

Holding Court With Martin Bingisser



Martin Bingisser, an unheralded track and field athlete from Interlake High School in Bellevue, recently became the 3rd best hammer thrower in UW history, and is looking to garner the 2nd All-American honor of his Husky career. Equally as impressive, Martin is a second year student in the UW Law School, with aspirations of becoming an attorney. Before he gets there, however, Martin hopes to hold court at the Pac-10 and NCAA Championships this spring, and maybe beyond.

Question: Not being a highly recruited athlete out of high school, what would you attribute your success to at Washington?

Answer: The hammer throw is such a great event because it rewards anyone who works hard. Hammer throwers come in all shapes, sizes, and have varying athletic ability. The one thing every successful hammer thrower has in common is that they have worked hard. The event requires so much technique that by mastering it you can overcome almost any physical shortcoming. That is something you can't really say about the 100-meters or even the shot put. I've worked hard, studied the event, and learned from the best in the world. That is what has helped turn me from a walk-on to an All-American.

Question: What current Husky (male or female) do you draw a lot of inspiration or support from?

Answer: I have the pleasure of saying that I've watched Ryan Brown's growth as both an athlete and as a person. Like myself, he is a former walk-on. I remember when he returned to the track team and couldn't break 1:50 in the 800 meters. I also remember when I cheered him on in the stands as he won his first NCAA title last June. He's worked hard and has earned every bit of success he has obtained. And through it all he still remains a humble man with a great sense of humor. I hope I can achieve the same amount of success he has.

Question: What former Husky do you aim to be like, or draw inspiration from?

Answer: I grew up a Husky football fan and if there was one person who taught me how to be a Husky, it was Don James. He was responsible for a tradition of winning and excellence that I hope to continue. When I was young, there was nothing in the world I wanted more than to be a Husky. It still makes me proud to wear the purple and gold.

Question: What are your goals for this season? Beyond?

Answer: I used to set very specific goals every year. That changed last year when I started law school. I had no clue how the new time commitment would affect my training schedule, so I really just aimed to make it through the year alive. In the end I ended up having the best season of my career. This season has been much of the same. I haven't set many goals. Obviously I would like to repeat as an All-American. I would also like to improve my personal best. However, beyond that, I just want to keep my life in order. Again, the plan has worked out well so far as I have improved both indoors and outdoors. If I work hard, I know the success will come. In the long term, however, I have had goal for a long time: qualifying for the Olympics.

Question: As spare as might be, what do you like to do in your free time?

Answer: Like you said, I don't have a lot of spare time. However, when I do get the chance, I spend most of my spare time with my family, friends, and girlfriend. They help give me some perspective on life.

Question: As a student at UW Law, what are your goals for the future?

Answer: Obviously I would eventually like to become a lawyer. My coursework currently focuses on tax law. This summer I will be working in tax law at two different law firms: one in Washington D.C. and one in Zürich, Switzerland. However, before I become a full-time attorney I want to make sure I have accomplished everything I can in the hammer throw. I don't want to have any regrets about leaving the sport early. If that means putting my career on hold for a few years, then so be it.

Question: How has your experience as a UW thrower benefited you as an aspiring law student?

Answer: The best thing I learned as a student-athlete had nothing to do with athletics. It was the art of time management. As an undergraduate I quickly learned how to balance training with my studies. More than anything, that has been a valuable asset in law school and will continue to be a valuable skill in my legal career.

Question: What has been your most memorable moment(s) as a Husky?

Answer: I've had a lot of great experiences over the past few years. I've seen our team win three consecutive dual meets against Washington State. I've seen our team win two indoor conference titles. I've even had the opportunity to train and compete in Europe. However, last year's NCAA National Championships was by far my most memorable moment as a Husky. Other meets cannot even begin to compare to the excitement surrounding the NCAA Championships. Not only did I throw well, but I also witnessed two of my teammates win national titles. What more could you ask for?

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