

Kelly to lead influx of freshmen

Chapman, Gorman, Mantooth key returnees for men

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

Freshmen will play a huge role in deciding how well the women's cross country team does this year.

The team brings in seven new freshmen along with five returning runners. The Bulldogs were picked to finish sixth in a competitive MIAA. But they look to finish better than expected. Head coach John Cochrane said he has high hopes, even though more than half of the team has no college experience.

"I feel that we're a better team than last year," Cochrane said. "However, nobody will do it for you. You have to make things happen. When you get

to the big races, you have to dig back and see what you get out of yourself. It's important that you train well."

One of those returning runners is senior Danna Kelly, the Bulldogs top runner from last year. Kelly finished in the top 10 in all but one race last year. She notched the only Bulldog first place finish last year, winning the Miner Invitational. She also qualified for nationals as an individual and placed 80th out of 189 runners.

Kelly will be looked on early to lead the younger runners.

"I'm trying to emphasize the team aspect with our increase in numbers," Kelly said. "Really lead by example and show our newcomers what collegiate running is. It is a step up from high school, and sometimes it's hard for newcomers to grasp that. Also, [I want to] help returnees enjoy the sport and push them and work together as a team."

Other key runners returning in-

clude junior Fiona Williams and sophomore Kylie Raitel. Raitel and Williams were two of the Bulldogs' top five runners last year.

Cochrane also said to look out for several of the Bulldog freshmen.

"We have a huge number of young kids," Cochrane said. "So we're going to see what they do. One of the freshmen, Michelle Gronemeyer, has been doing pretty well. Freshman Dani Dell'Orco has ran pretty well. We don't really know until we go and run against somebody. You just got to hope what mistakes you make competitively, you don't repeat in the next meet."

On the men's side, experience shouldn't be a problem for the Bulldogs. Even though there isn't a senior on the team, the 'Dogs bring back several members from last year's team. Head coach Tim Schwegler said it's nice to have some experience, but the team is still young overall. He also said to

watch out for incoming freshmen Joey Walls and Mike Dial. They are expected to make an early impact this year.

"Well, they're young, they're still young," Schwegler said. "However, we feel pretty good about it. We lost two guys, basically, from last year's team. They didn't impact the program that much. ... Walls and Dial, I think they will fill in real nicely. We think we are ahead of the curve right now compared to last year."

Junior Zach Chapman and sophomores Bob Gorman and Josh Mantooth will be counted on to lead the Bulldogs this year. Last year, Gorman and Mantooth stepped in and made an early influence. Those two, along with Chapman, form a solid core that the Bulldogs should be able to count on this year.

"Bob Gorman and Josh Mantooth are two guys that will lead us throughout the year," Schwegler said. "Zach Chapman had a very good freshman

year. He was the top freshman in the conference. However, he kind of had a sophomore jinx. He's getting back to his freshman form though, and that's going to be a big plus."

In an early preseason coaches poll, the men's team was picked to finish seventh in the MIAA. The Bulldogs look to improve on that prediction though and sneak into the top half of the conference.

"We definitely want to move up in the conference as a team," Gorman said. "Last year we tied for sixth. I think we're trying for top three, top four in the conference. We definitely want to improve. It's a pretty strong conference. It's good too because you have something to work towards every year."

The Miner Invitational is the first meet of the season for both the men's and women's teams. The invitational takes place Saturday in Rolla.



Photos and design by Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Limsiaco claims 11-stroke victory

BY JACK NICHOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

Junior Krystal Limsiaco can add to her collection of first-place finishes.

Limsiaco shot 74, 78 at the Mankato Fall Round-Up to lead the Bulldogs to victory in the three-team tournament that included Minnesota State University and Rockhurst University. Her eight-over-par finish, the best round of her college career by two strokes, won her first place overall. She finished 11 strokes ahead of Rockhurst University's Allison Andrews, who placed second.

Limsiaco held a three-shot lead on the competition after the first day and she shot two of the three best rounds of the weekend in the 25-person field. She was the only person to score under 80 both rounds.

"It always builds up confidence to start off the season with a good tournament," Limsiaco said. "It's always the best way to do it. I'm definitely happy with how I played, and I'm hoping that it'll pay off later on."

This marks the third time Limsiaco has placed first in a tournament. She beat out 64 people at the Prairie Fire Invite last September and 63 golfers at the Upper Iowa Spring Classic in the spring.

"I hope what she can take from it is she has that ability to shoot those low numbers consistently – stay in the seventies," head coach Sam Lesseig said. "Only because she strikes the ball very well and she's a very good putter. That doesn't mean she makes them all, but usually she doesn't have a lot of three-putts."

In the two previous times Limsiaco played the course in season-opening tournaments, she shot 18 and 24 over par through the two-round tournaments. As a team, the 'Dogs improved from placing fifth out of five teams at the same tournament last fall.

The course is made up of an older nine-hole course and a newer course, which results in varying degrees of speed and firmness on the greens. Limsiaco said the course is difficult because of pin placements, but her previous two tournaments on the course helped with her approach shots this weekend.

"I think a lot of that is just experience," Limsiaco said. "I've played this course already twice, two years in a row. I knew for the most part how the slopes were going to be on certain greens and what not."

Limsiaco said she put little pressure on herself coming into the tournament and the season as a whole, even though she comes into the season as the team's top returning golfer. She said she went into this weekend wanting to have fun. It was the first tournament she had played in since last spring, and her expectations were not high because of that.

"She played well because first of all she was hitting the ball very solid and she really concentrated when it came time for putts and short shots," Lesseig said. "Krystal is going to be very fun to play with, she's going to talk, but when it came time for the shots she really got composed before the shot and really thought about what she wanted to do with it and was able to carry it off."

Athlete of the Week

Krystal Limsiaco

Sport: Golf

Year: Junior

Hometown: The Woodlands, Texas

Limsiaco placed first in the Mankato Fall Round-up with a score of 74, 78 in the two-day event, helping the women's golf team earn an overall team victory. She was 11 strokes ahead of the second-place finisher. The tournament marked the third time Limsiaco has placed first in her college career.

This bracelet was a gift Amber Apodaca received from the center where she helped teens with drug and alcohol problems. She was wearing it when an underage drunk driver took her life.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Photo by Michael Mazzone