USI hosts NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships

National meet to draw more than 400 athletes to campus course

The NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships return to Evansville November 20 for the first time since 1987.

The championships will feature 48 teams of seven runners each (24 men’s and women’s teams) along with a possible 80 student athletes (40 men and 40 women) running as individuals from teams not advancing to the championships. The top five runners in each regional meet will qualify, whether or not they are attached to a team that qualifies.

The 2004 championships will feature the demanding USI cross country course. The start line has moved to the intramural fields on Broadway Avenue to accommodate campus construction and development.

“Our course is challenging, scenic, and a true cross country course,” said USI Head Coach Mike Hillyard. “Every great course has a signature feature. The Strueh Hendricks hill near Broadway is the mainstay of our course that has not changed since Dr. Bill Stegemoller drafted the initial layout in 1994.”

Stegemoller coached the USI men’s team from 1979 to 1998.

Hillyard said, “The hill is an oxygen-stealing, 350-meter-long monster, and thanks to a generous donation from Russ Woosley ’79 and Mulzer Crushed Stone, it has a fresh new surface that is absolutely ideal under any condition.”

Grand Valley State University Head Coach Jerry Baltes said after running in the Stegemoller Classic in September, “We could tell that USI is taking great pride in hosting the NCAA championships. It takes a great amount of team work and cooperation to pull off a top-quality NCAA championship and from what I saw, USI has everything needed to put on one of the best experiences possible for the student athletes.”

One of the organizers of the 1987 championships at Evansville’s Oak Meadow course, Stegemoller will be the starter for the 2004 event.

“A couple of hills on USI’s course make it a little more challenging than the Oak Meadow course,” he said. “Oak Meadow was more spectator friendly while the wooded trails at USI are a positive for the runners. The campus course is very good and will be available for training and racing for years to come.”

The USI cross country programs are no strangers to the national championships. The men’s program finished third in 1982 and has had four top-10 finishes in 12 championship appearances. The women’s team has had two top-10 finishes in five championship appearances since the program was re-introduced in 1992.

During the meet, former USI runner and two-time Division II Athlete of the Year Elly Rono ’99 will be inducted into the NCAA Division II Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame at a November 19 banquet.

Cross Country

Visit the NCAA Division II National Championship Web site http://www.usi.edu/sports/xcc_championships/index.asp

See volunteer form, layout of men’s 10K and women’s 6K courses
USI has named Molly Alvey, former Temple University assistant coach, as head coach for volleyball.

As an assistant at Temple, Alvey helped lead the Owls to the regular-season championship in the Atlantic 10 Conference in 2003. She helped the Owls to both the A-10 regular-season and tournament championships in 2002 as well as an appearance in the NCAA Division I Sweet 16.

Alvey was a four-year starter and an All-Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference performer in both basketball and volleyball at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. In volleyball, she set the school’s all-time record for assists and was a three-year team captain. In basketball, she finished third in the nation (NCAA Division III) in three-point field goal percentage and helped lead the Colonels to the NCAA Division III Sweet 16.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, she earned a bachelor’s degree in economics at Centre and a master’s degree in international business administration from Temple.

Alvey took over for former head coach Craig Bere, now an assistant coach at Louisiana State University.

**Expansion to strengthen GLVC**

We are one year away from a bigger and better Great Lakes Valley Conference. Three institutions—Drury University (Springfield, Missouri), University of Missouri-Rolla, and Rockhurst University (Kansas City, Missouri)—will join our league in fall 2005. All three are outstanding institutions with excellent academic and athletic reputations.

Many of you have asked how this will affect our conference as far as scheduling is concerned. Scheduling is a challenging issue because every sport is different. It is difficult to divide the 14 institutions into two divisions that will work for every sport.

In the short term, basketball and tennis will be the only sports split into two divisions. Baseball is still pending. In basketball, USI will be in the West division with the three new institutions plus Quincy, SIU-Edwardsville, and Missouri-St. Louis. USI will compete against the institutions in the West division two times each year (home and away) and against the institutions in the East division one time each year.

One reason that makes it difficult to split the schools into divisions is that every institution does not sponsor every sport. The GLVC passed legislation this year requiring every league member to sponsor seven sports: baseball, softball, volleyball, men’s and women’s soccer, and men’s and women’s basketball.

