

JACKIE DUBOIS

University of Oklahoma

Meteorology/Women's Track & Field & Cross Country

Nominated by: C.B. Elder

Jackie DuBoise gives hope to children around the world who struggle with Cystic Fibrosis. The reality of cystic fibrosis is that those who battle the disease face both a drastically reduced lifespan, the lucky ones might actually reach their 20th birthday, as well as a dramatically reduced ability to engage in rigorous activity. But Jackie did reach the age of 20 and she wasn't letting Cystic Fibrosis keep her from competing at the Division I level. The fact that she competed is startling enough, but the fact that she did it as a distance runner in both track and cross country is truly amazing. She credits the experience with transforming her "from an overwhelmed freshman to a dynamic, disciplined adult". In order to survive she had to learn to balance both her academics and her training regimen. Jackie is enrolled in an intensive honor's meteorology program that might have been challenge enough for many students, but she also managed to find the time for church, volunteer activities, sorority involvement as well.

Jackie has also been honored with the Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup and in that nomination packet her track coach wrote the following: "There were some races that her body would not let her compete in, but if there was any chance at all that she could run, she would be on the track and she would finish the race. Jackie often said that every time she stepped on the track, she did so with a great sense of gratitude. She understood that many with her condition could only dream of running in a Big 12 Championship or serving as a team captain. She was living her dream *and* their dream when she ran". In spite of a rigorous health routine that had to be maintained in order for her to be able to run, she donated both time and spirit to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Special Olympics, the Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, as well as the Norman, OK, Battered Women's Shelter. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and led a Bible study group for teenagers as well. Jackie didn't write about any of these activities in her essay but chose to focus on the ways that other people had touched her life and made it better. Whether it was team-mates, faculty, friends, or fellow church members it's not difficult to believe that Jackie had every bit as big an impact on their lives as they did on hers! Jackie's running career for Oklahoma may have come to an end but she has been accepted into a graduate program so she will continue to find new challenges in her life and be an inspiration to all who hear her story.