

THE VILLANOVA RELAY

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2002-2003

COACH'S CORNER WITH MARCUS O'SULLIVAN

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Our Big East win on November 1st was indeed a great accomplishment. It is something we've been earnestly trying to win for the last three years. It turns out that this win will make it the second time in nine years and the third time in as many as twenty-three years since we joined the Big East Conference in 1981.

It was days later and upon further reflection when I gained more appreciation for the win. Any coach will tell you that it can take hours, even days, to fully capture and digest the many facets that make up a race. The race itself was tremendously exciting. With a mile to go, we were trailing Georgetown and Providence, but it was during the final mile that it became apparent that Villanova wanted and needed the victory more than any other team. While Jon Fasulo and Ryan Hayden were holding onto the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively, Adrian Blincoe, coming off a three-week injury, made a gallant effort and went from 12th position with a mile to go to finish up 4th. Tom Parlapiano picked up another 3 spots in the last mile to finish 11th and the ever-elusive 5th man was created on the day by Pat Dunn with a stellar performance in 19th place. The joint efforts swung the pendulum from being about 6 or 7 points behind to finishing up with a winning margin of 10 points. It was a terrific day, long overdue, and all in all well deserved.

The Big East was shortly followed by another win in the NCAA Regional Championships at Canaan Valley, West Virginia. In spite of an altitude of 3200 feet, muddy course conditions, and a cold rain, the Men's team continued their march toward the NCAA Championships with a win over Georgetown. As we go to print with this newsletter, we are heading out to the NCAA Championships in Indiana.

Have a great Thanksgiving!



The 2002 Big East Cross Country Champions

COACH'S CORNER WITH GINA PROCACCIO

The women's cross country team raced to a 3rd place finish in the Big East Championships at Franklin Park in Boston, MA on November 1. The team was led by sophomore Ioana Parusheva and freshman Marina Muncan who finished eighth and 11th respectively. I was very pleased with the team's performance.

"The Big East has become very competitive in cross country. I thought we could finish anywhere from 2nd to 5th and the girls really came through. This gave us a lot of confidence going into the NCAA regional meet."

"The NCAA regionals turned out to be a tremendous day for us. Up to this point I thought our weakness was having too much of gap (20 seconds) between our fourth and fifth runners. Carre Joyce and freshman Liz Gesel erased this problem as they finished five and eight seconds, respectively behind our fourth runner. This gave us a 43 second spread between our first and sixth runner. I'm very excited to see where we end up at the NCAA meet."

Happy Turkey Day!

BROWNING ROSS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL DISTANCE RUNNING HALL OF FAME



The Villanova Track and Field Community would like to recognize Browning Ross on his induction to the National Distance Running Hall of Fame in Utica, New York.

Ross, a 1948 graduate of the University, has made valuable contributions to the sport of running, not only as an Olympian and world class athlete, but also as a coach, mentor, and race director. It is with the utmost respect and pride that Villanova sees one of its most distinguished alumni honored by his peers and this respected association.

ALUMNI NEWS FOR THE TRACK FAN...

BLOCK V ONLINE AUCTION UNDERWAY

Get your holiday shopping done now! You can find gifts for everyone on your shopping list. Bid on some sports memorabilia for that sports nut on your list. Bid on a "Travel and Entertainment" package and plan your family vacation. Do you have a loved one who is an avid golfer? Check out the rounds of golf up for bid at many outstanding courses on the East Coast. If you have kids that play sports, there are camps and clinics up for bid, as well as an opportunity to be a ball boy or girl at a Villanova Basketball game or even play a full court game during halftime of a Villanova Men's Basketball game.

We have some very nice items autographed by some of our alumni and past world record holders. I am hopeful that you will take advantage of this opportunity to not only support the Track & Field Program but also bid on some unique memorabilia.

Bidding ends at 4 pm on Friday, December 6, 2002.

View the 2002 Block V Club Auction by going to:

www.teamlinkauction.com/villanova

Millrose Reunion

Once again, don't forget to keep the Millrose Reunion on your calendar for February 7th at Mustang Harry's. We'll give you more details when we get closer. We had a great turnout last year, and it's something I look forward to every year.

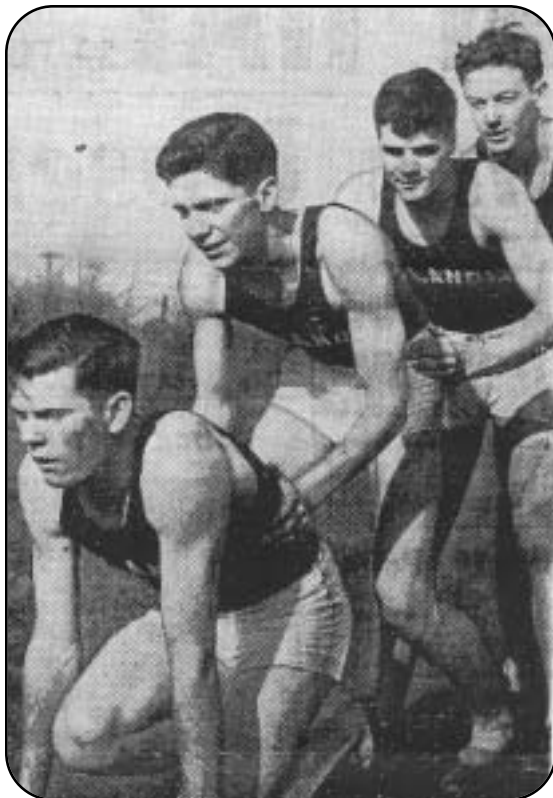
PHOTO GALLERY



The Villanova Women's 2002 graduating class (L-R): Sherese Price, Keeley Fallon, Tara Bernard, Melinda Boykin, Christa Heyward and Colleen Cingel.