In the next few years, the new league members will be asked to add programs which they do not currently offer. Drury will add baseball and softball while Missouri-Rolla will add women’s volleyball. Rockhurst already has added softball.

This expansion will strengthen all sports sponsored by an already competitive GLVC, meaning USI will have to step up to remain one of the top-flight institutions in the conference.

**Steak Fry ’n Auction raises $22,000 to benefit student athletes**

The Varsity Club’s Steak Fry ’n Auction attracted approximately 340 fans of the Screaming Eagles to raise almost $22,000 to benefit scholarships and support for USI student athletes.

The event was held September 24 in Discovery Lodge at Burdette Park.

Co-chair Dale Hardin wore a wig and colorful shirt in keeping with the island theme of the event.

USI Trustee Jim Will Sr., left, and D.G. Fehrenbacher, past presidents of the West Side Nut Club, tend the sizzling meat at the 2004 Steak Fry ’n Auction.

Varsity Club members Cindy Bippus, left, and Vicki Simmons ’91 admire the jersey of former USI All-American Eileen Weber. Bippus purchased the women’s basketball shirt during the auction.

LaVerne Jones-USI
Each member of the 2003-04 men’s basketball team and coaching staff received a handsome ring in honor of the team’s finish as 2004 NCAA II National Finalist. The rings were purchased with financial support from the Varsity Club and the West Side Nut Club.

Women’s tennis players volunteer for Albion Center

The USI women’s tennis team helped out at the Albion Fellows Bacon Center’s Day at the Beach co-ed volleyball tournament. The fourth-annual event, held September 12 at Wesselman Park, drew 30 teams from three states. The Albion Fellows Bacon Center is a nonprofit group that provides services for abused women.

Coach boosts United Way

Rick Herdes, head coach for men’s basketball, recently visited Alexandria Library in Mount Vernon, Indiana, to speak on behalf of participation in the United Way campaign.
Still time to join or renew Varsity Club membership
Dues support challenge to fully fund athletic scholarships

The Varsity Club membership drive is off to a good start with 215 memberships, netting $71,053 or 40.6 percent of the $175,000 goal needed to support athletic scholarships at USI in 2004-05. The deadline for renewals is December 31.

This is the final year of the five-year challenge by USI President H. Ray Hoops to fund athletic scholarships. All money raised through Varsity Club membership dues supports athletic scholarships, which help attract more outstanding student athletes who want to earn a degree and continue to excel in sports.

The roster at press time included 25 memberships (listed below) at the highest degree of support recognized by the Varsity Club, the $2,000 Screaming Eagle level.

Varsity Club Screaming Eagle members

David and Cynthia Altstadt  Tim Mahoney
Bruce and Carol Baker  Jim and Jackie Pender
Bonnie Brill  Jay and Kate Rhodes
Steve and Terri Chancellor  Jack and Catherine Siemers
Bob and Pam Clayton  Earl and Ruth Smith
David Deig  Harvey and Lisa Tanner
Jim and Judy Fleck  Jerry and Judie Turner
Jef and Neal Franklin  Paul and Eleanor Werner
Vic and Pam Gallagher  Jim and Eileen Will
Loren Herrli  John and Linda Willis
Mark and Joyce Hubbard  Mark and Annette Wright
Alan and Marilyn Johnson  Ray and Marilyn Wright
Mike and Debbie Laster

Varsity Club membership

The Varsity Club benefits USI intercollegiate athletics with financial support and fan participation. Five membership levels are available with special benefits at each level.

Silver Eagle ($125)—Admission to Varsity Club Room hospitality events, name on Varsity Club Roster in Physical Activities Center, Eagle Outlook newsletter, invitations to fan trips/special events and All-Sports Picnic, basketball season ticket priority

Golden Eagle ($250)—Above benefits plus invitation to basketball pre-season events

Regal Eagle ($500)—Above benefits plus pregame event at University Home

All-American Eagle ($1,000)—Above benefits plus reserved parking for basketball games, post-season ticket priority

Screaming Eagle ($2,000)—Above benefits plus personal parking place for basketball games


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https://www.usi.edu/onlinegiving

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