



Sky High Talent

By • Mike Sohan • mike@CollegeTalent.com

St. Xavier senior Chip Heuser has established his position as one of the premier pole-vaulters in the country, earning a scholarship to the University of Florida, and breaking records along the way. In February, he set the record at the Mason Dixon Games before a loud cheering audience with a smashing mark of 17'0", thus overshadowing his previous indoor best of 16'2-3/4" set at the Nike Indoor Classic last year. He is a four time state champion with an outdoor record of 16'6" at the recent Tiger Relays and has earned the rare distinction of being a two time All-American.

In practice, Heuser is a man among boys. While many young vaulters spend their time learning the basic techniques of the bend, inversion, release and skydive while building trust in their own bodies at the edge of insanity 15 feet in the air, it is obvious Heuser is miles ahead (or miles overhead) of the competition. Bulging muscles are visible not only in the arms and legs, but in the chest and stomach as well (yes ladies, there is the six-pack,) which give clear-cut, and well defined evidence of his dedication to the complete body strength needed to launch off the runway.

His quest to be the best began in grade school when Heuser's father, Louis, him-

self an alumni pole-vaulter from the University of Florida, decided to build a vaulter's pit in the family yard. The young Heuser had been worn out on swimming and other sports and, always looking for an exciting sport, pole-vaulting caught his attention quick.

Since then, his love of the sport has fueled his drive to be the best, often traveling to Jonesboro, Arkansas to work out with Earl Bell, a former Olympian, and training locally with Chris Daniel, a St. X. alumni and former pole-vaulter at the University of Kentucky who is currently working towards his professional ambitions in the sport. Heuser works out every day at the Louisville Youth Training Center, which has blossomed from the family yard into a full fitness and nutrition center operated by Dr. Heuser.

Still, with all the training, inverting your body with a fiberglass pole 15 to 20 feet in the air has its dangers. Last year alone, there were three deaths in pole vault competitions (one of which was in Kentucky.)

"Most of the time, accidents happen because of bad judgment on the part of the athlete and/or coaches," said Heuser. "You have to really know what you're doing. A pole not sized for the athlete could bend and throw you right off the back of the pit."

Changes are constantly being implemented to increase safety, but sometimes that can be a double-edged sword, as in the case of wearing helmets.

"I think helmets give a false sense of security," Heuser said. "An athlete may think they're safe, but they forget about other factors such as the right pole or the conditions of the track, which could lead to major problems in spite of the helmet."

Once past equipment check comes the gut check.

"You have to have the confidence that you can make that jump," he said. "That's the key."

In his free time, Heuser participates in family activities like bike riding, snowboarding and barefoot water skiing. He also participates in other track and field events for the Tigers such as the long jump, high jump, triple jump, 100-meter and 200-meter dash and has been clocked at 4.3 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

Heuser is now concentrating on finishing out his pre-college career with more strong showings before carrying the momentum south to Gator Country. After a practice jump of 18'0", he took home a third place medal at the Nike Indoor Classic with a vault of 16'4", and followed up a few weeks later with a record setting 16'8-3/4" at the Florida Relays.

Yesterday's results

GIRLS

Class AAA

Teams — 1. Greenwood 16; 2. North Hardin 11; 3. Henderson County 10; Ballard 10; Christian County 10; 6. Assumption 8; Dupont Manual 8.

3,200 relay — 1. Greenwood 9:39.01; 2. Dupont Manual 9:50.93; 3. Scott 9:57.07; 4. Notre Dame Academy 10:00.27; 5. South Oldham 10:06.89; 6. North Hardin 10:15.36.

Discus — 1. Derrica Jones, Christian County 114-01; 2. Gloria Dennis, North Hardin 112-10; 3. Oriaku Njoku, Greenwood 111-02; 4. Lindsey Stanley, Henderson County 110-10; 5. Courtney Wood, Apollo 106-0; 6. Christina Easton, Pleasure Ridge Park 101-03.

Long jump — 1. Denasha Mondy, Ballard 17-05.25 w:NWI; 2. Michelle Esterle, Assumption 17-00.25 w:NWI; 3. Amber Floyd, Henry Clay 16-11 w:NWI; 4. Joella Morgan, Pulaski County 16-06 w:NWI; 5. Asia Brown, Butler 16-05.50 w:NWI; 6. Melissa Jarrett, Henderson County 16-05 w:NWI.

Class AA

Teams — 1. Paducah Tilghman 30; 2. Russell 15; 3. Mercy 10; Rockcastle County 10; Casey County 10; 6. East Carter 6; Fort Campbell 6.

3,200 relay — 1. Mercy 9:45.00; 2. Russell 9:50.99; 3. Fort Campbell 10:04.10; 4. Warren East 10:06.27; 5. Lloyd Memorial 10:12.98; 6. Butler County 10:21.84.

Discus — 1. Pam Bell, Paducah Tilghman 134-09; 2. Emily Rader, Casey County 127-02; 3. Clarissa Hubbard, Rockcastle County 115-07; 4. Joy Boven, West Jessamine 104-05; 5. Heather Byars, Union County 101-09; 6. Deanna Feilen, Highlands 101-03.

