

HEAD COACH MARK WETMORE



MARK WETMORE
Head Coach, 23rd Season

Colorado head coach Mark Wetmore enters his 26th season at Colorado, his 23rd as head coach. He became CU's sixth head cross country and track and field coach on November 6, 1995. Wetmore is the only Division I cross country coach to win all four NCAA titles – men's and women's team and men's and women's individual – at the same school.

Wetmore's squads have won seven national cross country titles since 2000. The women won in 2000 while the men won the following year. Both teams captured the championship again in 2004 (CU became only the third school to win both championships in the same year). The men won again in 2006, 2013 and 2014. Wetmore has coached Adam Goucher (1998), Jorge Torres (2002) and Dathan Ritzenhein (2003) to men's individual cross country titles, while Kara Grgas-Wheeler won the 2000 women's crown. CU athletes have earned 122 All-American cross country honors during his tenure.

Wetmore has been named the NCAA Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year twice ('00 and '04) and the NCAA Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year three times ('06, '13 and '14). He is a 30-time conference coach of the year and in 2014, USA Track and Field named him the USA Co-Coach of the Year.

In addition to national titles, his teams won 23 Big 12 Cross Country Team Titles (11 women's, 12 men's), 16 individual Big 12 Cross Country Titles and Wetmore was named Big 12 Conference Cross Country Coach of the Year 19 times. He was the winningest Big 12 Conference head coach among all sports when CU left the conference in 2011.

CU joined the Pac-12 Conference in the fall of 2011 and Wetmore's teams won the inaugural Pac-12 men's and women's titles – the first Pac-12 Championships in any sport. His men have won all six titles since joining the league in 2011 and his women have won three (2011, '15 and '16).

On the track, Wetmore's athletes have had a strong presence at the conference, national and professional levels. They've captured 100 individual conference titles, two conference team titles, 16 NCAA individual titles and earned 183 All-American honors. CU athletes have broken seven collegiate middle and long distance records.

CU runners' success at the professional and post-collegiate level is unmatched by any university: over two dozen Buff grads have signed professional contracts. They've combined for more than 49 USA titles in cross country, track & field and road racing. Since 2000, 10 CU athletes or graduates have earned 19 U.S. Olympic Team berths at distances from 1,500-meters through the marathon. Fourteen current and former Buffs have earned 31 spots on U.S. World Championship Track Teams and 25 have combined for 61 berths on U.S. World Championship Cross Country Teams. Since 2004, CU graduates have won seven medals in distance running at World Championships – Shayne Culpepper (bronze, 2004 Indoor 3k), Kara Goucher (silver, 2007 10k), Dathan Ritzenhein (bronze, 2009 Half Marathon), Jenny Simpson (gold, 2011 1,500m and silver, 2013 and 2017 1,500m) and Emma Coburn (gold, 2017 steeplechase). Coburn (steeplechase) and Simpson (1,500) became the first to win Olympic medals, both bronze, at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. They were the first American women to medal in their respective events.

Charles Mark Wetmore graduated with a Bachelor's degree in English Education from Rutgers in 1978 before receiving his Master's in movement sciences from Columbia in 1998. He lives in the mountains west of Boulder.

COACHING STAFF



HEATHER BURROUGHS
Associate Head Coach,
14th Season

Colorado's first female three-time cross country All-American, Heather Burroughs is in her 14th season on the staff of her alma mater, assisting head coach Mark Wetmore with the men's and women's teams. Since joining the staff, she has assisted with 17 conference championship teams, five NCAA Championship teams and 139 All-Americans. Burroughs was promoted to associate head coach following the 2011 season where the Buffs swept the inaugural Pac-12 Cross Country Championships to win the newly-formed conference's first two team championships.

In Burroughs' 13 track seasons assisting the men's and women's middle and long distance runners, CU athletes have made an impact at the conference, NCAA, American and world levels. To date, 51 have captured individual conference titles and 87 have earned All-American accolades. The women have won 10 individual NCAA titles and have broken six collegiate records. Since 2007, CU runners with eligibility remaining have won four U.S. outdoor titles and earned four berths on U.S. outdoor world championship teams as well as three individual berths on the U.S. Olympic team.

