

AWARDS

2023 Hall of Fame Inductee, North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame

2016 Sooner Athletic Conference Coach of the Year

2016 NAIA Cross Country Coach of the Year for South Central Region

JOB EXPERIENCE

Collegiate Cross Country Coach, Haskell Indian Nations University **JUNE 2021 – APRIL 2022**

40 hrs/week, \$50,000 + \$3,000 expenses

Director of Cross Country & Track, University of Antelope Valley **NOV 2018 – NOV 2020**

40 hrs/week, \$47,500

Director of Cross Country & Track, Director of Native American Recruitment

Bacone College **APRIL 2014 – APRIL 2018**

40 hrs/week, \$37,500

Office of Hammer Center, Oral Robert University **FEB 2012 – APRIL 2014**

40 hrs/week, \$25,000

Assistant Coach, Broken Arrow High School **MAY 2011 – MAY 2012**

40 hrs/week, paid via stipend

EDUCATION

Master of Human Relations (incomplete): University of Oklahoma

- 2011 – 2012: Completed 22 credits towards Master of Human Relations:

B.A. in Psychology: University of Oklahoma & Oklahoma State University

- 2006 – 2011

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Built Bacone College and University of Antelope Valley programs from 0 to ~40 student-athletes within 18 months; 17 Tribes represented over 90% of both teams
- **2019:** 10th Team Finish at NAIA Cross Country Nationals in 2019
- **2017:** National Champion in NAIA Mile Indoor Track Nationals
- **2017:** National Champion in NAIA 5,000m Outdoor Track Nationals
- **2017:** National Champion in NAIA 10,000m Outdoor Track Nationals
- **2017:** 24th Team Finish at NAIA Indoor Track Nationals
- **2017:** 13th Team Finish at NAIA Outdoor Track Nationals
- **2016 - 2017:** 16th Team Finish at NAIA Cross Country Nationals
- **2016:** Sooner Athletic Conference Team Champions
- **2016:** National Champion in NAIA Mile Indoor Track Nationals
- **2016:** National Champion in NAIA Cross Country Nationals
- **2016:** National Runner-Up in NAIA Distance Medley Relay Indoor Track Nationals
- **2016:** 15th Team Finish at NAIA Indoor Track Nationals

- **2016:** 27th Team Finish at NAIA Outdoor Track Nationals Nationals
- **2015 - 2017:** Race Director of six cross country meets
- **2015:** 15th Team Finish at NAIA Cross Country Nationals

JOB DUTIES AT HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

- Holistic Mentorship: Led and mentored student-athletes to foster their development
- Planning: Planned and executed training unique programs and schedules for 17 student-athletes
- Leadership: Coordinated and directed the annual Haskell cross country race with over 300 participants
- Recruitment: Identified and recruited potential student-athletes through relationship-building
- Team Management: Managed all aspects of team operations, including practice schedules and travel arrangements
- Academic Support: Monitored and supported student-athletes' academic progress
- Financial Aid Guidance: Helped students navigate financial aid options, including FAFSA and scholarships
- Community Engagement: Engaged with the local community, alumni, and fans to build program support
- Compliance: Ensured compliance with all NAIA and federal rules and regulation
- Budget Management: Managed the team's budget and spending
- Resource Referral: Directed students to campus and external resources and services, such as tutoring centers, counseling services, and career fairs.

JOB DUTIES AT UNIVERSITY OF ANTELOPE VALLEY

- Recruitment of student-athletes with a primary focus on Native Americans
- Fundraising and organizing events to average \$1,000 per student-athlete to allow for a more versatile budget for athletics
- Managing program budgets including scholarships, gear, travels, and competitions
- Organizing, navigating, and utilizing distinct financial resources including Federal Pell Grants, Tribal Scholarships for 11 different Tribes, and various supplemental scholarships for Native college students
- Communicating regularly with the students, their professors, and parents allowing for an 81% retention rate, which is 130% higher than the national average
- Creating a productive and healthy environment to support the success of our student-athletes

JOB DUTIES AT BACONE COLLEGE

- Recruitment of student-athletes with a primary focus on Native Americans
- Fundraising and organizing events to average \$1,000 per student-athlete to allow for a more versatile budget for athletics

- Managing program budgets including scholarships, gear, travels, and competitions
- Organizing, navigating, and utilizing distinct financial resources including Federal Pell Grants, Tribal scholarships for 11 different Tribes, and various supplemental scholarships for Native college students
- Communicating regularly with the students, their professors, and parents allowing for an 81% retention rate, which is 130% higher than the national average
- Creating a productive and healthy environment to support the success of our student-athletes

REFERENCES

Gary Tanner _____ **785.393.2286**

- Former supervisor, HINU

Billy Mills _____ **916.719.1126**

- 1964 Olympic gold medalist in the 10,000m
- Haskell Alumni

Julia Goodfox _____ **785.766.6526**

- Office of President: Special Projects, Haskell Indian Nations University

Dr. Dan Wildcat _____ **785.865.8428**

- Professor, Haskell Indian Nations University

David Walkingstick _____ **918.207.8456, 918.822.4681**

- Former Director of Education, Cherokee Nation
- Tribal Councilman, Cherokee Nation

Jerry Tuckwin _____ **785.550.5559**

- Former Athletic Director and Cross Country & Track Coach, Haskell University
- Adjunct Faculty Business Department, Haskell University

Frank Willis _____ **405.922.6644**

- Former President, Bacone College

Dustin Martin _____ **505.977.5057**

- Director, Wings of America
- Head Cross Country & Track Coach, Zuni High School