Long jump — 1. Shanea Wilson, Paducah Tilghman 17-10.50 w:NWI; 2. Temi Akojie, Paducah Tilghman 17-00.75 w:NWI; 3. Kasi Mullins, East Carter 17-00.50 w:NWI; 4. Sheena Ferguson, Russell 16-02.25 w:NWI; 5. Heather Hammond, Rockcastle County 16-01 w:NWI; 6. Laura Wagner, Fleming County 15-11 w:NWI.

Class A

Teams — 1. Bishop Brossart 21; 2. Frankfort 15; 3. St. Mary 12; 4. Bellevue 11; 5. Lexington Christian 10; 6. Louisville Collegiate 9.

3,200 relay — 1. Bishop Brossart 10:01.57; 2. St. Henry 10:08.78; 3. Hancock County 10:09.24; 4. Frankfort 10:11.35; 5. St. Mary 10:22.16; 6. Fairview 10:35.49.

Discus — 1. Alex Oder, Frankfort 115-03; 2. Alicia Schipp, St. Mary 101-07; 3. Amanda Orme, Bellevue 100-0; 4. Meghan Myers, Bellevue 98-0; 5. Marie Teisl, Bishop Brossart 94-04; 6. Katie Krutzkamp, Bishop Brossart 89-09.

Long jump — 1. Elizabeth Jones, Lexington Christian 17-08.75 w:NWI; 2. Griffin Mathew, Louisville Collegiate 17-05.25 w:NWI; 3. Rizzpah Torian, Trigg County 16-01.75 w:NWI; 4. Joy Schultz, Newport Central Catholic 15-11 w:NWI; 5. Stephanie Dierig, Bishop Brossart 15-10 w:NWI; 6. Lauren Monk, St. Francis 15-04.75 w:NWI.

BOYS

Class AAA

Teams — 1. St. Xavier 43.50; 2. Trinity 24; 3. Covington Catholic 20; 4. Paul Dunbar 10; Woodford County 10; Owensboro 10.

3,200 relay — 1. St. Xavier 8:01.10; 2. Shelby County 8:02.57; 3. Covington Catholic 8:03.77; 4. South Oldham 8:14.93; 5. Scott 8:20.42; 6. Daviess County 8:20.47.

Shot put — 1. Drew Traub, St. Xavier 54-04.75; 2. Chris Brunemann, Covington Catholic 50-07; 3. Terry Clayton, Logan County 49-01; 4. Matt Waddell, Madisonville Nor Hopkins 48-01; 5. Zeke Maier, Covington Catholic 46-08.25; 6. Markieth Gillis, Bryan Station 46-04.75.

Triple jump — 1. Antoine Wilson, Woodford County 45-02.25 w:NWI; 2. Darrin Turpin, North Hardin 44-11 w:NWI; 3. Robert Waller, Henderson County 44-09.50 w:NWI; 4. Manny Thurman, Paul Dunbar 44-04.25 w:NWI; 5. Michael Hughes, Male 44-04 w:NWI; 6. Will Jones, Trinity 43-06.25 w:NWI.

High jump — 1. Markel Carr, Owensboro 6-08; 2. Will Jones, Trinity 6-06; 3. Chris Hardin, Ballard 6-04; 3. Adam Stephenson, St. Xavier 6-04; 5. Michael Edmunds, Apollo 6-02; 6. Everett Morton, Paul Dunbar 6-02.

Pole vault — 1. Chip Heuser, St. Xavier 15-07; 2. Greg Rueff, St. Xavier 13-0; 3. Sean Hopper, Trinity 13-0; 4. Brendon McKenzie, Trinity 12-06; 5. Travis Lenhof, Scott 12-06; 5. Jarrod Smith, Grayson County 12-06.

Class A

Teams — 1. St. Henry 23; 2. Bishop Brossart 21; 3. Kentucky Country Day 16; 4. Mayfield 14; 5. Pikeville 10; Fort Knox 10; Fairview 10.

3,200 relay — 1. Bishop Brossart 8:20.64; 2. Kentucky Country Day 8:23.98; 3. Frankfort 8:26.82; 4. St. Henry 8:27.79; 5. Pikeville 8:30.34; 6. Christian Academy - Lou 8:34.92.

Shot put — 1. Chris Champion, Mayfield 51-05; 2. Ross Cohen, Kentucky Country Day 50-02.25; 3. Barrett Rogers, Pikeville 45-08.75; 4. Adam Hunter, Nicholas County 45-01.25; 5. Sam Reid, Nicholas County 44-11.75; 6. Justin Atkins, Darville 43-04.

Triple jump — 1. Jamaal Folks, Fort Knox 47-09 w:NWI; 2. Jarred Tackett, Jenkins 43-11.75 w:NWI; 3. Maurice Hampton, Russellville 41-11 w:NWI; 4. Lawrence Arnold,

TRACK AND FIELD

Heuser breaks state record

Junior's 15-7 effort in pole vault is one of three St. X wins

By **JOSH COOK**
jcook@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Chip Heuser reached new heights in the pole vault yesterday at the State Track and Field Championships at the University of Kentucky but nearly was grounded before he got started.

The St. Xavier High School junior set a State Meet record of 15 feet, 7 inches in the Class AAA meet even though he hadn't vaulted since injuring his right shoulder in last Wednesday's regional meet at North Hardin.

Heuser didn't get cleared by his doctor to participate until Thursday.

"It really psyched me up when he said I could," he said. "So today was a pretty good day, considering. Goal one was to win. Goal two was to get the record."

