

Season Preview



Anna Weber returns for her senior season with the Irish after crushing the Notre Dame record books during her junior campaign.

Experience Will Play Key Role in Success of 2009 Irish Squad

The Notre Dame men's track team will turn to its veterans to continue success



Sophomore John Belcher returns for the Irish after qualifying for both the indoor and outdoor BIG EAST meets in 2008.

After winning the 2008 BIG EAST Outdoor Championships and finishing second at the indoor meet, the Notre Dame men's track and field team will look to carry over its momentum from last season into the 2009 campaign.

Now in his 34th year, Irish head coach Joe Piane and his crew will look to stay atop the conference ranks and challenge for the national spotlight.

At the top of the returnee list for the Irish is two-time track and field All-American Patrick Smyth. The senior from Salt Lake City, Utah had a phenomenal junior season, earning All-America honors and two BIG EAST titles. Smyth won his first BIG EAST indoor title in the 5,000 meters with a time of 13:57.44 and finished 13th in the 3,000 meters at the NCAA Indoor Championships. He followed that by taking the BIG EAST outdoor title in the 10,000 meters with a time of 29:14.76 and finished third at the NCAA Mideast Regionals. He wrapped up his season with an eighth-place finish in the 5,000 meters at the NCAA Outdoor Championships for the All-America notice.

Junior Jake Walker will add experience to the Irish distance roster this season. The Ellwood City, Pa., native scored points at the BIG EAST indoor meet, finishing fifth in the 5,000 meters and sixth in the 3,000-meter run. After resting an injury during the outdoor season, Walker looks to bounce back and lead the Irish squad in '08.

Piane will also look to sophomores Dan Jackson and Paul Springer to contribute in the distance runs for the Irish. Jackson finished 10th in the 5,000 meters at last year's conference indoor meet

and was seventh in the 10,000-meter run at the BIG EAST outdoor contest.

Newcomers Jordan Carlson, who finished third in the mile at the Nike Outdoor Nationals, and Joe Miller will also add depth for the Irish.

In sprints and hurdles, the Irish will likely turn to the "Hungarian Twins," junior Balazs Molnar and sophomore Miklos Szebeny.

Molnar stormed onto the scene for the Irish as a freshman in 2007, racking up four all-BIG EAST honors, including the BIG EAST outdoor 400-meter title, and posting 13 performances that rank among the top-10 in Notre Dame history. Last season, he earned his fifth all-conference nod with a third-place finish in the indoor 400 meters, clocking in at 48.00, and was fourth at the

outdoor meet.

Szebeny won the first four events of his collegiate career and scored points for the Irish with a fifth-place 200-meter finish at the BIG EAST Indoor Championships. He also qualified for the league outdoor meet in the 100 and 200 meters in 2008.

Senior Billy Buzaid will also add to the Irish sprints in '08. He scored points for the Irish with a sixth-place finish in the 500 meters at the BIG EAST Indoor Championships and was a member of the fourth-place 4x400-meter relay team at the league outdoor meet.

Irish sprints coach John Millar also hopes newcomers Jordan Rincon and Alex Korenstra can contribute to the Notre Dame squad this season.

In the field, senior Jeff Mensch and sophomores Denes Veres, Greg Davis and John Belcher return for the Irish.

Mensch scored points for the Irish with a sixth-place weight throw finish at the BIG EAST Indoor Championships and finished fourth in the hammer throw at the outdoor meet.

Veres earned his first all-BIG EAST honor with a second-place finish in the shot put at the league indoor meet, recording a toss of 17.12 meters (56-2). He garnered more all-conference accolades with a third-place shot put performance at the BIG EAST Outdoor Championships.

Davis narrowly missed all-conference honors a year ago, finishing fourth in the weight throw at the BIG EAST indoor meet and was fifth in the hammer throw at the outdoor championships. Belcher finished sixth in the shot put at the conference outdoor meet.

Newcomers Mitchell Gormley and Andrew Hills will also look to contribute to this year's squad.

