

# ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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## Outdoor Track & Field



**Date: June 1, 2004 • For release: Immediately • Contact: Ted Wasko**

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

### LASKE, OLSON ADVANCE TO NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

Seniors *Allison Laske (Canandaigua, NY/Canandaigua Academy)* and *Laura Olson (Lyons, NY/Lyons)* both qualified for the NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships following impressive performances at the NCAA East Regionals over the weekend at the University of Florida's Percy Beard Track. Laske earned her first berth to the nationals by finishing fourth in the 800 meters on Saturday in a time of 2:07.05. She qualified for the 800 meter final by claiming her heat - the third of four on Friday - in a time of 2:08.98. Laske advanced as one of only nine runners in the 28-runner field to the finals, taking the lead at the 300-meter mark and conserving energy while finishing first.

"Allison ran a very smart and tactical race," said UB women's track and field coach Vicki Mitchell. "For someone who is not used to the humid conditions the event was contested in, she really adjusted well. She made a move to separate herself from a pack of runners with about 150 meters to go and was able to hold on for fourth place. For her to have a kick left on the second day was really encouraging to see. She ran a great race and really earned the right to go to nationals."

Olson earned her third career trip to the NCAA Championships with a third-place finish in the pole vault on Friday. Olson set a new school record by clearing 13-5.75" in the event, tying for first in height but finishing third based on number of misses. Princeton's Chelo Canino took first place with just one miss until her final height. Olson finished 13th at the national championships last year, clearing 13-1.5", and she placed 14th at the NCAA Indoor Championships earlier this year. The top eight in the country earn All-American status, an achievement that a Buffalo track and field athlete has earned once before, when Lockport native Shelly Hamilton finished eighth in the high jump in 1998.

Joining Olson and Laske at the NCAA Championships will be decathlete *Steve Esler (Rochester, NY/Aquinas Institute)*. Esler provisionally qualified for the national meet with a point total of 7,306 at the Hillsdale Gina Relays in late April, and that was good enough to earn him an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships. The decathlon was not contested at the East Regionals. The NCAA Championships will be held in Austin, TX from Wednesday, June 9 through Saturday, June 12.

In other events at the NCAA East Regionals, sophomore thrower *Sarah Vance (Lockport, NY/Lockport)* finished 23rd in the shot put with a throw of 46-4 and 31st in the hammer with a toss of 158-10. Buffalo also got a strong performance from distance runner *Jenny Koeppel (Amherst, NY/Amherst)*, who finished 16th in a field of 39 in a time of 16:54.67 in the 5,000 meters.

On the men's side, freshman jumper *Rayshon Higgins (Buffalo, NY/Timon/St. Jude)* finished 19th in the triple jump with a distance of 45-10 and freshman *Brian Heim (Amherst, NY/Williamsville East)* finished sixth in his heat in the 400-meter hurdles in a time of :53.36 but did not advance to the finals. Heim won the Mid-American Conference 400-meter hurdles title last month.

### 2004 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

#### March

Sat., 20	at Ram Invitational	No team scoring
Wed.-Thur., 24-25	at Florida Relays (multis only)	No team scoring
Fri.-Sat., 26-27	at Raleigh Relays	No team scoring
Wed.-Sat., 31- 3	at Texas Relays (women only)	No team scoring

#### April

Sat., 3	at McDonald's Invite	M: 3rd of 12 W: 2nd of 13
Fri.-Sat., 9-10	at Bison Outdoor Classic	No team scoring
<b>Fri.-Sat., 16-17</b>	<b>UB OPEN</b>	<b>M: 1st of 3</b> <b>W: 1st of 3</b>
Thur.-Sat., 22-24	at Penn Relays	No team scoring
Wed.-Thur., 24-25	at Hillsdale Gina Relays (multis only)	No team scoring
Fri., 30	at Cardinal Invitational	No team scoring

#### May

Sat., 1	at Akron Quad	M: 4th of 4 W: 2nd of 4
Sat., 8	at Campbell/Wright Open	No team scoring
Thur.-Sat., 13-15	at MAC Championships	M: tied 6th of 9 W: 8th of 12
Fri.-Sat., 28-29	at NCAA East Regionals	M: No team score W: tied 17th of 53

#### June

Wed.-Sat., 9-12	at NCAA Championships	All Day
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### WOMEN'S NCAA REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

Jenny Koeppel (5,000) 16:52.83  
Allison Laske (800) 2:04.81  
Allison Laske (1,500) 4:24.67  
Laura Olson (pole vault) 13-5.50 (4.10m)  
Sarah Vance (shot put) 48-5.50 (14.77m)  
Sarah Vance (hammer) 173-7 (52.90m)

### MEN'S NCAA REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

Brian Heim (400 hurdles) 51.95  
Rayshon Higgins (triple jump) 50-0 (15.24m)

### WOMEN'S NCAA NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Allison Laske (800) 2:07.05 (fourth NCAA East Regional)  
Laura Olson (pole vault) 13-5.75 (third NCAA East Regional)

### MEN'S NCAA NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Steve Esler (decathlon) 7,306 (provisional)