

Notre Dame Cross Country Squads Sweep the National Catholic Invitational

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.	4:15/5 p.m.
14	Saturday	Pre-National Meet Ames, Iowa	TBA
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 Burke Memorial Golf Course

All times local to site

2000 MONDO Men's Cross Country Preseason Poll Sept. 26, 2000

Rank	Team	Region	Points	Last Wk.
1.	Arkansas	SC	395	1
2.	Stanford	W	388	2
3.	Colorado	MT	367	3
4.	Providence	NE	342	14
5.	Iona College	NE	324	4
6.	Wisconsin	GL	317	6
7.	Georgetown	MA	313	7
8.	N.C. State	SE	281	8
9.	BYU	MT	270	NR
10.	Arizona	W	249	5
11.	Colorado State	MT	219	NR
12.	Arizona State	W	187	11
13.	Northern Arizona	MT	184	15
14.	Michigan State	GL	173	18
15.	William & Mary	SE	165	13
16.	Oregon	W	162	9
17.	Michigan	GL	145	10
18.	Oklahoma State	MW	142	17
19.	Washington	W	121	NR
20.	Weber State		104	23
21.	South Florida	S	69	21
22.	NOTRE DAME	GL	60	20
22.(t)	Villanova	MA	60	22
24.	Duke	SE	47	NR
25.	Eastern Michigan	GL	34	NR

The Notre Dame men's and women's cross country teams took no notice of the early drizzling rain during the September 22nd running of the National Catholic Invitational. The sun came out as the afternoon wore on, and along with the blue sky came victory for the Irish, both individually and as a team.

National Catholic Review:

Neither of the Irish squads have failed to take the team titles at the National Catholic since 1994, and despite losses to graduation, there was no intention of letting the titles leave South Bend this year.

The Irish men captured the title in commanding fashion, earning first, second, and third place overall and five of the top 25 slots. The team's score of 46 points was more than half that of its closest competition, Loyola University-Chicago, who finished in second with 103 points. **Luke Watson (Stillwater, Minn.)**, **Marc Striowski (Toronto, Ont.)**, and **Patrick Conway (Springfield, Va.)** showed the strength of the Irish junior class, taking first, second, and third, respectively. Watson ran a comfortable 24:56 for the men's five-mile event, while Striowski and Conway finished in a dead heat with a shared 25:19. Freshmen **David Alber (Dayton, Ohio)** and **Brian Kerwin (Point Pleasant, N.J.)** also showed well in their first home race, finishing 19th and 21st in 26:08 and 26:15.

The Irish women were not to be outdone. Notre Dame took five of the top ten places, and seven of the top 25. Freshman **Megan Johnson (Seattle, Wa.)** led the way to the team title with 32 points, edging Loyola Chicago by five points, and their top finisher, Kristyne McGuinn by seven seconds. The two schools amounted for all but two of the top 10 runners, and all but seven of the top 20 finishers. No one class dominated for the Irish, as senior **Chrissy Kuenster (Wheaton, Ill.)** took fifth in 18:23, freshman **Rachel Endress (Wheaton, Ill.)** earned seventh in 18:31, junior **Hilary Burn (Ottawa, Ont.)**, back from a year off battling mononucleosis, finished ninth in 18:34, and sophomore **Muffy Schmidt (Miles City, Mont.)** nabbed 10th in 18:35.

It was the sixth-straight National Catholic team title for the men and the fifth straight for the women. Watson became the fifth-straight Irish harrier to capture the individual title, following three winning races from senior **Ryan Shay (Central Lake, Mich.)**, who was unable to compete in this year's event, and Jason Rexing in 1995. The women have dominated as well. Megan Johnson becomes the second Irish runner to win the National Catholic her freshman year after JoAnna Deeter accomplished the feat in 1996. Deeter also won the title in '97, '98 and '99. The Irish women have also captured the team crown seven out of the last eight years.

Next Up for the Irish: The Notre Dame Invitational is scheduled for Oct. 6, at Notre Dame's Burke Memorial Golf Course. The 2000 Notre Dame Invitational is one of the best regular-season meets in the nation this year with six of the top 25 teams in the country participating. Arizona, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina State, Ohio State and Stanford are just a few of the powerful teams that will race on the Notre Dame campus for the invitational title. The men's gold division race starts at 2:45 p.m., the open race is at 3:30 p.m., the women's varsity race is at 4:15 p.m., and the men's varsity race begins at 5:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

National Catholic Individual Results

<u>Men:</u>		
Name	Place	Time
Luke Watson	1st	24:56
Marc Striowski	2nd	25:19
Patrick Conway	3rd	25:19
David Alber	19th	26:08
Brian Kerwin	21st	26:15
Kevin Brown	34th	26:43
<u>Women:</u>		
Megan Johnson	1st	18:08
Chrissy Kuenster	5th	18:23
Rachel Endress	7th	18:31
Hilary Burn	9th	18:34
Muffy Schmidt	10th	18:35
Anne McGrath	15th	18:44
Jennifer Fibuch	16th	18:45

National Catholic Team Results

<u>Men:</u>		
Team	Finishes	Points
Notre Dame	1, 2, 3, 19, 21	46
Loyola (Chicago)	6, 10, 20, 29, 38	103
Lewis	7, 8, 14, 23, 72	124
Canisius	9, 11, 28, 37, 52	137
Siena Heights	4, 5, 41, 43, 47	140
Aquinas	18, 24, 26, 30, 68	166
<u>Women:</u>		
Notre Dame	1, 5, 7, 9, 10	32
Loyola (Chicago)	2, 4, 6, 12, 13	37
Bellarmino	17, 20, 36, 44, 54	171
Loras	23, 25, 30, 32, 66	176
Holy Cross	24, 37, 43, 47, 50	201
Dayton	14, 19, 45, 64, 71	213