



## ECU Women's Track & Field History

East Carolina University's women's track and field program has come a long way since its inception in 1976.

Under the guidance of head coach Laurie Arrants, the Pirates competed in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) from the late 1970s until the early 1980s when the program came under the auspices of the NCAA.

While in the AIAW, the Pirates found much success, winning the AIAW/North Carolina Conference title in 1978 and placing second in 1979. Minnie McPhatter helped place ECU on the map with her AIAW All-American performance in the 800-meter run (2:06) in 1980.

During a time without a conference affiliation, ECU came under the guidance of Wayne Miller in 1984. Miller continued to bring top sprinters into the program, but also began to recruit jumpers and throwers to help prepare ECU to be a contender in the newly formed Colonial Athletic Association, which it became a part of in 1985. ECU also added a women's cross country program in 1986, thus solidifying the track team's distance events.

The dawning of the 1990s brought another goal for the Pirate program as ECU competed in the CAA's first-ever women's track and field championships. In the inaugural meet in 1990, ECU's Ann Marie Welch won the very first event—the 10,000 meters.

In 1992, Charlie "Choo" Justice was promoted to head coach of the ECU women's track program. That same year, the Pirates competed at the ECAC Championships for the first time.

In 1993, ECU began fielding a women's indoor track and field team. Danita Roseboro helped the



**Danita Roseboro established standing school records in the 55 and 200 meters during ECU's first season of indoor competition in 1993.**

### ECU WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD THROUGH THE YEARS

Year	Head Coach	Finish
1976	Laurie Arrants	
1977	Laurie Arrants	
1978	Laurie Arrants	NCAIAW - 1st
1979	Laurie Arrants	NCAIAW - 2nd
1980	Laurie Arrants	
1981	Laurie Arrants	
1982	Pat McGuigan	
1983	Pat McGuigan	
1984	Bill Carson	
1985	Wayne Miller	
1986	Wayne Miller	
1987	Wayne Miller	
1988	Wayne Miller	
1989	Wayne Miller	
1990	Wayne Miller	CAA - 4th
1991	Carol Slowik	CAA - 4th
1992	Charles Justice	CAA - 4th
1993	Charles Justice	CAA - 4th, ECAC Outdoor - 35th
1994	Charles Justice	CAA - 2nd, ECAC Indoor - 21st, ECAC Outdoor - 14th
1995	Charles Justice	CAA - 2nd
1996	Charles Justice	CAA - 2nd, ECAC Indoor - 16th, ECAC Outdoor - 13th
1997	Charles Justice	CAA - 2nd
1998	Charles Justice	CAA - 5th
1999	Charles Justice	CAA - 3rd, ECAC Indoor - 11th, ECAC Outdoor - 12th
2000	Matt Munson	CAA - 1st, ECAC Indoor - 7th, ECAC Outdoor - 10th
2001	Matt Munson	ECAC Indoor - 30th, ECAC Outdoor - 22nd
2002	Matt Munson	C-USA Indoor - 4th, C-USA Outdoor - 7th, ECAC Indoor - 17th, ECAC Outdoor - 15th
2003	Matt Munson	C-USA Indoor - 13th, C-USA Outdoor - 11th, ECAC Indoor - 29th
2004	Matt Munson	C-USA Indoor - 9th, C-USA Outdoor - 7th, ECAC Indoor - 18th
2005	Matt Munson	C-USA Indoor - 18th, C-USA Outdoor - 18th, ECAC Indoor - 13th

first indoor team start off on the right foot as she quickly established two indoor records (55m, 200m) which still stand today. In all, Roseboro collected four school records at ECU while on her way to being a three-time CAA champion in the 100- and 200-meter dash and also earning All-East honors.

The Pirates continued to improve their stock as a member of the CAA, reaching third place in cross country and taking second in track and field in the 1994 season behind the performance of Dava Rhodes. ECU's first female NCAA All-American, Rhodes boosted the Pirates' reputation as she won the ECAC championship in the 10,000-meter run in 1995. That same year, the Pirate program broke through to the next level as Amanda Johnson placed 15th in the long jump at the 1995 NCAA Championships.

The late 1990s saw ECU continue to enjoy success and the Pirates made their marks in many large meets against some of the nation's toughest competition. In 1996 and 1997, ECU's Michelle

Clayton won the Penn Relays' college division hammer throw and set a Penn Relays record in the process. She went on to win ECAC and CAA titles in 1999 and finished the year with an All-America performance at the NCAA meet. Clayton finished her senior season ranked 21st nationally in the hammer among both amateurs and professionals.

The new millennium brought more accolades for the Pirates. The 2000 women's track and field team won its first-ever CAA title, then finished seventh of 70 teams at the ECAC Indoor Championships, a new high mark for the women's program.

The program took another step up in 2001-02, the first season in which ECU competed as an all-sports member of Conference USA. The women's track and field team competed both at C-USA and ECAC championships, facing its toughest competition ever.

The Pirates' first season in C-USA was one to remember as ECU placed fourth at the indoor championship. Toni Kilgore won the triple jump and nine other Pirates placed in the top 10 in their respective events. At the ECAC Indoor Championships, Kay Livick earned All-East honors while finishing sixth in the mile. In outdoor competition, Colleen McGinn won the C-USA high jump competition. Crystal Frye also claimed first place in the shot put at the ECAC Outdoor Championships.

### Mary Anne DeSimone Memorial Scholarship

The Mary Anne DeSimone Memorial Scholarship was established in 1977 in memory of Mary Anne DeSimone, a top recruit for East Carolina who was killed in an automobile accident during the summer prior to the beginning of her freshman year. Also recruited to play field hockey for ECU, DeSimone was an accomplished athlete in several sports, including the shot and discus events for which she held many high school records.

