Stanford Men's and Women's Track & Field Teams
open 2001 Outdoor Season

Stanford, Ca - Spring is nearly here, but it's already time for outdoor track & field at Stanford University. Both the Cardinal men's and women's teams open the 2001 outdoor season today when Stanford hosts Cal Poly. Field events get underway at 12:45 p.m., while the running events start at 1:45 p.m. Stanford is the defending NCAA men's team champion, while the Cardinal women are expected to field a team that will be highly-ranked throughout the 2001 season.

Below is a season preview of the 2001 Stanford Track & Field Season.
Join us throughout the year in promises to be another exciting year.

The Cardinal men will again be strong. Stanford returns all of its top sprinters and hurdlers from a year ago, including two Pac-10 scorers in senior Michael Harte and Evan Kelty. Also look for an excellent season from Leroy Sims in the 100 and 200 meters.

In the middle distances, Perhaps never has one school amassed as dominant a group of middle distance runners as Stanford has in 2001. In fact, the Cardinal will have the opportunity to place on the starting line the most talented and accomplished group of 1,500 meter runners ever assembled at one University. The core of the group is Gabe Jennings and Michael Stember, both semifinalists in the 1,500 meters at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. Jonathon Riley is a sub-4:00 minute miler and last year ran a career-best 3:38.90 in the 1,500 meters. Andy Powell returns for his sophomore season after qualifying for the NCAA's as a freshman in 2000. Powell was the #1 ranked freshman in the U.S. last year. Donald Sage, a freshman, will be a runner to look for in 2001.

In the distances, Stanford must fill a void with the loss of multi-time All-Americans Brad and Brent Hauser. Leading the way will be Riley, who finished eighth in the 5,000 meters at the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials. Riley is a nine-time All-American. Look for top results from Jennings, Thomas Murley, Louis Luchini, Andrew Hill, and Adam Tenforde, among others of top talent.

The Cardinal women will produce a team with experience, youth and talent. In the sprints, the Cardinal will have the 1-2 punch of All-American Jayna Smith and Wilsa Charles. Smith set the school record in the 400 meters last year, while Charles has been a mainstay for the Cardinal in the 100 and 200 meters.

In the throws, Stanford will be in excellent shape. In the shot put, Chris Sprague is set to challenge the 60-foot barrier, while George Curts, Omer Inan and Nick Welihozkiy will provide additional depth in the shot put. Inan and Welihozkiy will also score points in the discus as both competed in the event at last year's Pac-10 meet. In the javelin, Chad Wassink is a solid veteran.

Decathlete Jay Goff set a freshman school record last year with 7,007 points. Joining Goff will be John Darcy who has a career-best of 6,138 points.

Traditionally strong in the middle distances and distances, Stanford returns all of its top middle distance runners from a year ago, including Sally Glynn, Lauren Flesherman, Erin Sullivan, Julia Stamps, Elena Villarreal and Lindsay Hyatt. This group has the potential to stand atop the victory stand at the NCAA Outdoor Championships this year. Stanford is loaded with a sizable amount of talented depth.

A number of Pac-10 qualifiers in the jumps and vault will return to The Farm in 2001, including a pair of pole vaulters that will contend for All-America honors. Kathleen Donoghue set a new freshman school record and tied Stanford's all-time record in the pole vault with a clearance of 13-0 1/4 in the pole vault last year. Melissa Feinstein is a two-time All-American in the pole vault and has scored in the last three conference meets, including a first place finish in 1998.

Senior Julie Tinker and junior Shannon Overly are the top returnees for the Cardinal in the horizontal jumps. Tinker has gained experience competing at the Pac-10 Championships while Overly is a strong competitor and Pac-10 qualifier.

Three Pac-10 qualifiers return in the high jump for the Cardinal, including a pair of Pac-10 scorers in Cheryl Burdick and Kim Stone. Both competed at the Pac-10's last year.

In the throws, Stanford returns five Pac-10 qualifiers, one All-American, and add one of the best recruiting classes in school history. Seniors Allison Beatty and Maureen Onyeghakabo will be the leaders of this group in 2001. Beatty redshirted last year, but was a 1999 All-American in the javelin.

Joy Goff and Whitney Drumright finished sixth and eighth, respectively, in the javelin at last year's Pac-10 Championships and will look to improve their placing. Onyeghakabo is the school record holder in the hammer. Three of the top 20 high school discus throwers in the United States will don the Stanford uniform as freshmen in 2001. The list includes Jill Camarena, Molly Meyer and Katherine Currier.

Two members of the Pac-10 return for their senior seasons on The Farm. Joy Goff was the runnerup at the Pac-10 Championships with a career-best 5,133 points. Julie Tinker placed fifth last year. Both will be threats to advance to the NCAA meet in 2001.