

Grand opening



Joshua Duplechian/NCAA Photos

Track and field student-athletes from St. Augustine's help start the 2009 Division II National Championships Festival on Tuesday night in Houston.

1,000 student-athletes ready for Division II's largest festival ever

On a beautiful spring-like night, Division II launched its first winter sports festival as more than 1,000 student-athletes celebrated at Houston's Downtown Aquarium.

As the festival opened Tuesday night, student-athletes were treated to a night of salsa dancing, some of the world's most exotic fish and even a tiger exhibit. Add in an abundance of good food, and Division II's signature event was off to an excellent start.

Throughout the week, student-athletes from indoor track and field, swimming and diving, and wrestling will compete for five national championships at the University of Houston. It will be the fourth championships festival for Division II, following previous festivals in Orlando, Florida, in 2005; Pensacola, Florida, in 2007; and Houston in 2008.

NCAA Senior Vice President Joni Comstock issued a warm welcome to the large throng of student-athletes,

whose numbers exceeded expectations due to record numbers of swimming qualifiers (see story, page 2).

The student-athletes also heard from three-time NCAA heptathlon champion Jolanda Jones, now a Houston city councilwoman.

Jones, who won an NCAA Top VI Award in 1989 while at the University of Houston, empathized with how Division II student-athletes often toil in anonymity. "Lots of times, you don't get the recognition you deserve," she said, adding her understanding of how hard it is for athletes to achieve the balance that's needed to become a champion. But she said that the student-athletes who were present Tuesday night had set themselves apart by reaching the pinnacle of Division II competition.

"There might be people out there who have more talent than you," she said, "but they didn't know how to balance."

Competition actually began Tuesday with diving

qualifying. Swimming and diving finals will be contested Wednesday in the men's and women's 1,000-yard freestyle, 200-yard individual medley, 50-yard freestyle, 200-yard medley relay and women's three-meter diving.

"This festival is a little different than the previous ones in that all five championships are individual-team sports, rather than team sports like volleyball or softball," said Division II Vice President Mike Racy. "The makeup of the student-athletes also is different. There may be more diversity than at any previous festival, and this is the first one where the number of male student-athletes has outnumbered females. So the overall feel for this festival is unique, which is good."

None of that mattered much to the student-athletes themselves, who dedicated themselves Tuesday night to having a good time.

Today, the hard work of earning national championships begins.

Festival swim meets serve as debut for speedy suits

By Gary Brown

In previewing the 2009 Division II Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championships, Missouri S&T men's coach Doug Grooms may have said it best: "It's going to be a meet like no other, that's for sure."

Most coaches and participants certainly expect this week's meets in Houston to be the fastest in Division II history, in part because of the quality of the competitors and in part because of what most of those competitors will be wearing.

The Division II meets will be the first NCAA championships in which competitors will be donning the "new-technology" suits that caused such a big splash at last year's Olympic Games and have been making waves ever since. The full-body, drag-diminished suits, as one NCAA coach put it, "make moderate swimmers fast and fast swimmers really fast."

Manufacturers actually introduced the new-technology suits in February 2008, just before the NCAA nationals. At that time, the NCAA Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committees disallowed them for college competition and later imposed a moratorium on suits manufactured after January 2008.

The committees reversed their decision in September, however, because no research emerged to prove that the suits provided a competitive advantage.



Reynolds

While Grooms and other coaches accepted that decision, they appear almost to regret the suits' influence on the sport. But they're certainly not encouraging their teams to go without them, either.

"If you're not wearing them, you're getting beat by someone who is," Grooms said.

Drury men's and women's coach Brian Reynolds said he and most of his colleagues would prefer that swimmers achieve on their own merits and not rely on technology, but he said the reality of the situation fuels a keep-up-with-the-Joneses approach.

"Without any concrete evidence to the contrary," the committees said in a September memo to the college swimming community, "these new-technology suits will be deemed compliant for all inter-collegiate competition."



Zlatan Hamzic of Missouri S&T, who finished second in last year's 200-yard breaststroke, figures to be one of many competitors wearing the new technical suits this year.

