

Women's Preview

From the 2004 squad that advanced to the NCAA Championships, placed sixth at the West Region and fourth at the Pac-10 Championships, UCLA returns six of its top seven runners for the 2005 campaign.

Experience and depth will be the keys to this season's Bruin women's cross country squad – led by seniors, Jenna Timinsky, Allison Hall and Sarah West; juniors, Alison Costello and Ashley Caldwell and sophomores, Olga Aulet-Leon, Monika Rothenburger and Claire Rethmeier.

Returners

Throughout most of last season's cross country campaign, Costello, the 2004 U. S. Junior Champion, was UCLA's No. 1 runner. Named the Bruins' "Most Outstanding Cross Country Runner", Costello was UCLA's No. 2 performer at the NCAA Championships (148th/22:21.1/6000m) and leading runner at the West Region (22nd/21:21/6000m-earning All-West Region honors) and Pac-10 (15th/21:30/6000m) Championships. In 2005 outdoor track, Costello set a new school record (10:31.34) in the 3000m steeplechase and placed fourth at the Pac-10.

Caldwell, who missed all of 2005 outdoor track with a stress fracture (left tibia), was the Bruins' top performer at last year's NCAA Championships, placing 98th (21:55.0). She was UCLA's No. 3 runner (30th/21:32) at the West Region and No. 5 runner at the Pac-10 (25th/21:54). Caldwell was UCLA's top finisher at the Pre-NCAA Meet (53rd/21:43.1/6000m). As a sophomore in 2003-04, she earned NCAA Championship All-American honors on three occasions – cross country (36th/20:45.6), indoor track (DMR, third leg/3rd/11:08.70) and outdoor track (800m/10thQ/ 2:06.51/top eight Americans). Her 2:05.01 800m is No. 4 in school history.

Timinsky, a consistent cross country contributor for the last three seasons, in 2004 was UCLA's No. 2 runner (21st/21:44) at the Pac-10, No. 4 performer (36th/21:39) at the West Region and the Bruins' No. 5 runner at the NCAA (215th/23:06.4). As a junior in 2003 cross country, she earned All-West Region honors and in outdoor track, Timinsky was a Pac-10 800m scorer and her 2:06.26 is No. 9 in UCLA history. As a redshirt freshman in 2003 outdoor track, she placed third at the U. S. and fourth at the Pan Am Junior Championships in the 800m.

Hall, named "Most Improved Cross Country Runner" at the end of last season, has run on UCLA's last three NCAA qualifying squads. In 2004 as a junior, she was the Bruins' No. 3 runner at the NCAA (181st/22:41.2), finished 33rd (22:07) at the Pac-10 and 39th (21:42) at the West Region Championships. A redshirt last spring in outdoor track, Hall is a Pac-10 scorer in the 1500m.

West last season placed 39th (22:22) at the Pac-10 and 71st (22:20) at the West Region Championships. Last spring in outdoor track, she was a Pac-10 scorer in the 10,000m (7th/37:27.75).

"Our veterans have vast experience at the NCAA, West Region and Pac-10 levels," said Eric Peterson, entering his 12th year as UCLA's women's cross country head coach. "This team enters the season with as much experience as any I've ever coached here. I expect this group to report to camp in top shape and ready to go.

Their leadership and experience will be of tremendous value to our younger athletes."

Although just sophomores, Aulet-Leon, Rothenburger and Rethmeier picked up valuable experience in 2004-05 as true freshmen. At the 2005 USA Cross Country Championships, held Feb. 12-13 in Vancouver, WA, Rothenburger was UCLA's top finisher (15th, out of 52 runners, 23:13.3/6km), followed by Rethmeier (18th/23:29.4) and Aulet-Leon (22nd/23:57.4).

Last fall, Aulet-Leon was UCLA's No. 4 runner at the NCAA (189th/22:51.7), No. 2 performer at the West Region (28th/21:29) and No. 4 runner (21:50) at the Pac-10. Rothenburger was UCLA's No. 7 runner at the NCAA (228th/23:24.5) and No. 3 runner at the Pac-10 (22nd/21:49). Aulet-Leon and Rothenburger were "Co-Most Outstanding Freshman Cross Country Runners" following last fall's campaign. Rethmeier redshirted last fall.

"Olga, Monika and Claire as true freshmen gained significant knowledge and experience during their first season as college runners," said Peterson, who has guided the Bruin women's cross country squad to four consecutive NCAA Championship team appearances. "Last year's experiences and an additional year

of maturity will prepare them for their upcoming sophomore campaigns. They are a young and talented compliment to our group of returning veterans."

Also returning are seniors – Lori Mann, who last fall in cross country placed 62nd (22:59) at the Pac-10 Championships, and Leslie Barrie.

Incoming Freshmen

UCLA's incoming freshmen class consists of – Gabrielle Bournes (Long Beach Poly HS), Lauren Jirges (Cypress HS), Lindsay delaMontaigne (San Diego/Rancho Bernardo HS) and Ciarra Viehweg (San Francisco/St. Ignatius HS).

Last fall in cross country, delaMontaigne placed second in the CA State meet and was a San Diego CIF champion during the spring of 2005 in the 1600m and 3200m. Her top prep times were 4:57 (1600m), 10:52 (3200m) and 17:57 (5k).

In 2004 cross country, Viehweg finished second (18:11/5k) in the CA State meet (Div. 3). In 2005 outdoor track, she placed second in the 3000m (10:01) at the Stanford Invitational and qualified for the CA State Championships in the 3200m. Her prep bests were 2:15 (800m), 4:54 (1600m) and 10:01 (3000m).

Losses

Losses from last season include – Carmen Winant and Alejandra Barrientos. Winant, as a senior last fall in cross country, was UCLA's fifth finisher at the NCAA (193rd/22:54.6) and No. 9 runner at the Pac-10 Championships (55th/22:44). In outdoor track, her 35:15.04 10,000m is No. 8 in UCLA history. Barrientos concluded her Bruin career as a contributor to three (2004-02-01) UCLA cross country teams that qualified to the NCAA. In outdoor track, she was an NCAA 1500m qualifier (2004) and a two-time (2004-02) Pac-10 scorer in the 1500m. Her 4:17.60 1500m is No. 8 in school history.

