



2019 NCAA OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS JUNE 5-8 | MIKE A. MYERS STADIUM | AUSTIN, TEXAS

Event Winner Quotes Friday, June 7, 2019

MACKENZIE LITTLE, Stanford, Sr. (Women's Javelin Throw Champion)

"It feels great (to defend the championship); it's awesome. I'm really lucky to be on a great team. I'm glad to be here again – another year healthy and competing. It was the best way to finish my Stanford career. I couldn't be happier."

"I just need to throw like I can (to make the Australian team for the World Championships). I need to execute and be more consistent, as well as just get up a nice standard. I really hope I can be there."

"It feels great (to represent Stanford). I think Stanford's the best school in the country, and I've had the most amazing four years. If this is in any way helpful to them – doing what I can to give some tiny thing back for the most amazing four years of my life – I'm happy to do that."

"I tried not to (settle after the first throw). I'm always trying to do the best that I can. That's something that I need to work on. Last year, my first throw was also my best throw to win it. That's something that I need to work on."

RYAN CLARK, Florida, Sr. (Men's 4x100m Champions)

"I kind of expected (to win the championship) already, so when it happened it was another burst of excitement."

"It means everything to me (to win the championship). I didn't get to have the season I wanted to, but I ended it the way I wanted to. That's what we've talked about since August. We've trained for this moment and it happened."

"We knew that it was going to be a close race, and we never slept on anybody during it. We just focused, got the exchanges right and that's all we could pray on. We didn't try to block out anybody, it was just to focus on our own lane and focus on our own sticks, and that's all we needed."

"It's good (to set the new NCAA record), I know (former Florida sprinter) Antwan Wright is upset right now (that we broke their school record). I'm just glad that they passed the torch to us, and we're able to pass on the torch to other people that are coming behind us."

RAYMOND EKEVWO, Florida, Jr. (Men's 4x100m Champions)

"We've been working for this moment from the very start. We got the work done – the baton exchanges were smooth, everything was smooth. We got it done."

YARED NUGUSE, Notre Dame, So. (Men's 1500m Champion)

"I was definitely a little worried heading into that last 100m (that I would not have a lane), once (Michigan State's Justine Kiprotich) gets that wide, I kind of get a little nervous. But I really dug down and thought about why I'm doing this, and my motivation pushes me through it, and for me, that's always been my teammates watching from home. I know they're cheering me on, and I didn't want to let them down."

"It was pretty intense (chasing someone down for an NCAA championship). I definitely knew that going in. You're here and you've never done any individual feat like this. It was definitely exciting, but I knew in the end, if I just gave it my all I was going to be comfortable, and I did, and I'm happy with the result."

"I was a decent runner from Kentucky (when I started my college career). I had won a few state titles there, and coming in I knew I was running against high-level recruits, and everyone else in the college sphere is so talented. I didn't think I would be a national champion, especially this soon, but it's kind of a nice surprise."

STEVEN FAHY, Stanford, Sr. (Men's 3000m Steeplechase Champion)

"Coming into the (last) water jump, I was planning to accelerate out of it, so I was just trying to move past him anyway. So it was kind of surprising that (Indiana's Daniel Michalski) went down, but it didn't really change what I was doing."

"(I feel) immense pride (to win the first men's steeplechase championship for Stanford). This is so much bigger than just me. I think this victory is supposed to be for the young guys on our team – the Connor Lane's and the Chuck Perry's, all of those guys that are developing right now and going to carry on the tradition. Just to see what five years of consistent work looks like, that's what this is all about."

"I think falling over that last barrier is a perfect way to sum up (my five years at Stanford) – nothing's going to come easy, and it's not always going to happen the way you think it's going to or the way that you envision it. If you keep your nose in it and you really believe that you're going to get there, and if you put in that work over those years, that's why all this happens."

KAHMARI MONTGOMERY, Houston, Sr. (Men's 400m Champion)

"It's just a blessing to be able to come out and end my senior year of my collegiate career with a bang. It's something I've planned for my whole entire life. It was a great overall run. I didn't panic, I knew (North Carolina A&T junior) Trevor Stewart has a lot of speed. I stayed composed, I stayed relaxed, I ran my race."

"Definitely this one (is bigger than the U.S. championship). I was able to compete in something I was in for four years. It was always a dream to win an NCAA title, so to come out and do it like I did it is an amazing feeling."

BRYCE HOPPEL, Kansas, Jr. (Men's 800m Champion)

"It feels amazing (to be a champion), that's all I was going for really, just the title, but it's great to be undefeated along with it."

"I'm always running for a PR. I knew it was going to be a fast one with (Texas A&M's Devin Dixon) over there. He's an incredible runner, and we do some incredible things when we're together in a race."

"(With 200 meters to go), I knew I had (Dixon) within range. That's how I planned to do the race, just keep him right there in front of me and wait for the last stretch, and it worked out perfectly."

"Winning the championship in the first time around at indoors, that just felt like nothing else. Now, I have a little bit more to grasp and kind of know how it feels, but it's still like no other feeling. Undefeated to go along with it, that's just an incredible, storybook ending, so it was a lot of fun."