"I'm not a fan of the suit," Reynolds said, "but once somebody has it, it's just like having a big driver in golf – once the technology is out there you had better go out and match your competitors or you'll fall behind."

Sue Petersen Lubow, the athletics director at U.S. Merchant Marine who also is swimming's longtime secretary-rules editor, said when the swimming committee lifted the moratorium and allowed for the suits at this year's championships, it did so because it had no research indicating that the suits add buoyancy as an "artificial aid" – the committee's only provision upon which to ban equipment.

She said the committee has struggled before with distinguishing technology – which in and of itself is not a negative influence – and "artificial aids," which are not allowed.

"We had no conclusive evidence that the suits aid in buoyancy. They may help with speed, but where do you draw the line between an artificial aid and technology?" she said.

The committees followed their September decision with a "one-suit rule" in December that, among other things, said swimmers could not wear more than one technical suit (including tanks or briefs worn under the suit or drag suits worn over the suit). To prevent a competitive advantage at this year's championships, the committees did rule that all swimmers who had met the time standards up to that point would be allowed into the national meets,

Women's swimming and diving preview

As has been the case for the past 12 years, the women's team titlist figures to be either Drury or Truman. The latter is the defending champion, while Drury won in 2007. Before that, Truman's six-year reign succeeded a four-year Panthers run. Other contenders for this year's team title are UC San Diego, Wayne State (Michigan) and West Chester . . . Drury features **Janelle Slattery**, the nation's top 100- and 200-yard backstroker who owns best times of 54.78 and 2:00.38, respectively. Teammate **Yuan Qing Li** has the second-fastest time in the longer event. The Panthers also have a trio of divers in **Lauren Bader**, **Shealyn Holland** and **Aimee Pry**, who will contend along with Southern Connecticut State's **Amanda Burden** . . . Wayne State's **Ashley St. Andrew** has the fastest time in the 1,000 freestyle in 10:11.38, more than three seconds better than Truman's **Julia Jones'** top mark of 10:14.59. St. Andrew also is seeded second in the 500 free behind Southern Connecticut State's **Cody Hall** . . . UC San Diego's **Kendall Bohn** and Clarion's **Denise Simens** are the top two 200-yard breaststrokers. Bohn's teammate **Alexandra Henley** has the top time in the 400-yard individual medley, but she'll be challenged by Wayne State's **Elaina Hogle**, Southern Connecticut State's **Hall**, and Drury's **Li** and **Abbey Musch**.

– Jim McCurdy

Men's swimming and diving preview

Drury is a heavy favorite to win the team title, though Missouri S&T, Wayne State (Michigan) and West Chester will challenge. The defending-champion Panthers have won five of the last six crowns . . . There are plenty of individual stars to watch, including Tampa's **Aleksander Hetland**, who owns the top time in the 200-yard individual medley (1:48.43), the 100-yard butterfly (48.36) and 100-yard breaststroke (53.04). Spartans teammate **Chris O'Linger** is the top 1,650 freestyler, entering the meet with a 15:19.48. He is also the nation's fastest 1,000 freestyler, having qualified with a B cut time of 9:14.30 . . . Limestone's 1-2 punch

in the 50-yard freestyle of **Craig Jordens** (19.64) and **Goran Majlat** (19.99) are not only from two outside countries, but the Saints' South African-Croatian combination are the top swimmers for the speed event. Ouachita Baptist's 200-yard medley relay of **Nelson Silva**, **Hal Eubanks**, **Max Heinze** and **Radu Badalac** are separated by only two hundredths of a second from Limestone's quartet of Majlat, **Matt Parsonage**, **Anders Melin** and Jordens. Limestone won the 2008 title in the 200-yard freestyle relay with three of the four swimmers on this year's unit.

– Jim McCurdy

which eventually led to the committees increasing the competitive caps in Divisions I and III and to allowing a much larger pool of competitors in Division II, which has no cap but will entertain almost 500 competitors at the festival as opposed to the normal 360.

Despite all of that, though, coaches are playing with the hand they've been dealt, and they anticipate a record-breaking meet.

