



*Ed Lamb*

## *Thunderbirds Tab Lamb As Head Football Coach*

Southern Utah University named **Ed Lamb** as its new head football coach on December 20, 2007. Lamb, who previously worked as special teams coordinator, recruiting coordinator and defensive backs coach at the University of San Diego, took over the reins of SUU's program at the beginning of 2008.

"We're very happy and excited to name Ed Lamb as the new head football coach at Southern Utah University," said **Ken Beazer**, SUU Athletic Director. "We had tremendous interest in the job and looked at a lot of candidates before focusing in on Ed as our man. I have confidence he will step in and get our program going in the right direction."

A 1996 graduate of Brigham Young University, Lamb helped guide San Diego to three consecutive Pioneer League championships as well as back-to-back NCAA Division I-AA Mid-Major National Championships, in 2005 and 2006. In 2007 the USD special teams ranked first or second in every statistical category and the defense finished 2006 ranked fourth nationally after completing an 11-1 season. Prior to joining the Toreros in 2005, Lamb spent two seasons as defensive coordinator at the University of Idaho as well as a year on the BYU staff. He also spent time as defensive coordinator at the University of Redlands, where his teams led the conference in scoring defense every year he was with

the program. As a student-athlete, Lamb played linebacker and defensive end from 1992-96 at BYU-Idaho and then Brigham Young University where combined, they won four conference championships.

Lamb joins the T-bird community with his wife Sarah and their three daughters, Anna, 8, Amelia, 4 and Summer, 9 months.



*Mark Currell (foreground, shown here at an SUU track meet) led the T-Birds to the team title with his first place individual finish at the Summit League Championships.*

## *T-Bird Harriers Sweep Conference Titles*

SUU's men claimed their second consecutive conference title and the women captured their first since 2004 when the cross country teams swept the Summit League championships in Illinois on October 27, 2007.

*SUU's newest NCAA sport is Women's Golf, which began in the fall of 2007.*

The men's title also marked the ninth time in the last 11 conference championships that the trophy has gone home with the Thunderbirds. The women also returned to form capturing the team's eighth title in 11 years in the league.

"Our men all ran strong from top to bottom this season," head coach **Eric Houle** said. "To be able to run with these new teams and remain at the top really speaks well of the program and the kids we are able to recruit."

SUU senior **Mark Currell** led the way for the Thunderbirds, finishing first with a new course record of 24:47. Currell also garnered Male Athlete of the Year honors for his effort.

Freshman **Cam Levins** earned Newcomer of the Year with his third-place finish, also under the course record time, crossing the line with a time of 25:27.

**Dave Sheeran** also finished in the top ten for Southern Utah with a ninth-place time of 25:44. SUU was the only team to have three runners finish in the top ten. SUU was also the only school with its top five runners in the top 15 of the 78-athlete field.

The women's side was much closer, with the top three teams divided by a single point. In the end, the Thunderbirds tied the Mastodons of IPFW with 67 points, but had a better finish from their non-scored sixth runner to capture



*The SUU women's team, pictured here at an earlier cross country meet, shows the cohesiveness that helped them win the Summit League Championship. Sharla Platt, above left, leads the way.*

the championship.

"Our women did a great job of coming from fourth, from a year ago, to first this year," Houle said of the women. "They all trained hard this year with a desire to return to the top and were able to do it with a very young squad."

**Sharla Platt** once again paced SUU, finishing second on the heels of ORU's all-American **Faithy Kamangila** with a time of 21:26.

Freshman **Steffi Minson** was the next finisher for the Thunderbirds in 11th-place, earning Newcomer of the Year honors as the top finisher

among freshmen in the league.

She was followed by **Joanna Crowther** (22:51, 13th), **Madalyn Olpin** (20th, 23:12) and **Diana Medina** in 21st with a time of 23:13. However, it was Southern Utah's non-scoring sixth finisher, **Kate Eborn**, who crossed the line in 26th place (23:30) that broke the tie with IPFW and clinched the title for the Thunderbirds.

Such success from both these teams is no surprise considering SUU's Coach Houle was named the Summit League Men's Coach of the Year.