James Nells _____ **918.841.1092**

- Former educator and coach, Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, OK
- Former runner for Haskell University
- Educator and coach, Riverside High School in Anadarko, OK (BIA boarding school)

Michael Daney _____ **505.710.3323**

- Former Cross Country and Track Coach, Haskell University and SIPI

- Instructor of Health and Physical Education, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

Edison Eskeets _____ **505.718.0231**

- Haskell Alumni and Student Athlete

Adam Strom _____ **509.961.8447**

- Haskell Women's Basketball Coach

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Wings of America Coach for USA Cross Country Championship - 2016
- EMT Certified - 2014
- Volunteer coached over 80 high school student-athletes, resulting in 7 State records, 14 State titles, and 2 Footlocker Finalists; 90% successfully transitioned to college - 2009-2014
- **Private Coaching**

Belle Wallace

- 6A XC State runner-up in 2013
- 2-time 6A time State champ for 800m & 1600m
- Ran for University of Oklahoma

Kyle Broadrick

- 6A 3200m State champ in 2012
- Ran for Oklahoma Christian College
- Cherokee Nation citizen

Ean Beyer

- 6A XC State 2015 champion
- Ran for University of Oklahoma

Ben Barrett

- State record holder in the 1600m (4.09)
- State record holder in the 5000m (14.51)
- 7-time 6A State champ in XC and Track 1600m & 3200m
- Ran at North Carolina State University

Arya Bahreini

- 6A State XC 2010 champion
- 3-time NAIA National Marathon Champion
- Ran for Oklahoma City University

Colton Green

- 6-time 3A State champ for XC in 2013 and 2014 and Track in 2014 and 2015
- Ran for Roger State University

Omega Reese

- 11-time 2A State champ in Track
- Ran at Oral Roberts University.

Zach Black

- Broke Ben Barrett's State record in the 1600m & ran 4.09 in the 1600m
- Ran for Iowa State University

RUNNING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ran on the USA XC Championship Wings of America Team in 2006
- Oklahoma State High School Champion in the Track State Champ's in the 3200m in 2006.
- All Conference for the 10,000m at the 2009 Big 12 Outdoor Track Championship
- Scoring member on multiple NCAA Cross Championships D1 Team Finishes for Oklahoma State University and University of Oklahoma for 2008, 2009, and 2010 with team finishes of 10th, 12th, and 7th team finishes

- 14.16 5000m Personal Best Time, 24.17 8k xc, 30.05 Road 10k, winning over 100 road races in Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Kansas

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Dear Director Dearman:

My name is Billy Mills. I am a Haskell graduate, class of 1957 and co-founder of Running strong for American Indian Youth (www.indianyouth.org).

This letter is in support of Clay Mayes, a distance running coach at Haskell Indian Nations University.

As an Olympic Gold Medalist in the Olympic 10,000 meter run, I ~~have been blessed to~~ travel extensively, nationally and internationally.

Often, I have met great Olympic runners and coaches as well as a select few of the world's intelligent and

insightful young men and women distance running coaches who are just starting to choreograph their careers. Clay Mayes is among these select few.

It has been said our indigenous youth have dreams and our elders have visions. In reference to the wisdom of distance running coaching, Clay Mayes has both the dreams of a youth and the visions of an elder.

Coach Mayes' strength is his incredible insight into understanding what it takes for a young athlete to be able to reach within the depth of his or her ability and compete to the greatest extent possible.

Haskell has been blessed with great coaches. Coaches who have empowered thousands of student/athletes. Some have earned All American honors in their sport and most have earned their college degrees. Indigenous communities are blessed with leaders who are former Haskell student/athletes.

Coach Clay Mayes has the passion and ability to continue to empower Haskell Indian Nations University student/athletes and contribute to the leadership of our Tribal communities.

Few are the coaches who can take an athlete with exceptional talent and get the individual athlete to understand what his or her level of athletic maturity currently is and the commitment one must make should they want to achieve the full maturity of their talent. Coach Clay Mayes is among these few.

Just to name a couple of Haskell's great track and field coaches whom I have the utmost respect for, I will start with my Haskell coach, Tony Coffin, who has become a coaching legend. The next has also become a legend; my high school teammate, Coach Jerry Tuckwin. Who created the magic of developing student/athletes into community leaders. If given the opportunity, Coach Clay Mayes will continue their legacy and could realistically have one or more of his athletes make a future U S Olympic Team, potentially starting with the 2028 Olympics, which will be held in Southern California on indigenous land.

I believe in Coach Clay Mayes and in our young athletes.

Onward Haskell

Billy Mills

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to highly recommend Mr. Clay Mayes for the Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track and Field coaching vacancy at Haskell Indian Nations University.

Mr. Mayes has proven to be a very successful mentor and coach with Native athletes particularly with running programs at the collegiate level. Clay was a successful runner in NCAA Division I (University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University) programs thus he will be a very qualified individual to lead Haskell's running programs.

Mr. Mayes is married, the father of two young children, and is a total gentleman, "both on and off the field" of athletics.

I highly recommend Mr. Mayes to lead and bring Haskell to the highest level of competition in collegiate athletics. If I can be of further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gerald Tuckwin

785-550-5559

Jtuckwin@gmail.com

Haskell Indian Nations University

(Former Coach and Director of Athletics)

My name is, Michael Daney, Haskell Indian Junior College class of 1976. I am also a former employee of Haskell from 1980 – 1987, working in the student services and athletic department as assistant and head cross-country and track coach helping Haskell win four National Marathon titles.

I've continued my service to Indian country as an employee at, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, working in student services and as an instructor of Health and Physical Education since 1990. Additional duties included being the head cross-country, track, and marathon coach for thirteen years, winning 10 National titles. I've stayed connected and invested to Indian running/runners for over fifty years as well staying connected to U.S. national and international running serving on the New Mexico USATF Board of directors as the long-distance chair for the past 13 years.