Heuser eclipsed the state record of 15-6, set by Daviess County's Adam Smith in 1989.

"It was great to go over the bar, then hear the crowd after I did," said Heuser, who responded with jubilant waves. "It pumped me up."

He missed on three attempts at 16-0, narrowly on the first and third tries.

It was a remarkable turnaround considering Heuser couldn't lift his right elbow above his ear after suffering the injury in the region meet.

"When I first did it we thought it would be a no shot (at competing at State)," he said. "We hoped it would heal quickly, and thank God it did."

Heuser's victory helped St. X take a big step toward its second straight Class AAA boys' title. The Tigers won three of five events yesterday and got a runner-up finish from Greg Rueff in the pole vault to tally 43½ points. Trinity is second with 24.

Behind Bobby Curtis' sizzling anchor leg, St. X's 3,200-meter relay team rallied from third to first to win in 8 minutes, 1.10 seconds.

It was the team's best time by 10 seconds. The foursome also included Peter Meirose, Kenny Koller and Jus-

300 hurdles (40.48) and anchored the Colonels' 800 relay team (1:29.34), which had the fastest first-day time.

And in what should be a highly competitive 100, North Hardin's Cameron Ponder had the fastest preliminary time with a 10.90. Male's Chris Barclay was second at 10.95 and Scott County's Todd Chisley third at 10.99.

On the girls' side, Ballard junior Denasha Mondy repeated her long jump crown, sailing 17-5¼ on her final attempt for the first of what she hopes will be four individual titles.

Assumption junior Michelle Esterle was second at 17-0¼.

Mondy was the fastest qualifier in the 100 (12.10), which she also won last year, and had the second-fastest time in the 200 (25.38) behind Iroquois' Lashondra Durias (24.96).

Today Mondy is hoping to make amends for last year's 200, when she was disqualified for a false start in a race that Durias won.

"Last year I had the jitters," Mondy said. "I want to try to make up for it and win it."

Durias has defeated Mondy in two meetings in the 100 this season, but the two haven't met in the 200 yet.

They also will face off in the triple jump, where Mondy is the top seed and Durias No. 2.

Ballard, a two-time defending team champion, also had the top qualifying times in the 1,600 relay (4:09.61) and 400, where Nola Johnson (59.23) edged seventh-grader De Angela McDougald of Jeffersontown (59.70).

The Greenwood 3,200 relay team, featuring cross country standout Emily Leeper, won in 9:39.01. Manual finished second in 9:50.93.

Class AA

It also was a record-setting day for Mercy's 3,200 relay team. It ran a 9:45 to break the Class AA mark of 9:47.20 set by Western Hills in 1998. Lindsey Beyke, Rachel Hayden, Carmen Mims and Lauren Wilson set the record for Mercy, which didn't lead until Mims — the reigning AA cross country champion — ran the third leg.

"We were scared until Carmen ran," said Wilson, who also ran the anchor leg for last year's state-winning 3,200 relay team.

Senior Shanea Wilson's 10th state title, seventh individually, highlighted two-time defending champion Paducah Tilghman's first day in the Class

6. Marketh Gillis, Bryan Station 46-04.75.
Triple jump — 1. Antoine Wilson, Woodford County 45-02.25 w:NWI; 2. Darrin Turpin, North Hardin 44-11 w:NWI; 3. Robert Waller, Henderson County 44-09.50 w:NWI; 4. Manny Thurman, Paul Dunbar 44-04.25 w:NWI; 5. Michael Hughes, Male 44-04 w:NWI; 6. Will Jones, Trinity 43-08.25 w:NWI.
High jump — 1. Markel Carr, Owensboro 6-06; 2. Will Jones, Trinity 6-06; 3. Chris Harden, Ballard 6-04; 3. Adam Stephenson, St. Xavier 6-04; 5. Michael Edmunds, Apollo 6-02; 6. Everett Morton, Paul Dunbar 6-02.
Pole vault — 1. Chip Heuser, St. Xavier 15-07; 2. Greg Rueff, St. Xavier 13-0; 3. Sean Hopper, Trinity 13-0; 4. Brendon McKenzie, Trinity 12-06; 5. Travis Lenhof, Scott 12-06; 5. Jarrod Smith, Grayson County 12-06.

Class A

Teams — 1. St. Henry 23; 2. Bishop Brossart 21; 3. Kentucky Country Day 16; 4. Mayfield 14; 5. Pikeville 10; Fort Knox 10; Fairview 10.
3,200 relay — 1. Bishop Brossart 8:20.64; 2. Kentucky Country Day 8:23.98; 3. Frankfort 8:26.82; 4. St. Henry 8:27.79; 5. Pikeville 8:30.34; 6. Christian Academy - Lou 8:34.92.
Shot put — 1. Chris Champion, Mayfield 51-05; 2. Ross Cohen, Kentucky Country Day 50-02.25; 3. Barrett Rogers, Pikeville 45-08.75; 4. Adam Hunter, Nicholas County 45-01.25; 5. Sam Reid, Nicholas County 44-11.75; 6. Justin Atkins, Danville 43-04.
Triple jump — 1. Jamaal Folks, Fort Knox 47-09 w:NWI; 2. Jarred Tackett, Jenkins 43-11.75 w:NWI; 3. Maurice Hampton, Russellville 41-11 w:NWI; 4. Lawrence Arnold, Ballard Memorial 41-06.75 w:NWI; 5. Jamel Hayes, Holy Cross - Louisville 40-08.25 w:NWI; 6. Kevin Miller, Newport Central Catholic 40-07 w:NWI.
High jump — 1. Roger Kaylor, Fairview 6-06; 2. Jamie Cline, Wolfe County 6-02; 3. Dave Schuchter, Bishop Brossart 6-0; 4. Chris Payne, Bardstown 6-0; 5. Patrick Bugg, Harrodsburg 6-0; 6. Maurice Hampton, Russellville 6-0; 7. Wesley Barnes, Bardstown 6-0.
Pole vault — 1. Danny Braun, St. Henry 11-0; 2. Michael Blackthorn, St. Henry 10-06; 2. James Crenshaw, Trigg County 10-06; 4. Dave Rust, Bishop Brossart 10-06; 5. Shawn Murphy, Raceland 10-0; 6. Rob Birkenhauer, Newport Central Catholic 10-0.

