

## Men's cross country team to compete in Mideast Regionals

by Ed Mesaros  
staff writer

This weekend, eight men from the men's cross country team will make a 10 hour trip to Salisbury, Md., to compete in the NCAA Mideast Regional race.

A field of 30-35 teams, including more than 220 runners from across the region, is expected to be on hand for the race. Some of the more prestigious teams that will be competing include Haverford, Elizabethtown, Allegheny, and Dickinson College.

The following members of the men's team were chosen to attend the Regional race this weekend. Those members making the trip for the race include sophomores Tim Schultheis, Clayton Kirschner, Dan Alvis, Steve Werner, Floyd Mattie, and Brent Beauseigneur. Junior Dan Croft and senior Brian Wheeler will be joining the group of sophomores.

Schultheis, the team captain, has led the way for the Lions all season. This weekend, he has high hopes for the team.

"The team has had two weeks of rest. We're all looking forward to a big race from everyone this weekend," said Schultheis.

Despite suffering an ankle injury earlier this season, Beauseigneur has battled back, and is confident about the weekend.

"I'm excited," he said, "I think I will definitely improve because my injury has healed a lot the past week."

Kirschner has consistently been the No. 2 runner for the Lions this season.

"Our team has been training all year for our conference meet and this meet, so we really want to go out and show all the work we've put in," said

Kirschner.

"Everything we've heard of this course so far is that it is fast. Everyone is looking to go out and set a personal best that is much faster than what we've run so far this year."

Wheeler will make his first, and last, trip to the Mideast Regional race this weekend.

"I would say that we have underestimated the strength of some of our rivals at key meets this season," said Wheeler regarding this past season. "At this meet we want them to say that about us."

When asked about the long trip to Maryland the team will be making to compete, Wheeler replied, "We just have more team bonding time than teams that are geographically closer. The warmer weather will do us some good too, so I expect Behrend will have a strong showing."

Head cross country coach Dave Cooper also has a positive outlook on the upcoming weekend.

"I look for us to have our best times of the season and hopefully finish ahead of last year's 18th place finish. Some revenge on Frostburg State would be satisfying too," said Cooper.

This weekend's race will conclude what has been a successful season for the Lions. With Regionals being the last race, the men's team will have no reason to hold anything back.



PHOTO BY SCOTT SOLTIS/BEHREND BEACON

Senior Brian Wheeler and junior Dan Croft will lead the pack of sophomore standouts who include Tim Schultheis, Clayton Kirschner, Dan Alvis, Steve Werner, Floyd Mattie, and Brent Beauseigneur

## Women runners team ready to challenge AMCC champ Frostburg State

by Leacy Sauer  
staff writer

Sophomore Jessica Sarver and the rest of the women's cross country team are ready for revenge at the NCAA Mideast Regionals. After last week's second-place finish in the AMCC Championship race, the seven member team has new motivation - beating first place Frostburg State.

"It was an upset to lose to Frostburg last Saturday," said Jessica Sarver. "But we have another chance to show them what we can do."

"I think it would be a real moral victory [to beat Frostburg] for the team, after all the adversity caused by injuries," said head coach Dave Cooper. He sees the number of injuries the team has gone through over the course of the season as the one deterrent from first place

at AMCCs. But now that they have overcome them, all seven are ready to compete at their full potential.

Besides the revenge factor, the women's cross country team also has another aspect of the regional race to look forward to. Last week's first and second place finishes by Sarver (24:18:26) and Jessica Knapp (24:38:73) have aroused added interest in the team's progress. However, no one is more excited than Cooper himself.

"I am very anxious to see how well Jess Sarver and Jess Knapp can do at this level of competition," he said. "The course at Salisbury is quite flat so we look for good times." He is very happy with the team's progress through the season and with the success they have so far experienced.

The team's goal for regionals is to place in the Top 10. They are anticipating warmer

weather than the cold and rain they experienced for the AMCC championships, and because all seven runners are back to compete, they should be able to achieve that goal.

The team left after classes on Thursday, anticipating a long drive ahead to Salisbury, Md. They are looking forward to achieving revenge against their new rivals from Frostburg State, and making a mark in the Behrend cross country legacy.

"Our spirits are high and we're excited to run our best and have fun," said Sarver. "I think the only thing we're not looking forward to is traveling in the vans for four days straight!"



PHOTO BY SCOTT SOLTIS/BEHREND BEACON

Senior Jessica Coe paces ahead of sophomore Susie Szafran as the team prepares to face rival Frostburg State.



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