I've provided you with my background so that you will be informed that making a recommendation for a position at my alma mater, and in the sport that I've deeply supported and have committed over fifty years of life to, will be made after a serious evaluation of the individual I support.

I am submitting this letter of recommendation for, Mr. Clay Mayes, for the position of Head Cross Country and Track coach at Haskell Indian Nations University. Mr. Mayes has a proven record of his ability to perform the duties of the position on the NAIA Collegiate level.

Mr. Mayes has had success at the high school, collegiate, and post collegiate level in producing national ranked teams and individuals. My success in coaching Indian athletes came from more than just being able to produce quality workout plans, it was also about understanding who each individual is as a person and where they come from. I see this same quality in Coach Mayes.

I believe his background in Psychology has allowed him to be a great communicator to his athletes and helps him be able to understand the multiple historical issues the Indian population has faced, and still face today.

In all honesty, I can think of several individuals whom I could recommend for this position. However, I am submitting my recommendation for, Mr. Clay Mayes, as I feel he is the best fit for the position at Haskell. If I were in a position that was in search of a head cross-country and track coach, Clay Mayes, would be my first contact.

Feel free to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Michael Daney

(505)710-3323

Edison Eskeets
(505) 718-0231
282 Old Denver Hw
Glorieta, NM 87535

January 8, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow this letter to serve as a supporting document for the employment candidate who has come your way, Clay Mayes III.

Clay is an acquaintance of my through “Wing of America” programming, Coaches, Cross Country, and Track & Field. It was an honor to cross pathways with many athletes including Haskell’s amazing athletes/coaches: Billy Mills, Coach Tuckwin, Coach Daney, Coach Nells, Coach Baker, and not to mention...it is the home of “Jim Thrope.”

Clay’s tribal affiliations are: Chickasaw and Cherokee. In additions, he graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a diploma in Psychology. He is a well-established runner throughout the years. In 2023, the “North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame” inducted Clay for his commitment in athleticism working with student-athletes as a Coach.

His expertise of coaching derives from Bacone College and University of Antelope Valley. His coaching programming is unmatched and decorated with many student-athletes’ achievements.

In short, Clay Mayes III, is a special person and an excellent candidate for Sport Specialist: Head Cross Country Coach and Track/Field.

Most sincerely,

Edison Eskeets

Former Haskell Runner Alumni Former Employee

- Former Runner/Alumni
-
- (505)718-0231
- eekataya@yahoo.com

CERTIFICATIONS





Certificate of Achievement

This certificate is hereby awarded to

CLAY MAYS

for completion of 16 hours of

**BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS &
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS**

at

**Rogers State University
Health Sciences Department**

This 15th *Day of* June, 2012

Clem Ohman

Course Faculty

Clem Ohman

DES

PHOTOS OF FORMER AND CURRENT ATHLETES



THE 5 HORSEMEN



JACKSON
NAVAJO
14.22

JAIVEN
MHA NATION
15.23

SCOTTY
MHA NATION
14.57

CHASE
MHA NATION
14.55

SANTIAGO
NAVAJO
14.41

WWW.RETROSNAPEBACKSOFFICIAL.COM

A graphic titled "THE 5 HORSEMEN" featuring five individual photos of male runners. Each photo includes the runner's name, their team, and their time. The runners are Jackson (NAVAJO, 14.22), Jaiven (MHA NATION, 15.23), Scotty (MHA NATION, 14.57), Chase (MHA NATION, 14.55), and Santiago (NAVAJO, 14.41). The graphic also includes the "Indigenous Elite" logo and the website "WWW.RETROSNAPEBACKSOFFICIAL.COM".





NAVAJO PEOPLE

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DINÉ (NAVAJO PEOPLE), LANGUAGE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

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Navajo Runner Wins National Champion

MARCH 18, 2016 BY HAROLD CAREY JR.

MUSKOGEE, OKLA. – March 18, 2016

Jackson Thomas, Navajo, of Naschitti, New Mexico, took top honors in the indoor mile at the 2016 NAIA National Indoor Track and Field Championships recently. In addition, Thomas has been named a 2016 NAIA Men's Indoor Track & Field All-American.



Thomas took the national title for the Indoor Track Mile with a time of 4 minutes, 16.31 seconds.

<https://navajopeople.org/blog/navajo-runner-wins-national-champion/>

2019 FAIR EVENT LINKS

- [Eastern Navajo Fair - July 24-28](#)
- [Southwest Fair & Rodeo August 2-4](#)
- [Gallup Ceremonial - August 2-11](#)
- [Santa Fe Indian Market August 17](#)
- [Central Agency Fair - August 19-25](#)
- [Navajo Nation Fair September 2-8](#)
- [Northern Navajo Fair - October 2-6](#)
- [WESTERN NAVAJO FAIR - October 10-13](#)

ABOUT US

Content for this site is provided by Clayton Long, Navajo Language Curriculum Designer and Harold Carey Jr. a Navajo Historian and Photojournalist from Malad City, Idaho.

Thomas took the national title for the Indoor Track Mile with a time of 4 minutes, 16.31 seconds.

"It was a huge upset as he was ranked 7th going in," said Coach Clay Mayes III. "It came down to the final lap, with the number one ranked guy leading it. Jackson pulled up in the final straight to pass him with 30 meters to go. Jackson passed him so quickly, that he wasn't able to respond."

For more information, contact Coach Mayes at mayesc@bacone.edu.