Class A

Teams — 1. Mason County 18; Highlands 18; Paducah Tilghman 18; 4. Fort Campbell 16; 5. East Jessamine 11.50; 6. Marion County 11.
3,200 relay — 1. Paducah Tilghman 8:19.28; 2. Highlands 8:19.43; 3. Russell 8:25.88; 4. Boyle County 8:28.85; 5. Fort Campbell 8:35.35; 6. John Hardin 8:39.95.
Shot put — 1. Andy Fryman, Mason County 55-01.75; 2. Thomas Argo, Paducah Tilghman 49-03; 3. Derek Stone, Webster County 46-08.25; 4. Jeremy Kidd, Mercer County 45-06.25; 5. Myrion Hopkins, Lloyd Memorial 44-09.75; 6. Jared Ford, Western Hills 43-03.25.
Triple jump — 1. Jamaine Gordon, Fort Campbell 45-06.50 w:NWI; 2. Wes Coleman, East Jessamine 42-10 w:NWI; 3. Jayson Slingerland, John Hardin 42-05.50 w:NWI; 4. Bryan Krugman, Bullitt East 41-09.75 w:NWI; 5. Brian Scott, Rowan County 41-08 w:NWI; 6. Sean Downs, Marion County 41-06.25 w:NWI.
High jump — 1. Adam Workman, Pendleton County 6-0; 2. Jeff Richter, Highlands 6-04; 3. Brian Gifford, Warren 6-04; 4. Corey Brown, West Jessamine 6-02; 5. Daniel Gerald, Lexington Catholic 6-02; 5. Gordon Duke, East Jessamine 6-02.
Pole vault — 1. Brian Edwards, Fleming County 13-06; 2. Jeremy Yates, Marion County 13-0; 2. Dustin Kehoe, Marion County 13-0; 4. Corey Brown, West Jessamine 13-0; 5. Noble Moore, Henry County 12-06; 6. Nic Dixon, Casey 12-0.

tics.
 It was a remarkable turnaround considering Heuser couldn't lift his right elbow above his ear after suffering the injury in the region meet.

"When I first did it we thought it would be a no shot (at competing at State)," he said. "We hoped it would heal quickly, and thank God it did."

Heuser's victory helped St. X take a big step toward its second straight Class AAA boys' title. The Tigers won three of five events yesterday and got a runner-up finish from Greg Rueff in the pole vault to tally 43½ points. Trinity is second with 24.

Behind Bobby Curtis' sizzling anchor leg, St. X's 3,200-meter relay team rallied from third to first to win in 8 minutes, 1.10 seconds.

It was the team's best time by 10 seconds. The foursome also included Peter Meirose, Kenny Koller and Justin Gooch.

"They got us where we were supposed to be, then it was my job to get the win," Curtis said.

He made up most of a nearly five-second deficit on his first lap before taking the lead. He ran his 800 meters in 1:53, not far off the state record of 1:52.73, set by Male's James Doaty in 1999.

Curtis will run the 800, 1,600 and either the 3,200 or a relay event today.

St. X's Drew Traub, who has signed with Indiana State, repeated his shot put title, winning at 54-4¾.

Owensboro's Markel Carr cleared 6-8 to win the high jump, while Trinity's Will Jones was second at 6-6. St. X's Adam Stephenson tied for third with Ballard's Chris Harden at 6-4.

Woodford County's Antoine Wilson repeated in the triple jump with a leap of 45-2¼.

Henderson County's Dedrick Tiller-son proved that he and his team could be a force today. The senior posted the fastest preliminary times in the 200 (22.51), 110 hurdles (14.67) and

The Greenwood 3,200 relay team, featuring cross country standout Emily Leeper, won in 9:39.01. Manual finished second in 9:50.93.

Class AA

It also was a record-setting day for Mercy's 3,200 relay team. It ran a 9:45 to break the Class AA mark of 9:47.20 set by Western Hills in 1998. Lindsey Beyke, Rachel Hayden, Carmen Mims and Lauren Wilson set the record for Mercy, which didn't lead until Mims — the reigning AA cross country champion — ran the third leg.

"We were scared until Carmen ran," said Wilson, who also ran the anchor leg for last year's state-winning 3,200 relay team.

Senior Shanea Wilson's 10th state title, seventh individually, highlighted two-time defending champion Paducah Tilghman's first day in the Class AA girls' meet. She won the long jump for the third straight year with a leap of 17-10½.

