed for UNM at NCAA Championships at least once.

Mountain Region Champ and Athlete of the Year – leads the charge for the Lobo men. He's coming off a typically dominant performance that saw him become the first man from New Mexico to win MW XC Athlete of the Year in back-to-back years.

- Lukas Kiprop and Evans Kiplagat – last year's third-place and fourth-place finishers behind Samuel at Regionals in 2023 – both return as well, with four pivotal newcomers rounding things out.
- MW 10,000m runner-up and XC Freshman of the Year Vincent Chirchir is running his first cross season for the Lobos alongside fellow Kenyan freshman Collins Kiprotich, who won MW Freshman of the Week honors after a 26th-place performance in Madison.
- They're joined by CBU transfer Rikus Van Niekerk – who finished 65th in Madison as a crucial fifth point-scorer – as well as South African junior champion Corne De Fouw (159th at Pre-Nats) and Arizona transfer Iker Sanchez (204th at Pre-Nats).



course, Nuttycombe was moved to earlier in the fall with this weekend slotted for Pre-Nationals.

Annually, at least half of the USTFCCCA ranked teams attend Nuttycombe in mid-October – in large part, the meet has become almost necessary to secure NCAA at-large qualifying points. In 2021, there were 19 ranked women's teams out of the 36 teams in attendance with 18 of the 34 men's teams nationally ranked. In each season that it was held, no less than 10 of the teams selected to the NCAA Championship competed at the Nuttycombe earlier in the year.

The UNM women have won Nuttycombe four times, first in 2015 and 2017 – years the Lobos went on to win an NCAA Championship – as well as 2021 and 2022, when they went on to finish third and second, respectively.

LAST TIME AT ZIMMER (WISCONSIN PRE-NATIONALS, 10/28)

Pamela Kosgei and Habtom Samuel both obliterated the Zimmer Championship Course records en route to runaway individual wins as the No. 8 Lobo men and No. 17 women both outpaced 15 ranked teams each to finish fourth and sixth in the team score at Wisconsin Pre-Nationals on Saturday morning.

On this year's NCAA Championship course, Kosgei took over down the stretch to shake off Florida's Hilda Olemomoi and dip under the 19-minute mark with a 18:59.1 clocking – 18.1 seconds faster than the previous course record set by Parker Valby in 2023 (19:17.2). UNM was one of only four teams that placed three or more runners in the Top 50 overall thanks to 37th- and 38th-place finishes from Natalie Bitetti (20:06.8) and Mercy Kirarei (20:07.5), with Klara Dess (62nd, 20:19.3) and Sophia McDonnell (100th, 20:37.3) closing the gap to finish with 236 points in the team score — good for sixth against a field that included 10 teams ranked above UNM.

Kosgei hung with the front pack before turning on the jets down the stretch, closing the final 2,000 meters in 6:10.0 — the fastest single split of the race — to go from seventh to first, securing her second individual win in as many races.

"I said, 'Let me push it, maybe I'll win — because I say that may be the best win,'" said Kosgei post-race. "I wasn't sure if I was going to win today, but I'm glad I did."

Up next in the men's 8K, Samuel replicated the feat, shaving more than 30 seconds off Parker Wolfe's previous record of 23:04 with a 22:34.6 time – 6.8 seconds ahead of second-place finisher and 2023 NCAA Champion Graham Blanks — to complete the individual title sweep for UNM. Behind him, Vincent Chirchir (23:06.5) finished 11th, Collins Kiprotich (23:15.7) finished 26th, Evans Kiplagat finished 63rd and Rikus Van Niekerk finished 65th to anchor a 166-point outing that placed the men fourth in the team score.

In similar fashion to Kosgei, Samuel stayed patient and controlled through the first 6,000 meters before bringing down the hammer late, closing with a 5:31.2 split over the final 2K as he put distance between himself and the next four runners that crossed the finish line within two seconds of each other. Samuel was the first of nine runners to finish under the previous record.

In total, 10 UNM women ran new 6K personal bests and five men ran new 8K bests — all of the Lobo women's top six runners and the Top Three men ran new PR's.



TURQUOISE TRADITION

“CHAMPIONS WEAR TURQUOISE”

It was 2011 when UNM first donned turquoise at NCAA Championships, an idea hatched by former UNM Head Coach Joe Franklin at the time. In their first iteration, the uniforms were originally white and dip-dyed by hand — three times, to be exact — in order to reach the proper turquoise color. The Lobos didn’t get officially printed turquoise uniforms for nationals until after they won their first women’s NCAA team Championship in 2015.

More than a decade later, wearing turquoise has become both a privilege and a tradition that honors the state of New Mexico that the Lobos represent. Only UNM athletes that reach the NCAA Championship race in cross country or qualify for NCAA Indoor or Outdoor Championships wear turquoise — the color is meant to be earned and worn with pride.



from **HOW TURQUOISE BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH NEW MEXICO**

by Jennifer Barger, National Geographic (2/3/2022)

In New Mexico, turquoise is seemingly everywhere.

