

BIG GREEN-BIG ORANGE RETIREMENTS Webb/Wallin Announcements

Hello Again.... Within the space of the past week two of America's top decathlon coaches announced formal retirements. Carl Wallin, the icon of Dartmouth College track for the past 40 years and Bill Webb, Tennessee's coach for the past 24, have announced retirements from their respective collegiate programs. Both coaches initiated multi-event programs which dominated their respective leagues, the Ivy League and the Southeastern Conference.

Webb's record in producing NCAA champions and 8K+ scorers is unprecedented at the NCAA Div 1 level. Four of his athletes were NCAA champions and perhaps the best known was Tom Pappas, who became the first 3-time Olympic decathlete and was 2003 IAAF world champion. Brian Brophy, Aric Long and Stephen Harris also won national crowns and 27! different Tennessee decathletes scored 7250 points or more since Webb began coaching in Knoxville in 1985.

Wallin was instrumental in convincing the Ivy League to include the decathlon in their annual championship program in 2004, then had his athletes win 4 of the first 5 crowns. In Hanover, NH, any athlete who walked into Leverone Fieldhouse ran the risk/opportunity of being turned into a multi-event athlete under Wallin's tutelage. His best known products were Mustafa Abdur-Rahim, a 8175 point performer who was the 2005 NCAA runner-up, and Jay Fiedler, borrowed



A pair of top American decathlon coaches have announced retirements recently: left: Bill Webb, whose athletes dominated the SEC, and Carl Wallin, right, whose decathletes ruled the Ivy League.

from the football team, who later became a prominent NFL quarterback. At one point his multi-eventers won league indoor titles (pentathlon/heptathlon) for nine consecutive years. Within the Ivy League it became known simply as "the streak."

His most notable protégé, Adam Nelson, resisted multis, but became IAAF champion and 2x Olympic silver medalist in the shot put.

The press releases from the Sports Information offices at Tennessee and Dartmouth are reprinted here in their entirety.

WEBB RETIRES AS TENNESSEE TRACK AND FIELD HEAD COACH

T **KNOXVILLE:** Bill Webb, who has spent the last 24 years with the Tennessee men's track and field program, announced Monday he is retiring as

head coach at the end of the 2009 season. "I'm proud of being a part of the great track and field tradition at Tennessee," Webb said.



"I have many fond memories of working with such fine coaches and athletes at this University."

Webb's 14 seasons as Tennessee's head coach have produced many of the program's proudest moments, including two NCAA and four SEC team championships. He became the first coach in program history to win back-to-back NCAA titles after following up the 2001 NCAA outdoor crown with the 2002 NCAA indoor championship.

Webb trails only Gen. Robert R. Neyland in the national title rankings in the Tennessee men's athletics department. Neyland won four national football titles (1930, 1940, 1950 and 1951). Webb directed two NCAA track and field championship efforts (2001 outdoor and 2002 indoor) and served as assistant head coach for Tennessee's 1991 NCAA outdoor championship run. Tennessee coaching hall of famer Stan Huntsman also notched two NCAA titles during his stint in Knoxville.

Tennessee athletes under Webb's direction marched among the national elite. In his 14 seasons as head coach, 18 UT athletes were crowned national champions in individual events, and 137 earned All-America honors. As a nationally-renowned field event and multi-event instructor, Webb personally instructed 13 NCAA champions, 57 SEC champions and 82 NCAA Division I All-Americans. His athletes have also rewritten the all-time top-10 lists at Tennessee, a feat made even more impressive considering the program's storied history and the caliber of competition.

The primary reason for those stellar team and individual accomplishments is that Webb placed an emphasis on fielding a

complete track and field team across the full spectrum of events. Further evidence of that is the fact that Tennessee earned 10 dual meet championships under Webb, including eight in 11 years from 1996-2006. The dual meet championship provides the best indicator of a complete track and field team. Webb's dual-meet record, compiled in non-championship scored meets of eight teams or fewer, reflected the Volunteers' versatility. Webb rang up a sterling 52-1 record in such meets for a .981 winning percentage.

Tennessee's excellence in evaluating, signing and developing talent in every event area ranks as one of Webb's proudest accomplishments. Though not surprising for one of the nation's most respected multi-event coaches, Tennessee's strength and balance across all the events resulted in the Volunteers earning All-America acclaim multiple times in every event area -- sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance, relays, vertical jumps, horizontal jumps, throws and multi-events -- during the Webb era.

