



BARBARA CROUSEN

Forevermore, track and field head coach Barbara Crousen will go down in McMurry history as the first head coach to lead a team of any kind to a national championship at the school. Crousen guided McMurry's men to the NCAA III Outdoor National Championship in 2008, giving the school its first national title of any kind since it began intercollegiate athletic competition in 1923.

Crousen also holds the distinction of being the first-ever woman to coach a men's team to an NCAA national championship in any sport.

Since taking over the program in the summer of 1998, Crousen has helped McMurry become a consistent track power in the south region and nationally among NCAA Division III schools.

Since her first season in 1999, Crousen has led the men's team to 13-consecutive American Southwest Conference titles (1999-2011). The McM women's team has won 10 ASC championships (1999-2004, 2006-2009) under Crousen's guidance.

During that time, Crousen was been named the ASC's men's Coach of the Year all 13 seasons and was named the women's ASC Coach of the Year nine times.

In 2011, she was named the men's South/Southeast Region Coach of the Year marking the eighth time she has earned that honor. Since the national title run, the McMurry men have placed second (2009), eighth (2010) and third (2011).

In 2006, she led the men's team to a fourth-place finish, and in 2007 and 2008, she coached the men's sprint relay team to two consecutive national titles as Hann Ollison, Bert Green, John Mikalik and Chris Kelley repeated as champs.

Crousen earned the nation's highest honor in 2001 when she was named NCAA Division III National Coach of the Year. The women's program finished fourth overall at the national outdoor meet in 2001 and followed in 2002 as the national runner up.

166 all-America honors have been passed out to McMurry athletes since Crousen's tenure began in 1999, including 20 in 2011. 20 have earned academic all-America honors and she's coached 29 national champions between indoor and outdoor competitions. She also coached the South Region Athlete of the Year 14 times including four-time winner Hann Ollison (2006-09) and Kevin Cunningham in 2011.

Among Crousen's impressive career accomplishments are more than 200 conference champions, better than 200 additional all-conference finishers and 100-plus academic all-conference honorees.

Darcell Edwards, who may be the most prolific female athlete to compete in McMurry's track and field program, won six individual national championships under Crousen. Edwards still holds the NCAA Division III outdoor record for the triple jump with a mark of 44 feet and two inches that she set in 2004. Edwards also qualified for the 2004 Olympic Trials in the triple jump.

Brad Parris, who is now Crousen's assistant, set the NCAA Division III record in the outdoor pole vault with a jump of 17 feet and nine inches in 2000. Parris' record fell in 2002.

A renowned clinician throughout the Lone Star state and well respected by her peers, Crousen is USA Track and Field Level I certified in the sport, certified in USA TF Level II for sprints and hurdles and a USATF Level I Lead Instructor.

She has been published in the Texas High School Coaches Association Magazine and has produced four track-related videos detailing tips on coaching and improving athletes' performance. She has had five athletes attend the USA Junior Elite Olympics Training Camp in Colorado Springs, Colo., and San Diego, Calif.

Before coming to McMurry, Crousen worked in the Texas public school system for 32 years including a stint as Cooper High School's head track and cross country coach in Abilene. She also worked in the El Paso, Deer Park and Pasadena districts.

While working in the public school system, Crousen rolled up some impressive accolades, as well. She was the 1990 TGCA All-Star Coach and served as the TGCA's president in 1993. In 1995, she was the Abilene ISD Physical Educator of the Year and the TGCA track Coach of the Year.

Crousen was the National Federation State Director in 1996-97 and National Federation Track Coach of the Year in 1998. She has had five athletes attend the USA Junior Elite Olympic Training Center. In 2005, she was named a TGCA Honor Coach.

In addition to her coaching duties at McMurry, Crousen also serves McMurry as the senior woman's administrator for athletics as the school moves from NCAA III to NCAA Division II beginning in the Fall of 2012. Crousen also sits on the NCAA Division III Track and Field national committee.

Her husband, Joe, was the head football coach at McMurry for the 2005 and 2006 seasons. The couple has three children (Kevin, Kerri and Tamra), seven grandchildren (Cooper, Claire, Carson, Foster, Stealey, Levi and Ruby).