Bright blue paint covers city buses, light posts, and the wooden doors of adobe houses in Albuquerque, the largest city in this so-called “Land of Enchantment.” An hour’s drive northeast in the state capital of Santa Fe, Navajo and Zuni craftspeople sell handmade turquoise jewelry under the awnings of the 16th-century Palace of the Governors. All around the state, silver bracelets studded with aqua stones are paired with everything from button-downs to ballgowns to ceremonial Hopi garb on feast days.

“But for the Indigenous community, turquoise is not just a rock, it’s a sacred being,” says Porter Swentzell, a professor of Indigenous Liberal Studies at Santa Fe’s Institute of American Indian Arts. “Mining it and working with it take on deeper meanings.”

Turquoise in New Mexico has long danced between culture and commerce, between Indigenous communities wearing and sharing the stone. “For artisans working in—and selling—turquoise, this state is the center of gravity,” says Mark Bahti, author of several books on Indigenous jewelry makers and owner of Santa Fe’s Bahti Indian Arts Gallery. “Santa Fe was always a crossroads for traders, and that’s helped make the stone ubiquitous in this region.”



MEN'S RESULTS / SCORES



AUG. 31 • LORI FITZGERALD OPEN

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (NEW MEXICO STATE)

3. Iker Sanchez Lopez 14:35.47
4. Vincent Chirchir 14:36.12
5. Rikus Van Niekerk 14:37.94
6. Lukas Kiprop 14:39.12
9. Corne De Fouw 14:47.64

MEN'S 5K TEAM SCORE

PL.	TEAM	PTS
1st	No. 8 New Mexico	27
2nd	Texas Tech	35
3rd	Arizona	110
4th	New Mexico St.	116
5th	El Paso CC	119
6th	UTEP	151

SEPT. 28 • OSU COWBOY JAMBOREE

STILLWATER, OKLA. (OKLAHOMA ST.)

2. Habtom Samuel (23:03.6)
9. Vincent Chirchir (23:53.3)
11. Collins Kiprotich (23:58.0)
13. Evans Kiplagat (24:09.7)
15. Rikus Van Niekerk (24:11.6)
16. Iker Sanchez Lopez (24:12.1)
34. Corne De Fouw (24:51.9)
40. Thomas Termote (25:09.5)

MEN'S 8K TEAM SCORE

PL.	TEAM	PTS
1st	No. 1 Oklahoma St.	19
2nd	No. 8 New Mexico	45
3rd	No. 22 Oregon	89
4th	No. 24 Texas	116
5th	Incarnate Word	151

OCT. 19 • UW PRE-NATIONALS

MADISON, WISC. (WISCONSIN)

1. Habtom Samuel (22:33.8)
11. Vincent Chirchir (23:06.5)
26. Collins Kiprotich (23:15.7)
63. Evans Kiplagat (23:38.2)
65. Rikus Van Niekerk (23:39.2)

159. Corne De Fouw (24:22.9)
178. Lukas Kiprop (24:28.2)
209. Iker Sanchez Lopez (24:52.6)

MEN'S 8K TEAM SCORE

PL.	TEAM	PTS
1st	No. 3 Arkansas	89
2nd	No. 4 Iowa State	128
3rd	No. 9 Stanford	142
4th	No. 8 New Mexico	166
5th	No. 6 N. Arizona	178
6th	No. 10 Wisconsin	199
7th	No. 5 Notre Dame	200
8th	No. 23 Syracuse	258
9th	No. 24 CBU	312
10th	No. 20 Harvard	327
11th	No. 30 Utah State	407
12th	RV Wyoming	407

PL. TEAM PTS

13th	Furman	410
14th	No. 16 Colorado	418
15th	No. 15 E. Kentucky	431
16th	No. 18 Butler	435
17th	Iona	473
18th	RV Michigan State	478
19th	RV Tulsa	492
20th	Tulane	503
21st	Indiana	509
22nd	No. 14 Michigan	522
23rd	RV Cal Poly	571
24th	No. 13 Washington	596
25th	Ole Miss	613
26th	NC State	640
27th	No. 29 Texas	687
28th	RV Loyola (Ill.)	697
29th	Lipscomb	699
30th	Auburn	710
31st	No. 27 Florida St.	763
32nd	No. 28 Air Force	765

NOV. 1 • MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. (AIR FORCE)

1. Habtom Samuel (23:20.7)
2. Vincent Chirchir (23:41.5)
3. Collins Kiprotich (23:52.6)
4. Evans Kiplagat (24:09.9)
5. Lukas Kiprop (24:16.6)
12. Rikus Van Niekerk (24:45.7)
34. Corne de Fouw (25:34.1)
41. Iker Sanchez Lopez (26:04.3)