Nurturing Tennessee's tradition of track and field excellence, Webb's four SEC titles as a head coach kept the Volunteers in front of the pack in the nation's finest conference. Many track and field observers believe assembling a team to capture the SEC title ranks as a more daunting prospect than winning NCAA gold because of the depth needed to scale the team awards stand in the SEC, which has been the best among track and field conferences during the entirety of the Webb era.

Webb set the tone for his head coaching career early as his charges took the 1996 SEC indoor title in his inaugural conference championship as head man for the Vols. Webb went on to assemble some of the deepest and most talented squads in program history to capture SEC outdoor crowns in 2001, 2002 and 2007. He is the only coach in the SEC to top Arkansas at both the indoor and outdoor conference championship,

winning three times outdoors and once indoors. He also 10 times directed the Vols to the highest finish among eastern division teams at a conference meet.

Webb intended for his athletes to leave Tennessee with not only school records and All-America certificates, but also a diploma. Since Webb became head coach in 1996, Tennessee leads the conference with 197 selections to the SEC Academic Honor Roll for track and field/cross country, including 15 in 2008. During most of the decade, the track and field/cross country Vols averaged about 20 members per semester boasting GPAs of 3.0 or better.

On the international stage, Tennessee's pipeline to the Olympics and world championships has never flowed stronger than during the Webb era. Webb has coached 36 Olympic Trials competitors since 1984. He personally instructed athletes at four Olympic Games and seven world championship meets.

In the decathlon, Webb's success is staggering. He became the first person to coach an NCAA and world champion decathlete in the same year, as Stephen Harris and Tom Pappas accomplished the feat in 2003. Pappas, under Webb's direction, set the NCAA decathlon record at 8,463 and went on to post a top career score of 8,784, which ranks third on the all-time U.S. list. He coached 27 other athletes to scores of 7,250 or higher and five decathletes (Pappas, Brian Brophy, Aric Long, Harris and Jangy Addy) past the 8,000-point mark in the 10-event test of versatility and stamina. He coached four NCAA decathlon champions and 18 top-five finishers in the NCAA decathlon since 1990. Webb is the only person to coach three scorers in the NCAA decathlon in the same year -- and he did it twice (the NCAA championship teams of 1991 and 1992). Under Webb's direction, 13 Volunteers won the SEC decathlon title since 1989. Long and Chris Helwick were also high-point scorers at SEC meets, racking up 24 and 28 points,

respectively.

Webb rarely tutored just one multi-event standout as in 1991 he had four athletes post an average score of 7,705 during the season, breaking a record held by Mt. St. Mary's for 10 years. In 1992, his decathletes broke their own record with an average score of 7,912. The 1992 group also set records for three-man decathlon scoring average at 8,128 and two-man decathlon scoring average at 8,257. Those feats were especially impressive considering that Webb's teams were the first to set such marks with every athlete being an American citizen.

In the javelin, one of his other specialty events, Webb coached Tom Petranoff to a world record and Bob Roggy to an American record. At Tennessee, Webb mentored Leigh Smith to a school record in the javelin. Webb also coached 10 shot putters beyond 60 feet and 14 high jumpers above seven feet.

Webb and former volunteer coach Jim Bemiller coached Tim Mack and Lawrence Johnson to lofty heights in the pole vault. Mack, an NCAA champion, won the gold medal with an Olympic-record clearance of 19-6 1/4 to highlight a 2004 dream season. Johnson, the former pole vault American record holder and four-time NCAA champion, went on to take the 2000 Olympic silver medal and 2001 world indoor championship. More recently, Webb has teamed with former UT All-America and SEC Champion Russ Johnson to coach Tennessee pole vault competitors to eight-consecutive conference championships (four indoor and four outdoor).

Webb earned nods from the U.S. Olympic Committee as its National Track and Field Coach of the Year in 2003 after being selected from a pool of top collegiate and professional coaches across the country. He was named NCAA National Coach of the Year for the national championship seasons of 2001 outdoors and 2002 indoors. Webb also garnered SEC Coach of the Year three times

(1996 indoor, 2001 outdoor and 2007 outdoor).

Meanwhile, Webb had ample opportunity to build an international coaching resume as he was chosen by USA Track and Field to serve as head coach for the U.S. decathletes in a 2001 dual meet versus Germany. He also served as an assistant coach at the 1991 Pan American Games in Cuba and the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany.

Webb's life's work consists of 39 seasons in the sport, 24 of those patrolling the infield at Tennessee's Tom Black Track at LaPorte Stadium.