"This should be the fastest nationals ever," Reynolds said.

New events bolster opportunities in Division II track

By Jennifer Gunnels

Fans of indoor track and field will notice new events on the championship schedule this year. For the first time at the Division II level, a national champion will be crowned this weekend in the women's indoor pentathlon and the men's indoor heptathlon. Events will begin Friday morning in the UH Athletics/Alumni Center, and the finals will be Saturday afternoon.

"We have so many multi-talented student-athletes who don't often get a chance to showcase their talents on the national level," said Sylvia Barnier, chair of the Division II Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee. "In Division II we are all about providing opportunities. Maybe they are not outstanding in a single event but they are exceptional overall

athletes and this provides an opportunity for those kids to be involved in the indoor championship."

The women's pentathlon consists of five events: 60-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, long jump and 800 meters. The men's heptathlon is composed of seven events: 60-meter dash, long jump, shot put, high jump, 60-meter hurdles, pole vault and 1,000 meters.

"We've tried to make the sport more spectator-friendly, and these events will tighten up the schedule and hopefully keep fans entertained throughout the competition," Barnier said.

Long seen on the outdoor championship schedule, multi-events have never appeared at the Division II indoor national championship.

"All of the events are at the same place at an indoor meet, so it makes the multi-events easier to follow for the fans," said Kip Janvrin, co-head coach at Central Missouri.

A decathlete in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Janvrin will coach two student-athletes in the women's pentathlon and two in the men's heptathlon this weekend.

"(The new events) went over very favorably," Janvrin said. "There are a lot of well-rounded athletes who specialize in the multi-events who don't have a chance to compete on a national level. These events create more equity in that way. To me it's making the meet more special."

The last time new events were added to



Central Missouri's Kip Janvrin is enthusiastic about the new multi-events.

See *New events*, page 3 ►

Wrestlers hope Texas-sized hospitality spurs interest

By Greg Johnson

The 2009 Division II National Championships Festival represents a couple of firsts for wrestling. For one thing, it's the first time the festival has been staged for winter sports, so wrestling (along with swimming and diving, and track and field) will get its inaugural festival experience.

The second first is that the Division II Wrestling Championships will make its initial appearance in Texas, which is either an opportunity or a concern, depending upon whom you ask.

Because there are no intercollegiate wrestling programs in the state of Texas, one belief is that taking the championships into uncharted territory is an opportunity for stakeholders to expose the sport to those who don't have the chance to attend college wrestling meets.

That's the positive side. The flip side is the

concern that championship attendance will suffer because of an unfamiliar fan base.

Despite there being no NCAA wrestling programs in Texas, the state has more than 300 high school teams competing in the sport. Texas also has a separate state championship for girls' wrestling, so there appears to be passion for the sport in the area.

"I would hope that the high school students and coaches understand that Division II is taking a national championship to their state," said NCAA Division II Vice President Mike Racy. "Hopefully, they can investigate and discover more about the Division II institutions that offer wrestling and consider them when making their college choices."

At least a couple of those high school wrestlers from Texas did just that a few years ago. Nebraska-Kearney coach Marc Bauer recruit-

ed Tervel Dlagnev, the 2008 Division II heavyweight champion, from the state. Dlagnev produced Nebraska-Kearney's final points in its 2008 NCAA team title. Junior Marty Usman, who hails from Arlington, Texas, will compete for the 174-pound title this year.

"We held a team camp in Houston last summer," said Bauer, who is taking six student-athletes to this year's finals. "We wanted to spark some interest in our program, and we are hoping that some of those kids show up at the national tournament."

