

# ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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## Cross Country



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**Current records – Men: 1-2 Overall, 0-1 MAC; Women: 3-0 Overall, 1-0 MAC**

### BULLS OPEN SEASON AT AKRON'S TOMMY EVANS MEET

The University at Buffalo's cross country teams got off to a flying start Saturday morning at Akron's 26th Annual Tommy Evans Invitational at Firestone Park. UB's women won the team title while the men placed third in a four-team field. With just four teams in the field in both races, the meet also counts in UB's dual meet standings.

The UB women scored 29 points to hold off second-place Akron with 37. Ashland (60) finished in third and Robert Morris (120) was fourth. The UB men scored 56 points to trail Akron (27) and Ashland (40) and finish ahead of Robert Morris (116).

UB senior **Jenny Koeppel (Amherst, NY/Amherst)** won the women's individual title. Koeppel completed the five kilometer course in 18:21 to finish first in a field of 40 runners. She had no trouble breaking away from the rest of the field, finishing the race 25 seconds ahead of the second-place runner, Akron's Brandi Schoeppner (18:46). Koeppel's finish was five seconds better than last year's 18:26 where she finished second overall.

Freshman **Dan Giza (Lancaster, NY/Lancaster)** was the Bulls' top men's finisher in 21:42 for the four-mile course to take seventh overall among 41 runners.

Aside from Koeppel's winning performance, UB placed five more finishers among the top 10 racers in the women's competition. **Kelli O'Brien (Clifton Springs, NY/Manchester-Shortsville)** took fourth place overall in 19:05. **Aleksandra Bykowska (Pozdan, Poland/Third High School of Pozdan)** was seventh in 19:13. **Jen Jezorski (Elmira, NY/Elmira Southside)** finished eighth in 19:21. **Sara Rice (Pine City, NY/Elmira Southside)** placed ninth in 19:21 to round out the UB scoring. **Kayleigh Wheeless (Syracuse, NY/Westhill)** was 11th in 19:50 and **Jennie Donofrio (Pittsford, NY/Penfield)** took 16th in 20:07.

**John Flor (Albion, NY/Albion)** finished right behind Giza in eighth place in 21:44 in the men's race. Other UB scorers included **Andy Wigton (Rochester, NY/Greece-Athena)** in 10th place in 21:49, **Nate Lockett (Lansing, NY/Lansing)** in 15th place in 22:05 and **Ben Cady (Buffalo, NY/City Honors)** in 16th place in 22:06. Lockett had been among the leaders for much of the race until a wrong turn put him off the course, costing him valuable time. **Steve Strelick (Rochester, NY/Greece-Athena)** took 17th in 22:08 and **Onile White (Bronx, NY/DeWitt Clinton)** placed 21st in 22:17.

Ashland's Nate Iler won the men's race in 21:23 with his teammate Evan Thomas a close second in 21:27.

The team victory by the UB women marked the first time that the Bulls finished ahead of a very strong Akron squad. The UB women were second to the Zips at last season's meet. They placed fourth in 2002 and third in 2001.

The Bulls are in action next Saturday at Toledo's Central Collegiate Meet with racing beginning at 11:45 am.

#### 2004 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

##### September

Sat., 11	at Tommy Evans Invitational	M: 3rd of 4	W: 1st of 4
Sat., 18	at Central Collegiate Meet	11:45 am	Toledo, OH
Sat., 25	at Paul Short Invitational	9:00 am	Bethlehem, PA

##### October

Sat., 2	at LaSalle Invitational	3:00 pm	Philadelphia, PA
Sat., 9	<b>UB OPEN</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Buffalo, NY</b>
Sat., 16	at Penn State Invitational	11:00 am	University Pk., PA
Sat., 30	at MAC Championships	11:00 am	Toledo, OH

##### November

Sat., 13	at NCAA Northeast Regionals	12:00 pm	New York, NY
Mon., 22	at NCAA Championships	TBA	Indianapolis, IN

Home meets in **BOLD CAPS** • All Times Eastern

##### TOP FINISHERS

Sept. 11	at Tommy Evans Invitational
Men (4 miles):	Dan Giza 21:42 (7th of 41)
Women (5K):	Jenny Koeppel 18:21 (1st of 40)