

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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Outdoor Track & Field



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

OUTDOOR SEASON OPENS AT WAKE, ALABAMA RELAYS

The University at Buffalo men's and women's track and field teams got underway with their outdoor schedules over the weekend. Most of the squad was in action at the Wake Forest Relays in Winston-Salem, NC, while some Bulls' athletes traveled to Tuscaloosa, AL for the Alabama Relays. There was no team scoring in either meet.

In the Wake Forest meet, women's weight thrower **Sarah Fletcher (Ridgeway, ON/Ridgeway-Crystal Beach)** returned to top form after sitting out the 2001 outdoor season as well as the 2002 indoor season. Fletcher took two first-place finishes on Saturday winning the discus throw at 43.33 meters and the hammer throw at 52.04 meters. Teammate **Faith Thompson (Niagara Falls, NY/Niagara Falls)** placed second behind Fletcher in the hammer at 48.38 meters and took third in the shot put at 12.92 meters.

Melissa Burrows (Norwood, NY/Norwood-Norfolk) was the top collegiate athlete in the 3000 meter run, placing second in 10:24.39 behind an unattached entrant. Triple jumpers **Bianca McFarland (Binghamton, NY/Binghamton)**, **Bernadette Boswell (Yonkers, NY/Roosevelt)** and **April Pabilonia (Clarence, NY/Clarence)** placed third, fourth and fifth, respectively. McFarland jumped 11.71 meters, Boswell cleared 11.44 meters and Pabilonia finished at 10.85 meters. The Bulls also placed third in the 4x400 relay in 4:01.86.

UB's men were led by **Joe Loiacono (Rochester, NY/Greece-Olympia)**, who won the discus competition with a throw of 45.72 meters. Loiacono also placed third in the shot put at 15.96 meters. Teammate **Byron McKinney (Amherst, NY/Sweet Home)** finished second in the shot put toss, setting a new school record at 16.24 meters. Both shot put marks bettered Loiacono's school record mark of 15.91 meters set in the 2000 season.

Distance runners **Pete Zaccariello (Staten Island, NY/Tottenville)** and **Todd Ludden (Hornell, NY/Hornell)** also opened the outdoor season in strong fashion. Zaccariello took third in the 800 meters in 1:54.94 behind a pair of Wake Forest finishers. Ludden finished fourth in the 1500 meters in 4:00.29. Ludden also placed 25th in the 800 meters in 2:05.33. The Bulls' 4x100 relay squad finished third in 43.30 behind a squad from Appalachian State and an unattached entry.

Meanwhile, several athletes turned in top marks in the Alabama Relays against some of the top competition in the country. Men's sprinter **Joe Clark (Amherst, NY/Sweet Home)** set a new school record in the 200 meters, turning in a 21.75 clocking. The time betters the previous mark of 21.84 set by Eric Fischlein in 1994 and Kris Winkler in 1996. Clark also raced to a 10th-place finish in the 400 meters in 48.35. **Pete Otovic (DeWitt, NY/Jamesville-DeWitt)** finished the 200 in 22.63 and the 400 in 50.39. **Dan Simpson (Rochester, NY/Gates-Chili)** tied for fifth in the pole vault at 4.25 meters and **Mark Hajnos (Grand Island, NY/Grand Island)** was 13th in the decathlon at 5,511 points.

For the women, **Meagan Rogers (Courtenay, BC/George P. Vanier)** placed fifth in the heptathlon with 4,473 points while **Chrissie Matthews (Waterford, NJ/Edgewood)** tied for seventh in the high jump at 1.65 meters.

The squads are at the Raleigh Relays, hosted by North Carolina State, this weekend.

2002 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

March

Fri.-Sat., 22-23	at Wake Forest Relays	No Team Scoring	
Fri.-Sat., 22-23	at Alabama Relays	No Team Scoring	
Sat.-Sun., 30-31	at Raleigh Relays	All Day	Raleigh, NC

April

Sat., 6	at McDonald's Inv.	9:00 am	Athens, OH
Sat., 13	at Sea Ray Relays	All Day	Knoxville, TN
Sat., 20	at Chancellor's Cup	12:00 pm	Binghamton, NY
Thu.-Sat., 25-27	at Penn Relays	All Day	Philadelphia, PA

May

Fri.-Sat., 3-4	UB OPEN	4:00 pm	UB STADIUM
Sat., 4	UB OPEN	10:00 am	UB STADIUM
Thu.-Sat., 9-11	MAC Championships	All Day	Ypsilanti, MI
Wed.-Sat., 29-1	NCAA Championships	All Day	Baton Rouge, LA

All times Eastern

Home meets in **BOLD CAPS**