

# 06-07 Bison Track & Field Canada West Season Preview

**Team:** Manitoba Bisons

**Conference:** Canada West

**2006 Canada West Championship placing:** Women 4th place; Men 3rd

**2006 CIS Championship placing:** Women 8th place; Men 9th

**Head coach:** Claude Berube/heading into 10th year

**2005-06 Highlights:** The women's track and field team at the 2006 CIS Championships moved up to eighth spot with 15 points as they were tied for tenth heading into the Nationals. The team had two bronze medal performances.

The Bison women's 4x200m relay team ran to a bronze medal, just .02 off a second place. Heading into the CIS Championships, Manitoba was ranked eighth in the country. Fifth year veteran Sharon Drake earned a third CIS Championship medal of her career while third year Jana Cassidy added her second. Second year Diana King and rookie Caley Miskimmin captured their first CIS medal.

Drake ran to a bronze medal performance in the women's 300m. Kja Isaacson ended up fourth in the 600m. Amber Anseeuw had a seventh place finish in the women's high jump and seventh in women's pentathlon. Cathy Carroll ended up ninth in the women's 3000m. In the 4x800m relay finals, the women's team finished fourth. In the 4x400m relay finals, the women's team finished sixth.

At the 2006 Canada West Championships in Edmonton, the team finished fourth with 50 points. The team had six podium finishes (two silver and four bronze medals). Individually, Sharon Drake and Amber Anseeuw were Canada West Second Team All-Stars.

The men's track and field team at the 2006 CIS Championships ran to a ninth place showing with 16 points and moved up from 12th heading into the Nationals. The team had two silver medal performances.

Second year Kris Geyson captured a silver medal in the men's 300m. This was the first CIS Championship medal of his career. The Bison men's 4x800m relay team ran to a silver medal showing. Fifth year Sam Jerema anchored the Bisons relay team and earned his fourth CIS Championship medal. Third year Kristjan Hunter captured his third CIS Championship medal while second year Paul Carr

has his second CIS medal and rookie Andrew Schellenberg earned his first CIS Championship medal.

Jerema ended up fourth place in the men's 1500m. Second year Scot Dressler was fifth in the men's pole vault and Schellenberg earned a point for the Bisons with a sixth in the men's 600m. Hunter was eighth in the men's 1500m. In the 4x400m relay finals, the Bison men's team ran to a seventh place showing. Geoff Rosenbaum missed a final by .06 seconds in the men's 60m hurdles.

At the 2006 Canada West Championships in Edmonton, the team finished fifth with 49 points. The team had six podium finishes (one gold, two silver and four bronze medals). Individually, Kris Geyson was a Canada West First Team All-Star while Geoff Rosenbaum and Scot Dressler were Canada West Second Team All-Stars. Geyson, Jerema, Hunter, Carr and Schellenberg earned CIS Second Team All-Canadian recognition.

**2006-07 Outlook:** Last season, the Bison women's track and field team had a young and somewhat inexperienced team but head coach Claude Berube feels the team is already ahead of the pace this season. He believes the team is not a Top three or five team right now but is headed in the right direction. Berube commented that the team gained valuable experience during last season's events and Championships. With the loss of Sharon Drake to eligibility, the remainder of the team is intact and a strong recruiting class will bring added depth to several areas. Berube stated a realistic goal of the Top 8 at the CIS Championships could be attained.

Berube spoke that the women's team will be strong in long sprints and competitive in relays. The team has made inroads in the multi-sport area and this will be a chance for multiple points in addition to the individual events. A major area for points will also be in the relays as the team will be as competitive as last season.

Co-captains Kja Isaacson and Jana-Rae Cassidy will lead the team. They are both fourth year athletes who are both strong in the 600m plus relays and hold a tremendous amount of CIS experience. Georgette Mink returns to the team after a one-year absence and will be a strong contender in the 3000m. Second year runner Caley Miskimmin puts away her soccer cleats and will burn up the track in the 60m and 4x200m relay. Sophomore Amber Anseeuw will be another contender in multi-sport events.

Along with the veterans, there are two recruits that will bolster the women's side. Meaghan Woo will assist in the relays. She was a three-time winner at the 2006 Provincial High School Track and Field Championship. Woo was the junior women's gold medallist in the 400m and 800m at the 2006 Cargill Games Indoor Track and Field Championships. Deondra Twerdun will be strong in the triple and long jump events. She was a two-time winner at the 2006 Provincial High School Track and Field Championship.

On the men's side, the squad lost Sam Jerema and Steffan Fields to eligibility but with a strong recruiting class making an immediate impact, they remain optimistic for the season. Berube feels the team is stronger and deeper than last season and looks for a Top two finish at the Canada West Championships and Top five finish at the CIS Championships.

The team will remain very competitive in the middle distance and relays and there is encouragement for improvement in the field events.

Veterans that will score big points for the squad is Kris Geyson in the 300m, Kristjan Hunter in the 1500m and 3000m, Scot Dressler in the pole vault, Andrew Schellenberg in the 600m, Sheldon Kilcullen in the 600m, captain Jon Boudreau in relays, Andrew Sheffield in the weight throw and Patrick Suppes in the shot put.

The recruiting class starts with Nathan Labbe who will be involved in the relays, long and triple jump. He dominated the 2006 Provincial High School Track and Field Championship as a Provincial High School Champion in the long jump, triple jump and 100m. He established new provincial marks in the long jump – breaking a 20 year-old record and broke a 39 year-old mark for the triple jump. Quin Ferguson will be a force in the relays and the 300m. He was a three-time winner at the 2006 Provincial High School Track and Field Championship. David Szczepaniak will run in 60m, 300m and relays. He was a two-time winner at the 2005 Provincial High School Track and Field Championship. Marlowe Brownlee already had a strong rookie cross country season and looks to successfully transfer over to the track and field season in 1500m and 3000m races. He was a two-time silver medallist at the 2006 Saskatchewan Provincial High School Track and Field Championship.

Overall, the teams face their first Canada West competition at the Prairie Dual in Saskatoon in early January. The Cargill Games will have competitors from across the country and international athletes. The Iowa State Classic is an elite event with international participants and approximately 20 Bison will compete. These events will give an opportunity for the Bisons to peak for the Canada West Championships at the end of February and CIS Championships in March.

Berube also commented that hosting the 2007 Canada West T&F Championships should boost both teams. It is another opportunity for the program to highlight their facilities and show how attractive the university is to potential future recruits. As evident during the 2005 CIS T&F Championships held at U of Manitoba, the team is focused on the Championships and want to compete hard in front of friends, family and fans.