Handling the pole vaulting duties will be junior Matt Schipper, who won the '08 BIG EAST indoor pole vault title and qualified for the NCAA Mideast Regionals. He'll be joined by his younger brother, Kevin, who will be a freshman for the Irish this season.

Senior Blair Majcina and junior Eric Quick return as the top two jumpers for the Irish. Majcina finished second in the outdoor high jump at the conference meet a year ago. Quick earned all-BIG EAST honors with third-place finishes in the indoor long jump and triple jump.

Sophomore Justin Schneider will compete in the heptathlon and decathlon again for the Irish this season.

With the experience of the returnees and talent of the newcomers, the 2008 Irish men's track team will have a solid chance to sweep the BIG EAST trophies and make a run for the national stage.



The 2008 BIG EAST indoor pole vault champion, Matt Schipper, will lead the Irish vaulters this season.



2008-09 Men's Track & Field Roster

Name	Event	Year	City	State
Mat Abernethy	XC/Mid	So.	College Park	MD
Tyrell Atkins	Sprints	So.	Omaha	NE
Randall Babb	XC/Mid	Fr.	Wheaton	IL
John Belcer	Throws	So.	Cheyenne	WY
Chandler Brooks	Sprints	So.	Kansas City	MO
Matthew Brown	Sprints	So.	Dunedin	FL
Garren Bryant	Sprints	So.	Warren	OH
Billy Buzaid	Sprints	Sr.	Verona	NJ
Jordan Carlson	XC/Mid	Fr.	Inver Grove Heights	MN
Spencer Carter	XC/Mid	So.	Boise	ID
William Cernanac	XC/Mid	Fr.	Englewood	CO
Blake Choplin	XC/Mid	Jr.	Kansas City	MO
Daniel Clark	XC/Mid	Sr.	Jackson	MI
Patrick Coughlin	Sprints	So.	Oak Lawn	IL
Max Cruz	XC/Mid	Fr.	Chesterfield	MO
Greg Davis	Throws	So.	Peachtree	GA
Cameron Eckert	XC/Mid	Jr.	Markle	IN
Terrence Egan	XC/Mid	Jr.	Yorktown Heights	NY
Ryan Gamboa	XC/Mid	So.	Upland	CA
Alex Gannon	Sprints	So.	Corte Madera	CA
Mitchell Gormley	Throws	Fr.	Lawrenceville	GA
Kyle Higdon	XC/Mid	So.	Michigan City	IN
Andrew Hills	Throws	Fr.	Toledo	OH
Edward Hitchler	Sprints	So.	Comfort	TX
Jack Howard	XC/Mid	Jr.	Libertyville	IL
Dan Jackson	XC/Mid	So.	Ann Arbor	MI
Ryan Jacobs	XC/Mid	So.	Roscoe	IL
Ronald Kadykowski	Sprints	Fr.	Brighton	MI
Alex Korenstra	Sprints	Fr.	New Paris	IN
Kevin Labus	XC/Mid	So.	Indianapolis	IN
Sean Lindbloom	Sprints	Fr.	New Lenox	IL
Mitchell Lorenz	XC/Mid	Fr.	Brainerd	MN
Kelly Lynch	XC/Mid	Fr.	Spokane	WA
Brian Mahon	Jumps	Sr.	Granger	IN
Blair Majcina	Jumps	Sr.	Mokena	IL
Kevin McFadden	XC/Mid	Sr.	New Tripoli	PA
Jeff Mensch	Throws	Sr.	Del Mar	CA
James Merchun	Jumps	Jr.	Carmel	IN
Joe Miller	XC/Mid	Fr.	Bowling Green	OH
Kenneth Minogue	XC/Mid	Jr.	Louisville	KY
Balazs Molnar	Sprints	Jr.	Dunaujvaros	Hungary
Mark Moore	XC/Mid	Sr.	Novi	MI
Tray Morgan	Jumps	Sr.	Daphne	AL
Thomas Noel	XC/Mid	So.	Louisville	KY
James Notwell	XC/Mid	Jr.	Upper Arlington	OH
Doug Onuscheck	Jumps	Fr.	Raleigh	NC
Connor Paladino	Jumps	Fr.	Skillman	NJ
Thomas Pesch	XC/Mid	Fr.	Elgin	MN
Eric Quick	Jumps	Jr.	Bakersfield	CA
Jordan Rincon	Sprints	Fr.	Las Vegas	NV
Kevin Schipper	Jumps	Fr.	Leo	IN
Matt Schipper	Jumps	Jr.	Leo	IN
Justin Schneider	Jumps	So.	Atlanta	GA
Johnathan Shawel	XC/Mid	Fr.	Placentia	CA
Ryan Sheehan	Sprints	So.	Round Hill	VA
Michael Smigelski	Throws	Fr.	Mequon	WI
Patrick Smyth	XC/Mid	Sr.	Salt Lake City	UT
Paul Springer	XC/Mid	So.	Kenett Square	PA
Brier Steenberge	XC/Mid	Jr.	Granburg	TX
Zac Suriano	XC/Mid	Fr.	Clifton Park	NY
Miklos Szebeny	Sprints	So.	Telki	Hungary
Nick Tammerine	Sprints	Fr.	Oregon	OH
Denes Veres	Throws	So.	Ellwood City	PA
Kevin Veselik	XC/Mid	Sr.	Clarendon Hills	IL
Trevor Waliszewski	XC/Mid	Fr.	Larkspur	CO
Jake Walker	XC/Mid	Jr.	Ellwood City	PA
Kary Yergler	XC/Mid	So.	Coto de Caza	CA