MEN'S 8K TEAM SCORE

PL.	TEAM	PTS
1st	No. 6 New Mexico	15
2nd	Colorado State	70
3rd	No. 20 Wyoming	80
4th	Boise State	85
5th	Air Force	127
6th	No. 19 Utah State	137
7th	Nevada	183
8th	San José State	261
9th	Fresno State	276

NOV. 15 • NCAA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

RENO, NEV. (NEVADA)

2. Habtom Samuel (28:59.2)
7. Vincent Chirchir (29:29.0)
10. Evans Kiplagat (29:34.8)
16. Collins Kiprotich (29:40.3)
26. Rikus Van Niekerk (29:54.0)

35. Lukas Kiprop (30:01.1)
71. Corne de Fouw (31:07.1)

MEN'S 8K TEAM SCORE

PL.	TEAM	PTS
1st	No. 1 BYU	52
2nd	No. 6 New Mexico	61
3rd	No. 8 N. Arizona	71
4th	RV Utah State	152
5th	RV Colorado	157
6th	No. 26 Wyoming	185
7th	Texas Tech	190

8th	Colorado	191
9th	No. 23 Colorado State	202
10th	Air Force	243

WOMEN'S RESULTS / SCORES

AUG. 31 | LORI FITZGERALD OPEN LAS CRUCES, N.M. (NEW MEXICO STATE)

2. Christina Nisoli 17:22.00
9. Anya Belisle 18:08.76
25. Stefana Purkovic 18:51.76
29. Maleah Goldie 19:06.84
33. Hannah Taylor 19:19.81

34. Sylvia Schwedler 19:21.35
39. Lyla Fedio 19:43.71
47. Fiona Holloway 19:57.45

WOMEN'S 5K TEAM SCORE

PL.	TEAM	PTS
1st	Texas Tech	22
2nd	Arizona	61
3rd	New Mexico St.	76
4th	No. 20 New Mexico	98
5th	New Mexico JC	143
6th	UTEP	175

SEPT. 14 • LOBO XC INVITATIONAL ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (UNM NORTH COURSE)

3. Meadow Drebert (18:16.46)
4. Anya Belisle (18:29.72)
5. Semira Mebrahtu Firezghi (18:34.73)
8. Katrina Endres (18:48.64)
10. Hannah Taylor (19:05.18)

12. Sylvia Schwedler (19:11.88)
13. Maleah Goldie (19:17.37)
14. Stefana Purkovic (19:20.59)
17. Fiona Holloway (19:49.04)
19. Lyla Fedio (20:04.14)

WOMEN'S 5K TEAM SCORE

PL.	TEAM	PTS
1st	No. 21 New Mexico	22
2nd	New Mexico St.	43
3rd	El Paso CC	69

SEPT. 28 • OSU COWBOY JAMBOREE STILLWATER, OKLA. (OKLAHOMA STATE)

1. Pamela Kosgei (19:50.0)
4. Natalie Bitetti (20:48.3)
6. Klara Dess (20:56.8)
8. Mercy Kirarei (21:03.3)
17. Hanna Bruckmayer (21:26.9)

20. Tilly Simpson (21:30.0)
21. Sophia McDonnell (21:31.1)
22. Jasmine Wood (21:34.8)
40. Anya Belisle (22:29.1)
45. Semira Mebrahtu Firezghi (22:38.6)
55. Meadow Drebert (22:59.8)
67. Hannah Taylor (23:16.2)
71. Sylvia Schwedler (23:24.4)
80. Maleah Goldie (23:38.7)

WOMEN'S 6K TEAM SCORE

PL.	TEAM	PTS
1st	No. 21 New Mexico	45
2nd	No. 16 Oklahoma St.	40
3rd	Lamar	76
4th	NAIA St. Mary (Kan.)	158
5th	Incarnate Word	180

OCT. 19 • UW PRE-NATIONALS MADISON, WISC. (WISCONSIN)

1. Pamela Kosgei (19:50.0)
37. Natalie Bitetti (20:06.8)
38. Mercy Kirarei (20:07.5)
62. Klara Dess (20:19.3)
100. Sophia McDonnell (20:37.3)

154. Tilly Simpson (21:01.2)
174. Jasmine Wood (21:09.7)
211. Hanna Bruckmayer (21:34.6)

WOMEN'S 6K TEAM SCORE

PL.	TEAM	PTS
1st	No. 2 BYU	105
2nd	No. 3 Washington	157
3rd	No. 1 N. Arizona	166
4th	No. 28 W. Virginia	207
5th	No. 4 Notre Dame	216
6th	No. 17 New Mexico	236
7th	No. 5 NC State	293
8th	No. 13 Wisconsin	348
9th	RV Florida State	200
10th	No. 11 Florida	368
11th	No. 8 Stanford	374
12th	No. 19 Oklahoma St.	412
13th	No. 25 Minnesota	417
14th	No. 14 Furman	420
15th	No. 23 Syracuse	457
16th	Lipscomb	480
17th	No. 30 Michigan St.	490
18th	RV Texas	499
19th	RV Toledo	520
20th	No. 24 Boston Coll.	534
21st	RV Liberty	546
22nd	RV Harvard	561
23rd	No. 29 Arkansas	568
24th	RV Utah Valley	571
25th	Tennessee	579
26th	RV Louisville	583
27th	RV Connecticut	586
28th	Tulane	595
29th	RV Iowa State	635
30th	RV Wake Forest	635
31st	Michigan.	693
32nd	Wyoming	795
33rd	Ole Miss	804