===

"Jackson Thomas gave Bacone its first-ever men's individual championship with a win in the mile as he finished in 4:16.31, edging Daniel Garcia of Cardinal Stritch (Wis.) by 0.66 seconds."



TOPICAL

Coach brings more Native American students to Bacone



Members of Bacone's cross country track team wait for the sound of the gun to cros... ▲

By Mark Hughes Phoenix Staff Writer

Aug 31, 2016

Two years ago Bacone College had no cross country track team — now they're ranked 12th in the pre-season national polls.

Almost two years ago, Bacone College President Frank K. Willis hired Clay Mayes III as the school's cross country coach. He also asked him to help recruit more Native American students.

Mayes still had contacts in Arizona and New Mexico, which is where he focused his recruiting efforts. Being part Cherokee and Chickasaw, Mayes knew he would

confidence. He turned to Dr. Patricia King, director of the Center for American Indians at Bacone.

"Before he goes out to a tribe, he learns about that tribe and about their culture and he's very respectful when he meets them," King said. "Because of this, he has gained their trust and he has taken good care of them (students), nurtures them along and helps with their class work."

Mayes has 38 men and women on the cross country team — 26 and 12 respectively — 35 Native Americans and three Hispanics. Cross country runners run 800 meters or more in a race.

Mayes said King has been a great ally in helping to understand the culture of different tribes.

"She taught me the core values of each tribe — what's respectful and what's not respectful," Mayes said.

For example, if they offer you a gift, don't reject it, gracefully take it, he said.

"When you enter their house, talk to the oldest ones first, then grandparents, then the parents, then the kids," Mayes said.

Their culture emphasizes respect of elders.

"After I got to know them I started realizing how great they are and what good principles they have," Mayes said. "They care about family, and if they like you, they will run well for you."

As a result, Mayes has built Bacone's cross country team from unranked to 12th place.

"They just need the same opportunity as everyone else and be pursued with the same intensity to compete for scholarships," he said.

"We are much better than 12th, and our runners know that, too," Mayes said and noted that his team was out to destroy the ranking they've been assigned.

"There has not been a strong Native American (long-distance running) presence at the collegiate level before," Mayes said.

However, he thinks society is witnessing that change not just at Bacone but at the collegiate level nationwide.

An example of Mayes' success and the effort Native Americans put into distance running is Jackson Thomas, a full-blood Navajo, who recently won the mile at the indoor nationals.

"They (runners) are phenomenal talents, and all I did was wake up the sleeping giant of enormous athletic talent that they have," Mayes said.

Reach Mark Hughes at (918) 684-2908 or mhughes@muskogeephoenix.com.

[View on muskogeephoenix.com](#)

CN citizen settles into coaching at Bacone

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02/15/2015 12:00 PM

MUSKOGEE, Okla. – Cherokee Nation citizen Clay Mayes III has spent a majority of his life running and competing in running competitions. Now, at age of 27, Mayes serves as Bacone College's assistant track and cross country coach.

He started coaching at Bacone in April after buying into Bacone College President Frank Willis' goal for a cross country team.

"Honestly, the reason I'm here is because I truly believe in the president's statement of helping me support a solid running program," Mayes said. "He said, 'Clay, we're historically a Native American college, yet we don't fill the full cross country team. I want to change that.' Seeing his views coincide with mine, it interested me."

Mayes' duties are not only to help train athletes but also to scout them.

"We signed one of the top three Native Americans in the state, and we're looking to sign one of the other top three as well in the coming month or two," Mayes said. "At this moment we have three Native Americans on the team and we're looking to get 15."

Mayes said he learned a lot about runners and their training backgrounds while running for Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma. He said although this helped him learn more about the coaching aspect of running, it wasn't the only thing that helped.

"I would say that a lot of my insight from coaching has come from my failures," he said.

Mayes' running career started to pick up while he was attending Sequoyah High School-Claremore.

"As a freshmen I was picked to win state. I did not win state until my high school senior year," he said. "It was a lot of trial and error because I was really self-coached for the most part. I learned a lot from actually failing and being resilient to not give up."

In high school, Mayes won state in the 2-mile run with a time of 9 minutes, 43.05 seconds and finished sixth in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 15:11.97 at the Nike Outdoor Championships, earning an All-American spot.

In college, he scored for OSU at the Big 12 Championships when he had a time of 31:22.58 in the 10,000 meters and finished eighth.

Mayes was part of the OSU team that won the fall 2009 NCAA men's cross country championship. While at OSU he also finished third in the NCAA men's cross country in 2007. While attending OU, Mayes was a member of the 2010 group that won the Big 12 Indoor Conference Championships.

Now coaching at a school with Native American roots, Mayes said he's glad he has his Cherokee ancestry.

"Honestly, being a Cherokee citizen has been pretty awesome. It's pretty cool how tightknit the community is," he said. "The thing with Cherokee Nation is they do an awesome job of actually giving back to the community. That was the easiest tribe to deal with when trying to help my kids get a degree and make it financially suiting because they're going to be more likely to be not stressed out if they're able to get the right finances for college."

Mayes said although he is fairly new to Bacone he looks forward to a bright future for the running program.

"Since I'm new at Bacone I expect a lot of great things to come," he said.

About the Author



STACIE BOSTON

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FEATURED, RUNNING

Jackson Thomas (Navajo) Leads Bacone College to Sooner Athletic College Cross Country Men's Conference Title

NDNSPORTS STAFF NOVEMBER 7, 2016

(Shawnee, Oklahoma) – Bacone College won the Sooner Athletic Conference men's cross country championship denying three-time champion Oklahoma City University an opportunity for a fourth consecutive title. The eight-kilometer race was again held at the Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee, Okla.