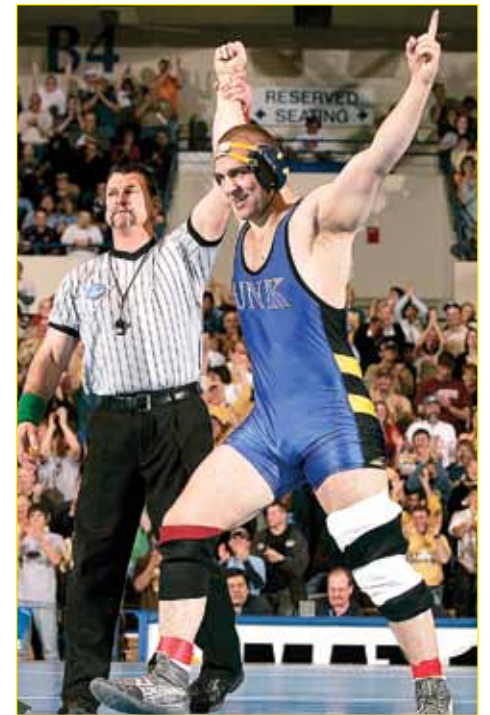
"Texas has taken off and there are good wrestlers in that state," said Central Oklahoma coach David James. "Hopefully, those people will come out and support this event."

The concern may be compounded by a slumping economy that could discourage parents and extended family of Division II wrestlers from the "wrestling belt" in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states from traveling so far to see the competition.

But Todd Hart, wrestling coach at Taylor High School in Katy, Texas, says Texas will be ready to welcome Division II wrestling's marquee event with open arms. Hart has been instrumental in attracting 5060 volunteers to work the event. "I sent e-mails to coaches, and bam, everyone wanted to be part of it," Hart said.

Hart has received permission to take some of his high school wrestlers to the first day of the Division II tournament. He hopes having the championships in Houston will spark some of the colleges in Texas to notice how popular the sport is at the high school level.

"There are tons of recruits that Texas schools could get for their programs," Hart.



Last year's heavyweight champion Tervel Dlagnev is a Texas high school product.

"Because there is no college wrestling in the state, most of the kids just seem to fade away. We're in a time where colleges are dropping wrestling, but it is not an expensive sport when compared to others."

To be sure, stakeholders in the sport are keeping a watchful eye to see how much impact the Division II National Championships Festival will have on a sport and a state that are hoping to become more familiar with each other.

Wrestling preview

Although no "Maverick" won the 2008 presidential election, two different sets of them enter this weekend's Division II Wrestling Championships as favorites for team gold. Nebraska-Omaha, which easily won the Midwest Regional title, has been ranked first in the National Wrestling Coaches Association top 20 poll throughout the season and qualified all 10 of their men for the championships, which begin Friday. Minnesota State Mankato, which shares the Maverick nickname, also qualified a maximum 10 wrestlers

and enters the tournament ranked second. The former rivals from the now disbanded North Central Conference wrestled in a pair of dual meets this season with Nebraska-Omaha winning both ... Nebraska-Omaha will be looking for its first team title since winning three straight from 2004-06. The Mavericks also won in 1991. Minnesota State Mankato last won in 1965 but has finished among the top five in each of the last four years, including runner-up in 2008.

— Chris Day

New events

► Continued from page 2

the Division II indoor championships was in 2005 when the 200-meter dash and the distance medley relay came along. Russ Jewett, head coach at Pittsburg State, was chair of the track and field committee in 2005 when those events were added.

"We felt that the membership had increased across Division II track and field and that we deserved more student-athlete participation in the championship," Jewett said. "We wanted to add events that made the championship more meaningful and exciting."

The distance medley relay, in which four runners complete legs of varying distances (1,200, 400, 800 and 1,600 meters), has since become a fan favorite. "Track meets aren't track meets without relays," Barnier said. "You wouldn't believe how fast they come around that track. It's a great race for distance runners."

Jewett added that the relay races make the meet feel like a true team championship. "It's the best example of the teamwork that you see in other sports that applies to our sport," he said, adding that he has been impressed with the level of competition in the distance medley relay and the 200-meter dash since their inception.

The events have also become important to winning national championships. When the Adams State women's team claimed its title last year, the Grizzlies did so with a

first-place finish in the distance medley relay and third- and fourth-place finishes in the 200-meter dash.

"It's an indicator of the health of the sport if you track the strength of an event performance-wise from year to year," Jewett said. "These events are strong and getting stronger. There's nothing watered down about these events."