NOV. 1 • MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. (AIR FORCE)

1. Pamela Kosgei (19:36.2)
4. Mercy Kirarei (20:27.5)
6. Christina Nisoli (20:43.4)
10. Natalie Bitetti (21:00.1)
11. Sophia McDonnell (21:00.4)

12. Klara Dess (21:05.0)
28. Jasmine Wood (21:51.3)
31. Tilly Simpson (21:54.9)
56. Meadow Drebert (23:08.1)

WOMEN'S 6K TEAM SCORE

PL.	TEAM	PTS
1st	No. 8 New Mexico	32
2nd	Boise State	54
3rd	Colorado State	79
4th	Air Force	84
5th	Wyoming	103
6th	Utah State	176
7th	Nevada	199
8th	Fresno State	255
9th	San Diego State	289
10th	San José State	309
11th	UNLV	315

NOV. 15 • NCAA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RENO, NEV. (NEVADA)

1. Pamela Kosgei (19:30.9)
7. Mercy Kirarei (19:57.7)
29. Tina Nisoli (20:28.6)
36. Klara Dess (20:36.9)
39. Natalie Bitetti (20:43.9)

41. Sophia McDonnell (20:48.9)

WOMEN'S 6K TEAM SCORE

PL.	TEAM	PTS
1st	No. 1 BYU	52
2nd	No. 4 N. Arizona	65
3rd	No. 10 New Mexico	111
4th	No. 9 Utah	122
5th	No. 30 Utah Valley	161
6th	Colorado	169
7th	Colorado St.	189
8th	Texas Tech	225
9th	Utah State	267
10th	Montana State	287

LOBO XC HISTORY



MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

MEN'S ALL-TIME

CONFERENCE RESULTS

Year	Finish	Points	Conf.
1999	6th/6	153	MWC
2000	6th/6	153	MWC
2001	5th/6	87	MWC
2002	3rd/6	72	MWC
2003	4th/6	123	MWC
2004	3rd/6	69	MWC
2005	5th/6	119	MWC
2006	4th/6	89	MWC
2007	2nd/6	51	MWC
2008	3rd/6	64	MWC
2009	1st/6	29	MWC
2010	1st/6	40	MWC
2011	1st/6	51	MWC
2012	1st/6	22*	MWC
2013	1st/8	32	MWC
2014	1st/8	26	MWC
2015	5th/8	120	MWC
2016	5th/8	138	MWC
2017	5th/8	97	MWC
2018	6th/8	144	MWC
2019	6th/9	111	MWC
2020*	5th/8	132	MWC
2021	7th/9	175	MWC
2022	6th/9	140	MWC
2023	1st/9	34	MWC

*Lowest UNM men's point total in conf. championship race in program history

MEN'S ALL-TIME NCAA REGIONAL RESULTS

Year	Finish	Points
1977	7th	200
1978	9th	260
1979	10th	256
1980	Did Not Compete	
1981	7th	199
1982	4th	125
1983	4th	144
1984	7th	166
1985	10th	280
1986	9th	230
1987	12th	N/A
1988	2nd	103
1989	7th	201
1990	18th	374
1991	7th	175
1992	16th	424
1993	12th	307
1994	12th	319
1995	15th	402

1996 Did Not Compete

1997 Did Not Compete

1998	14th	420
1999	16th	403
2000	12th	298
2001	9th	189
2002	7th	186
2003	13th	313
2004	4th	136
2005	8th	222
2006	11th	243
2007	5th	125
2008	4th	93
2009	3rd	77
2010	1st	45*
2011	4th	178
2012	4th	108
2013	3rd	79
2014	7th	158
2015	9th	254
2016	9th	237
2017	8th	260
2018	10th	256
2019	12th	329
2020*	Canceled (Covid-19)	
2021	14th	368
2022	9th	227
2023	3rd	97

*Lowest UNM men's point total in Regional Championship race in program history

MEN'S ALL-TIME NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM RESULTS

Year	Finish	Points
1966	11th	311*
1975	14th	352
1988	T-20th	462
2004	9th	330
2009	T-8th	350
2010	16th	376
2011	31st	885
2012	21st	473
2013	11th	334
2014	14th	394
2023	18th	465