NEWS BY DATE

Alissa Pili's (Inupiaq) led USC with 18 points as Trojans Fall to No. 10 UCLA March 1, 2021

Kobe Buffalomeat (Cheyenne/Choctaw)

Bacone's Jackson Thomas (Navajo) and Binahnni Curley (Navajo) finished 1-2 in the 74-runner field. Thomas's winning time in the eight-kilometer race was 24:45, 33 seconds ahead of his teammate Curley who turned in a time of 25:18. The title was the Warriors first-ever SAC conference championship since joining the league in 2015 finishing with 42 points just ahead of Oklahoma City's 44.



Jackson Thomas (Navajo)/Photo by Reid Williams.

OCU had the 3-4 finishers with Max McNeil clocking a 25:25 and Michael Roguski with a 25:39.

Wayland Baptist finished third with 65 points, John Brown was fourth with 121. The remainder of the field was Southwestern Assemblies of God in fifth with 142, Texas Wesleyan in sixth at 147, St. Gregory's in seventh at 169, and Science & Arts in eighth with 237 points.

The top 15 individual finishers were certified as all-conference. Complete Results

1. Jackson Thomas, Bacone	24:45.67
2. Binahnni Curley, Bacone	25:18.90
3. Max McNeill, Oklahoma City	25:25.29
4. Michal Roguski, Oklahoma City	25:29.82
5. Eric Villagrana, Wayland Baptist	25:31.18
6. Ma Wahpepah-Harris, Oklahoma City	25:40.54
7. Raul Almaraz, Wayland Baptist	25:49.60
8. Eduardo Roa, Bacone	25:55.16
9. Shawvan Levi, Bacone	26:05.18
10. Josh Uzelac, John Brown	26:08.16
11. Gerardo Nava, SAGU	26:11.78
12. Jason Wayland Baptist	26:13.86



Mackenzie Wahpepah-Harris (Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma) finishes 6th at SAC

Added 18 Points for the Baker Wildcats who Fall in Conference Quarterfinals March 1, 2021

Lily Gopher (Chippewa/Cree) Scores 15 Points to help Montana Western Advance to Conference Finals March 1, 2021

Chelsea Dungee (Cherokee) Drops 20 Points on her Senior Game in 94-76 Arkansas Win over Alabama March 1, 2021

Milan Schimmel (Umatilla) has game-high 7 assists, adds 7 points for Bearcats in 71-58 Win over Tulsa February 28, 2021

North Texas Freshman LHP Janie Worthington (Kiowa/Caddo) has complete -game shut out with 17 Strikeouts February 28, 2021

Kasey Rice (Pawnee) Added 19 Points for Tabor College who advance to KCAC conference finals February 28, 2021

Alejandro Rama (Oglala Lakota) Scores 18 Points as Hardrockers Close Out Season With Win Over UCCS February 28, 2021

Kenia Hayes (Cherokee) has 21 points on her senior day for Northeastern State University February 28, 2021

13. Robert Torres, St. Gregory's	26:24.16
14. Alan Ramirez, Alan Texas Wesleyan	26:27.82
15 Oaklin Davis, Oklahoma City	26:29.52

0
Shares



Author: NDNSPORTS STAFF

Tre Holmes (Ojibwe):
Senior Is Leading The
Hibbing HS (MN)
Bluejackets On and Off the
Court February 27, 2021

Michael Irvine, out of
Ronan HS in Montana,
signed his letter of intent
to run cross country at the
Montana State University-
Northern February 25,
2021



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⇒ FEATURED, RUNNING

XC Coach Clay Kicker Mayes III (Cherokee/Chickasaw): "Looking to focus his energy on developing young talent from Indian Country."

👤 DAN NINHAM 📅 FEBRUARY 6, 2020

By Dan Ninham (Oneida)

Long distance running coaches may also have long distance careers. The long distance coach career has made positive impacts of many lives on and off the track and course.

Clay Kicker Mayes III is the head cross-country and track coach at the University of Antelope Valley in Lancaster, CA.

NEWS BY DATE

Alissa Pili's (Inupiaq) led USC with 18 points as Trojans Fall to No. 10 UCLA March 1, 2021

Kobe Buffalomeat (Cheyenne/Choctaw) Added 18 Points for the Baker Wildcats who Fall in Conference



"I grew up in Claremore, Oklahoma, and ran for Claremore-Sequoyah High School," said Clay. "I started to train consistently at the start of the 7th grade. It all started when I was invited by a family friend to join them in a 5k road race. My first distance race was in 6th grade at Holland Hale and it was a mile. I distinctly remember hurling everywhere post-mile race."

"Even before I started racing, while I was elementary, our physical education teacher used to let us do whatever and allotted 45 minutes during gym class in 5th and 6th grade. Immediately, I tried getting in a routine 12 to 16 laps each time as everyone socialized and mingled about the latest elementary gossip," added Clay.

"My 5k times progressed from 22.35 as a sixth grader to my race as a senior to 15.11," said Clay. "My college best 5k was 14.16 and 10k road race was 30.06 at 5,500 elevation."

"My accomplishments include being the Oklahoma State 3200m Champion, Nike Outdoor Track Nationals 6th place, and last All-American spot, All Conference Big 12 in 10,000 meters in 2009, and scorer for University of Oklahoma's 12th place at NCAA D1 XC Nationals Team finish."

"Oklahoma tribes tend to be a little different than other tribes, not in a bad and not in good way either," said Clay. "The culture is simply just a different type of culture. Not very many people really understand this outside of Oklahoma."