Women's Track & Field Preview

Irish Women Look to Veterans for Results, Newcomers for Depth

The Notre Dame women return almost all of last year's top performers and hope to take advantage of that experience in 2009

The Notre Dame women's track and field team will turn to its veterans this year to lead a talented group of newcomers to the medal stand at the BIG EAST Conference meets.

The Irish finished sixth at last year's BIG EAST Indoor Championships and were third at the league's outdoor meet. Eight members of the women's squad went on to compete at the NCAA Mideast Regionals and two took part in the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

At the top of the list of returning Irish is All-American Alyssa Hasan.

Hasan destroyed the Irish record books last season and set a new mark of 4,069 points in the pentathlon at the NCAA Indoor Championships. The senior from Williamsville, N.Y., finished ninth at the meet and became Notre Dame's first-ever multi-event All-American. Hasan also earned her first all-BIG EAST indoor honors with a second-place finish in the pentathlon. Her second-place heptathlon finish at the league outdoor meet earned her more all-conference accolades. Hasan finished 23rd at the NCAA Mideast Regionals in the 100-meter hurdles and was 15th in the heptathlon at the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

Newcomer Maddie Buttinger, the top-ranked junior pentathlon and heptathlon competitor in Canada, will provide depth in the multi-events for the Irish.

In the distances, the Irish will turn to sophomore Marissa Treece, junior Lindsey Ferguson and senior Heidi Rocha.

Treece was sixth in the 3,000 meters at the BIG EAST indoor meet a year ago and finished in the same spot in the 5,000 meters at the outdoor meet. Ferguson earned all-BIG EAST honors with a third-place finish in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the conference outdoor meet. At the league indoor meet, Rocha was 14th in the 10,000 meters and finished 10th in the event at the outdoor contest.

Leading the Irish sprints in '08 will be junior Joanna Schultz. The Holmen, Wisc. native finished seventh in the 400 meters at the BIG EAST Indoor Championships, then earned all-conference honors with a third-place showing in the event at the outdoor meet. Schultz also earned all-BIG EAST accolades as a member of the Irish 4x400 and 4x800-meter relay teams.

Irish sprints coach John Millar will also rely on Cora Dayon, Natalie Johnson and Kelly Langhans, who are all returning for their second season with the Irish.

Dayon finished second in the 500 meters at the BIG EAST Indoor Championships, earning her first all-conference honor. Johnson finished just behind her in third, garnering all-BIG EAST accolades, as well. Both Dayon and Johnson earned all-conference outdoor honors as part of the Irish 4x400-meter relay team that finished second at the league meet.

