

## Watson Wins Great Lakes District Meet, Notre Dame Men's Team Headed for NCAA Championship Meet

### 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-4th W-6th
NOVEMBER			
11	Saturday	NCAA District IV Ypsilanti, Mich.	M-3rd W-8th
20	Monday	NCAA Championships Ames, Iowa	12:15 p.m.

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 (11)	MT	394	1
2.	*Stanford (3)	W	380	2
3.	*Arkansas (1)	SC	368	3
4.	*Providence	NE	360	4
5.	*Wisconsin	GL	325	6
6.	*Georgetown	MA	306	8
7.	*BYU	W	293	7
8.	*Arizona	W	276	12
9.	*Northern Arizona	MT	251	5
10.	*Iona College	NE	248	9
11.	*Oklahoma State	MW	243	13
12.	*William & Mary	SE	238	21
13.	*Eastern Michigan	GL	203	18
14.	*Villanova	MA	177	19
15.	*N.C. State	SE	171	16
16.	*Weber State	MT	155	14
17.	*Alabama	S	136	24
18.	*Notre Dame	GL	121	20
19.	*Duke	SE	118	11
20.	Oregon	W	95	10
21.	*Colorado State	MT	74	22
22.	*Indiana	GL	69	15
23.	Cal Poly	W	68	--
24.	Arizona State	W	23	--
25.	*Dartmouth	MA	22	25

\* - indicates team qualified for NCAA meet.

#### Irish Men Finish Third at Districts, Earn a Trip to Ames, Iowa for the NCAA Championship:

The Notre Dame men's and women's cross country teams competed for spots in the 2000 NCAA Championships during the Great Lakes Regional Championships last weekend in Ypsilanti, Mich.

The men finished a strong third, which secured them an at-large bid in the NCAA meet. The women's team finished eighth and will not be returning to the NAAs this season.

The lead runner for the Irish men was junior **Luke Watson (Stillwater, Minn.)**, who became the first Notre Dame harrier to capture the regional championship individual title. Watson moved from seventh to first in the final stretch of the race to finish in 30:47.1. It is the fourth individual title for Watson this season (Valparaiso, National Catholic, Notre Dame Invitational, and District Meet).

"Luke ran a great race (at the Regional meet)," Irish head coach **Joe Piane** says.

"He has been our leader all year and is a strong contender for All-America honors at the (2000) NCAA meet (Watson finished 58th at the 1999 NCAA Cross Country Championship)."

Not far behind Watson at the Great Lakes meet was classmate **Marc Striowski (Toronto, Ontario)**, who has consistently been Notre Dame's second runner this season. Striowski took eighth in 31:23.0

"Luke and Marc have just been fantastic this year," Piane says.

"They will be our leaders once again at the national championship."

Notre Dame's third runner was junior **Pat Conway (Springfield, Va.)** in 17th (31:44.7).

"Pat is a completely different runner than last year," Piane says.

"His dedication and work ethic has transformed him into a better runner."

The fourth runner across the finish line for the Irish was freshman **Todd Mobley (West Bloomfield, Mich.)** in 24th (31:54.2). Mobley has steadily improved throughout the season to become one of the team's top runners.

"Todd has just had a great freshman season," Piane says.

"In a race of that magnitude (in the regional meet), a top-25 finish is quite an accomplishment."

Senior **Sean Zanderson (Poway, Calif.)** was the fifth Irish harrier to cross the finish line in 93rd (33:31.0).

"We know that Sean can run better than his finish last week," Piane says.

"He has been a consistent top-five finisher this season and we are confident he has better races in him."

The men will travel to Ames, Iowa, Monday, Nov. 20, to race at 12:15 for the NCAA championship. The Irish, who finished eighth last year, will be on a mission for another top-10 finish.

History is on the side of the Irish harriers, as the team has finished in the top-10 at the NCAA meet five out of the last eight years. They also finished 10th at the Pre-National Meet this year in Ames, while getting a look the same course the race will be run on for the national meet.

### 2000 Great Lakes Regional Championship Top 15 Men's Team Finishes

#### Men

1. *Wisconsin*
2. *Eastern Michigan*
3. **Notre Dame**
4. *Indiana*
5. *Ohio State*
6. Michigan State
7. Michigan
8. Purdue
9. Butler
10. Central Michigan
11. Western Michigan
12. Kent State
13. Indiana State
14. Miami (Ohio)
15. Ball State

#### *National meet qualifiers in italics*

<u>Notre Dame's Top Five</u>	<u>Time</u>
1. Luke Watson	30:47.1
8. Marc Striowski	31:23.0
17. Pat Conway	31:44.7
24. Todd Mobley	31:54.2
93. Sean Zanderson	33:31.0

**All-District Honors:** On its way to a third-place finish at the 2000 Great Lakes Regional Meet, the Notre Dame men's cross country team had four runners earn all-District honors. **Luke Watson, Marc Striowski, Patrick Conway, and Todd Mobley** all finished in the top-25 to earn the all-District accolades.

On the women's side, sophomore **Jennifer Handley (Barrie, Ont.)** finished 19th to earn all-District honors.