*Lowest UNM men's point total in NCAA Championship race in program history

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

WOMEN'S ALL-TIME

CONFERENCE RESULTS

Year	Finish	Points	Conf.
1999	8th/8	185	MWC
2000	7th/8	173	MWC
2001	5th/8	159	MWC
2002	6th/8	173	MWC
2003	5th/8	141	MWC
2004	6th/8	163	MWC
2005	2nd/9	74	MWC
2006	3rd/9	94	MWC
2007	3rd/9	94	MWC
2008	1st/9	31	MWC
2009	1st/9	24	MWC
2010	1st/9	20	MWC
2011	1st/8	30	MWC
2012	1st/9	35	MWC
2013	1st/11	31	MWC
2014	1st/11	33	MWC
2015	1st/11	24	MWC
2016	1st/11	42	MWC
2017	1st/11	22	MWC
2018	1st/11	33	MWC
2019	1st/11	31	MWC
2020*	1st/9	29	MWC
2021	1st/11	15*	MWC
2022	1st/11	24	MWC
2023	4th/11	111	MWC

*Lowest UNM women's point total in conf. championship race in program history

WOMEN'S ALL-TIME NCAA REGIONAL RESULTS

Year	Finish	Points
1977	3rd	N/A
1978	2nd	68
1979	6th	163
1980	7th	N/A
1981	1st	N/A
1982	5th	131
1983	5th	123
1984	2nd	79
1985	2nd	88
1986	4th	113
1987	5th	139
1988	5th	158
1989	14th	338
1990	11th	281
1991	10th	289
1992	13th	277
1993	16th	390
1994	16th	405
1995	11th	287

Year Finish Points

1996	10th	264
1997	16th	394
1998	13th	318
1999	16th	412
2000	14th	344
2001	12th	332
2002	15th	417
2003	13th	317
2004	12th	306
2005	6th	163
2006	7th	179
2007	6th	202
2008	2nd	70
2009	5th	120
2010	1st	53
2011	T-1st	84
2012	2nd	95
2013	2nd	64
2014	2nd	56
2015	2nd	50
2016	2nd	109
2017	2nd	70
2018	1st	41*
2019	2nd	83
2020*	Canceled (Covid-19)	
2021	1st	62
2022	1st	56
2023	7th	178

*Lowest UNM women's point total in Regional Championship race in program history

WOMEN'S ALL-TIME NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM RESULTS

Year	Finish	Points
1976!	9th	N/A
1978!	19th	506
1981	11th	284
1985	14th	296
2008	18th	475
2009	13th	368
2010	5th	227
2011	9th	322
2012	10th	341
2013	10th	301
2014	3rd	188
2015	1st	49*
2016	7th	310
2017	1st	90
2018	2nd	103
2019	4th	168
2020*	6th	274
2021	3rd	130
2022	2nd	140

*Lowest UNM women's point total in NCAA Championship race in program history
!AIAW National Championships

MEN'S ALL-AMERICANS

Year	Athlete	Finish
1975	Lionel Ortega	24th
1979	Kip Koskei	3rd
1981	Ibrahim Hussein	21st
1982	Ibrahim Kivina	25th
2001	Matt Gonzales	30th
2004	Matt Gonzales	2nd
2004	Shadrack Kiptoo-Biwott	14th
2007	Jeremy Johnson	20th
2009	Jacob Kirwa	11th
2010	Keith Gerrard	40th
2012	Luke Caldwell	27th
2013	Luke Caldwell	10th
2020*	Abdirizak Ibrahim	35th
2021	Abdirizak Ibrahim	33rd
2023	Habtom Samuel	2nd
	Evans Kiplagat	33rd

WOMEN'S ALL-AMERICANS

Year	Athlete	Finish
1976!	Karen Cramond	17th
1984	Carole Roybal	19th
1985	Carole Roybal	13th
1986	Carole Roybal	28th
1988	Gwen Willink	36th
2010	Natalie Gray	15th
	Ruth Senior	33rd
2012	Josephine Moultrie	30th
2013	Sammy Silva	12th
	Charlotte Arter	18th
2014	Alice Wright	20th
	Charlotte Arter	22nd
2015	Courtney Frerichs	4th
	Alice Wright	5th
	Rhona Auckland	13th
	Calli Thackery	15th

Year	Athlete	Finish
2015	Molly Renfer	24th
2016	Alice Wright	19th
	Calli Thackery	28th
2017	Ednah Kurgat	1st
	Weini Kelati	7th
2017	Charlotte Prouse	12th
	Alice Wright	14th
2018	Weini Kelati	2nd
	Ednah Kurgat	5th
	Charlotte Prouse	9th
2019	Weini Kelati	1st
	Ednah Kurgat	9th
	Hannah Nuttall	35th
2020*	Adva Cohen	22nd
	Gracelyn Larkin	25th
2021	Emma Heckel	18th
	Gracelyn Larkin	21st
	Stefanie Parsons	36th
2022	Amelia Mazza-Downie	22nd

