

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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Cross Country



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Current records – Men: 0-0 Overall, 0-0 MAC; Women: 0-0 Overall, 0-0 MAC

KOEPEL FINISHES 56TH AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

The University at Buffalo's *Jenny Koepfel (Amherst, NY/Amherst)*

turned in an impressive showing at the NCAA Women's Cross Country National Championships on November 22. Koepfel, a senior, completed the 6K course in 21:28.0 to place 56th overall among a field of 250 of the nation's top cross country athletes. The meet was held at the LaVern Gibson Championship Course at the Wabash Valley Family Sports Center and hosted by Indiana State University. Damp conditions greeted the runners as overnight and early morning rain yielded to partly cloudy skies as the race began.

Koepfel earned the opportunity to represent UB at the National Championships after qualifying with an at-large berth from the NCAA Northeast Regionals at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx on November 13. She finished the regional race in 20:59.7, placing ninth among 230 runners and earning All-Northeast Region honors for the second consecutive season.

Aside from Koepfel, the Mid-American Conference individual champion, two other MAC runners competed after earning individual automatic qualifier spots from the Great Lakes Region. Ball State's Jill Scully, who finished second to Koepfel at the MAC Championships on October 30, bested the UB runner in their final meeting, finishing 52nd in 21:21.5, six and a half seconds ahead of Koepfel. Akron's Morgan Sulzener placed 199th in 22:57.9.

On the strength of three top 10 individual finishers, and five in the top 25, Colorado took the team title. The Buffaloes finished with 63 total points to easily outdistance second-place Duke's 144. Providence was third with 164 while Notre Dame was fourth at 170 and defending champion Stanford was fifth at 175.

Providence's Kim Smith, the NCAA runner-up last season and this season's Northeast Region champion, won the individual title in a blistering 20:08.5, nearly 18 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher, Renee Metevier of Colorado (20:26.4). Smith, who has previously won NCAA Championships in indoor track for the 3,000 and 5,000 meters as well as in outdoor track for the 5,000 meters in 2004, finishes the cross country season undefeated – taking first place in every race. She is also the first runner from the Providence women's program, considered one of the East's best, to win an individual national title.

Koepfel is the first UB woman and third Bulls runner in over 35 years to compete in the NCAA Division I Championship. Previously, Ed Fuchs ran in three championship races from 1968-70 in what was known as the NCAA's University Division, the forerunner of today's Division I classification. Jeremie Slick raced in the 2001 Championships in Greenville, SC, finishing 91st overall. UB had previously sent women's runners to the NCAA Division III Championships during the 1980s. In 1985, Margaret Gehring finished 15th overall to gain All-American status.

2004 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

September

Sat., 11	at Tommy Evans Invitational	M: 3rd of 4	W: 1st of 4
Sat., 18	at Central Collegiate Inv.	M: 3rd of 8	W: 1st of 11
Sat., 25	at Paul Short Invitational	M: 16th of 24	W: 6th of 26

October

Sat., 2	at LaSalle Invitational	M: 2nd of 12	W: 1st of 14
Sat., 9	UB OPEN	M: 1st of 6	W: 1st of 6
Sat., 16	at Penn State Invitational	M: 14th of 38	W: 14th of 41
	at Roberts Wesleyan Inv.	M: 2nd of 9	W: 8th of 11
Sat., 30	at MAC Championships	M: 7th of 10	W: 4th of 13

November

Sat., 13	at NCAA Northeast Regionals	M: 22nd of 34	W: 9th (t) of 32
Mon., 22	at NCAA Championships		W: No team score

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 Koepfel 18:21 (1st of 40)
Sept. 18	at Central Collegiate Invitational	Men (8K): Andy Wigton 25:41 (8th of 78)	Women (5K): Jenny Koepfel 17:49 (1st of 118)
Sept. 25	at Paul Short Invitational	Men (8K): Dan McKenna 25:39.48 (77th of 163)	Women (6K): Jenny Koepfel 20:59.05 (7th of 175)
Oct. 2	at LaSalle Invitational	Men (8K): Andy Wigton 26:07.00 (2nd of 100)	Women (5K): Jenny Koepfel 18:25.90 (2nd of 128)
Oct. 9	UB OPEN	Men (8K): Andy Wigton 26:10.38 (2nd of 56)	Women (5K): Jenny Koepfel 17:59.35 (1st of 60)
Oct. 16	at Penn State Invitational	Men (5.2 miles): Andy Wigton 26:23 (28th of 322)	Women (5K): Jenny Koepfel 21:26 (20th of 346)
	at Roberts Wesleyan Invitational	Men (8K): Chuck Laderer 26:42.2 (5th of 92)	Women (5K): Susanna Cronmiller 20:41.5 (28th of 98)
Oct. 30	at MAC Championships	Men (8K): Dan McKenna 26:17.20 (26th of 82)	Women (5K): Jenny Koepfel 17:51.70 (1st of 107)
Nov. 13	at NCAA Northeast Regionals	Men (10K): Dan McKenna 33:10.2 (90th of 233)	Women (6K): Jenny Koepfel 20:59.7 (9th of 230)
Nov. 22	at NCAA Championships	Women (6K): Jenny Koepfel 21:28.0 (56th of 250)	