

Watson and Striowski Make All-BIG EAST; Irish Prepare for NCAA District IV Competition.

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.	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. 31, 2000

Rank	Team	Region	Points	Prev.
1.	Colorado (11)	MT	395	1
2.	Stanford (3)	W	380	3
3.	Arkansas (2)	SC	373	2
4.	Providence	NE	349	4
5.	Northern Arizona	MT	328	5
6.	<i>Wisconsin</i>	GL	326	6
7.	BYU	W	294	7
8.	Georgetown	MA	292	8
9.	Iona College	NE	267	9
10.	Oregon	W	245	13
11.	Duke	SE	231	12
12.	Arizona	W	216	10
13.	Oklahoma State	MW	213	11
14.	Weber State	MT	190	15
15.	<i>Indiana</i>	GL	153	24
16.	North Carolina St.	SE	133	14
17.	Penn State	MA	130	18
18.	<i>Eastern Michigan</i>	GL	118	9
19.	Villanova	NE	112	21
20.	NOTRE DAME	GL	102	17
21.	William and Mary	SE	95	20
22.	Colorado State	MT	65	22
23.	<i>Michigan State</i>	GL	64	16
24.	Alabama	S	41	--
24.	Dartmouth	NE	31	--

Italics indicates Great Lakes Region (IV) teams.

Irish Hope for a Memorable November: The end of the 2000 cross-country season is quickly approaching for the Notre Dame men's and women's cross country teams. On November 11th, the Irish head to Ypsilanti, Mich., for the NCAA District IV Meet--which could be both team's tickets for a return visit to Ames, Iowa, on the 20th. Ames, the site of October 14th's Pre-National Meet, will also host the 2000 NCAA Championship Meet.

Notre Dame's harriers expect to face tough competition on Saturday, as they have all season. All of three October meets featured nationally-ranked teams in both the men's and women's fields. The District meet boasts two automatic bids to the National Championship race in Iowa, but a strong finish for either Irish team could prove to be justification for an at-large invite to run in Iowa from the NCAA.

The Irish men have already proven themselves to be among the nation's best this year, remaining in the top 20 all season. [The Irish currently are ranked 20th]. The Irish certainly have some of the nation's toughest individual athletes.

Junior **Luke Watson (Stillwater, Minn)** has stepped into the leading role on the men's team with confidence this season and developed into one of the top runners in the nation. At the BIG EAST Championship in Boston on Oct. 27, Watson finished seventh, and was named to the All-BIG EAST squad, for the third time in his three seasons at Notre Dame. Watson also won the first three races of the season (Valparaiso Invitational, National Catholic and Notre Dame Invitationals).

Close behind Watson is fellow junior **Marc Striowski (Toronto, Ont.)**, who earned All-BIG EAST honors both this year and the last, and also ran in last year's NCAA Championship race. The duo has proven to be a formidable combination for the Irish, with both runners finishing in the top ten in every race Notre Dame has run this season. They both finished in the top 25 at last year's District competition, [Watson was 12, Striowski was 21] and helped to lead the Irish to a NCAA bid.

For the Irish women, a high-caliber performance in the District Meet will be crucial to receiving an invitation to run in Ames on the 20th. The women's squad, who started out the season very strongly, behind the running of several talented underclassmen, most notably sophomore **Jennifer Handley (Barrie, Ont.)** and freshman **Megan Johnson (Seattle, Wash.)**, have not run as well in recent meets as they may have liked. The coming meet gives them an excellent chance to showcase the depth of talent on the squad, and reaffirm that they belong classed with the nation's elite teams. At last year's District competition, Handley finished fourth on the team for the Irish

in 58th-place, behind graduated seniors Alison Klemmer, Nicole LaSelle, and Patty Rice, helping the Irish turn a fourth-place team finish into a NCAA bid.

2000 BIG EAST Men's Team Finishes

<i>Men</i>	
1. Providence	39
2. Georgetown	46
3. Villanova	97
4. Notre Dame	100
5. West Virginia	146
6. Boston College	153
7. Connecticut	213
8. Virginia Tech	220
9. Rutgers	272
10. Seton Hall	272
11. Pittsburgh	328
12. Miami	331
13. Syracuse	339
14. St. John's	390

<i>Notre Dame's Top Five</i>	<i>Time</i>
7. Luke Watson	23:44
8. Marc Striowski	23:50
21. Pat Conway	24:23
26. Todd Mobley	24:38
38. Sean Zanderson	25:12

2000 BIG EAST Women's Team Finishes

<i>Women</i>	
1. Boston College	38
2. Providence	71
3. Georgetown	72
4. Villanova	81
5. West Virginia	91
6. Notre Dame	160
7. Virginia Tech	248
8. Connecticut	271
9. Rutgers	281
10. Pittsburgh	307
11. St. John's	324
12. Miami	328
13. Syracuse	337
14. Seton Hall	393

<i>Notre Dame's Top Five</i>	<i>Time</i>
18. Chrissy Kuenster	17:48
31. Jennifer Handley	18:15
32. Rachel Endress	18:18
39. Megan Johnson	18:22
40. Jennifer Fibuch	18:22