"What I have clearly seen being passed on by generation to generation is certain traits," said Clay. "The traits are almost stoic, quiet, and self reserved. That's the best way I can explain it. There are certain mannerisms that also get passed forward. A consistent variable, almost an unwritten rule everyone comprehends, was for one to talk less, works immensely hard, and show their value a role model through their actions in which one builds their family and community to be better. There's a sense of pride in working hard, and being a good family man/woman."

Coaches have leadership philosophy statements that include lessons that help guide them. "I make sure my actions reflect what I say and teach," said Clay. "I never drank once, never smoked, and I expect the same consistency amongst my runners. They deserve that standard! They love that standard in being righteous with their values and lifestyle."

"For our cross country/track team, we are vastly different from most. We don't take pride in simply being there, and being a number. The runners are different from any other team through their character, being 100% wholesome with their lifestyle, and they are the top athletes that hail from their communities," said Clay.

"There are certain stigmas that have been associated with the Native community, and the goal is to eliminate that through being a role model, and of

Quarterfinals March 1, 2021

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Tre Holmes (Ojibwe); Senior Is Leading The 

course, that also means speaking up regardless of how uncomfortable that may be," said Clay. "That's to cast out the bad eggs, and take pride in the god given talent, and sacrifices each runner and their families have made for them to be successful. If anyone hinders that overall, our perspective is that of a lukewarm Christian (half committed folks), Revelation 3:16, 'But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!'

"This is why our team thrives in being the best Native American xc and track team in the country for the last 20+ years," said Clay. "We aren't a typical team that is simply happy to just qualify for nationals, as some teams can qualify being quite mediocre through a technicality of having an easy conference. We always expect to be near the front against top competition, and we will always be working towards obtaining a national team title."

"In due time, these men and women will do so," said Clay.

"I do feel confident for never giving in with running, coaching, and held on to my way of life through and through," said Clay. "I've had my share of tests, but the one thing my dad taught me was 'foresight.' I always knew the advantage was to understand the value of one's decisions, and my dad help create that. It's why I trained hard, and it's what motivated me. It's what kept me from a bad crowd growing up, and it's what has made me strong."

"My Dad, also known as 'Clay Mayes,' oddly stubborn like I am, and if you want something done, you have to do it yourself," said Clay. "The lesson I learned from him was anyone can be successful as they want to be. It didn't matter what gender, ethnicity, or level of income someone had, anyone can decide how successful he/she will become. Although, it can be harder for some folks, everyone is given the beauty of free will and deciding their own fate."

Josh Justice Dick, who Coach Clay coached at Tahlequah HS, OK, said: "Clay is a person that helped me, a young kid from a small town, kick start his dreams of becoming a D1 scholarship student athlete," said Josh Dick. "It's hard for me to give one story about him because he helped me get through the weekly struggles of not just running but life outside of running as well. He has helped shape me into something better than I was. He taught me that it's not about killing yourself everyday to get better but just little bits at a time add up over time and you become stronger for it. He taught me to be consistent in my habits whether that is running, studying, or just life in general. I think that Clay Mayes III is an underrated coach and an even more underrated person. He has not just been a huge influence in my life but many other young athletes just like me."

Mike Barber, Club XC and Track coach at Jenks American said: "Clay Mayes is a young man that I have coached and mentored and married to his sweet wife Melanie. He is a focused brilliant young man that wants to win at all he does! He is one of the hardest workers I have ever coached! During his high school senior year he excelled to amazing levels attributable to his amazing work ethic,

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of talent is still lurking out there in Indian Country. The trick is showing those runners it's worth exploring their talent before they're lured away by the basketball court or the responsibilities of adult life. If anyone can do it, Clay can do it," added Dustin.

Tiajhae Nez (Dine'), top runner for Coach Clay at the University of Antelope Valley this season said: "I remember when I first came here to Antelope Valley my parents were scared to leave me especially my mom. We met up and had lunch with him and he was very nice and explained to them that if miss class or whatever that he would let them know. He also told them how he wants us to embrace our cultures and set examples for our communities back home."

"He really emphasized on the community part. He wants us to succeed, whether it's in schools, sports, and micromanaging the little things. He still empathizes that on us today because he doesn't want us to represent the image that others may see us that may be alcoholics or drug addicts. He provided us a positive outlet to become successful in running and school," said Tiajhae.

"Clay also is a big help when a few are struggling in school or if they need to go somewhere," said Tiajhae. "He'll ask someone on the team to tutor or to help them out throughout the semester and if we need a ride to the gym he'll make sure something is arranged. When we need a mental break he'll have us do a team hangout or movie night. He goes above and beyond for his runners, and that's something not every coach would do."

Jaiven Hale (Mandan/Hidatsa/Lakota/Pueblo), second top runner for Coach Clay at the University of Antelope Valley this season said: "Coach Clay is very supportive, helpful, and cares about me and to the rest of them team. He cares about us runners and wants us to do our best and to reach our full potential. He tells me that I can be a really great runner if I do the little things and believe in the training also to be patient. He also helps us with school asking things if we are ok in our classes, do we need help with anything, or asking if any our classes are hard. He keeps me healthy physically and mentally, asking me if I'm eating good or getting enough to eat if not he'll be there to help. He talks to us telling us that we can be the best if we really want it. Most coaches wouldn't do things that coach Clay does."

Former runner at Bacone College, Brian Masayesva said: "Overall, Clay is the best coach I've ever had from all the other coaches I've had in collegiate running from Arizona to Michigan coaches. He is a coach I'd name my first kid after, due to his values of integrity, loyalty and most of all his faith in his runners. Clay goes above and beyond if you meet him halfway with educational and athletic goals. He is my coach!"