Following her death, her father, "Des" DeSimone, established the scholarship, as well as a scholarship in ECU's School of Nursing. Each year, a member of the Lady Pirate track and field team who typifies Mary Anne's courage and dedication of selected for the Mary Anne DeSimone Memorial Scholarship.

Continuing to support the ECU track and field program for over 25 years, Mr. DeSimone has also been active with East Carolina's Alumni Affairs while helping to raise funds and support for all of Pirate and Lady Pirate athletics.

Although Mr. DeSimone is now retired, he still remains an important part of the ECU women's track and field, and cross country programs.



### MARY ANNE DESIMONE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

1977-78	Sally Birch	FH
1978-79	Kathy Zwigard	FH
1979-80	Debbie Mulvey	FH
1980-81	Arnetta Kelly	WTF
1981-82	—	—
1982-83	—	—
1983-84	Wendy Trone	WTF
1984-85	Jacqueline Dearmon	WTF
1985-86	Dana Roper	WTF
1986-87	Terry Lynch	XC
1987-88	Terry Lynch	XC
1988-89	Terry Lynch	XC
1989-90	—	—
1990-91	Theresa Marini	WTF/XC
1991-92	Theresa and Marianne Marini	WTF/XC
1992-93	Theresa and Marianne Marini	WTF/XC
1993-94	Theresa Marini	WTF/XC
1994-95	Theresa Marini	WTF/XC
1995-96	Michael Marini	MTF/XC
1996-97	Michael Marini	MTF/XC
1997-98	Michelle Clayton	WTF
1998-99	Lauren Chadwick	WTF
1999-00	Lauren Chadwick	WTF
2000-01	Monica Clayton	WTF
2001-02	Megan Ellis and Jennifer Aull	WTF
2002-03	Jennifer Aull	WTF
2003-04	Nicole Marchewka	WTF
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	—	—

FH-field hockey, WTF-women's track & field, MTF-men's track & field, XC-cross country

### ECU WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS

#### Minnie McPhatter (1980)



More than 20 years after her collegiate career ended, Minnie McPhatter still stands as one of the most successful women's track and field stars in ECU history.

In 1979, McPhatter became the first female athlete in East Carolina track history to qualify for the AIAW National Championship meet. The next year, her senior season, McPhatter was ranked 16th in the nation in the 800-meter run on her way to earning the ECU women's track program's first-ever All-America honor at the national meet.

At home, she set the ECU outdoor record in the 800 meters (2:06.30) which still stands today. She also set meet records at the 1979 and 1980 NCAIAW Championships.

In all, she set at least one school record in each of the four seasons she lettered for the Pirates.

Her superlatives were not confined to the school record book as she also set track records at

prestigious meets at Maryland, Richmond, North Carolina and South Carolina.

McPhatter graduated in 1980 with a bachelor of science in physical education and received her master's in the same field from Texas A&M in 1983.

In 2000, McPhatter was inducted into the ECU Athletic Hall of Fame.

#### Dava Rhodes (1994)



Dava Rhodes, a native of Mechanicsville, Pa., burst upon the collegiate scene at East Carolina as she became the Pirates' first NCAA All-America selection as a freshman in 1994.

At the national championships in Boise, Idaho, she ran the 10,000 meters in 35:10, setting a school record and finishing in eighth place.

Rhodes was the first ECU female track athlete to qualify for the NCAA Championships. She qualified for the field by winning the 10,000 meters at the ECAC Championships. She was also the Colonial Athletic Association 5,000-meter champion in 1994, and won the CAA Cross Country Rookie-of-the-Year award in her first semester on campus.

She continued to be a contributor throughout her four-year career as she was a two-time MVP of the cross country season and set records in the outdoor 3,000, 5,000, 10,000 meters and indoor 3,000 and 5,000. Her outdoor records in the 5,000 and 10,000 still stand today. She also was named All-CAA, all-state, and All-East as a Pirate.

#### Michelle Clayton (1999)



Michelle Clayton is the most recent Pirate to earn All-America status as she placed ninth in the hammer throw at the 1999 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

During her ECU career (1995-99), she dominated in several throwing events, setting school records in the indoor weight throw and shot put as well as the outdoor discus, hammer, and shot put.

Clayton was an All-East performer 19 times; won Colonial Athletic Association championships in the shot put, discus, and hammer; and became

just the second individual ECAC champion in school history. She was the team's Outstanding Field Performer in 1995, 1997, and 1999 and was voted ECU's Most Valuable Athlete in track in 1999.

Following graduation, she went on to participate in the 2000 Olympic Trials in the hammer. In 2001, she finished the season ranked 10th in the nation in that event. In 2003, she placed eighth at the USA Track and Field National Championships.

She currently serves as an assistant coach on ECU's Strength and Conditioning staff.

### CONFERENCE USA



Get to know Conference USA. We embrace a new era with fresh faces and a renewed commitment to excellence and leadership in athletics, academics and community involvement.

C-USA began a new chapter in 2005-06 after celebrating 10 years of remarkable history. Six nationally prominent universities - Marshall, Rice, SMU, Tulsa, UCF and UTEP - join tradition-rich members - East Carolina, Houston, Memphis, Southern Miss, Tulane and UAB - to form the new look of the league. This combination further enhances our men's and women's programs that are steeped in athletic success and academic prowess.

All C-USA institutions sponsor Division I-A football, along with several other men's and women's athletic programs, many of which compete regularly for NCAA Championships. C-USA sponsors competition in 19 sports - nine for men (baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, tennis and indoor and outdoor track and field) and 10 for women (basketball, cross country, golf, softball, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field and volleyball).

C-USA, along with league administrators and coaches, maintains an unwavering commitment to the academic and athletic excellence of our member institutions.