Langhans just missed all-conference honors with fourth-place finishes in the 800 meters at the indoor and outdoor conference meets, but earned all-league honors as part of the third-place 4x800-meter outdoor relay team. She also competed in the 800 meters at the NCAA Mideast Regionals, finishing 17th, behind Johnson in 16th.

Two-time junior Canadian 400-meter champion and Canada's 2007 Youth Athlete of the Year, Natalie Geiger will also add depth to the Irish sprints in '08.

Mary Saxer returns for her senior year as the reigning BIG EAST Conference outdoor pole vault champion. She also competed in the long jump for the Irish, finishing ninth at the league indoor meet and 10th at the outdoor contest.



Sophomore Kelly Langhans competed at the NCAA Mideast Regionals a year ago and hopes to take the Irish squad to the NCAA Championships in 2009.



All-American Alyssa Hasan returns for her senior year and hopes to make another run at the NCAA Championships.

Handling the throws for the women's squad will be senior Anna Weber and junior Jacqueline Espinoza.

Weber earned all-BIG EAST honors with a third-place finish in the weight throw at the indoor conference meet and a second-place showing in the hammer throw at the outdoor contest.

Espinoza garnered an all-BIG EAST outdoor nod with a second-place finish in the discus and a third-place performance at the NCAA Mideast Regionals. She went on to finish 25th in the discus throw at the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

Sophomore Rudy Atang looks to add to the mix of Irish throwers this season, while junior Elise Knutzen will handle javelin duties for Notre Dame.

This season, the Irish women's track and field team looks to improve on last year's results with the experience of the returnees and contributions from the newcomers.



2008-09 Women's Track & Field Roster

Name	Event	Year	City	State
Sarah Anderson	XC/Mid	Fr.	Bloomington	MN
Becca Bauman	XC/Mid	Sr.	Grand Rapids	MI
Sasha Blanchard	Sprints	Fr.	Agoura	CA
Gena Bleyer	XC/Mid	Fr.	Chesterfield	MO
Grace Brier	XC/Mid	Fr.	Clarks Summit	PA
Maddie Buttinger	Sprints	Fr.	Waterloo	Ontario, CA
Theresa Cattuna	XC/Mid	So.	Cherry Hill	NJ
Cora Dayon	Sprints	So.	Trenton	NJ
Lauren Edger	Sprints	So.	Philadelphia	PA
Jaelyn Espinoza	Throws	Jr.	Keizer	OR
Lindsey Ferguson	XC/Mid	Jr.	Greenfield Center	NY
Elizabeth Flood	XC/Mid	Fr.	Brownsburg	IN
Natalie Geiger	Sprints	Fr.	Stouffville	Ontario, CA
Alyssa Hasan	Sprints	Sr.	Williamsville	NY
Abby Higgins	XC/Mid	So.	Naperville	IL
Molly Hirt	XC/Mid	Fr.	Bloomington	IN
Kari Johnson	XC/Mid	Fr.	Central Lake	MI
Natalie Johnson	Sprints	So.	Englewood	CO
Elise Knutzen	Throws	Jr.	Seattle	WA
Kelly Langhans	Sprints	So.	Baden	PA
Rikki Lynn London	Jumps	Jr.	Lakeside	AZ
Elizabeth McMahan	XC/Mid	So.	Syracuse	NY
Jaime Minor	Jumps	Jr.	Oro Valley	AZ
Elizabeth Myers	Sprints	Jr.	Kalispell	MT
Alissa Ott	XC/Mid	Fr.	Redford	MI
Adrienne Pastula	XC/Mid	So.	Hillsdale	MI
Ann Polcari	Jumps	Fr.	Ridgewood	NJ
Heidi Rocha	XC/Mid	Sr.	Palmdale	CA
Kathryn Ryan	XC/Mid	Fr.	Western Springs	IL
Analisa Sandoval	XC/Mid	Jr.	Los Alamos	NM
Mary Saxer	Jumps	Sr.	Lancaster	NY
Allison Schroeder	Sprints	Fr.	Ottawa	OH
Joanna Schultz	Sprints	Jr.	Holmen	WI
Morgan Schultz	XC/Mid	Sr.	Centennial	CO
Jessica Sullivan	Jumps	So.	Norwich	CT
Molly Sullivan	XC/Mid	Jr.	Elmhurst	IL
Susanna Sullivan	XC/Mid	Fr.	Falls Church	VA
Beth Tacl	XC/Mid	Jr.	St. Cloud	MN
Dominique Taylor	XC/Mid	Jr.	Gary	IN
Tiffany Tibbot	Sprints	Fr.	Sammamish	WA
Marissa Treece	XC/Mid	So.	Maple City	MI
Rachel Velarde	XC/Mid	Fr.	Albuquerque	NM
Kali Watkins	Sprints	So.	Newport News	VA
Erica Watson	XC/Mid	So.	Noblesville	IN
Emily Wauford	XC/Mid	Jr.	Midlothian	VA
Anna Weber	Throws	Sr.	Indianapolis	IN
Samantha Williams	Sprints	Jr.	Los Altos	CA
Nicole Yergler	Sprints	Sr.	Coto de Caza	CA

