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Villanova and Cincinnati Earn BIG EAST Cross Country Athlete of the Week Honors

Sheila Reid of Villanova and Eric Finan of Cincinnati named BIG EAST Cross Country Athletes of the Week

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Villanova senior Sheila Reid and Cincinnati senior Eric Finan both captured top-3 finishes at their respective meets to help them earn BIG EAST Cross Country Athlete of the Week honors.

Reid came in first place in the Wisconsin Adidas Invitational held at the Thomas Zimmerman Championship Cross Country Course with a time of 20:00. She won her first race of the season in a field of 305, with the second-fastest time of her career. She registered her fifth consecutive win in as many starts and her ninth win in the last 11 races dating back to the start of the 2009 season. Reid won the individual title in a race featuring seven of the top 10 teams in the country as well as 19 of the top 30.

Finan earned a third-place finish in a field of 296 at the Pre-National Invitational in Terre Haute, Ind. He completed the 8k course in a time of 24:04, nine seconds off the pace of the winner. His time on the Lavern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course would place him at All-American pace against the times of last year's NCAA Championship.

– The BIG EAST is the largest and most diverse Division I conference in the country. It was formed in 1979 and represents the athletic interests of 16 member institutions including the University of Cincinnati, University of Connecticut, DePaul University, Georgetown University, University of Louisville, Marquette University, University of Notre Dame, University of Pittsburgh, Providence College, Rutgers University, St. John's University, Seton Hall University, University of South Florida, Syracuse University, Villanova University and West Virginia University.

The BIG EAST Conference has captured 31 national championships in six different sports and is a founding member of the Bowl Championship Series. For more information on the Conference and its membership, please visit www.bigeast.org. –