

Indoor Track and Field Season Recap and National Meet Highlight

BY TRAVIS ANDREWS

ON THE WEEKEND OF March 11, 2022, the indoor track and field season came to an impressive end for the Golden Bears at the NCAA Division II Championship in Pittsburg, Kansas. After a 5th place team finish for the men at the NSIC Championships the week before, and a 7th place team finish on the women's side, most athletes rounded out their indoor season. Three athletes, however, all qualified for the Indoor DII National Championship Meet. Those athletes were Jakob Tordsen, Eben Mundfrom, and Arika Robinson.

Tordsen was the first athlete to compete out of the trio. He participated in the men's heptathlon and placed 9th overall. This placement earned him second-team All-American honors. His top scoring events included pole vault, where he placed fourth in the field, alongside high jump, where he placed sixth. His pole vault boasted a mark of 14'3", while his high jump was 6'5."

Eben Mundfrom was the next Golden Bear to compete. In the weight throw, Mundfrom placed 16th

to earn second-team All-American honors with his throw of 60'6.5." Although he threw almost 4 feet away from his personal best, Mundfrom still had one of the most consistent seasons on the whole team. Much of his season was spent breaking his own school record in the weight throw.

Finally, Arika Robinson competed in two events at the national level - high jump and the pentathlon. Robinson began with the high jump, where she captured a national championship with a personal best jump of 5'11.5." With this victory, Robinson became the first ever Golden Bear to become a National Champion in track and field. On the following day, Robinson placed 11th in the pentathlon, earning her a second-team All-American status to go with her National Champion title.

After the meet rounded up, the men's side went without scoring, but the women's side placed 22nd out of the 67 teams at the championship. The head track and field coach, Sam Johnson, spoke about the athletes competing at the national meet. In the

specific case of Robinson, Coach Johnson feels that "this achievement is something that not only Arika has been building towards, but also an achievement that the CSP track and field program has been building towards in recent years." Continuing, he stated, "With a third place finish and a runner-up last year, it seemed like it was time for us to have a National Champion, and we finally got one." Coach Johnson also added that Mundfrom and Tordsen both took in a lot from the meet, and it was a good experience for them both to learn about what it takes to become a first-team All-American in the future.

The Golden Bears will begin their outdoor track and field season on March 25TH at the Emporia State Relays in Emporia, Kansas. The team will then spend their season preparing for the outdoor NSIC championship and the outdoor national meet, where they will hopefully add to their list of qualifiers and All-Americans.



Photo Credit: Rene Elias