



August 12, 2008

Honor, Loyalty Define USTFCCCA Hall of Fame Class of 2008

NEW ORLEANS – Eight coaching greats, whose combined coaching experience spans over three centuries, will be inducted into the USTFCCCA Hall of Fame, the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association announced on Monday.

The Class of 2008 consists of Charles Craig (California State University-Bakersfield), Kim Duyst (California State University-Stanislaus), Mark Guthrie (University Wisconsin-La Crosse), Dean Hayes (Middle Tennessee State University), Dave Murray (University of Arizona), Gary Pepin (University of Nebraska), Peter Tegen (Stanford University), and Alex Wilson (University of Notre Dame).

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held Dec. 18 at the USTFCCCA annual convention in Phoenix, Ariz.

“On behalf of the USTFCCCA, it gives me great pleasure to welcome the 2008 inductees into the USTFCCCA Hall of Fame,” said Sam Seemes, CEO of the USTFCCCA. “We are once again privileged to have eight outstanding coaches join our previous Hall of Fame inductees.”

The eight coaches in this year’s class all have two things in common; commitment and loyalty to their program. The total number of years coached for the Class of 2008 is 305, which is an astounding number, spent tutoring and mentoring young student-athletes.

“These men and women in the ’08 class not only represent success but commitment as well, as they have contributed 305 total years of service to ensuring their student-athletes would succeed,” added Seemes.

In 1972, a young and eager Charles Craig accepted a job at Cal State Bakersfield as an Educational Opportunity Program Director. One year later, Craig decided to start a track and field program with university students and local recruits, and the rest, as they say, is history. Craig set the bar high for future Roadrunner coaches after a 31-year stint at the school. He coached a total of 195 All-Americans, 18 NCAA national champions, and two Olympic qualifiers while at CSU-Bakersfield.

Kim Duyst took over a struggling program in 1986 that lacked competitive drive, and most importantly respect. During Duyst’s tenure with the program, nearly every school record was broken and both cross country teams were ranked nationally. Her commitment to the program earned her a spot in the Cal State Stanislaus Hall of Fame. Over 70 student-athletes would go on to earn All-American honors.

Guthrie was a successful coach on the Division III level before moving on to Division I power Wisconsin-Madison in 2007. He won 22 Division III national championships while at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and one Division I national championship as an assistant with Wisconsin-Madison. Guthrie is an eight-time Division III National Coach of the Year and an 11-time Division III Regional Coach of the Year.

Hayes, who has nearly a half-century of coaching experience, began his career in 1959 and has become a staple in the Murfreesboro, Tenn. community. He is entering his 43rd year of service as the Middle Tennessee State head coach. Hayes is credited with opening MTSU track & field to minorities and with recruiting the school’s first international student-athletes.

Arizona's Dave Murray spent 35 years as a coach for the Wildcats working his way up the chain of command after being hired as a graduate assistant in 1967. He was named the Head Men's Cross Country Coach in 1968. He later spent eight years as the Head Men's Cross Country and Track & Field coach at UA when he was promoted to the Director of Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track & Field in 1990. He retired from the university in 2002 but continues to coach. One of his present athletes Abdi Abdirahman, the 10,000-meter winner at the U.S. Olympic Trials, looks to medal at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games this week in Beijing, China.

Wisconsin Badger and Stanford Cardinal coach Peter Tegen is one of the most respected and honored coaches in cross country and track and field. His teams have won five NCAA Division I Women's Cross Country Championships (1984-85 at Wisconsin, 2005-07 at Stanford), and the Division I Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year award is named in his honor. The coach of 44 years (33 of them at the collegiate level) retired from full-time coaching at the end of the 2008 track and field season.

Alex Wilson followed a highly successful athletic career with an accomplished career as head coach of the Notre Dame men's track and field and cross country teams for 18 years. Wilson led the Fighting Irish to 11 top-10 national finishes, including the 1957 NCAA Cross Country team title. Remembered yearly through an indoor track and field invitational that bears his name, Wilson established a strong record of success for future Notre Dame coaches.

The winningest track & field coach in Big Eight/Big 12 history, Gary Pepin enters his 29th year of service at the University of Nebraska. Pepin led the Husker women to the first two NCAA Division I Indoor Track and Field team titles in 1983 and 1984, and his record of success has continued into the 21st century. Since 2000, he has had 11 top-10 team finishes at national championships. In all, Pepin's student-athletes have won 18 individual national titles, and his teams have compiled 16 Big 12 indoor and outdoor team championships.

All USTFCCCA members are eligible to nominate coaching peers for the Hall of Fame. A committee comprised of USTFCCCA members votes on which nominees will be enshrined each year.

For more information on the USTFCCCA Hall of Fame and this year's inductees, see www.ustfcca.org.