"I feel eternally appreciative for all the people that have directly and indirectly helped and allowed for our team to be successful," said Clay. "I've had a great community that has also made sacrifices for the greater good. It took a whole



village with people in my life, parents of the runners, local and far away communities, and so forth to obtain the success and honors we've collected."

"My best advice is stay consistent," said Clay. "The best way to eliminate encountering problems? Stay away from the people unwilling to change. If someone is trying to eat healthy but struggles doing so, the last thing they should do is go to the grocery store hungry. 'Don't tempt the devil.' Good people and good runners want to be held to a higher standard, and often a 'tough' standard. Too many coaches either go through the motions, aren't sincere, and don't always understand the value that their men and women student-athletes can offer their community, and the world around them with their success as a student and athlete."

"Even if one person, coach, or student-athlete goes on to change just one single person over the course of decades, it was well worth it," said Clay.

"In regards to coaching, the greatest achievement was the fact everyone stayed healthy, and each runner impacted others positively to also pick up a healthy lifestyle," said Clay. "These runners spoke up about the things that are hard to talk about, and they are ideal role models, and they take pride in having value and morals."

"There is 320,000,000 million in terms of the population for the U.S.," said Clay. "I feel being confident in one's ability to coach and guide runners, there is more than enough talent to pursue in recruiting and coaching. The native community and their talent alone is still vastly untapped, in which, they account for 2 of 3 U.S. Olympic Medals in the 10,000m. That didn't happen by sheer luck!"

"Being confident in one's walk as a coach, why else look to the outside?" said Clay. "A prime example I came across was during the 2014/2015 school year, a young man I recruited who went from being lapped two times at his junior college indoor national 5,000m, to one of the best collegiate runners in the country within one year. A very gifted man, Jackson Thomas (Navajo), but definitely not the most talented runner I recruited or came across. At the time of recruiting him, Jackson was 100% committed to going to a top D2 college the following school year. Jackson reached out by phone and by email to pursue competing for this college the following school year, and was met with no response. I also followed up for him, as he was very straight forward he would go there and he asked for help with that process. I was also met with no responses by email and no returned calls. Within the emails I detailed Jackson's ability was quite capable of garnering multiple national titles. Instead of being discouraged like most, Jackson decided to pursue where I coached at, and exploded onto the college scene garnering 5 national titles, beating nearly every single D2 and D1 runner he faced. Jackson triumphed over the 7 time D2 champ, and 3 time D1 runner-up (xc-indoor-outdoor), who was a stellar Kenyan runner." Race video is included here: <https://youtu.be/5laSgnw3Ch4>



"What baffles me is how many people out there are like Jackson, who are met with no responses simply because a coach looks solely at a runner's raw race time but not their potential," said Clay. "Some coaches negate taking the time to see potential, and discard all reason to recruit the runner because of this one factor. In Jackson's case, he lived less than two hours from the college he originally planned to pursue and later admitted if I didn't reach out to him, he was going to hang up his running career to pursue another path with life."

"Jackson's success created a positive ripple effect in getting others to pursue the same cause and started to work towards being a great collegiate runner, and getting their degree to help build their community in various ways (like being a teacher for their community). There has to be relatability in order for others to feel empowered to follow suit of another successful runner. Seeing relatability with others successful student-athletes allows for one to more likely self-evaluate their own well being and potential, and to push to be better," added Clay.

Jackson Thomas said: "Coach Clay is one of a kind coach. His dedication, determination, and love for the sport amazed me everyday. I've known him for about six or seven years now. In those years he's shown me how to better myself with running and outside of running. Clay will go the distance for you if you put in the work and do as he asked. The rewards are endless but I don't think it's the rewards he looks forward to. It's the improvement and seeing the person succeed and reach the goals they set out to do with running and their education."

"Unfortunately, most college coaches at the top level simply thrive due to possessing bigger scholarships and resources," said Clay. "It's still quite possible to be successful without the same resources as these colleges but there is less room for error. With talented runners like Jackson, the talent has to be discovered and untapped, and importantly, the right mentality has to be brought in to be successful."

"From one coach to another coach, I would suggest making sure you convey the right message, mentality, and culturally with coaching aspiring student-athletes," added Clay.

Photo Credit: Jackson Thomas

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Author: Dan Ninham





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FEATURED, RUNNING

Bacone College's Men's Cross Country has good showing at NAIA National Championships; Young Squad of Native American Runners has Bright Future Ahead

NDNSPORTS STAFF NOVEMBER 23, 2015

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – (Individual / Team Results) 326 runners took on the challenge of McAlpine Creek Park in Charlotte, N.C. for the 2015 NAIA National

NEWS BY DATE

Alissa Pili's (Inupiaq) led USC with 18 points as Trojans Fall to No. 10 UCLA March 1, 2021

Kobe Buffalomeat (Cheyenne/Choctaw)

Cross Country Championships and Bacone College, which features Native American runners for the majority of the team, raced and exceeded all expectations, and not just with their final performance, but for the whole season.

Former Wings of America runner and current head coach Clayton Mayes, III, said, "With 80% of our roster/team being freshman, it's simply a tough transition for their first collegiate cross country season. I think if you would have told any coach in the NAIA that we were going to finish 15th at Nationals by the end of the season, it would have been borderline humorous for them to hear."

Since becoming the head cross country coach at Bacone, Clayton has spent a good amount of time recruiting some of the best up and coming runners through out Indian Country.

Coach spoke about some of his runners:

"Kyle Sumatzkuku (Hopi) became a critical stepping stone to closing out our scoring for the last half of the season. With cross country, you're as strong as your weakest link. This guy won't stop until he becomes one of the best."

