

2025 Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting in Intercollegiate Athletics

WALKER CARNATHAN, VIVIAN YAO, SEAN McKEOWN
University of Pennsylvania

for

'I don't feel safe': Penn [No Title] ck and field program accused of sexual harassment, mistreatment - December 9, 2024

Recognizing the print, video, or multimedia work of a graduate or undergraduate college student journalist(s) for exceptional substantive investigative reporting on intercollegiate athletics. The work must address an issue related to the protection of college athletes, financial excess, academic integrity, ethical conduct, racist or sexist practices, treatment of a whistleblower, or similar significant concern.

The Daily Pennsylvanian

Founded in 1885



'I don't feel safe':
Penn track and
field program
accused of sexual
harassment,
mistreatment

The Daily Pennsylvanian spoke with 16 sources familiar with Penn track and field and Title IX as part of an investigation into allegations against the program.



(L to R) Sean McKeown, Vivian Yao, Walker Carnathan

The judges comments:

"Beyond being an extremely thorough and important investigative story built on all original reporting, this stood out to me for two distinct reasons: First was the way the writers constructed a timeline using a paper trail of meetings and official correspondence, which is very, very hard to do at a private school not subject to open-records requests (and helped them clinically show and name the number of coaches and school officials that were privy to these problems and did nothing to stop them). And second is the way the writers subtly — and very powerfully — illustrated the differing experiences for male and female athletes in the program. I felt that brought the piece to another level."

"This was incredibly well-reported. The authors were able to get people on the record and access critical documents. I'm impressed at the way it was written as well. It was compelling without embellishing the facts. This was so responsibly well-done, I honestly thought I was reading a professional ESPN investigative story."

"Impressive to get sources to go on the record for this sensitive story. The reporting moves the story forward and continues to move it forward as more athletes have reached out to tell their stories. Speaks to the trust these reporters have built."

The Drake Group Education Fund is pleased to recognize the runner-ups for this year's prize: **SECOND PLACE:** Reporters: Brendan Galvin and Mara Mellits, Boston University for "[Director of BU track and field, cross country steps down following abuse allegations](#)," *The Daily Free Press*, April 26, 2024. **THIRD PLACE:** Reporter: Vincent DiFonzo, Gettysburg College, for a seven story series (Sept. 18-Oct 17, 2024) on students suspended from the swim team, see [September 22 update](#), *The Gettysburgian*.