New Outdoor Track

Groundbreaking ceremonies heralded the start of construction of the \$3 million outdoor track in June 2008. The new nine-lane facility will be located southeast of the Joyce Center. The new track will be the competition and practice site for the Notre Dame men's and women's track and field teams. The track will meet IAAF guidelines with the widest possible turns. One synthetic "D" zone will be provided at the south end of the track. Throwing and jumping events will be provided in two directions, and a warm-up area will be located at one end of the track. Construction began in late June, with the completion tentatively expected in November 2008. Fundraising efforts continue on the remaining \$5 million stadium portion of the new track facility.

Lead gifts for the project have come from an anonymous benefactor, as well as six named Notre Dame supporters: John Hatherly '82, who ran track for the Irish as a miler; Dr. Bob Harris '69, a chemistry major who played intramural football and has participated in Notre Dame's Football Fantasy Camp; Dr. Jim Kerrigan '79, a monogram winner for the Notre Dame track team; John Leahy '84, who continues the Leahy athletic legacy at Notre Dame; Mike Lukas '79 MA, whose daughter, Katherine, is part of Notre Dame's Class of 2012; and Rick Peltz, a South Bend/Indianapolis business man.



Notre Dame's new \$3 million outdoor track will be the competition and practice site for the Irish track and field programs. Construction on the nine-lane facility began in June 2008.

Men's Cross Country Preview

Irish Runners Set Sights on BIG EAST Title, NCAA Championship

The Irish men's cross country team will turn to experienced leadership for success in 2008



Two-time All-American Patrick Smyth returns as Notre Dame's top runner for the 2008 campaign.

The Notre Dame men's cross country team will look to make its fifth consecutive trip to the NCAA Championships in 2008 and continue its reign as one of the top squads in the country.

In 2007, the Irish finished in the top five in six of the seven races in which they competed, including three straight wins to open the season. The Irish took first at the Valparaiso Invitational, the National Catholic Championship and the Notre Dame Invitational. They finished fifth at the Pre-National Meet and took fourth at the BIG EAST Championships. The Irish were third at the Great Lakes Regional meet and ended the season with a 21st-place finish at the NCAA Championships.

Despite the departure of several top runners, the Irish are serious contenders for a sixth BIG EAST title and are looking to earn a spot at the NCAA Championships.

"Cross country should be pretty solid this season," Irish head coach Joe Piane said.

After graduating four of their top seven runners, the men's team will have to rely on several sophomores, who gained a year of experience competing as freshmen last season.

"Men's cross country is going to be a little bit thinner than what we were last year, because we graduated our Nos. 2, 4, 5 and 6 runners, but we have some very, very good sophomores that were not in the top seven last season," Piane said.

Leading the '08 Irish is senior Patrick Smyth, who earned his second All-America honor with a 15th-place finish at the NCAA Championships in 2007.

