



## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

### DIRECTOR OF CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD TRAVIS GEOPFERT

#### Director of Athletics Gene Taylor

"It is an exciting time for K-State Track and Field as we welcome Travis, Nicole, Jones, Jax and Ellyn to the Wildcat Family. The sustained success during Coach Rovelto's hall of fame career and the recent facility upgrades for our program made this a very attractive job - sought after by many phenomenal candidates. Travis' recent success at one of the top track and field programs in the country certainly speaks for itself, but he also has strong Midwest roots, head coaching experience and a tremendous ability to recruit globally. He will coach eight Olympians in this year's Paris games, and we are excited for the future of K-State Track and Field under his leadership."

#### USTFCCCA CEO Sam Seemes

"Travis is a great world class hire by Gene Taylor. His resume is proof that Travis has excelled and brought conference and national success to every program he's been associated with. The hiring of Travis illustrates the continued commitment that Kansas State has to their track & field program."

#### Arkansas Track and Field Men's Head Coach Chris Bucknam

"I'm thrilled for Travis, and his family, with this new challenge and adventure. It's a great opportunity with a great athletic department. They can compete for national championships in many sports. Track and field can as well and what a better guy than Travis to guide the program with his professionalism, desire and competitive spirit. With all our coaches and athletes, our job is to help them get to next level. With Travis, I feel the same way. His work ethic and competitive spirit will be sorely missed here. I recruited Travis out of high school, and he was a big part of our Northern Iowa teams. Then he started coaching with me in 2003. This won't be a role that will be filled easily. Kansas State is getting a great guy and family moving to Manhattan. He is going to be missed, and I'm happy for him. Travis made an impact in the Arkansas program. In the same way it was difficult for me to replace John McDonnell as head coach, it was equally as tough for Travis in replacing assistant coach Dick Booth. With the coaching legend of Coach Booth and his legacy of producing NCAA champions and Olympians, Travis had to deal with all that. He had a cross to bear as well as me, in an event group that was especially great. Travis proved himself with all the success he had with the jumps and added the caveat of the decathlon as he coached our Razorbacks to the highest level. He will go down as one of the outstanding Arkansas coaches from what he has accomplished here. He matched what was started here back in the day."

#### Jarrion Lawson, 2x Olympian, Bowerman Award Winner, 6x NCAA Champion at Arkansas

"A friend, mentor, father figure. Travis Geopfert is more than a coach to me, and his impact is felt far beyond the world of track and field. Where I am today and the success that I've experienced along the way doesn't happen without him. His passion for the pursuit of excellence. His patience in the process of that pursuit. His diligence in preparing a plan to get the absolute best out of me. Travis Geopfert is the epitome of a great coach."





**Carey McLeod, 2x Olympian, 2x NCAA Champion, 8x All-American at Arkansas**

"A good coach can change a game.' A life can be changed by a fantastic coach. For me, Travis is more than simply a coach—he's a father figure and an inspiration. Together, we have worked since my high school graduation. My athletic career would not have progressed to its current state without his guidance. He is a truly remarkable individual."

**Darryl Sullivan, 2020 Olympian and School Record Holder at Tennessee**

"'Gravitate towards greatness' is something Coach G would always preach. First that started with his ability to lead and instill confidence/belief in his athletes through positive reinforcement and training methods which led me to accomplish great things."

**Clive Pullen, 2016 Olympian, 2x NCAA Champion, 5x All-American at Arkansas**

"Travis has been a father figure, my coach, friend and mentor and has been the cornerstone of my athletic career, guiding me from a hopeful athlete to a multiple-time SEC and NCAA champion, Olympian and competitor at multiple World Championships. His unwavering belief in me not only led to a professional career with shoe brand company Puma but also inspired me to pass on his legacy as I now coach the horizontal jumps at the University of Kansas."

**Ayden Owens-Delerme, Olympian, Former Collegiate Record Holder, 2x NCAA Champion at Arkansas**

"All I can say is, Geffy has and continues to play a crucial role in my development from a competitive collegian to an Olympic medal contender. I'm grateful to have remained under his tutelage even after graduating from Arkansas."

**Raven Cepeda, 5x All-American Decathlete at Northern Iowa**

"As my coach and mentor throughout my college career, Travis helped me develop not just as an athlete but as a person who had to learn life lessons. A quote from Geopfert that always stuck with me was 'If you are truly willing to compete, you must be willing to learn.' He had told me this when I was a freshman and it had stuck with me throughout my college career, his character and leadership and training methodology aided me in being a successful athlete on the national and international level."



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