Class A

Eighth-grader Griffin Matthew of Collegiate finished second in the long jump with a leap of 17-5¼. Lexington Christian's Elizabeth Jones won at 17-8¾.

"I was a little disappointed . . ." Matthew said. "I wanted to save up for the 200, and a girl came up the last jump of the day and beat my jump by three inches."

Matthew, who said she plans to attend Manual next year, did run the fastest 200 preliminary (25.87) and second-fastest 100 prelim (12.70).

Erlanger St. Henry led the boys' competition after five events with 23 points, while defending champion Murray was scoreless.

Kentucky Country Day was third with 16 points. The Bearcats got second-place finishes from Ross Cohen in the shot put (50-2¼) and their 3,200 relay team of Frank Barlow, Alex Brey, Matt Endy and Ryan Moody.

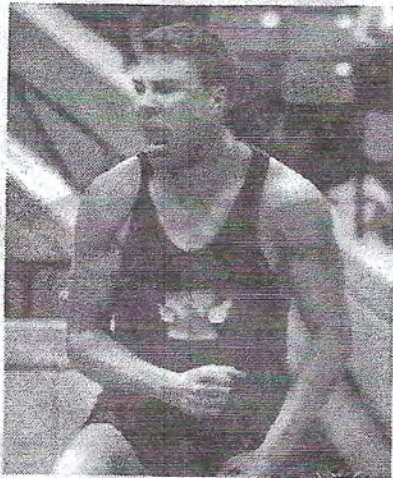
Heuser hits new heights

St. X's Chip Heuser broke the state record when he cleared 15 feet, 7 inches in the pole vault in the Class AAA State Meet. The Tigers won three events and took the first-day lead with 43½ points. Trinity is second with 24. Story, C6





Voice-Tribune staff photo by JULES DOVANI
Chip Heuser of St. Xavier vaulted in the Mason-Dixon Games Feb. 23 at Broadbent Arena at the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center.



Voice-Tribune staff photo by JULES DOVANI
Heuser, a junior at St. X, celebrated after clearing 15 feet, 2 inches for a new meet indoor pole vault record. Adam Smith of Daviess County held the record of 15-0 since 1990.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Chip Heuser, All-American pole vaulter

This week's Athlete of the Week is two-time All-American Chip Heuser of the Sooners' track and field team. He cleared 17 feet, 7.25 inches at OU's J.D. Martin Invitational on Saturday, posting a season best en route to winning the event. An Academic All-Big 12 first-team selection last year, Heuser is on pace for a highly decorated senior campaign.

What got you into pole vaulting?

Heuser: I did just about everything when I was in grade school and high school — ice hockey, swimming, basketball, football. I loved being an athlete, and my dad was a pole vaulter, so I decided to try that next. We put a pit in the backyard and started from there when I was in seventh grade.

Would you ever do triathlons with your backyard in swimming then?

Heuser: I do sprint triathlons in the summer to keep fit ... I used to ride bikes all the time too. I have two of the sports down. I'm work-

ing on the distance running, but can hold my own.

Speaking of bikes, I noticed you ride a scooter. Any particular reason?

Heuser: I had the scooter when I was a freshman at Florida. It made more sense since it was warm there. I can't get rid of it though because I love the thing. I live down 12th Street, so if you ever see a guy all bundled up on a 28-degree day on a blue scooter, that's me.

Scooters aside, what sport other than track would you like to try?

Heuser: I'd do the ski jump or speed skate. That's one of the things about being a pole vaulter; you're a bit crazy and love the adrenaline. The longer you're in the air the better.

How has the season been progressing?

Heuser: I've been jumping high-er each weekend unlike last season

• Fast Facts

Chip Heuser

Hometown: Louisville, Ky.

Major: Zoology

Favorite course: Comparative vertebrate anatomy

Favorite drink at Starbucks: Nonfat caramel macchiato, no whipped cream

Favorite place to eat in Norman: Moe's or Pita Pit



Chip Heuser
OU pole vaulter

I jumped really high really quickly and then plateaued. Next weekend at (the) Tyson Invitational at the University of Arkansas, there will be great competition, which will force me to go after it. Maybe I'll give myself a birthday present and set a personal best.

What do you think about on the runway?

Heuser: Don't mess up. This weekend I had a scare. I even twisted my ankle a bit. (Heuser drifted to the right in the air on one of his attempts,

hitting the standard before landing off of the mats. He came back to clear 17 feet, 4.5 inches on his next attempt.)
But when you fall off the horse, you have to suck it up and get back on.

On the topic of mishaps, how many poles have you broken in your career?

Heuser: At the second meet of the year this season, I snapped one in warm-ups, which shook me up a bit, but I've broken between five and 10 poles in my career ... It doesn't mean you're a better vaulter if you do, quite the contrary, but it comes with the territory.

What comes with the territory of being a student-athlete at OU?

Heuser: When you're a student-athlete you're a student first and then an athlete. Some people think they get an easy go, but in a strange way, track and field is a step-child sport. It's not the big

time for work here. There's a thing in accom-

What after gi

Heuser: I could post-grad Univets group. I want, I board of

Who up to at

Heuser: world r vault. C a shot, records, him.

-American pole vaulter

Fast Facts

Louisville, Ky.