"Pure resilience! Jackson Thomas (Navajo) definitely took the next step in his running career this season. Every single performance of his season was significantly better than all his previous cross country races before this season. Talk about consistency at a top level! Jackson has shown he will have a long career in the sport, including professional running once he obtains his degree."

"Zech VanFleet (Cherokee and Navajo) has always been reliable from the get-go. I don't think people understand how talented he is and what he will accomplish for the seasons to come. It won't be long before he's a premier college runner."

"Carlos Roa is our team captain. He has a relentless desire to take our team to the next level and he understands how to motivate the other runners. Eduardo Roa has come a long ways since taking a break from the sport between Mesa Community College graduation to Bacone College admission. He has been a consistent 2+ minutes faster each race than his previous best xc performance last year."

"Closing out our final two sports for 6th and 7th man is Tyron Yazzie (Navajo) and Ryan Lang (Choctaw and Pawnee). Ryan is an extremely untouched talent. It appears even he is surprised with his vast improvement over this season! To put it into perspective how far Tyron Yazzie has come, he started out with a 4 miler tempo in 26.29. To be honest, I was almost hesitant to race him at the start of the season. I almost wanted to redshirt him at that point and phase him slowly and gradually into collegiate running. A coach should never rush the process with the runners. But, my doubts were erased when he was cruising his 4 mile tempos in 21.15 by the season's end."

Added 18 Points for the Baker Wildcats who Fall in Conference Quarterfinals March 1, 2021

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"A runner to note: Justin Littleman's (Navajo) performances earlier in the season brought is enough attention to get the team ranked. Running 26.30 as a true freshman for the 8k is a solid stepping stone for ANY runner."

"Next year, we plan to really set the tone for the season to come. We have big plans. However, the guys deserve to kick back for a bit and really enjoy their performance. Not often does a program pull a complete 180 within just one year. Simply Cool! 7 of our top 9 runners are with a Native American tribe.

Based on their performance this season, I know they will continue to prove just how talented they are! As a coach, the more you know about the sport, the more you realize how critical the runners are in creating an ideal training environment. It became our mission to show just how blessed these guys are with talent.

“

I've come to realize after watching this season unfold, I'm not doing anything special in terms of innovating training as a coach. With how talented these Natives are, all I have done is simply wake the sleeping giant that we all know existed.”

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Author: NDNSPORTS STAFF

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⇒ FEATURED, RUNNING

Bacone Colleges' Jackson Thomas (Navajo) Finishes College Career as MVP of the 2017 NAIA Outdoor National Track & Field Championships

NDNSPORTS STAFF MAY 30, 2017

(Gulf Shores, AL) – Jackson Thomas (Navajo), of Bacone College out of Muskogee, Oklahoma, finished his college career as the 2017 NAIA Outdoor National Track & Field Championships Most Valuable Performer after winning the both the 5,000m and 10,000m runs this past weekend.

NEWS BY DATE

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Kobe Buffalomeat (Cheyenne/Choctaw)

Jackson has been one of the most successful runners in a few decades for Indian Country and his past two seasons with Bacone are unprecedented for a program that didn't even have a running program just three years ago.

Even at the NAIA level, Jackson still ran impressive times and even defeated NCAA D1 and D2 runners at various cross country and track & field meets through out his career but to finish out on top is fitting to a storied career.

Head Bacone running coach Clay Mayes said, "Jackson almost ran the 1500 and 5000m double, however the 5,000m and 10,000m was a tougher and more admirable route. A lot of runners on all levels, will just run the 5000m at nationals, because it's an event that comes last for distance events and most runners are either tired or fresh because it's their latter race. Jackson and the #2 man(Geoffrey) both where the only contenders to do both the 5k and 10k, as most runners in the field aimed to place well or win the 5,000m by being fresh. Alas, the admirable route and to end on a real dynasty was to race both."

"Needless to say in the 10,000m.... Jackson split a 54.8 for the last 400m. It would be hard for any runner to match this kick. The 10,000m had repeated surges and quickly turned into a 2 man race(Jackson & Geoffrey), as both runners where 200m ahead of 3rd place." said Coach Mayes. (Watch last 500m here: <https://youtu.be/LnBrvlyg7mw>)

Below are some honors Thomas has garnered while at Bacone:

- 2016 Kansas Rim Rock Classic Champ.
- 2017 Kansas Relays 5,000m (2016) and 10,000m (2017) champ.
- 2016 Sooner Athletic Conference Cross Country Individual champ.
- Facility Record holder at Pitt State for the mile, 4.04 win.
- One of JUST two runners to beat Vincent Kiprof this year, with a slightly tactical 3000m, running 8.03 with a 56 last 400m(also facility record at Pitt State). To brag on Kiprof, Kiprof is a 5 mx D2 champ, just a couple seconds from the D2 national record in 10,000m. Kiprof ran 28.18 10k. Kiprof is nearly as good as any D1 runner, beating a top 15 NCAA XC finisher by over and winning by 1/2 a minute+ at Arkansas's Chile Pepper 8k, with a 23.02.
- Selected as the MVP of the most recent national meet, 2017 NAIA Outdoor Nationals.

Jackson now has 5 NAIA National Titles to his name, as he was essentially unbeatable this past school year:

- 2016 NAIA Mile Indoor National Champion
- 2016 NAIA XC National Champion
- 2017 NAIA Mile Indoor National Champion

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- 2017 NAIA 5,000m Outdoor National Champion
- 2017 NAIA 10,000m Outdoor National Champion

All around with xc and track, Jackson is essentially the most notable collegiate runner for Indian Country these past couple of years.

You can catch some other races here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCILgYDPSRNR4YdaLpgrtUpg>

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