"We're starting off with a very, very good athlete up front in Patrick Smyth," Piane said.

Smyth competed in four meets for the Irish last season. He ran the Notre Dame Invitational in 23:44 to finish second and followed that with a fifth-place showing at the Pre-National Meet, covering the course in 23:18. Smyth earned all-BIG EAST honors after completing the league meet in 23:28 for a third-place finish. He won the NCAA Great Lakes Regional in 30:22 before finishing 15th at the NCAA Championships in 30:05.

Behind Smyth will be junior Jake Walker.

"Jake did well last year in cross country and competed well indoors at the BIG EAST meet. He was injured for the outdoor season, but he should be a factor for us this year," Piane said.

Walker's top finish came at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional, where he placed 14th with a time of 31:14. He also finished 26th at the BIG EAST Championships.

Leading the pack of sophomores is Dan Jackson, who has six collegiate meets under his

The 2008 Irish cross country team looks to capture their sixth BIG EAST title and make their fifth consecutive trip to the NCAA Championships.





All-American Patrick Smyth will be one of the top runners for Notre Dame during the 2008 campaign.

belt. Jackson finished second in his Irish debut, covering the 2007 National Catholic Championship course in 24:50. He finished 16th at the Notre Dame Invitational in 24:19 and was 99th at the Great Lakes Regional with a time of 32:55.

Classmate Paul Springer finished just behind Jackson at the National Catholic in third at 24:53. He finished 34th at the Notre Dame Invitational in 24:36 and was 51st at the BIG EAST meet with a time of 25:18.

Piane expects several freshmen to make an impact for the Irish this season.

Jordan Carlson, one of the top high school milers in the country, and Joe Miller, a two-time all-state cross country selection out of Ohio, could see action with the Irish this season.

Behind experienced leadership, the Irish men's cross country team looks to find success in the BIG EAST and climb to the top of the national rankings.

Men's Cross Country Roster

Name	Year	City	State
Matt Abernethy	So.	College Park	MD
Randall Babb	Fr.	Wheaton	IL
Jordan Carlson	Fr.	Inver Grove Heights	MN
Spencer Carter	So.	Boise	ID
William Cernanec	Fr.	Englewood	CO
Blake Choplin	Jr.	Kansas City	MO
Daniel Clark	Sr.	Jackson	MI
Max Cruz	Fr.	Chesterfield	MO
Cameron Eckert	Jr.	Markle	IN
Terrence Egan	Jr.	Yorktown Heights	NY
Ryan Gamboa	So.	Upland	CA
Kyle Higdon	So.	Michigan City	IN
Jack Howard	Jr.	Libertyville	IL
Daniel Jackson	So.	Ann Arbor	MI
Ryan Jacobs	So.	Roscoe	IL
Daniel Kuzma	Sr.	McKees Rocks	PA
Kevin Labus	So.	Indianapolis	IN
Mitchell Lorenz	Fr.	Brainerd	MN
Kelly Lynch	Fr.	Spokane	WA
Kevin McFadden	Sr.	New Tripoli	PA
Joseph Miller	Fr.	Bowling Green	OH
Kenneth Minogue	Jr.	Louisville	KY
Mark Moore	Sr.	Novi	MI
Thomas Noel	So.	Louisville	KY
James Notwell	Jr.	Upper Arlington	OH
Thomas Pesch	Fr.	Elgin	MN
Christopher Rodriguez	Sr.	Kelso	WA
Johnathan Shawel	Fr.	Placentia	CA
Patrick Smyth	Sr.	Salt Lake City	UT
John Paul Springer	So.	Kenett Square	PA
Brier Steenberge	Jr.	Granburg	TX
Zachary Suriano	Fr.	Clifton Park	NY
Matt Tieuli	Jr.	Upton	MA
Kevin Veselik	Sr.	Clarendon Hills	IL
Trevor Waliszewski	Fr.	Larkspur	CO
Jacob Walker	Jr.	Ellwood City	PA
Kary Yergler	So.	Coto de Caza	CA

Women's Cross Country Preview

Irish Look to Rebound After Difficult 2007 Campaign

The Irish women's squad hopes returning veterans will lead '08 season



Junior Lindsey Ferguson looks to lead the Irish in '08.