Year	Athlete	Finish
2022	Gracelyn Larkin	26th
	Samree Dishon	37th
	Emma Heckel	38th
	Elise Thorner	40th
2023	Nicola Jansen	36th

!AIAW National Championships



UNM IN THE NATIONAL POLLS

MEN'S USTFCCCA CROSS COUNTRY RANKINGS ALL-TIME

Year	PS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NCAA
2024	8	8	8	8	6	6	5					
2023			RV	RV	18	19	13					18
2015	21	20	19	17	RV	RV						
2014	17	17	17	15	16	18	13	26				14
2013	19	17	17	21	25	9	11	6				11
2012	24	24	24	21	28	12	16	21				21
2011	21	21	20	21	25	25			RV	RV	28	31
2010	14	14	11	16	10	10	12	12	10	10	5	16
2009	26	24	21	21	19	19	12	12				8
2008	15	29	RV	RV				RV				
2007								RV				
2005	RV											
2004	RV	RV	RV	RV	23	20	19					9
2003	RV											
2002	RV	29	30	27								28

WOMEN'S USTFCCCA CROSS COUNTRY RANKINGS ALL-TIME

Year	PS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NCAA
2024	20	21	17	17	8	10	10					
2023	21	19	23	26			RV					
2022	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2				2
2021	4	4	3	3	3	1	2	2				3
2020	2	2	4	5	4	3	3					6
2019	2	2	2	2	4	11	10	7				4
2018	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1				2
2017	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	2				1
2016	1	1	1	2	11	7	6	6				7
2015	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1
2014	11	12	12	12	11	10	9	9				3
2013	15	16	16	15	7	9	8	11				10
2012	RV	24	20	19	19	17	17	17				10
2011	2	2	2	2	7	7	20	20	19	19	11	9
2010	18	18	18	12	8	8	10	10	10	10	5	5
2009	22	25	21	21	20	20	20	25				13
2008	RV	18	27	27	23	23	21	21				18

CHERRY BOLD denotes highest-ever ranking



NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP MEN'S COMPETITORS

NAME	YR.	HOMETOWN	PREV. SCHOOL(S)
Vincent Chirchir	Fr. (XC) / Fr. (I) / So. (O)	Keringet, Kenya	Keringet Boys School
Corne de Fouw	Fr. (XC) / Fr. (I) / Fr. (O)	Krugersdorp, South Africa	Laerskool Unika
Evans Kiplagat	So. (XC) / So. (I) / So. (O)	Eldoret, Kenya	Friends Bwake Boys HS
Lukas Kiprop	So. (XC) / So. (I) / Fr. (O)	Baringo County, Kenya	A.I.C Moi Academy Esageri
Collins Kiprotich	Fr. (XC) / Fr. (I) / Fr. (O)	Eldoret, Kenya	
Habtom Samuel	So. (XC) / So. (I) / So. (O)	Keren, Eritrea	Al Selef Al Salih
Iker Sanchez	Fr. (XC) / Jr. (I) / Jr. (O)	Aguascalientes, Mexico	CNAR Mexico City / Arizona
Rikus Van Niekerk	Sr. (XC) / So. (I) / Sr. (O)	Kempton Park, South Africa	Die Hoërskool Menlopark / CBU

PRONUNCIATIONS

Vincent Chirchir - Cheer-cheer	Corne de Fouw - Cornay defoe	Evans Kiplagat - Kipla-got
Lukas Kiprop - Key-prop	Habtom Samuel - Hob-tum Sam-yul	Iker Sanchez - Eeker
Rikus Van Niekerk - Reekus van knee-kirk		

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP WOMEN'S COMPETITORS

NAME	YR.	HOMETOWN	PREV. SCHOOL(S)
Natalie Bitetti	Sr. (XC) / So. (I) / So. (O)	La Crescenta, Calif.	Crescenta Valley HS / Claremont-Mudd-Scripps
Klara Dess	So. (XC) / Jr. (I) / Jr. (O)	Victoria, Australia	Sacred Heart College Geelong / Australian National
Mercy Kirarei	Fr. (XC) / So. (I) / Jr. (O)	Eldoret, Kenya	Saramek Secondary School
Pamela Kosgei	Fr. (XC) / Fr. (I) / Fr. (O)	Elgeyo-Marakwet County, Kenya	St. Agatha Mokpo Girls School
Sophia McDonnell	Sr. (XC) / Sr. (I) / Sr. (O)	Geneva, Ill.	Geneva HS / Bradley
Christina Nisoli	Jr. (XC) / Fr. (I) / Fr. (O)	Los Alamos, N.M.	Los Alamos HS
Tilly Simpson	Jr. (XC) / Jr. (I) / Jr. (O)	Sheffield, England	Eckington School / Michigan
Jasmine Wood	Jr. (XC) / Jr. (I) / Jr. (O)	Buckinghamshire, England	St. Clement Danes / Durham University

PRONUNCIATIONS

Anya Belisle - On-ya Belile	Hanna Bruckmayer - Brook-my-er	Klara Dess - Klarr-uh
Meadow Drebert - Dree-bert	Mercy Kirarei - Keyraray	Pamela Kosgei - Coss-guy
Christina Nisoli - Ni-sole-ee		



UNM COACHING STAFF



DARREN GAUSON

HEAD COACH / DIRECTOR OF TRACK & FIELD / CROSS COUNTRY

Darren Gauson was named UNM's Head Coach for Track & Field / Cross Country on June 30, 2023.