When the new events were added in 2005, the total number of participants in the championship also increased from 154 to 200. This year's new events did not bring with them an added number of participants, but Barnier says some of the participants in the pentathlon and heptathlon had already qualified in other events.

"Increasing participation numbers was not an option at this time, but we felt that adding these events was a different way to provide opportunities. We're viewing this as an exciting opportunity to improve the championship," she said.

Janvrin expects the new events will be an exciting addition for seasoned fans of track and field, as well as fans attending the other championships at the Festival who may be getting their first taste of the sport.

"Anybody who has the opportunity to come over and see the events is going to be pleasantly surprised with the quality of the track and field performances they're going to see," Janvrin said.

Women's track preview

St. Augustine's and Lincoln (Missouri) have won six Division II championships since 2001, but last year Adams State beat both. All three figure to compete for the title again this week ... Lincoln's **Samoy Hackett** is the top-seeded 60-meter sprinter with a speedy 7.3. Defending champ **Barbara Pierce** of St. Augustine's has the third-fastest time (7.41). Hackett is third in the 200, coming in with a time of 24.56 behind Nebraska-Omaha's **Pinar Saka** (24.23) and St. Augustine's **Angelique Smith** (24.55). Saka is seeded No. 1 in the 400 with a time of 53.34. She ranks ahead of Adams State's **Michele Williams** (55.31) and Nebraska-Omaha's **Anja Puc** (55.68). Puc is the top 800-meter runner with a time of 2:09.74 ... Seattle Pacific's **Jessica Pixler** won the 2008 mile and owns the top time in the race this year (4:38.83). She's also the top 5,000-meter runner, entering the meet with a time of 16:15.15 ... Johnson C. Smith's **Shermaine Williams** will try to defend her title in the 60-meter hurdles, while Ashland's Tara Cooper is the reigning champ in the weight throw. Slippery Rock high jumper **Whitney Hendershot** also is a defending champion.

— Chris Day

Men's track preview

St. Augustine's is seeking a fourth straight title this week after dusting the field in 2008, finishing 20 points ahead of Abilene Christian and 30 in front of Adams State ... St. Augustine's **Dennis Boone** owns the fastest time in the 60 meters (6.69 seconds) and is seventh in the 200 meters. Fort Hays State's **Bryan Haynes** has the quickest 200 time in 21.58, a hair faster than Morehouse's **Damian Prince**. Prince and **Dane Hyatt** of Lincoln (Missouri) share the top time in the 400 at 47.25 ... Lincoln's **Wilbert Walker** was a double winner in the long jump and triple jump in 2008. He is seeded No. 1 in the triple this year with a mark of 52-4 3/4. St. Augustine's **Joe Kindred** is tops in the long jump at 25-6. He also ranks second in the high jump in 7-1 3/4 and is third in the triple jump at 50-9 1/2. Western State's **Oliver Harsanyi** is No. 1 in the high jump at 7-2 1/2 ... Ashland pole vaulter **Dan Tierney**, shot putter **Kurt Roberts** and weight thrower **Mike Jeffery** all are seeded No. 1 in their respective events ... Adams State milers **Aaron Braun** (4:03.85) and **Brian Medigovich** (4:05.76) rank Nos. 1-2. Medigovich has the top time in the 5,000 in 13:53.69, and Braun is second in 13:55.40.

— Chris Day

Fourth festival builds on success of previous events

Welcome to the first winter-sports version of the Division II National Championships Festival! After a successful spring-sports debut in 2005, a fall-sports event in 2006 and another spring edition last year, our fourth festival will crown champions in wrestling, men's and women's swimming and diving, and men's and women's indoor track and field this week. In all, more than 1,000 student-athletes will participate in the festivities – our largest collection to date.

The Division II Presidents Council's advancement of the festival concept five years ago coincided with the division's broader effort to identify its attributes and activate them strategically at the conference and campus levels. The division boldly identified what makes it unique, and then established policies and initiatives (such as community engagement and game environment) to help institutions and conferences live those attributes.