After battling injuries and illness a year ago, the Notre Dame women's cross country team will look to rebound in 2008 and compete for the BIG EAST title and a spot at the NCAA Championships.

The 2007 Irish women's cross country team got off to a hot start, taking team titles in their first two races, before feeling the effects of multiple injuries and illnesses. The Irish finished 12th at the Notre Dame Invitational and 15th

at the Pre-National meet. They were sixth at the BIG EAST Championships and ended the season with an 11th-place finish at the Great Lakes Regionals.

The women are looking to bounce back with the help of two of their top runners from the '07 campaign.

Sophomore Marissa Treece and junior Lindsey Ferguson will lead the Irish this season, after both found success a year ago, before shutting down their seasons early due to illness.

As a freshman, Treece won the National Catholic Championships, her first collegiate race, in 17:24. Ferguson was just 25 seconds behind her in fourth.

Ferguson earned all-BIG EAST honors with a 14th-place performance at the league meet, clocking in at 21:13. Treece was not far behind, covering the course in 21:35 to finish 26th.

Treece also competed in the IAAF World Cross Country Championships in March as part of the U.S. Junior National team.

The Irish will also turn to seniors Heidi Rocha and Becca Bauman for solid contributions.

Despite being injured last season, women's head coach Tim Connelly expects Rocha to be a competitor for the Irish in '08.

Bauman competed in five meets for the Irish a year ago, finishing 19th in 18:41 at the National Catholic Championships. She finished 43rd at the BIG EAST Championships with a time of 22:11.

Sophomore Abby Higgins will also play a major role this season, after competing in all six meets for the Irish as a freshman.

Higgins opened her collegiate career with a sixth-place finish at the Valparaiso Invitational, clocking in at 19:27. She was also 10th at the

National Catholic Championships and finished 61st in 22:27 at the BIG EAST meet.

Connelly and the Irish will also look to senior Emily Wauford, junior Beth Tacl and sophomore Theresa Cattuna for contributions this season.

Wauford opened the 2007 campaign with a seventh-place finish at the Valparaiso Invitational and finished 15th at the National Catholic Championships. She was 42nd at the BIG EAST meet and finished 53rd at the Great Lakes Regional.



Sophomore Marissa Treece returns as one of the top Irish runners in 2008.



Tacl had two top-10 finishes in her first two races of '07 and finished 67th at the BIG EAST Championships.

Cattuna finished fifth at the National Catholic Championships, before prematurely ending her season due to injury.

Connelly also hopes several freshmen can make an impact for the Irish this season, especially New Mexico all-state selection Rachel Velarde and Indiana all-state pick Molly Hirt.

With the return of experienced veterans and the promise of strong newcomer talent, the 2008 Irish women's cross country team looks to move on from a tough '07 campaign and contend for a BIG EAST title and a place at the NCAA Championships.

Women's Cross Country Roster

Name	Year	City	State
Sarah Anderson	Fr.	Bloomington	MN
Becca Bauman	Sr.	Grand Rapids	MI
Gena Bleyer	Fr.	Chesterfield	MO
Grace Brier	Fr.	Clarks Summit	PA
Theresa Cattuna	So.	Cherry Hill	NJ
Christine Cummings	So.	Granger	IN
Lindsey Ferguson	Jr.	Greenfield Center	NY
Elizabeth Flood	Fr.	Brownsburg	IN
Abigail Higgins	So.	Naperville	IL
Molly Hirt	Fr.	Bloomington	IN
Kari Johnson	Fr.	Central Lake	MI
Elizabeth McMahon	So.	Syracuse	NY
Alissa Ott	Fr.	Redford	MI
Adrienne Pastula	So.	Hillsdale	MI
Heidi Rocha	Sr.	Palmdale	CA
Kathryn Ryan	Fr.	Western Springs	IL
Analisa Sandoval	Jr.	Los Alamos	NM
Morgan Schulz	Sr.	Centennial	CO
Molly Sullivan	Jr.	Elmhurst	IL
Susanna Sullivan	Fr.	Falls Church	VA
Beth Tacl	Jr.	St. Cloud	MN
Dominique Taylor	Jr.	Gary	IN
Marissa Treece	So.	Maple City	MI
Rachel Velarde	Fr.	Albuquerque	NM
Erica Watson	So.	Noblesville	IN
Emily Wauford	Jr.	Midlothian	VA



