



2026 Indoor's Notable African College Athletes

The 2026 indoor championships for collegians was anything but ordinary—it was a groundbreaking display of African talent.

From Nigeria's lightning-fast sprints to the strategic distance prowess of athletes from Kenya and Ethiopia, African competitors didn't just show up; they made history.

The Gold Standard: Historic Titles & Records

Kanyinsola Ajayi (Nigeria, Auburn) - Men's 60m

Achievement: NCAA Champion, SEC Champion, NCAA Record Holder, African Record Holder - 6.45s

Ajayi produced a historic display in a highly anticipated final. Recording a time of 6.45s, he took the gold medal and matched both the Meet and Collegiate records to repeat the SEC performance.



This achievement establishes him as the fastest African man in the history of the indoor 60m, confirming his place among the world's elite sprinters. **Most notably, his indoor campaign demonstrated a mastery of navigating multiple rounds and delivering peak speed to secure titles in critical moments.**

Habtom Samuel (Ethiopia, New Mexico) - Men's 5000m

Achievement: National Champion- 13:36.58
Samuel further cemented his legacy by capturing his first NCAA indoor crown. This victory made him the first New Mexico athlete to earn individual national titles in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track. His tactical mastery during the closing six laps highlighted a season where he remained undefeated against all collegiate challengers.



The Gold Standard: Historic Titles & Records

Temitope Adeshina (Nigeria, Texas Tech) - Women's High Jump

Achievement: Back to Back National Champion, Big 12 Champion, Nigeria Record holder - 1.97m



By clearing 1.97m on her opening attempt, Adeshina made history as the first Nigerian woman to secure consecutive high jump titles, finishing her indoor campaign undefeated. Her elite consistency throughout the season suggests it is only a matter of time before she clears the 2-meter mark.

Samuel Ogazi (Nigeria, Alabama) - Men's 400m

Achievement: National Champion, SEC Champion, African Record Holder - 44.57
Ogazi clinched victory at the NCAA indoor champs with a blazing 44.57, setting new African and Nigerian records. Ranked No. 3 in NCAA history and No. 4 globally, he's the one to watch this outdoor season!



Anthonett Nabwe (Liberia, Minnesota) - Women's Weight Throw

Achievement: National Champion, National Record - 25.13m (NR)

Nabwe delivered a standout field performance, securing the gold medal with a powerful 25.13m throw at the NCAA indoor championship. This achievement set a new Liberian National Record and placed her third on the all-time American collegiate leaderboard.

Podium Power & National Records

TPhethisang Makhethé (South Africa, Illinois)

Achievement: National Record- 24.40m



Makhethé clinched her second consecutive All-American distinction in the weight throw with a landmark performance. Her mark of 24.40m represented a massive personal best and established a new South African National Record. This silver-medal display also set a new program record for Illinois, solidifying her status as a premier force in technical field events.

William Opare (Ghana, Angelo State)

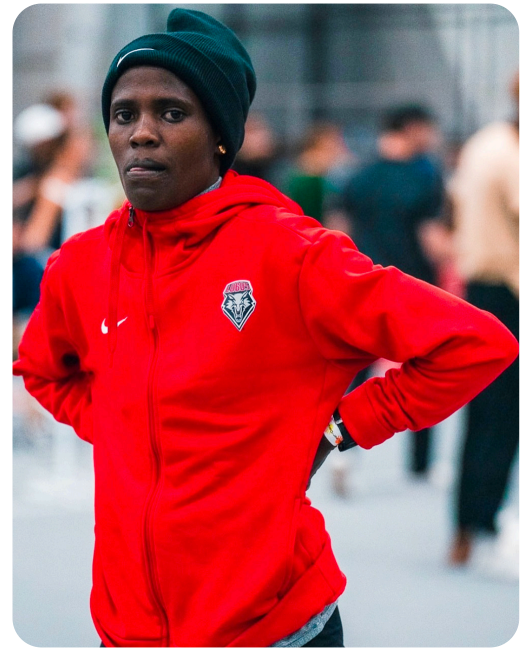
- Men's 400m (D-II)

Achievement: National Champion, Ghana National Record, 45.67s

The freshman sensation from Ghana was unstoppable. Opare claimed the 400m title with a blistering 45.67s, shattering his own Ghanaian National Indoor Record. He capped his weekend at the DII national Championship by anchoring the Rams' 4x400m relay to another gold with a phenomenal 45.33 split.



Podium Power & National Records



Blessing Akintoye (Nigeria, West Texas A&M) - Women's 400m (D-II)

Akintoye met the high expectations of her top-seeded status with a gold-medal performance. Her winning time of 52.28s concluded a season defined by steady excellence. As a vital member of the Lady Buffs' sprint squad, she also played a key role in the team securing their 13th consecutive conference championship earlier in the month.

Tafadzwa Chikomba (Kansas State, Zimbabwe): Competing in a stacked Men's Long Jump field, Chikomba secured a bronze medal by leaping to a personal record of 8.15m. His podium finish marks a historic moment for his nation, as he is the first Zimbabwean since the iconic Makusha to place in the top three of an NCAA long jump championship.

