

Notre Dame Cross Country Hopes To Build Off Early-Season Success With Strong Showing At Pre-Nationals

2000 SCHEDULE			
SEPTEMBER			
9	Saturday	Valparaiso Invitational Valparaiso, Ind.	M-1st W-1st
22	Friday	National Catholic Notre Dame, Ind.	M-1st W-1st
OCTOBER			
6	Friday	Notre Dame Invitational Notre Dame, Ind.	M-3rd W-7th
14	Saturday	Pre-National Meet Ames, Iowa 10:30/11:30 a.m.	
27	Friday	BIG EAST Championships Boston, Mass.	TBA
NOVEMBER			
11	Saturday	NCAA District IV Ypsilanti, Mich.	TBA
20	Monday	NCAA Championships Ames, Iowa	TBA
All home meets run at the Notre Dame Golf Course			
All times local to site			

2000 MONDO Men's Cross Country Poll Oct. 9, 2000				
Rank	Team	Region	Points	Prev.
1.	Stanford	W	396	2
2.	Arkansas	SC	388	1
3.	Colorado	MT	368	3
4.	Providence	NE	350	4
5.	Wisconsin	GL	326	5
6.	Iona College	NE	302	6
7.	Georgetown	MA	293	7
8.	BYU	W	277	9
9.	Arizona	W	269	10
10.	Northern Arizona	MT	261	11
11.	Colorado State	MT	243	12
12.	William & Mary	SE	202	13
14.	Michigan State	GL	181	15
15.	Oklahoma State	MW	180	16
16.	Arizona State	W	178	14
17.	NOTRE DAME	GL	167	22
18.	Oregon	W	145	17
19.	Weber State	MT	104	20
20.	Washington	W	98	18
21.	South Florida	S	80	21
22.	Indiana	GL	54	--
23.	Princeton	NE	48	25
24.	Michigan	GL	43	19
25.	Duke	SE	25	23

Irish Sizing Up Nation's Best:

With the Pre-National Championships being held in Ames, Iowa, this weekend, the Irish cross-country squads are looking to continue their improvement this season.

Notre Dame Invitational Review:

Notre Dame's harriers battled both bone-chilling winds and the nation's toughest competition during the 45th running of the Notre Dame Invitational.

Both teams ran against several tough top 25 squads, including powerhouse Stanford, with a men's squad ranked # 2 in the nation, and a # 1 women's team, at the time of the meet.

The plan, then, was to face the toughest competition Notre Dame could bring to South Bend, and use the meet as a measuring stick for the improvement of both the men's and women's team this season.

Both squads found themselves where they expected to be, with a few pleasant surprises thrown in for good measure.

For the Irish women, there were some very solid performances by the now-seasoned group of freshmen and sophomores that have proven themselves to be the leaders of the squad. Sophomore **Jennifer Handley (Barrie, Ontario)** had the highest finish of the group, taking 20th, and junior **Hilary Burn (Ottawa, Ontario)** finished 40th, in her first varsity Notre Dame Invitational race (Burn did not compete in last year's Invitational and took ninth in the junior varsity race her freshman year). Freshmen **Megan Johnson (Seattle, Wa.)**, **Rachel Endress (Wheaton, Ill.)** and sophomore **Jennifer Fibuch (Leawood, Kan.)** completed the top five finishers for the women.

For the Irish men, though, the star of the day was junior **Luke Watson (Stillwater, Minn.)** and his first-place finish. Last year, senior **Ryan Shay (Central Lake, Mich.)** took first at the Notre Dame Invitational and the National Catholic Championship, en route to a BIG EAST individual cross country title. Watson, in his junior year as well, has already achieved two of those same milestones, and looks to improve on last year's third-place finish at the BIG EAST Championships in Boston on the Oct. 27. Watson slipped past Stanford's trio of top runners to earn the top spot, although the Irish team had to settle for third place behind the Cardinal and #10 Arizona. Fellow junior **Marc Striowski (Toronto, Ontario)** completed the race in ninth place, making Notre Dame and Stanford the only schools to place more than one runner in the top 10. Junior **Patrick Conway (Springfield, Va.)**, freshman **Todd Mobley (West Bloomfield, Mich.)** and junior **Sean Zanderson (Poway, Calif.)** completed the top five finishers for the Irish men.

Coming Up for the Irish:

The Irish squads have a busy two weeks ahead of them. While most students will start their Fall Break

on Saturday, the 14th, the harriers will travel to Ames, Iowa, to compete in the Pre-National Championships. The men's race begins at 10:30 a.m. local time, followed by the women's race at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 27, the scene switches to Boston, Mass., when the teams compete at the BIG EAST Championships.

Moving Up in the Polls: The Notre Dame men's team jumped to 17th in the Oct. 9, MONDO cross country poll after its third-place finish in the Notre Dame Invitational. The Irish followed the same pattern last season, then jumped to 10th after a sixth-place finish at the 1999 Pre-National Championships. Notre Dame climbed as high as eighth in the 1999 poll after winning the BIG EAST meet.

Notre Dame Individual Results In 2000 Notre Dame Invitational

Men:		
Name:	Place:	Time:
Luke Watson	First	23:56
Marc Striowski	Ninth	24:24
Patrick Conway	23rd	24:46
Todd Mobly	47th	25:11
Sean Zanderson	55th	25:17
David Alber	92nd	25:51
David Mertens	108th	26:07
Women:		
Name:	Place:	Time:
Jennifer Handley	20th	17:42
Hilary Burn	40th	18:09
Megan Johnson	44th	18:12
Rachel Endress	64th	18:27
Jennifer Fibuch	71st	18:30
Chrissy Kuenster	96th	18:44
Leanne Brady	121st	18:59

Great Lakes Region Men's Rankings (Oct. 9)

1. Wisconsin
2. Michigan State
3. NOTRE DAME
4. Indiana
5. Eastern Michigan
6. Michigan
7. Butler
8. Miami (Ohio)
9. Ohio State
10. Central Michigan