Chip Heuser

Ole pole vaulter

se: Comparative vertebrae
k at Startucks: Nonfat
o, no whipped cream
e to eat in Norman: Moe's

hitting the standard before landing off of the mats. He came back to clear 17 feet, 4.5 inches on his next attempt.)

But when you fall off the horse, you have to suck it up and get back on.

On the topic of missteps, how many poles have you broken in your career?

Heuser: At the second meet of the year this season, I snapped one in warm-ups, which shook me up a bit, but I've broken between five and 10 poles in my career ... It doesn't mean you're a better vaulter if you do, quite the contrary, but it comes with the territory.

What comes with the territory of being a student-athlete at OU?

Heuser: When you're a student-athlete you're a student first and then an athlete. Some people think they get an easy go, but in a strange way, track and field is a step-child sport. It's not the big

time football or basketball, we work hard for every benefit we get. There's a big juggling act, but there's nothing better than graduating as a student-athlete. You've accomplished more than one thing in your time at the school.

What are your plans for after graduation?

Heuser: I will definitely keep competing. I like to move around and try different things. My brother lives out in Los Angeles as a singer and songwriter, so maybe I could train out there at UCLA post-graduation, or Arizona State University has a good training group. I want to go where it's warm, but you can still go snow-board or ski when you want to.

Who else have you looked up to as an athlete?

Heuser: Sergei Bubka, the world record holder in the pole vault. One day I'd like to take a shot, or a couple shots, at his records, maybe take one from him.

—JULIAN RODGERS / THE DAILY

really quickly
Next week-
invitational at
ansas), there
tition, which
ter it. Maybe
hday present

What do you think about on the runway?

Heuser: Don't mess up. This weekend I had a scare. I even twisted my ankle a bit. (Heuser drifted to the right in the air on one of his attempts,



Peggy Heuser <peggy@heuserhealth.com>

Chip Heuser Accomplishments

1 message

Chip Heuser <chip@heuserhealth.com>

To: Peggy Heuser <peggy@heuserhealth.com>

Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 4:40 PM

- 6-time Kentucky High School State champion, Pole Vault (indoor/outdoor)
- Indoor State Record Holder 17' (Mason Dixon Games, 2003)
- Overall Kentucky state record holder 17' 1" (Texas Relays, 2003)
- State meet record holder for 17 YEARS 16'1'
- ***I jumped that state record from half approach while setting the (previous) STATE RECORD in the 4x200m relay, running the 4x400m relay and placing 2nd in the long jump. ALL IN THE SAME DAY***
- Indoor Nike National High School Champion 2002. 3rd 2003
- Texas Relays Champion, 2003
- Former Texas Relays high school record holder 17'1
- Former Catholic High School Record holder 17'1
- One of the Fabulous 5 high school vaulters over 17', 2003
- Top recruit for Stanford, Princeton, Harvard, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Airforce Academy, Georgia, Florida, Hawaii, Auburn, Alabama... the list goes on.
- 2006 USA Junior National Champion
- 7th place, World Junior Championships. Grosseto, Italy. 2006
- Florida Freshman pole vault record holder 17'6"
- 1st Team 4-time NCAA Academic All-American
- 4-Time NCAA Athletic All american (2006 indoor/outdoor, 2007 indoor/outdoor)
- *Top returner in 2007/2008 season prior to head injury*
- 1st Team Athletic and Academic All SEC team, 2004
- Runner-up, 2007 NCAA Track and Field Championships, Sacramento, CA. University of Oklahoma, 2007
- 8-Time All Big XII academic All-American
- 3rd Team 2007 ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American
- 2008, 2012 Olympic Trials qualifier *Missed 2008 season due to head injury*
- 3rd all-time, University of Oklahoma performance list, Pole Vault
- MOST DECORATED pole vaulter in University of Oklahoma history (I never won a conference championship, won an Olympic Medal, but I won more meets and scored more points than any other vaulter)



Peggy Heuser <peggy@heuserhealth.com>

From Billy Reed

1 message

William Reed <reedwilliam1@icloud.com>

Sun, Oct 25, 2020 at 8:41 AM

To: Steve Moss <smoss@bellsouth.net>, Drew Deener <drewd@espnloouisville.com>, Kent Spencer <kspencer@whas11.com>, Mike Fields <MFIELD5@herald-leader.com>, Jody Demling <jdemling@courier-journal.com>

My friends:

In 1984, three men — J. Bruce Miller, Bill Malone, and I — resurrected the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, with the backing of Kosair Charities. For the next 20-25 years, I was chairman of the selection committee. I got out when the Hall was taken over by the Louisville Sports Commission. I'm also a member of the Hall, having been inducted in 2001.

I checked the Sports Commission website and found out that you are, or recently have been, members of the selection committee. So I figured I would begin my nomination of Chip Heuser with you.

Following is a list of Chip's accomplishments that he provided to his mother. I was blown away. I guess it's a matter of letting stars in the so-called "Olympic sports" fall through the cracks.

Here's the list:

6-time Kentucky High School State champion, Pole Vault (indoor/outdoor)

-Indoor State Record Holder 17' (Mason Dixon Games, 2003)

-Overall Kentucky state record holder 17' 1" (Texas Relays, 2003)

-State meet record holder for 17 YEARS 16'1'

I jumped that state record from half approach while setting the (previous) STATE RECORD in the 4x200m relay, running the 4x400m relay and placing 2nd in the long jump. ALL IN THE SAME DAY

-Indoor Nike National High School Champion 2002. 3rd 2003

-Texas Relays Champion, 2003

-Former Texas Relays high school record holder 17'1

-Former Catholic High School Record holder 17'1

-One of the Fabulous 5 high school vaulters over 17', 2003

-Top recruit for Stanford, Princeton, Harvard, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Airforce Academy, Georgia, Florida, Hawaii, Auburn, Alabama... the list goes on.

