



Celebrating 50 Years of Title IX

50 For 50:

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By Larry Moritz, Special to KSHSAA

Throughout her high school career, Cailie Logue was blessed not only with strong parental support, but with dedicated coaches who always had the talented athlete's best interests at heart.

It didn't hurt that Logue, now a standout distance runner at Iowa State, had both parents as her track and cross country coaches while in high school. She has certainly come to appreciate the role that support system played before, during and since her remarkable four-year career at Girard High School.

"I think now that I was pretty fortunate to have the people around me that I did," Logue

said. “The town and my parents and family. They guided me in that experience.

“I couldn’t imagine where I would be without my parents and I have a lot to thank them for. Not only were they good parents, but they were able to navigate that coach-athlete dynamic with me very well.

“I give them a lot of credit for the way they made the experience really enjoyable, and for how much they cared and invested in me and my brother.”

It would be easy to assume Logue was destined to run distance races, but that wasn’t necessarily the case. Her mother, Christie (Allen) Logue, was a four-time state medalist in cross country and won multiple medals at state track while running at Labette County in the late 1980s. Her father, Matt Logue, was a two-time state cross country champion at Lansing and took state titles in the 1,600 and 3,200-meter run at the Class 4A state meet in 1989.

Both went on to outstanding collegiate careers at Pittsburg State, but Matt and Christie Logue didn’t push their daughter to follow the path they had set.

“My mom was an eight-time Division II champion in college and my dad was a four-time All-American in track and cross country,” Cailie said. “I got asked a lot if I was going to be a runner like my mom and dad, but they always made it really clear that whatever sport I wanted to do, it was my choice.

“I played a lot of other sports when I was younger and I enjoyed them, but not nearly as much as cross country or track.”

Cailie found immediate success at the high school level, winning the first cross country meet she competed in and earning her first state title later that fall.

“Going into that first state meet, I wasn’t sure what it was going to look like,” Cailie said. “Maybe it was that freshman-year phenomena where you aren’t sure what to expect and I remember being nervous because of the unknown.

“I think others knew I could win races, but I really didn’t know how it was going to go.”

That cross country state title in 2013 was the first of four consecutive Class 4A individual state championships in the sport. She added an additional nine state titles in track and field, winning the 3,200-meter run each of her four years, taking three gold medals in the 1,600 run, and placing first in the 800 run as both a junior and senior.



Logue owns the 4A state meet records in three individual events: the 800 (2:12.27), 1,600 (4:54.44) and 3,200 (10:28.80).

“Some of it was probably due to her environment,” Matt Logue said. “Both my wife and I ran at Pittsburg State and Cailie was very mature when it came to training and competing, even at a young age.

“Some of it was personality based. She was a student of the sport. Cailie was patient and knew to set high but achievable goals, and she was fortunate enough to be pretty talented.”

With her father as her head coach at Girard and her mother as the assistant coach, Cailie admits there were many times when the conversation at home turned to running, whether it was about past or future events, training or strategy.

“We would talk track and cross country quite a bit at home, but if it got to be too much, I could just say ‘OK, that’s all I want to talk about it now,’” Cailie said. “My dad was coached by his dad, so he understood.

“It was a good dynamic. He knew me really well. He would say ‘I’m your advocate. I’m not always going to say the things to make you feel really good or happy, but I am always going to do what’s best for you.’”

Logue said the idea of competing at the collegiate level began to take hold following her sophomore year. She qualified for one of the sport’s premier events, the 2015 Nike Cross Nationals in Portland, Oregon, after her junior season. When she placed third among more than 200 competitors at the national meet, the offers from NCAA Division I schools began coming in.

As she did at the high school level, Logue quickly found success in her first season at Iowa State. She was named the 2017 Big 12 Newcomer of the Year in cross country and is the three-time defending Big 12 champion in that sport.

She has a total of 10 Big 12 titles, with three conference championships in indoor track and another four during the outdoor season. She has earned All-American honors in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track, and has been named an academic first-team All-American as well.

A kinesiology major, Logue has another year of eligibility remaining in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track, and plans to graduate in May, 2022.

When Logue won the 10,000 meter run at the Big 12 Championships this past spring, the runner up in that event was Molly Born, a 2018 Shawnee Mission Northwest grad and now running at Oklahoma State.

“My dad always told me stories about the top runners in Kansas history,” Logue said. “Alli Cash (Shawnee Mission West) graduated the year before I got to high school and I think she still has the fastest mile time in the state. Molly Born and Emily Venters (Lawrence Free State) were two of the fastest runners in the state and they were running at the same time as me, and I think Molly still has the fastest two mile.

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