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Women's Track And Field Opens Season In Impressive Fashion

Flames capture three first-place finishes at University of Chicago Open.

Jan. 10, 2005

Chicago, Ill. - University of Illinois at Chicago sophomore sprinter [Rowsha LaBranche](#) garnered a first-place finish, along with a pair of runner-up finishes to pace the women's track and field squad at the University of Chicago Open on Saturday afternoon.

LaBranche captured the 200-meter dash title with a time of 26.5, and narrowly edged teammate [Tamika Johnson](#) (1:02.44) for second place in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:02.27.

LaBranche also finished second as a member of the 4x400 relay squad (4:16.62) along with [Jasmine Sutton](#), [Jessica Cwiak](#) and [Idara Essien](#).

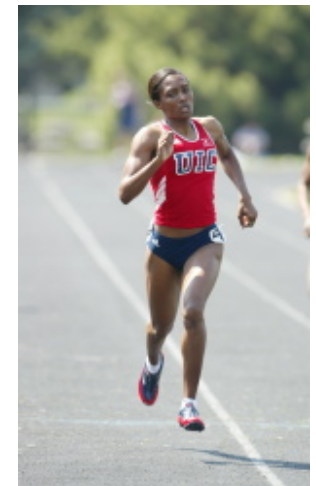
Essien picked up a second, runner-up finish in the triple jump with a leap of 10.51 meters.

In her first collegiate meet, sophomore [Kristina Finley](#) obliterated the school-record in the pole vault with a first-place, school-record mark of 2.9 meters. Finley's teammate [Candace Jackson](#) previously held the school-record with a vault of 2.795 meters.

Freshman Adaeze Chumokorafor rounded out the winners for UIC on Saturday with a high jump of 1.58 meters. Sophomore [Laura Otepka](#) finished close behind with a mark of 1.53 meters.

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Sophomore sprinter Rowsha LaBranche won the 200-meter dash on

Senior [Jenni Goebel](#) rounded out the top-three finishers for UIC with a second-place mark in the 1-mile run (5:27.39) Saturday.

UIC will be back in action on Saturday, as they will travel to West Lafayette, Ind., to participate in the Purdue Invitational at 3:00 p.m. (CST).



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