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NEW ORLEANS – In the fall of 2007, Kim Duyst was named the Associate Athletic Director at California State University-Stanislaus following her 21st and final season as Stanislaus’s men’s and women’s cross country and track & field coach. Although Duyst has now moved into sports administration, she has on very important coaching award left to receive. Duyst will be inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

When Duyst was hired at Stanislaus in 1986, she took over a struggling program that was not competitive and lacked respect at the local and regional level. Undaunted by the almost impossible task before her, Duyst revived the struggling program and turned the Warrior team into one of the leaders of the Northern California Athletic Conference, raising the team’s respectability at the highest levels. The Warriors transition from Division III to Division II in 1989, joining the California Collegiate Athletic Conference in 1998.

Joining Duyst in the USTFCCCA Hall of Fame Class of 2008 are Charlie Craig, Mark Guthrie, Dean Hayes, Dave Murray, Gary Pepin, Peter Tegen, and Alex Wilson. The 2008 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is scheduled for December 17th, 2008 at the J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa in Phoenix, Arizona – site of the 2008 USTFCCCA Convention.

“I am extremely proud and honored to be inducted in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame along with such an accomplished group of individuals. Having been actively involved in the organization since its inception makes this especially meaningful to me,” said Duyst on her induction.

Over the 20 year course of Duyst’s tenure, more than 70 Warrior student-athletes have earned All-American honors. In 1994, four student-athletes won individual national championships in track and field, while one became the first student-athlete to win four national titles and earn six All-American honors. Most recently, Chaunte Mitchell became just the second athlete to win back-to-back national titles when she won the pole vault in 2004 and 2005.

The 1994 men’s team placed fourth at the national championships and was led by national champions Undrae Walker, Jomal Bush, and current Stanislaus head coach Geoff Bradshaw. The ’94 team was the first track and field team in school history to win a conference title.

During Duyst’s tenure with the program, nearly every school record was broken and both cross country teams were ranked nationally. Her commitment to the program earned her a spot in the Cal State Stanislaus Hall of Fame.

Duyst continues to be actively involved in many aspects of cross country/track and field, including coaching the cross country national team at the National Championships in the summer of 2007. She also served on the NCAA Track & Field Rules Committee from 1999-2003 and was appointed to the men’s national team staff for the 2003 World Championships, the first female to be appointed to the men’s national staff. She also served as the President of the NCAA Division II Track and Field Coaches Association from 1992-1994 and as Vice-President of the United States Track Coaches Association (now the USTFCCCA) from 1995-1998.

A native of Peru, N.Y., Duyst came to Stanislaus after previous coaching stints at the West Virginia University and Syracuse University. She was named the Division II Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track & Field West Region Coach of the Year in 2004 and was the women’s Indoor Track & Field West Region Coach of the Year in 2002 and 2003.

For more information on the inductees in this year's USTFCCCA Hall of Fame class, see www.ustfccca.org.



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NEW ORLEANS – When it comes to coaching success, few coaches have seen more in their time than former Stanford Cardinal and Wisconsin Badger head coach Peter Tegen. After 44 years of coaching, 33 on the collegiate level, the legendary distance coach decided it was time to hang up the stopwatch at the conclusion of the 2008 outdoor track & field season. Though Tegen has received countless awards and numerous honors throughout his many years of coaching service, his latest achievement will top them all.

Tegen, one of the most respected and honored cross country and track and field coaches of all time, will be inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame on December 17th, 2008 at the organization's annual coaching convention.

He coached at Stanford from 2005 to 2008 after being lured out of retirement following a 30-year stint as Wisconsin's women's head coach. Tegen started the Badger women's program back in 1973 and had built the program into one of the nation's elite distance programs. During his three years at Stanford, he brought immediate success leading the women's cross country team to three consecutive national NCAA cross country championships.

Joining Tegen in the USTFCCCA Hall of Fame Class of 2008 are Charlie Craig, Kim Duyst, Mark Guthrie, Dean Hayes, Dave Murray, Gary Pepin, and Alex Wilson. The 2008 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is scheduled for December 17th, 2008 at the J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa in Phoenix, Arizona – site of the 2008 USTFCCCA Convention.

Tegen, a native of the Dresden area in Germany, came to West Germany following the Second World War. He taught English and coached gymnastics and track in Germany before traveling the world as a German sports science diplomat. He traveled two years in Africa and Latin America and was the Peruvian National Team coach in 1971 and 1972; he also traveled to Munich, Germany for the 1972 Olympic Games as the Olympic Team coach for Peru.

Following his stint with the Peruvian national team Tegen moved onto to Madison where he started the Badger cross country program in 1973 and remained until his retirement in 2004. During his 30 years at Wisconsin he garnered more conference champions, national champions, and NCAA All-Americans than any other coach in Big Ten history. He has coached dominant athletes such as Olympians Cindy Bremser (1984), Kathy Butler (1996, 2004), and Suzy Favor-Hamilton (1992, 2000).

For his efforts at both Stanford and Wisconsin, Tegen was named the Silver Anniversary NCAA Division I Women's Cross Country Coach of the Past 25 years by the USTFCCCA. He has also received several other notable honors that include four National Cross Country Coach of the Year awards, 15 Big Ten Conference Coach of the Year honors (six in track, nine in cross country) and three Pac-10 Conference Cross Country Coach of the Year honors.

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