In his first season at UNM, the Lobo men won their first Mountain West Championship since 2014, and Gauson was named MW Men's Coach of the Year. Led by a Mountain Region individual title by freshman Habtom Samuel, the Lobos finished third at regionals — their best finish since 2013 — and qualified for the NCAA

Championship race as a team for the first time since 2014. They went on to finish 18th in the nation, with Samuel finishing as a national runner-up and Evans Kiplagat also earning All-American honors. Nicola Jansen, a Bradley transfer who followed Gauson to Albuquerque, qualified as an individual and finished 36th at the National Championship race to become the third XC All-American of Gauson's tenure.

In the first meet of the 2023-24 indoor season, Samuel broke the indoor 5,000m record and Lukas Kiprop broke the 3,000m record at the Sharon Danville-Colyear Season Opener. In Gauson's short tenure so far, the Lobos have already seen seven marks that ranked among the Top 10 in their respective events in the indoor all-time list.

PRIOR TO UNM

Gauson has spent the last eight years as the head coach of the track and field and cross country programs at Bradley University in Illinois. He led the Braves to 10 Missouri Valley cross country titles, six by the men and four by the women, including this past year when Bradley swept both the men's and women's titles at the 2022 Missouri Valley Championships. Prior to arriving in Peoria, Gauson was the cross country coach and assistant track and field coach at Lamar University, where he guided the Cardinals to back-to-back Southland Conference men's and women's cross country titles in 2013 and 2014.

"It's an incredible honor to join a storied program and become the next head track & field and cross country coach at the University of New Mexico," said Gauson. "UNM has developed into a championship program and I am excited to build on the tradition established at the school. Albuquerque is a place where athletes dream of coming to train and develop into national champions and Olympians. I want to thank Athletic Director Eddie Nuñez, Deputy Athletic Director David Williams and Senior Woman Administrator Amy Beggin for their faith in me and their desire to continue to elevate the program to new heights. I also want to thank Bradley University for all that they've done for me in my career. I can't wait to get to work at New Mexico and develop high-character student-athletes in the classroom and on the track."

During his time at Bradley and Lamar, in addition to the 14 team conference titles, Gauson has coached 75 conference champions,

14 conference athletes of the year and 15 conference freshman of the year. He has mentored four All-Americans and six conference outstanding track performers.

A 10-time Missouri Valley Coach of the Year and the 2018 USTFCCCA Midwest Region Men's Coach of the Year, Gauson built Bradley into a powerhouse. His teams included a record-setting performance by the men's cross country team in 2019, when the Braves had the top four

finishers at the conference meet to set the modern-day Missouri Valley scoring record with 17 points. A year earlier, Bradley qualified for the NCAA Men's Cross Country Championship for the first time in program history, finishing 24th at the 2018 meet. The Bradley women's team had the second-lowest score in MVC history in 2017, when it had five runners in the top eight en route to the conference title.

On the track, Gauson coached the first individual outdoor and indoor MVC champions for the BU men in 30 and 34 years, respectively, during the 2016 and 2017 championships. Additionally, the Bradley women won their first distance medley relay crown in school history in 2019. Bradley set school records for points scored at the MVC Indoor and Outdoor Championships by both the men and women over the past five seasons. In 2017, Daniel Gagne became the first BU man to qualify for the NCAA Track and Field Championship in 42 years, where he earned second-team All-America honors in the 1,500m run in 2017. In 2021, Wilma Nielsen became the first Bradley freshman to qualify for the NCAA Championship and finished the campaign as the nation's third-ranked rookie in the 800m. Earlier this month, Tiana LoStracco earned honorable mention All-America honors as she qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championship in the 1500m.

In addition to success on the course and on the track, Bradley also had success in the classroom under Gauson. He has coached seven Academic All-Americans and 11 MVC Elite 17 Award winners. Bradley has earned USTFCCCA All-Academic Team honors in each of year of his tenure. The men ranked as high as fourth nationally in team GPA (2019 and 2021), while the women peaked at fifth in 2017.

Gauson came to Bradley from Lamar University, where he guided both the Cardinals men's and women's cross country programs to consecutive Southland Conference championships in 2013 and 2014. In addition to the championship success of the cross country teams at Lamar, Gauson coached the Cardinals runners to 29 individual Southland Conference championships in cross country and track in just three seasons. Among his star runners, Gauson helped Matt Johnsen to a 33rd-place finish at the 2012 NCAA Cross Country Championship and the first All-America honor for the Cardinals since 1969. Additionally, Sam Stabler posted the second-fastest 5,000m time in the nation in 2015 to go along with Academic All-America honors.

