

## HBU TRACK & FIELD SIGNS 12 FOR 2010

HOUSTON -- Texas state class 5A long jump bronze medalist [Morgan Pressley](#) of Alief Taylor leads a class of 12 signees announced Thursday by Houston Baptist University head track and field and cross country coach [Theresa Fuqua](#). Six men and six women signed a National Letter of Intent with the Huskies, and will start classes at HBU August 24.

"This is a very good signing class for our young program," Fuqua said. "We addressed a range of needs in different events, and we added some high quality newcomers in only our third year of recruiting. All of our coaches are excited about the additions, and we feel they will help us make a move up in the Great West Conference."

Pressley was twice a triple district champion at Alief Taylor, winning the 18-5A 400, long jump and triple jump titles. She was third at the state meet in June after winning the region III-5A long jump title, and has a best of 19-3.5. Pressley also recorded bests of 56.72 in the 400 and 38-10 in the triple jump.

"Morgan is really the type of student-athlete we want to lead our program to the next level," Fuqua said. "She obviously has the talent on the track and on the runway, but more importantly, she is a strong student who was attracted to HBU due to our academic reputation."

State 5A sixth-placer [Jason Euresti](#) of Kyle Lehman tops the men's signee list, and will add much-needed quality in the middle distances for the Huskies. Euresti was the runner-up in the 800 at the region III-4A meet with a lifetime best 1:55.43 clocking, and was the silver medalist in district 17-4A in the 800 and 1600. Additional strength in the middle and long distances will come from Tomball's [Matt Perri](#), who had bests of 4:02.84 for 1500 meters and 9:46.81 for 3200.

"Our middle distance group has been pretty strong at the top over the past two years," Fuqua said. "Jason adds quality in the 800, where he should have an immediate impact at the conference level, and he also has great potential at 1500 meters and in cross country. Matt is a very savvy runner who will also challenge for conference points right away, and he is a very strong cross country runner."

A pair of district 22-5A standouts will bolster the men's sprints and throws. [Brandon Boyd](#) of Pasadena Dobie brings personal bests of 10.83 in the 100 and 21.80 in the 200, as well as a wealth of relay experience. Deer Park's [Jake Adkins](#) was the district champ in the shot put and discus, and has bests of 54-5.5 and 171-3.

Fuqua said, "Jake is a great fit for HBU, and his throwing ability is a bonus. He will give us a strong 1-2-3 in the shot and discus, with our two returning Great West scorers, [Trey Rodriguez](#) and [Jarrett Gilliam](#). Brandon fits in with our sprint crew, which scored pretty well at the Great West meet. We are looking to him to give us the final leg on our 4x100, which has the potential to be very competitive at every meet."

In the hurdles, the Huskies picked up a pair of solid combination athletes. [Gabe O'Neal](#) of The Woodlands College Park and [Bryan Richardson](#) of Katy Taylor are welcome additions, as O'Neal has bests of 14.43 in the 110H and 38.93 in the 300H, and Richardson has clocked 14.68 in the sprint hurdles.

"The hurdles were an area where we knew we had to get some help," Fuqua said. "Gabe and Bryan will have to adjust to the higher college hurdles, but they are both underdeveloped athletically and should improve dramatically with experience. They will both be in the running for spots on the 4x400, and will be immediately competitive in the 400 hurdles."

[Jasmin Hawkins](#) of Katy Morton Ranch is the top middle distance signee for the HBU women, bringing a best of 2:16.32 in the 800. Hawkins also has solid credentials in the 400, with a best of 58.87, and is a veteran 4x400 runner after leading her school to the district title in 2008. Longer distance help comes in the person of [Halcie Pfeiffer](#) of Austin's Hyde Park Baptist School. Pfeiffer won the TAPPS class 4A state 3200 gold in 2008 and the bronze in the 1600, and was a top-20 finisher twice in cross country.

"With (Great West 800 and 1500 champion) [Raquel Tidwell](#) returning for her senior year, Jasmin and Halcie will give us real depth and help our cross country team step up," Fuqua said. "We will be young but talented, and I think we will see a great improvement in our team scores throughout the season."

[Macoya Wiley](#) of Cypress Springs joins a sprint corps that is already making waves at the conference level, and her 12.43/25.46 credentials in the 100 and 200 fit in well with HBU's young team. "We had a lot of success in the sprints last year with our freshmen," Fuqua said. "Macoya gives us another very talented relay leg, and she could score in the 100 and 200 individually. She has a great future at HBU, and is a top student, too."

Kingwood's [Kim Tipton](#) will be counted on to improve the Huskies in the shot put and discus, and could be a surprise scorer in the javelin, while League City Clear Creek's [Theresa Smith](#) will contribute in the sprints and jumps. "Both Kim and Theresa are ideal HBU newcomers," Fuqua said. "They have athletic potential to spare, and they are very good students who know that this is a good academic fit for them."

HBU is entering the third year of its return to NCAA Division I competition, and the Huskies were immediately competitive in the Great West Conference in 2009. For the women, [Brittane Gaines](#) won GWC indoor Newcomer of the Year honors after winning the 60, while [Joslyn Cooper](#) won similar honors outdoors after capturing a 100/200 double. [Raquel Tidwell](#) swept the outdoor 800 and 1500, and the 4x400 ran to victory at the outdoor championships.

HBU's men had double outdoor sprint gold from [Jocques Robinson](#), who also won the 60 indoors, and [Maximo Mendoza](#) won the 10,000 title at the GWC outdoor meet. [Daniel Martinez](#) was the inaugural Great West cross country individual champion last fall, taking the title at Orem, Utah.

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