

Notre Dame Men's Cross Country Looks to Defend '99 BIG EAST Title; Women Will Try to Improve on Fifth Place

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	M-10th W-33rd	
27	Friday	BIG EAST Championships Boston, Mass.	M-11:30 a.m. W-12:20 p.m.	
NOVEMBER				
11	Saturday	NCAA District IV Ypsilanti, Mich.	TBA	
20	Monday	NCAA Championships Ames, Iowa	TBA	

All home meets run at Burke Memorial Golf Course
All times local to site

2000 MONDO Men's Cross Country Poll Oct. 17, 2000

Rank	Team	Region	Points	Prev.
1.	Colorado (7)	MT	390	3
2.	Arkansas (4)	SC	378	2
3.	Stanford (5)	W	375	1
4.	<i>Providence</i>	<i>NE</i>	<i>344</i>	<i>4</i>
5.	Northern Arizona	MT	337	10
6.	Wisconsin	GL	310	5
7.	BYU	W	301	8
8.	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>MA</i>	<i>281</i>	<i>7</i>
9.	Iona College	NE	280	6
10.	Arizona	W	262	9
11.	Oklahoma State	MW	225	15
12.	Duke	SE	216	25
13.	Oregon	W	197	18
14.	N.C. State	SE	191	13
15.	Weber State	MT	174	19
16.	Michigan State	GL	171	14
17.	NOTRE DAME	GL	154	17
18.	Penn State	MA	120	--
19.	Eastern Michigan	GL	107	--
20.	William & Mary	SE	95	12
21.	<i>Villanova</i>	<i>MA</i>	<i>73</i>	--
22.	Colorado State	MT	68	11
23.	Nebraska	MW	46	--
24.	Indiana	GL	27	22
24.	Princeton	NE	27	23

Italics indicates BIG EAST teams.

Irish Sizing Up BIG EAST's Best:

Coming off of a a challenging Pre-National meet in Ames, Iowa, site of the 2000 NCAA Cross Country Championships, and a week-long Fall Break, the Notre Dame cross country squads are looking towards their next challenge: the 2000 BIG EAST Championships in Boston, Mass., on Saturday, Oct. 27.

The Irish men look to retain their 1999 team championship and to walk away with another individual title as well. Last year's BIG EAST title went to then-junior Ryan Shay (Central Lake, Mich.) who won the race in 24:22. Then-sophomore Luke Watson (Stillwater, Minn.) finished third, 16 seconds behind Shay with a time of 24:36. Graduated senior Ryan Maxwell took ninth and then-sophomore Marc Striowski earned 11th-place with a time of 25:02. All four earned All-BIG EAST honors due to their performances.

Graduated senior John Dudley rounded out the Irish top five, finishing in in 25:33 to take 19th. Also returning for the Irish this year, Patrick Conway (Springfield, Va.), Sean Zanderson (Poway, Calif), and John Beck (Torrington, Wyo.) finished in 57th, 58th, and 77th, respectively.

It is Watson who is expected to lead the Irish men to a strong finish. The junior has already won three races this season (Notre Dame Invitational, National Catholic Championships, and the Valparaiso Invitational), and will look to add another title at the BIG EAST meet.

Asked to fill the shoes of All-American Ryan Shay, who is recovering from training for the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials, Watson is holding his own quite capably. He finished fourth at Pre-Nationals, equalling Shay's finish last year. Watson also will hope to equal Shay's 12th-place finish at the '99 NCAA meet if the Irish earn a berth in the 2000 national championship.

The Irish will not repeat as champions without dealing with some top competition. The BIG EAST boasts two of the top-10 men's teams in the nation, #4 Providence and #8 Georgetown (the Irish men are currently #17). The Irish last ran against Georgetown during the Pre-NCAAs, where the Hoyas took fifth, and the Irish slid into a 10th-place team finish. The rest of the BIG EAST will prove to be equally stiff with talented runners on every team vying for top finishes.

The Irish women have a equally difficult task. The BIG EAST boasts three nationally ranked teams: #7 Boston College, #10 Georgetown, and #24 West Virginia. Many of the squads are coming off of top finishes at Pre-Nationals as well, with four conference teaming earning top-20 team finishes. Last year at the BIG EAST

competition, the Irish women placed fifth out of 13th teams, with scoring finishes coming from graduated seniors Alison Klemmer (4), Patty Rice (23), Erin Luby (26), then-junior Chrissy Kuenster (33) and then-freshman Jennifer Handley (12). The Irish women have finished fifth for two years in a row, and look to change that ranking this weekend.

Notre Dame 2000 BIG EAST Participants

<u>Men</u>	<u>'99 BE Finish</u>
David Alber	--
Pat Conway	57th
John Keane	--
Tom Lennon	--
David Mertens	--
Todd Mobley	--
Marc Striowski	11th
Luke Watson	3rd
Sean Zanderson	58th

<u>Women</u>	<u>'99 BE Finish</u>
Hilary Burn	--
Kari Eaton	36th
Rachel Endress	--
Jennifer Fibuch	--
Jennifer Handley	12th
Megan Johnson	--
Chrissy Kuenster	33rd
Anne McGrath	--
Melissa Schmidt	51st

Pre-National Meet Men's Results

<u>Team</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Colorado	64
2. Northern Arizona	215
3. Stanford	255
4. BYU	310
5. Georgetown	313
6. Arizona	314
7. Duke	339
8. Oregon	382
9. Weber State	388
10. NOTRE DAME	404
11. Penn State	407
12. Eastern Michigan	431
13. William & Mary	468

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Finish</u>
Luke Watson	4th
Marc Striowski	10th
Patrick Conway	82nd
Todd Mobley	100th
Sean Zanderson	222nd
David Alber	256th
David Mertens	299th