A 2006 graduate of Napier University in Edinburgh, Scotland, with a degree in sport and exercise science, Gauson competed two years at Butler University where he was coached by former UNM head coach Joe Franklin. He earned a master's of science degree in education from Butler in 2008. With the Bulldogs, Gauson earned a Horizon League title in the 1,500m during his final year of eligibility in addition to claiming Scottish national championships in the event in both 2004 and 2005.

Following graduation, Gauson was also an assistant cross country/track and field coach at Butler for four seasons. The Butler men were able to extend their streak of consecutive conference cross country titles to 14 during Gauson's time in Indianapolis and the team finished 29th at the NCAA Championship during his first season on the coaching staff. Butler boasted four All-Americans overall during his tenure at the school.



BRIAN MATY

ASSISTANT COACH: DISTANCE

A native of Palos Heights, Illinois, Maty joined the UNM staff in the Summer of 2023. Maty assists with all facets of all six programs, focusing on distance running with both indoor and outdoor teams as well as serving as the assistant cross country coach. In 2022, Maty was part of the staff that led Bradley to a sweep of Missouri Valley Conference titles in men's and women's cross country. Bradley's women basically lapped the field, scoring 22 points to outpace second place Belmont by 53 points. He also coached Wilma Nielsen, who turned in the NCAA's No. 2 time all-time in the 1,000m (2:38.95)

at the Dr. Sander Invitational in New York City. She also earned first team All-American 800m indoor honors. He also coached Tiana LoStracco and honorable mention All American Tiana LoStracco 1500m in Austin, TX

That came after a 2021 season that saw Bradley runners claim nine conference track titles in his first season on campus, while the Bradley women also set school records for most points at the Missouri Valley Conference meet, tallying 70 at the 2022 Indoor Championship

and 84 points at the 2022 Outdoor Championship.

Prior to joining the Braves, Maty spent the 2021 fall semester as a graduate assistant at Eastern Illinois. The EIU men's and women's cross country teams both posted record-setting seasons with Maty's assistance, highlighted by sweeping the Ohio Valley Conference individual cross country titles. The Panthers boasted a total of nine All-OVC performers (six men & three women) in addition to setting school records in the women's 6K and men's 8K. The EIU men's team also claimed the OVC title, with Dustin Hatfield going on to become the first NCAA Championship qualifier from Eastern Illinois in 20 years. On the women's side Lindsey Carlson became the first female all-region performer in school history, following a 20th-place individual finish at the NCAA Midwest Regional Championship.

Maty graduated from Loras College in 2021. He spent the 2020 indoor track & field season as an intern at the University of Portland where he assisted with videography, recruiting, coaching, social media management and home meet setup. Maty's indoor season with the Pilots was highlighted by a school record in the men's mile (3:59.61).

In January 2019, Maty completed an externship under Danny Mackey and the Brooks Beasts Track Club in Seattle, Washington, that featured instruction on running physiology and biomechanics, along with focusing on the facets of marketing such as brand advertising and social media management.



JENNA SCHWARTZ

ASSISTANT COACH: DISTANCE

Jenna Schwartz joined the Lobo XC/T&F staff as an assistant coach in August of 2024.

Originally from Waterloo, Ill., Schwartz joins the Lobos after a four-year career at Missouri, where she recently completed her Graduate Certificate in Positive Coaching and Athletic Leadership along with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in management. Competing in cross country and track for the Tigers from 2019 to 2024, Schwartz ranks No. 4 in program history in the Indoor 5000m (16:25.20), No. 6 in the

Outdoor 10,000m (33:56.58) and No. 9 in the Outdoor 5000m, earning a spot on the SEC Academic Honor Roll in every semester during her time in Columbia.

"I'm incredibly excited to join such a historic program and work with an incredible staff," Schwartz said. "Albuquerque is an outstanding place to train at an elite level and I'm humbled and grateful to do whatever I can to keep our successes going."



JARED BERRYMAN

ASSISTANT COACH / DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Berryman came to UNM in the Summer of 2023 from Bradley, where he was a part of Darren Gauson's staff as an assistant coach.

Among various duties as director of operations for both XC and track, Berryman is UNM's co-meet director along with Kyra Mohns.

During his season in Peoria, the Braves won the Missouri Valley women's cross country championship and had individuals qualify for the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Berryman spent the 2021-22 season as an

intern at his alma mater, Cal State East Bay, assisting with the program's recruiting, meet management and social media.

A native of Long Beach, Calif., Berryman is a 2022 graduate of CSUEB, where he earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology with an emphasis in sport nutrition and wellness. He ran three seasons for the Pioneers and was a two-year captain of the Cal State East Bay track & field team.