



## Track & Field News

### **Szmuda Finishes 10th at NCAA Championships**

Written by Leonard Myles-Mills on Friday, March 08, 2002

Fayetteville, AR—BYU freshman long jumper Aaron Szmuda was two inches shy of qualifying for finals at the 2002 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Nine out of the sixteen athletes advance to the finals, and Szmuda landed in the 10th position.

Running down a runway that he was unaccustomed to, Szmuda fouled his first two jumps with his foot planting less than an inch over the board. According to head coach Mark Robison, to correct this Szmuda moved his starting mark backwards a foot on the runway.

“We had to back up to make sure that he was going to get a legal jump,” Robison said. “We haven’t jumped on this kind of facility. The boards (runway) are really bouncy. This kind of messed up his rhythm.”

On his third and final attempt in the trials, Szmuda landed a jump of 24-9, but took off and inch behind the board. The 24-footer placed Szmuda in fifth place with another flight of long jumpers remaining.

The second flight featured several of the nation’s top long jumpers, and after their flight Szmuda was in tenth place, one position short of making the finals.

Robison said the he was delighted that Szmuda was able to participate in the championships but was disappointed that he was unable to make it to the finals where he would have had a chance to score and receive All-American honors. Szmuda said he felt the same way.

“When he arrived here two months ago to where he is at now, I am very pleased,” Robison said. “I think outdoors he will jump very far.”

In June of 2001, Szmuda suffered an ankle injury that he said has bothered him every so often. But for the competition, Szmuda said he was not feeling any pain.

For up to the minute results, visit the [2002 NCAA Indoor Championships Official Web Site](#):

[http://www.ncaachampionships.com/0,5920,0\\_713\\_0,00.html](http://www.ncaachampionships.com/0,5920,0_713_0,00.html).