Burroughs, in partnership with Wetmore, coaches CU post-collegian Jenny Simpson. Simpson, who won a silver medal in the 1,500-meter run at the 2013 IAAF World Championship, won the 2014 IAAF Diamond League title at 1,500 while earning the No. 1 world ranking in the event. At the conclusion of 2014, Burroughs and Wetmore were named the USA Track & Field Co-Coaches of the Year. Simpson became the first U.S. woman to win an Olympic medal in the 1,500, a bronze, at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. In 2017, Simpson earned another silver medal at the IAAF World Championships (1,500). Burroughs and Wetmore also coached CU grad Emma Coburn to five USA Outdoor titles, the American steeplechase record and the United States' first women's Olympic steeplechase medal

in Rio.

During Burroughs' CU cross country career, she was a top-five and all-conference finisher each of her four seasons, as well as an All-American in 1994, '95 and '98. The CU women finished in the top four of the NCAA in three of those seasons, including a runner-up finish in 1995.

On the track, she was the Big 8 Conference Women's Indoor Track Newcomer of the Year in 1995. She won one conference individual title, scored in 15 conference races and was an indoor 5,000-meter All-American. Burroughs qualified for six NCAA indoor and outdoor races during her career.

Burroughs was born in Kansas City, Kan. and attended Pembroke Hill High School. She graduated from CU in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts in biology.



BILLY NELSON
Assistant Coach/Recruiting
Coordinator,
8th Season

Billy Nelson, a 2008 Olympian, is in his eighth year as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the Buffalo's cross country and track & field program.

During his time at CU, Nelson has helped recruit athletes who have combined for 62 All-American honors in cross country and indoor and outdoor track. One of his athletes, Pierce Murphy, came to CU as a walk-on, and earned eight All-American awards. Nelson's athletes have also scored 96 times at either the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation or Pac-12 Outdoor Championships.

In 2015, Nelson saw four of his recruits win conference titles. Kaitlyn Benner won the MPSF indoor 5,000-meter run as a freshman and Erin Clark was first in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Pac-12 Championship to win her first title. On the men's side, Ammar Moussa was the first Buff since 2011 to win the 10,000 at the Pac-12 meet and Connor Winter took top honors in the steeplechase. Five of his recruits won conference titles again in 2016 and in 2017, he had eight athletes combine for 10 conference titles.

Nelson has assisted with nine conference championship teams, as well as two NCAA team championships and a pair of NCAA runner-up finishes while on CU's staff.

Prior to joining CU's coaching staff, Nelson had a successful career. He won the 2011 USATF steeplechase crown, earning a spot on the U.S. roster for the IAAF World Championships. In 2008, Nelson placed second at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials to earn a spot on the U.S. roster at the Olympic Games in Beijing.

At CU, he was a decorated distance runner, earning All-American honors six times and three Big 12 conference titles. Nelson was a part of the 2008 men's track and field team that won the first Big 12 outdoor title for CU, the first conference title since 1947 and was a member of the 2006 NCAA Cross Country Championship team. He ranks second on the all-time performers list in the steeplechase at CU (8:28.85) and has the third and fourth fastest time in school history.

Prior to attending CU, Nelson was the 2003 USA Junior Cross Country Champion and Junior 5k champion. He was the top American at the World Junior Cross Country Championships with a 26th-place finish.

The Taft, Calif. native graduated from CU in 2008 with a degree in ethnic studies. Nelson is married to the former Alisa Crane. They have three children, Arabella, Noah and Lonnie Jack.



Karen Lechman
Director of Operations,
16th Season

Karen Lechman is in her 11th year as the director of operations, but her 16th year overall with the program as she was the administrative assistant prior to her promotion.

She has had an office management career since graduating college. Lechman has worked for companies in software development, commercial finance, scientific research and office products. Lechman was also a certified fitness instructor from 1993-2005 and taught kick-boxing and step aerobics.

Lechman earned her bachelor's degree from Colorado in 1983 in communications. The former Karen Marcy has been married to Brian Lechman since 1985. The couple resides in Broomfield, Colo., and has two daughters, Mychelle and Kimberly.