

BYU track star, Jenna Hutchins and her key to success

Sophomore track athlete Jenna Hutchins has already accomplished a lot in her running career and expresses how she strives to succeed in all aspects here at BYU.

Jenna is a distance runner on the Track team at BYU. She has only ran for one year so far at BYU and is now starting up her second year on the team. Jenna not only has accomplished much within her first year and beginning of her second year, but also broke records in high school before coming to BYU.



Let's get to know Jenna Hutchins. Jenna is from Johnson City, Tennessee. She is a current sophomore and is pursuing a major in Communication Disorders. She finds a love within running, not like many people however, but she took this love for running up between the age of five and six years old. She started actually competing in track meets in middle school though.

When athletes come to BYU, most get asked, what brought them to BYU? Given, BYU has not been a part of a big conference title in years. What makes it special for athletes to go with BYU in the end?

“I knew that I was going to love the coach and team here. I felt like I would fit in with other students and knew that it would be a great environment to be in,” Jenna said.

BYU was seen as something that would bring a rich opportunity to Jenna. After talking to her, you could tell that she was confident in joining the team here when she first committed. Although she was offered at Stanford University and Notre Dame, she believed that the BYU coach and team were the biggest things that pulled her to become a Cougar.

“I felt like coming to BYU was going to hold me to a higher standard and that’s what I loved,” Jenna said.

This year's track season has barely begun. A kickoff meet called the Autumn Classic was held at BYU in the beginning of September where very few schools came to compete. However, at this first meet, Jenna did not disappoint her team and herself. Jenna raced in the 5k and was a big player in getting the team to victory.

Jenna doesn’t see her races as a me, myself, and I type of race. She constantly thinks about her team and what they can do together in the moment and in future meets. This is her key to being the first to the finish line.

Jenna said, “It was great to win at the Autumn Classic. I was more focused on how the team is doing and what the team can do for Nationals later on. Overall, it was just great to run with my pack that day”.

Going into this race, she didn’t train any more than what she does in practice. The thing that got her and the team to reach their goal was good group effort as a whole. It is never just an “I” mentality in the scheme of things. The most important thing for her was to get into a rhythm with her teammates.

This was just at the beginning of this season. With many other successes in her past, it’s hard not to ask about it and how it felt to win and break records back then. In high school, Jenna broke the

U20 5k record. Although the record has been broken since her race, she still made a record breaking accomplishment.

To win the U20 5k race, you have to be the fastest person to date that has ran the 5k, in that of which you are under 20 years old. Jenna was the first high school girl to break 16 minutes in the 5k. Now, this means she had a time of five minutes and 10 seconds per mile. If that isn't crazy to you, then I don't know what is.

“Breaking this record was a good opportunity to prepare for college. Coming into college, I can start over however. The records in my past are great, but I'm more focused on the future now,” Jenna said.

It is inspiring to know that a student athlete is grateful for her past time, but is focused on the present and her future with the team here at BYU. Jenna is humbled and proud of her past, but to her, it's all about right now and what she can do to be a better athlete as every day passes.

Jenna believes that there is so much more to being an athlete than focusing on her past accomplishments. She wants to be known not only as a BYU athlete, but as a good person. One who encourages others along the way. By the end of her college career, she hopes to accomplish more than record breaking times, but to be able to surpass her potential, consistently be someone who contributed to the team, and to be the very best version of herself for the team. Jenna is a rising star in the BYU Track & Field team that carries herself and those around her to the finish line.

“I want to be known as someone who didn't give up no matter what challenges I faced. I want to leave a legacy of being dedicated to not only the sport, but also the team because that is how we win and succeed,” Jenna said.