

Cross Country Travels To Terre Haute With NCAA Berths On The Line

2001 Schedule

SEPTEMBER

7 Sat. Valparaiso Invitational M-1st
Valparaiso, Ind. W-2nd
Top Finishers:
M - Todd Mobley (first)
W - Christi Arnerich (fourth)

21 Fri. National Catholic M-1st
Notre Dame, Ind. W-2nd
Top Finishers:
M - Ryan Shay (first)
W - Jen Handley (first)

29 Sat. Central Collegiate M- 1st
Kalamazoo, MI W-2nd
Top Finishers:
M - John Keane (second)
W - Hilary Burn (18th)

OCTOBER

5 Fri. Notre Dame Invitational M-1st
Notre Dame, Ind. W-1st
Top Finishers:
M - Luke Watson (first)
W - Lauren King (first)

13 Sat. Pre-National Meet M - 4th
Greenville, SC W - 11th
Top Finishers:
M - Luke Watson (fourth)
W - Lauren King (15th)

26 Fri. BIG EAST Champ. M-1st
Van Cortlandt Park, NY W-4th
Top Finishers:
M - Luke Watson (second)
W - Jennifer Handley (seventh)

NOVEMBER

10 Sat. NCAA GL Regional M - 11 am
Terre Haute, Ind. W - 12:15 pm

19 Mon. NCAA Championships TBA
Greenville, SC

All home meets run at the N.D. Golf Course
All times local to site

Irish look to capitalize on Great Lakes Regional meet to earn spot in National Championships: After two weeks of rest, the University of Notre Dame men's and women's cross country teams will take to the course again, this time in hopes of backing up their national rankings with strong performances in yet another meet filled with the stiff competition that has characterized the team's season.

This weekend, the fifth-ranked Irish men and 19th-ranked women will travel down state to Terre Haute, Ind., on Saturday, Nov. 10, to take on other top national teams at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional.

While both teams have enjoyed national rankings this season, this weekend's meet will be the key to earning spots at the NCAA Championships, to be held Nov. 19, in Greenville, SC. Each team that wins its regional meet is an automatic qualifier for the NCAA meet. All other teams are picked by a committee, similar to the NCAA basketball tournament.

The outlook is good for both Irish squads, as the men have been consistently ranked in the Top 25 all season, currently fifth, and the women have entered the rankings at numerous points in the season, entering this weekend's competition as the 19th team in the nation.

The Irish men will have to contend with four other Top 25 teams in order to finish well in the regional competition. The toughest competition will likely come from Big Ten Champion Wisconsin, a team that is ranked right above the Irish at #4 in the nation. Michigan State, # 11 in the polls, as well as #19 Michigan, and #25 Indiana, also will provide tough competition, as all teams will be running for the trip to South Carolina and the chance to compete in the nationals.

Last year, the men's squad took third at the Great Lakes Regional, a spot that was good enough to earn the Irish a slot at nationals, with Luke Watson winning the individual title. Watson, along with other top runners such as senior Marc Striowski and sophomore Todd Mobley, who have been top Irish finishers throughout the season, will be looked to for strong performances this weekend.

All three runners placed in the top 15 at the Irish's most recent competition, the BIG EAST Championships, and all have performed well throughout the season. Of these three runners, none have placed below 14th in any meet this season, a true testament to the strength and consistency of the 2001 men's team. The Irish will be running without All-American Ryan Shay at regionals this weekend, but the depth of the Irish team will likely allow for other runners to compensate for Shay's absence.

The women's team will be equally challenged, as they will be running against two other nationally ranked teams in Big Ten Champion and sixth-ranked Michigan State and #18 Marquette (which defeated the Irish at the National Catholic Invitational), as well as Wisconsin and Michigan, who each received votes in the national poll. The Irish will have to live up to their # 19 ranking and perform well to insure a national bid.

At last season's Great Lakes Regional, Jennifer Handley led the team with a 19th place finish, as the team finished eighth overall, missing out on a spot in nationals. The Irish have shown the ability to put together very solid races this season (team victory at the Notre Dame Invitational and a fourth-place finish at the BIG EAST Championship) and they will need to run to their full potential to ensure a spot in the NCAA meet.

Handley, who has become a top runner and leader for the team, will be accompanied by a strong Irish contingent that has been greatly aided by the performances of two freshmen standouts. In her first collegiate season, Christi Arnerich has certainly made a name for herself in Irish cross country, placing well for the team in all of her competitions this season - most notably with a 25th place finish at the BIG EAST Championships. Arnerich is joined in the ranks of freshmen strength by Lauren King. While King has only run in the last three meets of the season, she has made her presence known, winning her first collegiate competition (Notre Dame Invitational) and finishing 24th at her first BIG EAST Championships two week ago.

