

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

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Indoor Track & Field



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

ESLER WINS HEPTATHLON TO LEAD BULLS AT MACS

The University at Buffalo's men's and women's indoor track and field teams completed the 2003 Mid-American Conference Championships on Saturday. The UB men took eighth place overall among 10 teams while UB's women took ninth in a 12-team field.

Eastern Michigan won the men's meet with a total of 153.5 points to outdistance second-place Central Michigan (125.5). Western Michigan took third with 97 points, followed by Kent State (67.5), Akron (58.5), Toledo (45), Ball State (42), UB (37), Marshall (20) and Ohio (16). Host Kent State (88) won the women's meet by a slim margin over Ball State (84.33). Central Michigan (75.6), Eastern Michigan (72.5), Western Michigan (72), Toledo (62), Akron (53), Miami (47.5), UB (47), Bowling Green (34), Ohio (23) and Marshall (4) completed the scoring.

UB's **Steve Esler (Rochester, NY/Aquinas Institute)** became a MAC champion in the heptathlon, scoring a school-record 5,251 points in the two-day competition. Esler, who finished the first day 15 points behind defending champion Dana Thomas of Central Michigan, moved ahead of Thomas in Saturday's first event, the 60-meter hurdles and held on to win the day's final event, the 1000-meter run in 2:47.04, just 65-hundredths of a second ahead of Thomas and enough to give him the championship. Thomas finished with 5,229 overall points. In Friday's portion of the competition, Esler won the shot put at 45-3.50 (13.80m) and high jump at 6-6.25 (1.99m). UB's **Carlos Williams (Jamestown, NY/Westfield Academy)** took fifth in the pentathlon with 4,837 points. Away from the heptathlon, Esler also placed fifth in the open high jump at 6-7 (2.01m).

Joe Clark (Amherst, NY/Sweet Home) scored a third-place finish in the 400-meter final in 47.47 and followed with a seventh-place finish in the 200-meter final (21.88) after breaking his own school record in the qualifying round at 21.76. **Byron McKinney (Amherst, NY/Sweet Home)** finished fourth in the shot put at 55-9 (16.99m). Distance runner **Rick Stewart (West Seneca, NY/West Seneca West)** finished 10th in a school-record mark of 8:35.44. The 4x400 relay team of **Peter Zaccariello (Staten Island, NY/Tottenville)**, **Tim Giagios (Rochester, NY/Gates-Chili)**, **Tom Abbey (Arcade, NY/Pioneer)** and Clark earned a sixth-place finish in a school-record 3:16.51, cutting a full second off the previous best.

In the women's championships, **Laura Olson (Lyons, NY/Lyons)** bettered her own pole vault mark with her second-place finish at 12-9.50 (3.90m) and earned an NCAA provisional qualifying mark. **Faith Thompson (Niagara Falls, NY/Niagara Falls)** increased her 20-pound weight throw record by almost a foot and a half with a toss of 60-4.50 (18.40m) to finish fourth overall and become the first UB woman to surpass the 60 foot mark. The 4x400 relay team of **Jenelle Callender (Brooklyn, NY/Brooklyn Tech)**, **Christina Keck (Erie, PA/McDowell)**, **Mindy Gorniak (Erie, PA/McDowell)** and **Biaunca McFarland (Binghamton, NY/Binghamton)** took fourth in 3:49.43, breaking the old school record by more than a second. Callender also set a new school mark of 25.00 in the qualifying round of the 200-meter dash and took eighth in the finals in 25.12. Keck also scored a school-record with her third place finish in the mile as she shattered Judith Novak's 10-year old mark by more than five seconds with her 4:55.03 clocking. McFarland finished second in the triple jump at 41-9.25 (12.73m) and **Allison Laske (Canandaigua, NY/Canandaigua Academy)** placed fourth in the 800-meters in 2:11.93.

Both of UB's distance medley teams set new records to finish in sixth place in their respective races. The men's foursome of **Onile White (Bronx, NY/DeWitt Clinton)**, **Abbey**, **Doug Johnston (Clarence, NY/Clarence)** and **Steve Strellick (Rochester, NY/Greece-Athens)** clocked a 10:04.74 time to shave nearly three seconds off the old mark set in 2002. UB's women's team of **Kate Kohout (Clarence, NY/Clarence)**, **Krystal Seiling (Lewiston, NY/Lewiston-Porter)**, Gorniak and Keck cut more than three seconds off of the 2000 record to finish in 11:59.40.

The Bulls travel to Boston for the ECAC/IC4A Championships next weekend.

2002 - 2003 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

December

Sat., 7 at Kent State Open No team scoring

January

Sat., 11 at Black Squirrel Inv. No team scoring

Sat., 25 at Cornell Five-Way M: 2nd of 5 W: 2nd of 5

February

Sat., 1 at Penn State National Open No team scoring

Sat., 8 at Colgate Class of '32 Inv. M: 1st of 9 W: 1st of 9

Fri.-Sat., 14-15 at Army Invitational No team scoring

Sat., 15 at Kane Invitational No team scoring

Fri.-Sat., 28-1 at MAC Championships M: 8th of 10 W: 9th of 12

March

Fri.-Sat., 7-8 at ECAC/IC4A Championships 10:00 am

Fri.-Sat., 14-15 at NCAA Championships 10:00 am

All times local

Home meets in **BOLD CAPS**