DIVINE ODUDURU, Texas Tech, Jr. (Men's 100m and 200m Champion)

"It was all about execution and going through the process, and this week was just me coming to execute and get it shut down, and that was just it today."

"I think I had that in me (to win the 100m) because I've run that more than twice this season, so coming in, I know I've done it several times, but I just needed to execute because there are fast guys on the track on those runs, too. I moved away from the block and I knew when I got to my transition that it was going to be good, and then the race was over."

"The time was really short going from the 100m to the 200m, but one thing is, what you're used to, you're used to. It's something we've been doing in practice, and we're just here to execute and go through what we've been doing, and that is exactly what happened today."

JUVAUGHN HARRISON, LSU, So. (Men's High Jump Champion)

"Last year, I went out early in both (the high jump and long jump), then to come in second in indoor (in the high jump) and not make it to finals in indoor for the long jump, it was a great experience, and I'm very grateful I was able to come out here and win both of them."

"I was in a very good rhythm for me, I knew early on it was going to be a great night."

ERIC KICINSKI, Texas Tech, Sr. (Men's Discus Throw Champion)

"I felt really good coming into the day, I felt like I was ready to throw well. I felt confident, and I just went up there to get a throw in. I was really anxious in that hotel room, ready to get going."

"I started off pretty well. I got a few good throws in to get me into the finals. I really wasn't throwing well, I thought I could have thrown further, but I put a good throw together and it was far enough."

CHENGETAYI MAPAYA, TCU, So. (Men's Triple Jump Champion)

"It feels amazing, honestly, (to win the title). I went in there and just wanted to win it for my grandfather, who passed away three days ago. I think it gave me some power. Every time I jumped, I wanted to do it for him. I have this saying, 'Believe it and do it,' so I just went out there and I did it."

"I knew the track already because I came for Texas Relays, so I knew exactly what I was doing. I loved the crowd, they supported me all the way through."

MORGAN MCDONALD, Wisconsin, Sr. (Men's 5000m Champion)

"It's hard to put into words. I've been looking forward to this one for so long, and I've been at home for the last two, and I've been watching, being like, 'I think I can win that.' It's been frustrating. This one's been on my mind for so long, and it's just amazing. There's always the goal, but I didn't know I was really going to get here, so I was really nervous for this one, so to have it done, to know it could happen."

"The way I operate, I don't really think about times too much. I don't go into a race thinking, 'Oh, I think I can probably close in a 52,' I go into a race thinking I can beat everyone. So regardless of pace, that's not even a factor in my head. I was just saying, 'Stick on (Stanford's) Grant (Fisher), save a bit for that last 100,' and with how good Grant is, the times come."

"I was okay (with Grant passing me at the bell). I've raced Grant so many times, I thought that he might fight pretty hard for the lead before the last 100, because at Melrose that's how he beat me, and then at indoors, I had the lead and he wasn't able to pass me, so I thought in his mind it was going to be a big thing to make sure he had the lead at 400 or 300."

QUINCY HALL, South Carolina, Jr. (Men's 400m Hurdles Champion)

"I knew if I kept them in striking distance (with 75 to 50 meters left), I could use my speed coming home (to win). Those are really good runners, so you really couldn't tell what you had until you did it."

GRANT HOLLOWAY, Florida, Jr. (Men's 110m Hurdles and 4x100m Champion)

"It was really good. It was a good day just to have everybody here, have my parents here, but most of all, I finally broke the collegiate record, so it was really good. It hasn't hit me yet, but it probably will in about two or three weeks."

"We did what we had to do. We've been training since August and everything's paying off. We broke the collegiate record in the 4x100m, and I came back in 30 minutes and broke the collegiate record in the hurdles. Then 40 minutes later I split 43.7 on the 4x400m, so that's a great day. I can't be mad that we didn't win the team title, but at the same time, it's just one of those things where you've got to be thankful for what you've got."

BRYCE DEADMON, Texas A&M, Sr. (Men's 4x400m Champion)

"When we crossed the finish line, I can't really explain it, I was just overjoyed."

"I think training is a lot harder than the actual track meets. We've definitely done more in practice than we've done at the track meet, so we were prepared."

WES KITTLEY, Texas Tech Head Coach (Men's Team Champions)

"Once you fail once or twice (at the championships), you kind of learn from it, and I think we really learned how to handle the moment better on the first day. Learning how to run on Wednesday, because Wednesday's really the most important day, you have to make the finals, and we filled up lanes on that Wednesday. That's something in the past that we have not done, and I really emphasized with our coaching staff and our kids that we have to be ready to go on Wednesday – Wednesday's the day – we filled up a lot of lanes and qualified a lot of people."

"Eric Kicinski has been phenomenal all year long, one of the greatest kids and one of my seniors, and I'm just so proud of him. They don't make them any better than him."

"Divine Oduduru is one of the most special, I think he's the greatest, one-two combos in the history of the NCAA."

"I'm so proud for Texas Tech. That is just everything to me. They'd never won a National Championship on the men's side, and to be able to bring that back to Lubbock, Texas, the greatest place on Earth I think, it's just great and special for me."