-2006 USA Junior National Champion

-7th place, World Junior Championships. Grosseto, Italy. 2006

- Florida Freshman pole vault record holder 17'6"

-1st Team 4-time NCAA Academic All-American

-4-Time NCAA Athletic All american (2006 indoor/outdoor, 2007 indoor/outdoor)

Top returner in 2007/2008 season prior to head injury

- 1st Team Athletic and Academic All SEC team, 2004
- Runner-up, 2007 NCAA Track and Field Championships, Sacramento, CA. University of Oklahoma, 2007
- 8-Time All Big XII academic All-American
- 3rd Team 2007 ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American
- 2008, 2012 Olympic Trials qualifier *Missed 2008 season due to head injury*
- 3rd all-time, University of Oklahoma performance list, Pole Vault
- MOST DECORATED pole vaulter in University of Oklahoma history (I never won a conference championship, won an Olympic Medal, but I won more meets and scored more points than any other vaulter)
- Team Captain 2006/2007 where I lead Oklahoma to their FIRST Big XII championship in 2007

For the past 9 years, I have been the founder and meet director of the now WORLD FAMOUS Vault in the Ville street pole vault competition held in Louisville, Ky. The event brings hundreds of pole vaulters from around the world to compete and help raise money for the Louisville Youth Training Center, a 501-c3 public charity dedicated to the health of Kentucky's children. The Vault in the Ville is now the LARGEST STREET VAULT IN THE WORLD and is expanding in 2021 by becoming VaultCon, a pole vault convention to be held in the Kentucky International Convention Center. We hope to bring in 600+ athletes and their families for the event and raise over \$30,000 for the charity.

For the past two years I have held a seat on the development board for the newly constructed Norton Healthcare Sports and Learning Complex in the west end of Louisville. While on the board, I helped raise over 14 million dollars for the construction of what will become a major economic and social boost to Louisville's west end community. The complex will house a state of the art indoor track and field arena, learning classrooms, rock climbing walls, and a bowling alley. I aided in the development of the facility blueprints and as a fundraiser. The complex will host national track and field events as well as other community activities.

In 2012 I began the Vault in the Ville Training center based out of Bowman Field airport. We rented a hanger where we trained children from ALL schools in Kentucky. I taught the sport of pole vault and encouraged children to strive for their highest potential, both athletically and academically. We had numerous state champions and even sent one vaulter to MIT.

St. Xavier Hall of Honors Award:

The tradition of recognizing distinguished graduates for their accomplishments began in 1967 with the inception of the Outstanding Alumnus Award and in 1983 with the Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2007, Saint Xavier unveiled the Alumni Hall of Honors, expanding the criteria for which an alumnus can be honored, to include career, social or academic achievements. At the same time, alumni who displayed athletic excellence in high school, college or professionally, will continue to be honored.

I was inducted to the Saint Xavier Hall of Honors in 2013 for my athletic and academic achievement and for my philanthropic work with the Vault in the Ville and The Louisville Youth Training Center.

I hope you are as impressed as I was. Is this nomination sufficient, or do I need to do something else? Please advise. I want to do everything I can to get this deserving young man into the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame. I hope you all are safe and well.

Billy Reed
502-689-9145
Sent from my iPhone

Billy Reed
502-689-9145
Sent from my iPhone

Billy Reed

Gray H. Smith, Jr. 1145 Everett Avenue Louisville, Kentucky 40204 502-489-2157

October 21, 2020

The Board of Directors
Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame

Friends,

It seems as though the spotlight often shines brightest on the players of big team sports. I believe that if the athlete on whose behalf I am honored to write had achieved his accomplishments under the bright lights and full bleachers of football or basketball, you would have inducted him into the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame long ago.

Chip Heuser was an extraordinary Kentucky athlete. A six-time high school state champion at St. Xavier High School, Chip's Kentucky state record in the pole vault still stands seventeen years later, at an extraordinary 17' 1". Chip's records and achievements as a high schooler, across the country and the globe, are too lengthy for this letter.

Chip flew even higher at the University of Oklahoma, where he was a four-time All-American and team captain, an eight-time All Big XII academic All-American. Chip was the most decorated pole vaulter in Oklahoma history, and two-time qualifier for the U.S. Olympic Trials.

Chip's accomplishments after graduating college are equally impressive.

Nine years ago, Chip founded and directed the now internationally-known Vault in the Ville street pole vault competition in Louisville, now the largest such event in the world. Vault in the Ville brings hundreds of pole vaulters from around the world, and raises money for the Louisville Youth Training Center, a 501-c3 public charity dedicated to the health of Kentucky's children.

In 2021, Vault in the Ville will become VaultCon, a pole vault convention to be held in the Kentucky International Convention Center. More than 600 athletes from across the country and the globe are expected.

Chip also sits on the development board for the newly constructed Norton Healthcare Sports and Learning Complex in Louisville's West End, where he helped raise more than \$14 million dollars for the construction of what will become a major economic and social boost to Louisville's west end community.

