

2012 SEC Outdoor Track & Field Championships
Day 3 Quotes – May 12, 2012

Allison Updike, Georgia
Women's Javelin Champion

"It's an honor to win an SEC title in my first year. I didn't do the best I've done or come out like I wanted to, but it's a win. I'm happy to be here, and it really feels great finishing first."

"I have been working hard since day one at Georgia; doing ball throws, lifting and working with Coach (Don) Babbitt on my runway approach. I still don't have things perfect, but I feel like I have come a long way. Coach (Wayne) Norton always talks about the team spirit and I always want to help out the team and be a contributor."

Annie Alexander, Tennessee
Women's Shot Put Champion

"It feels great (to win). After the team meeting this morning, Coach Frazier (UT throws coach) spoke to me and said 'all you have to go out there and do is please yourself.' 'No pressure - just do what you came here to do.' I think it helped a lot and took away a lot of the nervousness. I am really happy to go out there and accomplish what I set out for myself to do."

"After my first throw, I saw indoor nationals flash before me, and I told myself I can't have that (not making finals) happen again. I had to calm down, go back to the drawing board and just be patient. Sometimes we get caught up in being explosive, and sometimes we just have to be relaxed. I needed to depend on my relaxation today."

Raymond Higgs, Arkansas
Men's Long Jump Champion

"I just have to thank God for getting me here, along with my teammates, friends, family and coaches for pushing me and even my teachers for helping me get through my classes. On that last jump, I knew it was a good one when I landed. I thought to myself 'yeah, that was a good one.' All I had to do was wait for the result and it was 8.36 (meters)."

Rachel Jenkins, Ole Miss
Women's Long Jump Champion

"Coming in, I knew I had to get my first jump on the board, and that's what I did. It's been an extremely long road. Last year when I really felt I was at my peak, I tore my ACL in the first meet. I didn't even plan at first on coming back (to compete as a fifth-year senior). I had to think about it and come to the decision that this is something I really wanted to finish. I had all these dreams and aspirations, goals that I wanted to achieve. The injury was a barrier in my way. I did a lot of praying. God really helped me a lot. I didn't think anything like this would be able to happen, but he gave me the desire and the drive to know that I can do this. I have to give him all the glory."

Andrew Evans, Kentucky
Men's Discus Champion

On the victory in the men's discus throw...

"I feel fortunate because there was some competition here that could have thrown a lot further, including myself, but I feel lucky that's for sure."

On capturing Kentucky's fifth-straight men's discus title at the SEC Championships...

"It means a lot to me, I want to continue that for the next two or three years with myself and Isiah (Kent)."

On earning 10 points for the Kentucky men's team...

"That's good because I was kind of upset yesterday I didn't get any points in the hammer with a ninth-place finish. I'm just glad I could make up for it with a first-place."

Taylor Burke, Florida
Women's High Jump Champion

On adjusting to life as a two-sport athlete ...

"I think I've definitely adjusted well to college life and being at Florida. I think that was a big part of indoor was coming off soccer season and attempting to adjust to the new workouts and new teammates. I think I've found my home on the Gator track team and I'm feeling a lot more comfortable."

On clearing each bar on the first attempt ...

"I definitely loved being clean. That was my goal coming in and I knew in order to place well that you have to have clean bars because of how great the competition is. One of my goals was being clean today and I definitely did that."

On getting 10 points for Florida ...

"That was my other goal, besides being clean, I wanted to come out and get 10 points for my team. It's the best I can do for my team and now it's up to the rest of my teammates tomorrow."

Genevieve LaCaze, Florida
Women's 3,000 Steeplechase Champion

On crossing the finish line ...

"Coming down the stretch, I saw I had space and knew it was smooth sailing and I couldn't do anything but smile. I've worked so hard for this and I couldn't be more pleased to get the points for my team."

On being a senior ...

"I'll miss the atmosphere, the team, the coaches, the program, the University of Florida, being a Gator and I'll be a Gator for life. The past four years have been the best years of my life and I'm so glad I came here and got to experience everything and compete with my teammate Stephanie (Strasser) and everyone out here cheering. I'll miss it but I'll never say goodbye to being a Gator."

Morgann Leleux, Georgia
Women's Pole Vault Champion

"It's awesome. At first I didn't even realize I had won but I am definitely excited now. I just hope the Georgia girls bring it (on Sunday) because we can win this thing or come close to winning this thing."

Matt Cleaver, Georgia
Men's 3,000 Steeplechase Champion

"Coach (Jeff) Pigg and I have been planning since the cross country season on how I would defend my steeplechase title so I came here with confidence. But with that being said, you can't be too confident because I knew I would be racing some of the country's top guys. I am just pleased I was able to contribute to the team and win another championship for Georgia."