The 2008 Irish cross country team looks to make a strong run for the BIG EAST title and a spot in the NCAA Championships.

2008 Notre Dame Cross Country Schedule

Date	Meet	Site	Time
Sept. 5 (Fri.)	Crusader Open	Valparaiso, Ind.	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 19 (Fri.)	National Catholic Invitational	Notre Dame, Ind.	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 3 (Fri.)	Notre Dame Invitational	Notre Dame, Ind.	2:00 p.m.
Oct. 18 (Sat.)	Pre-NCAA Meet	Terre Haute, Ind.	TBA
Oct. 31 (Fri.)	BIG EAST Championships	New York, N.Y.	TBA
Nov. 15 (Sat.)	NCAA Regional Championships	West Lafayette, Ind.	TBA
Nov. 24 (Mon.)	NCAA Championships	Terre Haute, Ind.	TBA

*all times local to site

2008-09 Men's and Women's Track & Field Schedule

Date	Day	Event	Site	Time
12/5	Fri.	Blue & Gold Meet	Notre Dame, Ind.	5:00 p.m.
1/10	Sat.	Indiana Opener	Bloomington, Ind.	TBA
1/16	Fri.	Notre Dame Indoor Opener	Notre Dame, Ind.	5:00 p.m.
1/23	Fri.	Notre Dame Invitational	Notre Dame, Ind.	5:00 p.m.
1/30-31	Fri.-Sat.	Indiana Invitational	Bloomington, Ind.	TBA
1/30-31	Fri.-Sat.	Findlay Open Multi Event	Findlay, Ohio	TBA
2/6-7	Fri.-Sat.	Meyo Invitational	Notre Dame, Ind.	5:00 p.m./8:00 a.m.
2/14	Sat.	Windsor Team Challenge	Windsor, Ontario	TBA
2/21-22	Sat.-Sun.	BIG EAST Championships	New York, N.Y.	TBA
3/6-7	Fri.-Sat.	Alex Wilson Invitational	Notre Dame, Ind.	5:00 p.m./8:00 a.m.
3/13-14	Fri.-Sat.	NCAA Championships	College Station, Texas	TBA
3/27-28	Fri.-Sat.	Arizona State Invitational	Tempe, Ariz.	TBA
3/27-28	Fri.-Sat.	Stanford Invitational	Palo Alto, Calif.	TBA
4/3-4	Fri.-Sat.	Purdue Invitational	West Lafayette, Ind.	TBA
4/11	Sat.	Ole Miss Invitational	Oxford, Miss.	TBA
4/11	Sat.	Spartan Invitational	East Lansing, Mich.	TBA
4/15-16	Wed.-Thurs.	Mt. SAC Multi Event	Walnut, Calif.	TBA
4/16-18	Thurs.-Sat.	Mt. SAC	Walnut, Calif.	TBA
4/17-18	Fri.-Sat.	Central Collegiate	TBA	TBA
4/24-25	Fri.-Sat.	Drake Relays	Des Moines, Iowa	TBA
4/24-25	Fri.-Sat.	Hillsdale Relays	Hillsdale, Mich.	TBA
5/1-3	Fri.-Sun.	BIG EAST Championships	Philadelphia, Pa.	TBA
5/15-16	Fri.-Sat.	Georgia Tech Invitational	Atlanta, Ga.	TBA
5/29-30	Fri.-Sat.	NCAA Regionals	Louisville, Ky.	TBA
6/11-14	Fri.-Sat.	NCAA Championships	Fayetteville, Ark.	TBA