Pamela Kosgei (Kenya, New Mexico): Kosgei earned her sixth First Team All-American trophy with a 3rd-place finish in the 5000m (15:07.76). She remains one of the most decorated distance runners in the NCAA circuit today.

Elite Finalists: Depth Across the Continent



Rose Yeboah (Ghana, Illinois) - Women's High Jump

Achievement: National Indoor Record- 1.94m

With a jump of 1.94m, Yeboah equaled her personal best and school record. As Ghana's premier vertical jumper, her reliable podium performances have been a cornerstone for Illinois. Furthermore, her ongoing competitive relationship with Temitope has developed into a significant rivalry, elevating the standard of the sport both within the collegiate system and across Africa.

Israel Okon (Nigeria, Auburn) - Men's 60m

Achievement: Personal Best - 6.48s

This season, Okon emerged as a true standout. By clocking 6.48s during the NCAA indoor championship heats, he secured a tie for the second-fastest time in Nigerian history. This feat confirms that Auburn currently possesses the nation's most formidable sprinting pair. While he did not claim the top spot, his stellar showing serves as a promising preview for the outdoor season. Given this momentum, it is highly anticipated that he will achieve times in the sub-9.90 or low-9.90 range during the upcoming outdoor competitions if all things are equal.

Ernest Cheruiyot (Kenya, Arkansas): Played a pivotal role in the Razorbacks' team title, finishing 3rd in the 5000m and 4th in the 3000m.

Junior College Giants: NJCAA Highlights



David Nyamufarira (Zimbabwe, New Mexico JC) - Men's 60m: By a margin of only .001 seconds in a remarkable photo finish, Nyamufarira retained his national title. His 6.61s victory ensures the continuation of the Zimbabwean sprinting legacy at NMJC.

Benjamin Nsiah (Ghana, New Mexico JC) - Men's 400m: Nsiah surged from a 9th-place finish a year ago to claim the national championship. He clocked a personal best of 46.19s and served as a crucial anchor for his team's second-place overall finish.



Maimuna Jallow (Gambia, Cloud County CC) - Women's 60m: The future LSU athlete and current NJCAA record holder solidified her elite status, finishing 3rd in a highly competitive final with a time of 7.26s.

Kebba Makalo (Gambia, Hutchinson CC) - Men's 200m: Makalo secured his third All-American honor, finishing 3rd in the 200m. His school-record performance of 20.74s propelled the Blue Dragons into the national top 11.

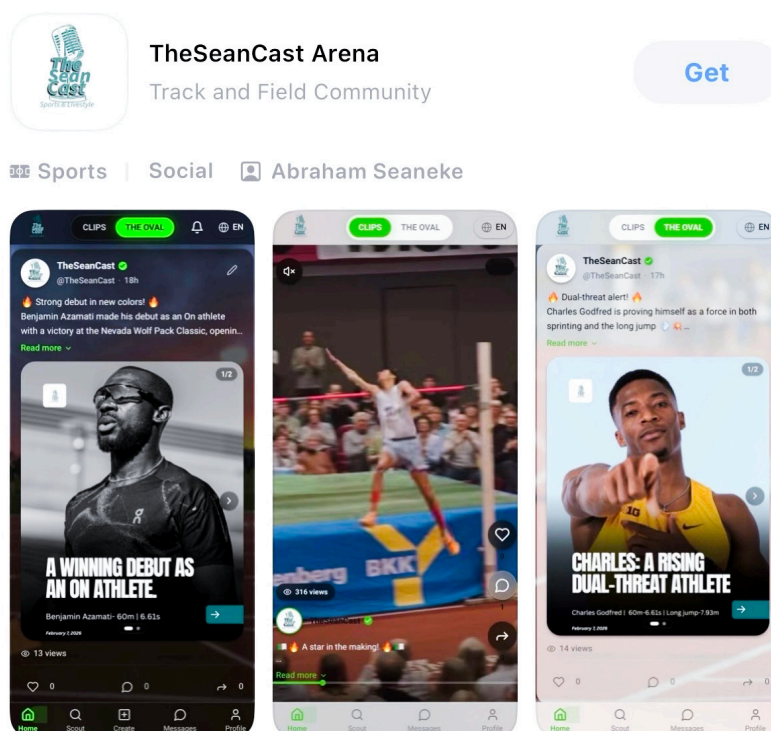


Lebon Attoungbre (Ivory Coast, Iowa Western) - Triple Jump: Improving on his previous runner-up status, Attoungbre achieved a major milestone by winning the national title with a jump of 16.02m.

Final Takeaways

The 2026 Indoor season has set a new benchmark for African athletes in the U.S. collegiate system. Nigeria emerged as a sprint and jump powerhouse, Kenya maintained its distance supremacy, and South Africa, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe proved they can produce podium-level talent in technical field and endurance events alike.

TheSeanCast Track Notes: "The momentum from Fayetteville is undeniable. We aren't just seeing individual wins; we are seeing a collective rise in the standard of African athletics that will surely spill over into the summer's international competitions."



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