

Marquette Women Notch Top BIG EAST Finish Since 2008

MU women placed seventh, men eighth

BRONX, N.Y. – The Marquette University women's cross country team placed seventh, its highest finish since 2008, at the BIG EAST Conference Cross Country Championships Friday morning at Van Cortlandt Park in Bronx, N.Y. The men placed eighth overall for the fourth time in their eight-year affiliation with the league.

Georgetown won the women's race with 58 total places, while Syracuse captured the men's crown with 37 places. The MU women finished with 222 total places and the men 240.

The Syracuse men were led by freshman Martin Hehir (24:37.20), the individual champion, while Villanova's Emily Lipari (20:45.33) won the women's race.

The Marquette women's squad, which finished seventh for the first time since Van Cortlandt Park last hosted the conference meet in 2008, was led by a trio of freshman among its top four runners. Freshman Molly Hanson continued her impressive first year at Marquette while leading the Golden Eagles in 41st place with a time of 22:27.80. The Dodgeville, Wis., native has been MU's top finisher at each of the last four meets.

Fellow freshman Kellie Greenwood was Marquette's second finisher in 51st place (22:53.53), after having never finished higher than sixth on the squad this season. Greenwood was followed by junior Rebecca Pachuta (52nd, 22:56.50) and freshman Sarah Poirier (53rd, 23:02.63), while junior Hannah Frett rounded out MU's top five in a time of 23:09.28 (55th overall).

Senior Jack Hackett led the men's squad for the second-straight meet in 33rd place with a time of 25:29.32. Senior Jack Senefeld (26:04.26) was 50th in the men's race and was followed closely by classmate Connor Callahan (52nd, 26:05.91), who had led the MU men at each of the first three meets to begin the year.

Freshman William Hennessy continued to make a difference for the Golden Eagles with a 63rd-place finish in 26:30.31. Senior A.J. Gedwill, running in his third conference meet, placed 64th in 26:35.88 to round out Marquette's top five.

In addition to this season and 2008, Van Cortlandt Park also hosted the league championships in 2005, Marquette first year in the BIG EAST. The women finished third in 2005, the highest finish in program history, and their roster included former track and field All-American Michaela Courtney, Hanson's sister, who placed 20th overall.

The Golden Eagles return to action Friday, Nov. 9 at the 2012 NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championships at the Thomas Zimmer Championship Cross Country Course in Madison, Wis.

Team Results

Women

1. Georgetown
2. Connecticut
3. Providence
4. Villanova
5. Notre Dame
6. Syracuse
7. Marquette
8. Cincinnati
9. Pittsburgh
10. Rutgers
11. USF
12. St. John's
13. Louisville
14. Seton Hall
15. DePaul

Women's Race

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41. (36) Molly Hanson (22:27.80) *
51. (45) Kellie Greenwood (22:53.53) *
52. (46) Rebecca Pachuta (22:56.50) *
53. (47) Sarah Poirier (23:02.63) *
55. (48) Hannah Frett (23:09.28) *
62. (55) Kayla Spencer (23:14.93)
64. (57) Christina Sliepka (23:21.34)
76. (0) Elisia Meyle (23:39.97)
82. (0) Sarah Ball (23:56.43)