



# Mountain West Conference

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**For Immediate Use:** Tuesday, August 26, 2003  
Cross Country Preseason Coaches' Poll

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## **BYU FAVORED AS MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS IN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY**

**Colorado Springs, Colo.** – BYU is favored to win this year's Mountain West Conference championship in both men's and women's cross country in a vote by the league's coaches.

BYU collected four first place votes and a total of 23 points to capture the top spot in the men's poll. Colorado State notched the other two first place votes as it totaled 21 points to capture second place, while Air Force claimed third place with 16 points. New Mexico (12 points) was picked to finish fourth this season, followed by Utah (11 points) in fifth and Wyoming sixth (six points).

For the fourth straight season, the BYU women's team received seven first place votes and gathered a perfect score of 49 points to capture the top spot in the poll. Colorado State's women's team collected the other first place vote and was predicted to finish second with 43 points. Air Force claimed the third spot with 34 points, followed by Utah (33) in fourth. New Mexico and Wyoming tied for fifth in the poll with 20 points apiece, while San Diego State (18) and UNLV (7) were picked seventh and eighth, respectively.

The Cougar men's and women's teams won their fourth consecutive MWC crown in 2002. The BYU women went on to defend their NCAA Cross Country Championship, their third in four years, in Terre Haute, Ind. The 2003 squad will be led by senior Michaela Mannova, who finished fifth at last year's NCAA Championship. The Cougar men finished 16<sup>th</sup> in last year's NCAA's and will be led by junior Kip Kangogo, the 2002 MWC Runner of the Year.

### **Preseason Men's Cross Country Coaches' Poll**

<b>Pl.</b>	<b>Team (1<sup>st</sup> Place Votes)</b>	<b>Points</b>
1.	BYU (4)	23
2.	Colorado State (2)	21
3.	Air Force	16
4.	New Mexico	12
5.	Utah	11
6.	Wyoming	6

### **Preseason Women's Cross Country Coaches Poll**

<b>Pl.</b>	<b>Team (1<sup>st</sup> Place Votes)</b>	<b>Points</b>
1.	BYU (7)	49
2.	Colorado State (1)	43
3.	Air Force	34
4.	Utah	33
5.	New Mexico	20
	Wyoming	20
7.	San Diego State	18
8.	UNLV	7