Prior to taking the reins of the Tennessee program in the summer of 1995, Webb served 10 accomplished years as assistant head coach for the Vols. He tutored athletes in that span that contributed to four team conference championships and the 1991 national crown.

Before joining the Tennessee coaching staff, Webb coached at Florida, Southern Illinois and Indiana, which collectively captured nine conference titles during his tenure.

Webb began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Indiana in 1971 before moving on to take the head coaching position in 1973 at West Georgia, where he was named the league's coach of the year in each of his two seasons there. He had assistant coaching stops at Florida (1975-76) and Southern Illinois (1976-78) before beginning a seven-year stint as head coach at Cal State Northridge in 1979. Webb was named the California Collegiate Athletic Association's Coach of the Year in 1985, and his teams finished in the top eight every year in the NCAA Division II meet.

He produced a total of 51 Division II All-Americans while at Cal State Northridge and West Georgia College.

Webb is married to the former Patricia Hill. [*ed: who ironically grew up in the*

shadow of Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH].

They have a son, Kevin, who recently received his doctoral degree from the University of California-San Diego.

UT athletics director Mike Hamilton has named George Watts interim head coach. A former Vols track and field athlete, Watts has served as assistant coach since 1985. UT will conduct a search for Webb's replacement.

WALLIN RETIRES at DARTMOUTH

D HANOVER, N.H. - [Carl Wallin](#), a mainstay in the Dartmouth track and field community, has announced that he will be retiring after this season following a 40-year career as the field events coach for the Big Green.

Wallin will step away as one of the most highly regarded field event experts in the country. Overall, he has coached 29 All-Americans, 39 New England champions, 87 Heptagonal top finishers and 15 IC4A and ECAC champions in his 40 years with Dartmouth. During his coaching career, Big Green athletes have set every Dartmouth field event record.

“[Carl Wallin](#) has been the epitome of what a Dartmouth coach should be,” said Director of Athletics Josie Harper. “It is hard to comprehend the impact he has had on all of his student-athletes. One of his greatest strengths, was his ability to maximize each student’s potential, whether that meant reaching the NCAAs or achieving a personal best on the Chase Fields. His impact will



forever be felt on our track and field program and we wish he and his wife Bonnie the best.”

One of Wallin’s most successful athletes was Adam Nelson ‘97. He coached Nelson to the 1997 NCAA outdoor title in the shot put and a second-place finish in the NCAA indoor championship. Following Dartmouth Nelson exploded on the world scene, becoming one of only two Dartmouth track and field athletes to compete in three Olympics. Most recently, he coached two All-Americans in Mustafa Abdul-Rahim ‘04 and Sean Furey ‘04. Abdul-Rahim was second in the decathlon at the 2005 NCAA championships, while Furey finished third in the javelin that same year.

In addition to his Dartmouth coaching duties, Wallin has been the New England TAC coordinator and the shot put coach for the U.S. Olympic Development Camp. He has also served as the national hammer chair for the Olympic Development Committee and is a former president of the IC4A after serving as Heps president in 1983.

As a coach, Wallin has been selected NCAA District 1 Coach of the Year four times in the last 10 years. He also coached the U.S. team in West Germany in 1985 and the United States junior national team in 1988. During the past few seasons, Wallin’s field event competitors have been prominent across the board at the conference, regional and national levels, scoring in all of the jumping and multi-events (pentathlon, heptathlon and decathlon).

“When I met Carl for the first time in 1986 his willingness to help and mentor young coaches impressed me immediately,” said Dartmouth women’s coach [Sandy Ford-Centonze](#). “Carl was one of the few male coaches, along with Barry and Ed Kusiak -- my colleague at Vermont -- that acknowledged women could and should be coaching in this sport. Over the past 17 years, Carl has shown me a level of intensity, dedication and professionalism that is not always there in sports today. I will miss Carl,

my friend, and my colleague.”

“Carl was the one who began my recruitment for Dartmouth when I was an athlete in high school,” said Big Green men’s coach [Barry Harwick](#), “and his enthusiasm for track and field, and for the college, left a lifelong impression on me. As a colleague for the last 17 years, Carl has shown us time and again why he is nationally known as a tremendous coach, an extraordinary motivator, and a wonderful mentor to student-athletes. He has always taken a deep personal interest in every student, from the walk-ons to the stars of the team. Replacing Carl will not be an easy task.”

Details about the search process for Coach Wallin’s replacement will be announced later this week after the Ivy League meetings have concluded.