The Villanova Men's 2002 graduating class (Back Row L-R) Jonathan Scaccia, Jessie Laudenslager, Mark Blattner, Mike Donohue, Tom Graham, Matt Strout, James Copperthwaite, Joe Santonacita, James Osborn, Brian Tillet (Front Row L-R) Antoine Johnson, Ben Showers, Rick McVoy, Dan Tantino, Louis Rizzuto



*For the memories:
(Left-Right) Dixie Dunbar, Bob O'Sullivan, George Guida and John DiCarlo.*

Can anyone tell us the year?



*Let us know about prospects... We will travel to recruit!
Coach George Reynolds and his wife, Leslie, on Fanning Island, Republic of Kiribati*



The Villanova women get off to a fast start at the Haverford College Invitational.

**photo courtesy of Enrique Mendoza, Aurora Imaging Co.*



Coach George Reynolds and Mark Blattner. Mark was named Villanova's Outstanding Male Scholar Athlete for 2001-2002. Mark was the Big East Champion in the 35 lb. weight and the school record holder in the weight and the hammer. Mark's four-year GPA was 3.99 in Electrical Engineering. An A- the first semester of his freshmen year kept him from a perfect 4.0.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

February 7, 2003 - Millrose Reunion

We would like to extend an invitation to all of our track & field alumni and friends to a happy hour reunion at Mustang Harry's between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Mustang Harry's is located at 354 7th Avenue, between 30th and 29th streets - just two blocks from Madison Square Garden. We look forward to seeing you there!

VILLANOVA

SPECIAL THANKS

A very special "Thank You" to the most recent Financial Supporters of the Villanova Track and Field Program.

Alex Breckenridge
John Cameron, Jr., P.E.
Chris Chiappetta
Terence P. Delaney
Kevin Dillon
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Darren McCormack
Gene Mitchell
Donald E. Schmitt
William Seeger
Peter Simigan
Harry Smeck

Future contributions can be earmarked to the Track & Field program and sent directly to the Block V Club:

Block V Club
Villanova Athletics
800 Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, Pa. 19085-1674

CONGRATULATIONS

- To Sonia O'Sullivan who, this October, set a new world record in the 10-mile (51:00) in Portsmouth, England.
- To Adrian Blincoe and Nic O'Brien for being named New Zealand Athletes of the Year in their respective events.
- To Sean and Kristie O'Neill on the birth of their son, Conor.
- To the Men's Cross Country team on their victories at the 2002 Big East Cross Country Championships and NCAA Regionals.
- To the Women's Cross Country team for their second place finish at the NCAA Regionals, qualifying them for NCAA Championships.
- To Marcus O'Sullivan, Jack Pyrah, and Scott Tantino, for being named Big East Coaching Staff of the Year.
- To Gerry and Melody O'Reilly on the birth of their son, Conor Marcus.



Melody O'Reilly and her newborn son, Conor Marcus.



The Villanova track family welcomes Conor O'Neill.

2002-2003 VILLANOVA MEN & WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD SCHEDULES

Indoor Track & Field

December 7	University of Maryland	College Park, Md.
January 18	Penn State	State College, Pa.
January 26	Haverford College	Haverford, Pa.
January 31-Feb. 1	Penn State Invitational	State College, NJ
February 13	Haverford College	Haverford, Pa.
February 14-15	Armory Collegiate Invitational	Armory, New York.
February 21	Haverford College	Haverford, Pa.
February 22-23	Big East Championships	Syracuse, NY
March 8-9	Notre Dame Last Chance	South Bend, Ind.
March 8-9	IC4A/ECAC	Boston, Mass.
March 14-15	NCAA Championships	Fayetteville, Ark.

Outdoor Track & Field

March 23	University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, Pa.
March 27-29	Florida Relays	Gainesville, Fl.
April 4-5	University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, Pa.
April 12	Sea Ray Relays (women)	Knoxville, TN
April 12	Quad Meet (men)	State College, Pa.
April 19	Widener Invitational	Chester, Pa.
April 24-26	Penn Relays	Philadelphia, Pa.
May 2-4	Big East Championships	Storrs, Ct.
May 12	Tuppeny Twilight	Villanova, Pa.
May 22-25	IC4A/ ECAC Championships	Princeton, NJ
May 30-31	NCAA Regionals	Fairfax, Va.
June 11-14	NCAA Championships	Sacramento, Ca.

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WILDCATS ON THE WEB:
Get up-to-the minute scores, highlights, statistics and team information by visiting www.villanova.com

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