

## 2002-03 BULLDOG TRACK & FIELD PREVIEW

Despite the loss of three NCAA Division II All-America performers and six All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) honorees, seventh-year Ferris State men's and women's track and field/cross country coach **Jeff Kavalunas** remains optimistic about the prospects of the 2002-03 campaign.

Kavalunas' optimism is fueled by the return of four all-league selections and a talented group of newcomers, which is expected to add significant depth to the Bulldog lineup.

"We're gearing our season towards the conference championships," Kavalunas said. "Although we're young, our primary goal is still to perform well at the conference meets and try to move up in the league standings."

For Ferris to continue its recent GLIAC ascension, Kavalunas said the Bulldogs will place a primary focus on development and improvement throughout the season.

### SPRINTS/HURDLES

Returning NCAA-II National Indoor Track and Field Meet qualifier **Jennifer Delamater** spearheads a balanced group of women's sprinters. The 2000-01 GLIAC Indoor Freshman of the Year holds school records in the indoor 55 meters and the indoor and outdoor 200-meter races.

"Jennifer is one of the top sprinters in the league and we'll be counting on her to score well in the key meets," said Kavalunas.

Sophomore **Crystal Kuzma**, who placed fifth in the 100 meters at the 2001 GLIAC Outdoor Championships, is expected to contend for all-league recognition while freshman **Jaime Lyberg** will supply depth after winning prep state titles in both the 200 and 400-meter events.

In the hurdles, Kavalunas expects juniors **Althea Graham** and **Molly Machinski** to lead a young but promising unit.

Freshman **Curtis Long** and junior **Andre Ford** have potential to score well for the Bulldog men.

### DISTANCE EVENTS

The Bulldogs will be solid again in the distance events. Senior **Steve Picucci**, a 2002 All-GLIAC Cross Country finisher, and sophomore **Joe Swendrowski** both have the ability to place among the league's best in the long events.

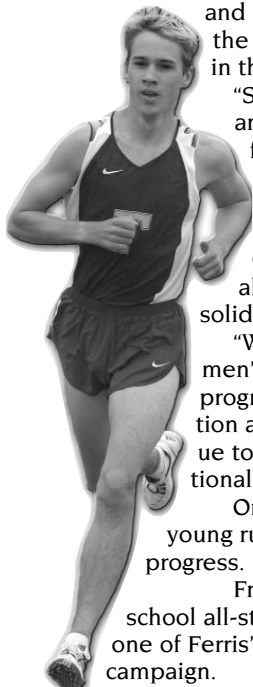
"Steve had a great cross country season and will definitely move up towards the front of the pack this year," Kavalunas said.

Junior **Joe Every** reached the finals in the 1,500-meter race at last season's GLIAC Outdoor Championships. Every along with junior **Pat Kerwin** give FSU a solid middle distance base.

"We should be able to score points in the men's distance races," Kavalunas said. "Our program has been moving in a positive direction and hopefully this season we can continue to rise in the conference and score additional points."

On the women's side, a talented pack of young runners is expected to make significant progress.

Freshman **Jenny Irwin**, a three-time high school all-state performer (1,600 meters), ranked as one of Ferris' top cross country runners during the fall campaign.



Joe Swendrowski

In the 800 meters, the Bulldogs will rely on junior **Angela Herzog** and freshman **Leanna Wolf**. Freshman **Crystal Flutur** will be FSU's primary threat in the steeplechase while junior **Rachel Cox** will run the 5,000 and 10,000 meters for Ferris.

"Our women's distance runners are all young, but they had a solid cross country season," said Kavalunas. "We lost a number of great athletes due to graduation so we'll need to have some others step up and fill in the gaps to be competitive."

### FIELD EVENTS

The Bulldog women's deepest area is the pole vault where defending 2002 GLIAC Outdoor champion **Adrienne Desenzio**, a senior, highlights a lineup which also includes sophomore transfer **Michelle Vanderhyde**. She broke NCAA-I Western Michigan's women's indoor record (10-6) last season and also holds the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Lower Peninsula Division III State Track and Field meet record (10-9; 2001).

"With Adrienne and Michelle, we should have two of the top vaulters in the conference," Kavalunas said. "The vault is our strongest event and gives us the ability to score a lot of points."

Sophomore **Sarah Duesing** posted the school's fourth-best all-time outdoor high jump mark (5-5.75) a year ago and should compete for a conference title this season. Both Desenzio and Delamater also provide Ferris with valuable scoring threats in the horizontal jumps.

In the women's weight events, the Bulldogs will count on freshmen **Jessica Gladding** and **Jessica Bunce** to replace graduated three-time All-America performer Tianna Kirkland.

"We don't have as many front runners on the women's side this year, but we do have a number of returnees who have performed well," said Kavalunas.

The men's team will be lead by senior captain **Eric Hincka**, who placed second in the javelin at the 2002 league outdoor championships.

Sophomore **Shane Ballard** had a productive rookie campaign as evidenced by his 17 top 10 performances in the jumping events in 2001-02.

Junior **Kurt Peterson** finished in a tie for fourth place in the pole vault at the 2002 GLIAC Outdoor Championships while sophomore **Tom Swartwood** provides Ferris with a consistent performer in the men's weight events.

In addition, the Bulldogs added two prep state champions in freshman pole vaulter **Ben Petipren** and rookie high jumper **Andrew Hayton**.

"Both Ben and Andrew are talented enough to make an immediate impact," Kavalunas said.

While the GLIAC remains one of the nation's toughest from top to bottom, Kavalunas hopes Ferris' continued progression throughout the year pays off at the league championships.

"Our league is so strong that we have to concentrate on taking care of our own business," Kavalunas said. "It's so tough to move up in the standings, but hard work can make it happen."

Both the 2002-03 GLIAC Indoor and Outdoor Championships will be held at Saginaw Valley State in University Center, Mich. FSU should have ample time to become familiar with the site as the Bulldogs will travel to SVSU for six meets this campaign.

### 2002-03 FSU TEAM CAPTAINS

#### MEN TRACK AND FIELD

Eric Hincka  
Steve Picucci

#### WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Jennifer Delamater  
Adrienne Desenzio  
Angela Herzog