



When time really counts

Eathan Hamm and Weldon Thompson practice hand-offs for the 1600m relay during afternoon track practice. The relay made up of Hamm, Thompson, Marco Enriquez and Ben McGehee clocked a time of 3:34, their season's best, at the Wildcat Relays.

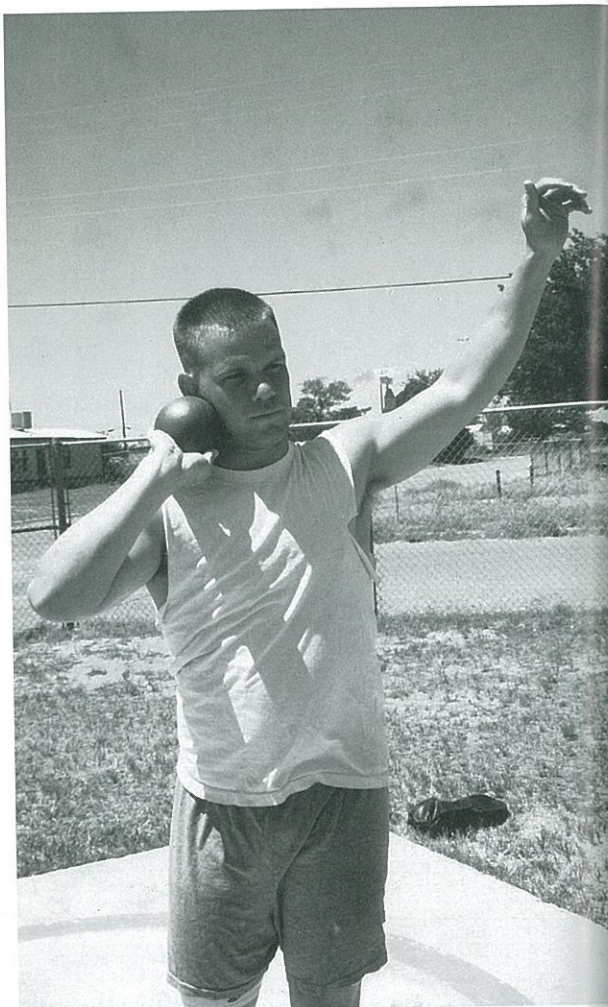


Senior Marco Enriquez runs the third leg of the 1600m relay at the area track meet. The Wink team came in fifth.



As a freshman, Gizmo Ruiz qualified for the regional track meet in both the long jump and the 100m dash. His fastest time of 11.13 put him among the top freshmen sprinters in the state.

Senior W.E. Tinkler qualified for regional in the shot put after coming in second at the area track meet. His farthest toss of the year, 45'8", came at the Rio Grande Relays in Sanderson.



Ben McGehee
800m Run State Champion
Fourth at State in the 1600m Run

Sweet Redemption

When Ben McGehee crossed the finish line of the State Track Meet's 800m run in first place, he redeemed a year's worth of hard work, determination and disappointment for his ultimate goal, a state gold medal.

Even though Ben possesses great athletic ability that allowed him to have stellar careers in both football and basketball, his accomplishments in track required gut wrenching determination.

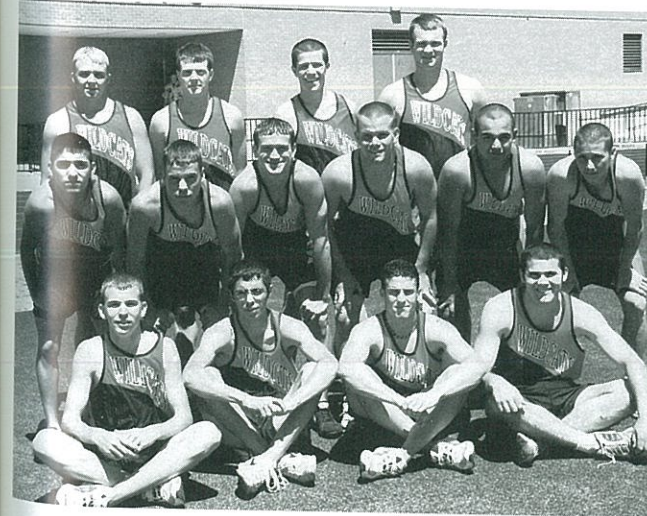
As a sophomore, Ben reached the state level in both the 1600m and 3200m runs. That year he found some success by finishing second in the 1600 and seventh in the 3200, but this just whetted his desire for the gold.

Poised for an almost sure shot at another trip to state as a junior, Ben tore a hamstring during warm-ups just prior to his 3200m run at the district. This ended his hopes for the year but made his determination to win gold as a senior even stronger.

Over the summer, and then through football and basketball seasons, Ben continued to train for track. He could be seen on the streets and outlying roads of Wink as he ran before school or on weekends. In fact, he estimates he ran in excess of 900 miles from April of 2000 until his victory in 2001.

To better take advantage of his strengths, he dropped the 3200 and added the 800 to his area of concentration. This move paid huge dividends, and he advanced to state in both the 800 and 1600.

With his best chance of capturing the gold being the 800, he left nothing to chance. From the time the gun sounded at the state meet, until he crossed the finish line, Ben held control of the race. His time of 1:57.05 ranked best of the day in 1A, and Ben finally knew the sweet joy of victory.



2001 Varsity Track Team: back - Heath Morton, Ben McGehee, Derrick York and Gil Shackelford; Marco Enriquez, Eathan Hamm, Weldon Thompson, W.E. Tinkler, Tim Gonzales and Glen Milligan; front - Clayton Hawkins, Gizmo Ruiz, Terry Rich and Coy Fields



2001 J-V Track Team: back - Garrett Wolf, Austin Robertson, Zach Hanna and Jonathan Valencia; front - Jacob Harrison, Daniel Gray, Cody Garratt and Clay Haws