The festival approach, while not created specifically as part of the division's branding campaign, certainly has contributed as something uniquely Division II. Our ability to combine championships, celebrate student-athletes' athletic and academic abilities and provide events that engage the festivals' host communities has evolved during the same period in which Division II has actively engaged in enhancing and promoting its identity.

The festival provides a powerful platform from which our coaches and student-athletes tell the Division II story. When we stage the festival, we make sure that the public recognizes the balance that exists within Division II. Our membership has been very clear in stating that the student-athlete experience is supposed to be about balancing high-level competition, academic excellence and involvement with community.

As people experience the festival, they'll see all of those play out. They will see the high-level athletics competition at any venue they walk into. They also will see the spotlight shine on the academic achievements of our athletes and teams, their grade-point averages and graduation rates – that is something we purposefully add to the festival.

People also will see the festival as an event that celebrates Division II with resources that are appropriate for these economic times. All of us are facing budget constraints – including the division as a whole. We are committed to hosting a unique championships experience for our student-athletes, yet in a manner that is fiscally responsible for our membership.

I hear from colleagues and administrators who also tell me that the festival has created a state of mind in which student-athletes set the event as a team goal. They like the years in which there is a festival for their sport because it creates a buzz. Student-athletes embrace it as a place where they are treated specially and receive the recognition they deserve for their achievements.

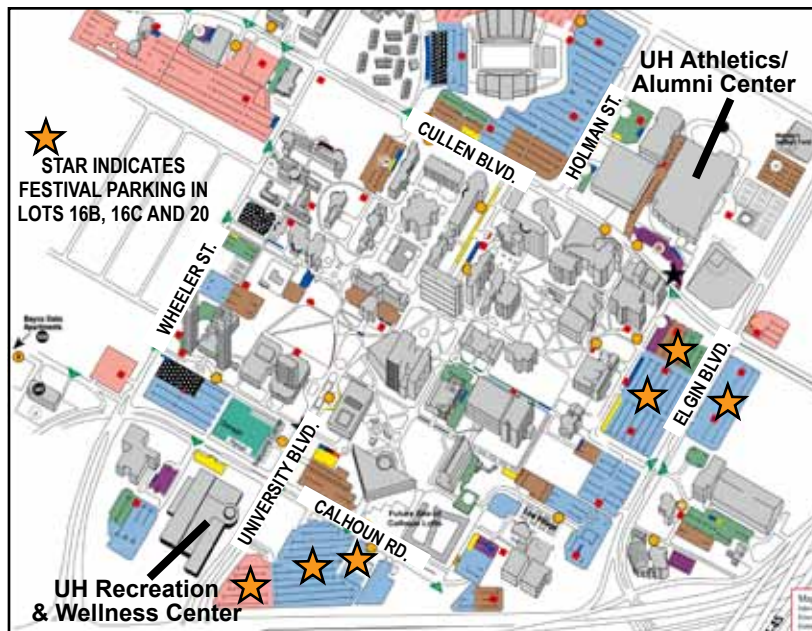
We have intentionally established a rotation for the festivals so that student-athletes in each sport get the chance to participate in one during their four-year careers. That kind of Olympic-style approach keeps the event fresh and heightens the anticipation for the teams and individuals who advance.

The Division II National Championships Festival is unmatched. To those who are here in Houston this week, take pride in the fact that you have made it to a special event, enjoy your experience with your student-athlete peers – be they teammates or rivals – and most importantly, relish the fact that you chose Division II as a unique platform from which to fulfill your collegiate experience.



Stephen Jordan

Stephen Jordan is chair of the Division II Presidents Council.



Schedule of events

Wednesday, March 11

Swimming and diving preliminary competition10 a.m.
Swimming and diving finals competition 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 12

Swimming and diving preliminary competition10 a.m.
Swimming and diving finals competition 5:30 p.m.

Friday, March 13

Track and field competition9 a.m.
Swimming and diving preliminary competition10 a.m.
Wrestling competition (Session I)11 a.m.
Swimming and diving finals competition 5:30 p.m.
Wrestling competition (Session II)6 p.m.