When coupled with the likes of sophomore Megan Johnson, 14th at the BIG EAST Championships, the team gains added strength and depth that will be a virtue on the quest to place well in the regional race.

A storied history accompanies the men's team in national competition, as the team has 43 years of NCAA championship history. At the 2000 NCAA championships, the team finished ninth overall, led by Luke Watson.

Watson finished seventh individually to earn All-American honors in last year's national championships, and was joined in that honor by Pat Conway in 36th, both of whom are likely to take to the course this weekend with the men's team.

By earning a national bid at this weekend's regionals, the Notre Dame women's team would be returning to the NCAA Championships after failing to earn the distinction in the 2000 season.

2001 Great Lakes Regional Cross Country Championship Information:

Competition site:

Lavern Gibson Cross Country Course at the Wabash Valley Family Sports Center, Terre Haute, Ind.

Date/Time:

Saturday, Nov. 10, 2001

Men's Race: 11:00 a.m.

Women's Race: 12:15 p.m.

Irish probable lineups:

Women:

Christi Arnerich
Rachel Endress
Jennifer Fibuch
Jen Handley
Megan Johnson
Lauren King
Melissa Schmidt
Julia Schmidt

Men:

David Alber
Mario Bird
John Keane
Brian Kerwin
Todd Mobley
Marc Striowski
Luke Watson
Sean Zanderson



2001 Great Lakes Regional Competitors

- Ball State University
- Bowling Green University
- Butler University
- Central Michigan University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Kent State University
- Indiana State University
- Indiana University (# 25 men)
- Indiana University-Purdue
- University at Indianapolis
- Marquette University (#18 women)
- Miami University
- Michigan State University (#6 women, #19 men)
- Oakland University
- Ohio State University
- Ohio University
- Purdue University
- University of Akron
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Dayton
- University of Detroit Mercy
- University of Evansville
- University of Michigan (#11 men)
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Toledo
- University of Wisconsin, Green Bay
- University of Wisconsin, Madison (#4 men)
- University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
- Valparaiso University
- Wright State University
- Xavier University
- Youngstown State University

**2001 MONDO
Men's Cross Country Poll
Oct. 29, 2001**

Rank	Team	Region	Points	Prev.
1.	Colorado (13)	MT	393	1
2.	Stanford (2)	W	381	2
3.	Arkansas (1)	SC	373	3
4.	Wisconsin	GL	352	4
5.	NOTRE DAME	GL	329	5
6.	NC State	SE	324	6
7.	Villanova	MA	283	14
8.	Portland	W	275	7
9.	N. Arizona	MT	267	9
10.	Providence	NE	254	8
11.	Michigan	GL	227	12
12.	Brigham Young	MT	223	16
13.	Santa Barbara	W	211	11
14.	Arizona State	W	189	19
15.	Air Force	MT	171	9
16.	E. Michigan	GL	165	15
17.	Wake Forest	SE	120	21
18.	Oregon	W	114	20
19.	Michigan State	GL	111	18
20.	Arizona	W	102	13
21.	Utah State	MT	73	25
22.	Duke	SE	66	17
23.	Colorado State	MT	52	22
24.	William & Mary	SE	24	--
25.	Indiana	GL	20	23
	Utah	MT	20	--

Also receiving votes: Oklahoma State 19, Alabama 16, Washington 16, Butler 9, Dartmouth 7, Georgetown 7, Ohio State 2, Weber State 2, LaSalle 1, Texas A & M 1.

**2001 FinishLynx
Women's Cross Country Poll
Oct. 30, 2001**

Rank	Team	Region	Points	Prev.
1.	Stanford (11)	W	323	1
2.	BYU (1)	MT	311	2
3.	Georgetown (1)	MA	299	3
4.	NC State	SE	281	4
5.	Boston College	NE	265	5
6.	Michigan State	GL	260	6
7.	Colorado	MT	255	10
8.	Arizona	W	231	11
9.	North Carolina	SE	221	9
10.	Providence	NE	210	8
11.	Arizona State	W	199	7
12.	Arkansas	SC	186	12
13.	N. Arizona	MT	157	17
14.	Virginia	SE	150	15
15.	Yale	NE	126	21
16.	Colorado State	MT	113	18
17.	UCLA	W	102	22
18.	Marquette	GL	92	24
19.	NOTRE DAME	GL	82	--
20.	Oklahoma St.	MW	67	--
21.	Villanova	MA	59	16
22.	Cornell	NE	56	23
23.	James Madison	NE	50	19
24.	Washington	W	45	13
25.	Duke	SE	26	20

Also receiving votes: Georgia Tech 15, Michigan 14, Boston University 12, Wisconsin 11, Texas 5, Minnesota 2.