The Saint Xavier Hall of Honors inducted Chip in 2013 for his athletic, academic achievement and philanthropic achievements, including his work with the Vault in the Ville and The Louisville Youth Training Center.

On a personal note, you could say that Chip helped save my life. I met Chip almost 15 years ago when a colleague gave me, a sedentary, out of shape 49-year-old, with a training session with Chip. My colleague knew that had been a pole vaulter in high school, looking for a way to resume as a senior, and Chip was an elite vaulter fresh out of college.

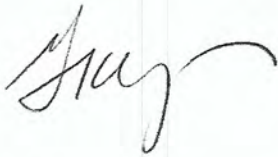
For reasons unknown, Chip took this old guy under his wing, determined to help me no matter what. Two senior state gold medals later, I believe he was successful. And his gift of fitness, courage, and positive energy fuels me to this day.

As I got to know Chip better, I learned that I was not alone. Chip was also helping many others from all walks and ages achieve their goals as a patient, competent instructor, and as a positive motivating force.

Over the years, I have seen Chip take on the above-mentioned ambitious projects, with numerous beneficiaries. In addition to his energy, Chip brings formidable intelligence, commitment, trust, reliability, and an ethical center. He does what he says he'll do, and beyond. Chip Heuser is a tireless force of nature.

Kentuckians will be proud to see Chip Heuser's name on the wall of the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gray".

Gray Smith
V.P. of Corporate Support
Louisville Public Media



Peggy Heuser <peggy@heuserhealth.com>

Chip Heuser KHSAA HOA

1 message

Raymond Sabbatine <sabbatine@mac.com>
To: Peggy Heuser <peggy@heuserhealth.com>

Mon, Jan 18, 2021 at 4:16 PM

Chip Heuser
KHSAA HOA

I would like to support the nomination of Chip Heuser to the KHSAA HOA. We can easily review Chip's outstanding record as a pole vaulter in high school, college and professionally. What is unique is the creation of a pole vault dynasty in Kentucky. I once asked Akron Pole vault Coach, Dennis Mitchell what makes a great pole vaulter. I was shocked when he replied, GREAT PARENTS". Chip's Father Louis was a great vaulter at the University of Florida. Chip's mother Peggy, was the DOO and Louis and Chip's manager and Chief. It truly takes a village to make a champion vaulter. The Heuser Village was created to support this most talented young man. In my opinion Chip Heuser was and is one of the most athletically talented athletes to represent Kentucky. His character and talent resulted in making Kentucky a preeminent hub of pole vaulting in the Nation.

A Vault Dynasty must be measured not only by what you achieved by your sport but what you gave back to your sport. Chip and the Heuser family gave the gift of vaulting to hundred's of Kentucky vaulters. This family built training centers and helped coach hundreds of if not thousands of vaulters throughout the country. They have held and continue to hold international competitions in Louisville, Kentucky. Chip has achieved greatness in the vault world but has contributed immensely to the vault community. Louis and Peggy were the enablers but Chip has taken the opportunities provided by his parents and has delivered dividends throughout his accomplished career to support his induction into the KHSAA. We in the vault community, owe much to Chip and the Heuser Family for their contributions to the Great State of Kentucky. Chip is so very deserving of this honor. Thank you for the opportunity to support Chip's nomination into the KHSAA HOA.
RAY SABBATINE

Sent from my iPad

Dear *Committee Member*

I am reaching out to you on behalf of Chip Heuser, an outstanding and accomplished athlete, successful entrepreneur and a tireless advocate of track and field participation in Louisville and Jefferson County.

Chip's athletic credentials speak for themselves. Among others they include:

- * 8 time All Big XII All American
- * 4 time NCAA Athletic All American
- * 4 time 1st Team NCAA Academic All American
- * Most decorated pole vaulter in the History of the University of Oklahoma
- * 2008 & 2012 Olympic Trials
- * 6 time High School State Champion

While not a complete list by any means these accomplishments alone stand as evidence of Chip's enormous athletic skills.

Equally important are his accomplishments following his career as a competitive athlete.

Nine years ago Chip founded the "Vault in the Ville". This competition, held annually in the City of Louisville, attracts hundreds of pole vaulters from around the world. The proceeds from the competition are dedicated to the Louisville Youth Training Center, a 501 c-3 public charity dedicated to encouraging youth participation in sports and improving the health of children in Kentucky.

The incredible success of the "Vault in the Ville" (it is the largest street vault competition in the world) has led to its re-branding as VaultCon. VaultCon is expected to attract more than 600 vaulters and their families. It will make its debut at the Kentucky International Convention Center in 2021.

Chip also sits on the Board of the Norton Healthcare Sports and Learning Complex. This state-of-the-art facility, which he helped design, will provide a major economic and social boost to Louisville's West End Community. Chip's philanthropic efforts on behalf of the Learning Complex as well as his academic and athletic accomplishments led to his induction into the St. Xavier Hall of Honors in 2013.

The Hall of Fame criteria states that candidates for induction must have carried themselves with dignity and class during their years as an athlete and beyond. Chip's career as an athlete, his recovery and return to sport from a near fatal injury that occurred during a competition and his subsequent dedication to Louisville's athletic programs for children of all ages is proof positive that he has earned his place in the Kentucky Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Gardner