Saturday, March 14

Track and field competition9 a.m.
Wrestling competition (Session III)10 a.m.
Swimming and diving preliminary competition10 a.m.
Swimming and diving finals competition 5:30 p.m.
Wrestling competition (Session IV)6 p.m.
Closing ceremony 7:30-10 p.m.

Broadband schedule

Wednesday, March 11

Swimming and diving prelims 10 a.m.-conclusion of session
Swimming and diving finals5:30 p.m.-conclusion of session

Thursday, March 12

Swimming and diving prelims10 a.m.-conclusion of session
Swimming and diving finals5:30 p.m.-conclusion of session

Friday, March 13

Swimming and diving prelims 10 a.m.-conclusion of session
Swimming and diving finals 5:30 p.m.-conclusion of session
Track and field9 a.m.-7:40 p.m.
Wrestling session I 11 a.m.-conclusion of the session
Wrestling session II6 p.m.-conclusion of the session

Saturday, March 14

Swimming and diving prelims 10 a.m.-conclusion of session
Swimming and diving finals5:30 p.m.-conclusion of session
Track and field9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Wrestling session III 10 a.m.-conclusion of the session
Wrestling session II6 p.m.-conclusion of the session

Swimming and wrestling events are at the UH Campus Recreation and Wellness Center. Track events are at the UH Athletics/Alumni Center.

CBS presents —Champions of the NCAA

This program will air at 1 p.m. May 2 on CBS and will feature the Division II Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving, Indoor Men's and Women's Track and Field, and Wrestling Championships.



NCAA complimentary shuttle service

The NCAA will provide complimentary shuttle service from the Hyatt Regency downtown to the University of Houston (both competition venues). Because of limited parking, teams and fans are encouraged to use the shuttle service when traveling to the competition venues as well as to the opening and closing ceremonies.

Date	Service from	Service to	Hours of service
Wed.	Hyatt Regency	UH	7 a.m.-10 p.m.
	Hyatt Regency	Tex. Southern	9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
	Hyatt Regency	UH	7 a.m.-10 p.m.
Fri.	Hyatt Regency	UH	7 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sat.	Hyatt Regency	UH	7 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
	Hyatt Regency	Discovery Green	7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.
	UH	Discovery Green	7:30 p.m.

The Hyatt Regency to University of Houston shuttle will run on the half hour. Beginning on Wednesday, the transportation loop will include the Hyatt-Wellness Center-Track-Wellness Center-Hyatt.

Directions from Hyatt to the UH Campus Recreation and Wellness Center (4500 University Drive):

- Start out going northeast on Louisiana Street toward Lamar Street
- Turn left onto Capitol Street
- Turn left onto Houston Avenue
- Turn slight left onto Heiner Street
- Merge onto I-45 south via the ramp on the left toward Galveston
- Take the TX-5-Spur exit, exit 44B
- Merge onto TX-5 Spur
- Merge onto TX-5 Spur toward University Drive
- Turn right onto University Drive
- End at 4500 University Drive (5.66 miles)

Directions from Hyatt Regency to the UH Athletics/Alumni Center (3100 Cullen Blvd.):

- Start out going northeast on Louisiana Street toward Lamar Street
- Turn left onto Capitol Street
- Turn left onto Houston Avenue
- Turn slight left onto Heiner Street
- Merge onto I-45 south via the ramp on the left toward Galveston
- Take Exit 44C toward Cullen Boulevard
- Turn slight left onto Gulf Freeway
- Turn right onto Cullen Boulevard/FM 518
- End at 3100 Cullen Boulevard (4.4 miles)

Directions from Hyatt to Discovery Green Conservancy (1500 McKinney)

- Turn left out of parking lot on Mangum Road
- Turn left on Hempstead Road (total mileage, about 1 mile)

Tickets

Tickets will be sold at the main entrance to the University of Houston's Campus Recreation and Wellness Center and at the main entrance to UH's Athletics/Alumni Center. Tickets will be \$5 daily for Wednesday and Thursday and \$10 daily for Friday and Saturday. Each ticket will be good daily and will allow entrance to any national championship competition that day.