

2001 BULLDOG TRACK PREVIEW

A talented group of returnees and an impressive class of newcomers give Ferris State University men's and women's track and field coach **Jeff Kavalunas** a solid nucleus entering the 2001-02 campaign.

"Our women's team doesn't have a lot of depth, but we are very talented," Kavalunas said. "The men's program is still only a couple of years old, but it continues to show great improvement and should move up in the conference standings."

Kavalunas expects the Bulldog women to contend for the 2002 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Indoor and Outdoor titles. During the 2000-01 campaign, the Bulldog women earned runner-up honors at the GLIAC Indoor meet and placed fourth at the league outdoor meet.

"We should certainly be in contention once again this year," Kavalunas said. "We're still building the men's program, but I feel good about where we're at."

SPRINTS/HURDLES

Two-time defending GLIAC Outdoor 100-meter hurdle champion **Morgan Buckner** returns to lead a strong women's unit, which also includes junior **Alaina Olds**, sprinter **Jennifer Delamater** and sophomore **Crystal Kuzma**.

"Morgan leads a group of the top hurdlers in the league," Kavalunas said. "Delamater and Kuzma are pretty talented sprinters and I expect them to continue to do well this season."

Junior **Jessica Berube** and sophomore **Molly Machinski** also have the ability to earn all-conference recognition.

On the men's side, 2001 All-GLIAC performer **Pat Hayes** returns in the 110-meter high hurdles and the 400-meter intermediate hurdles.

"Pat is getting stronger and will have a shot at contending for a league title this year," Kavalunas said.

Juniors **Travis Detring** and **Oral Hood** will add depth in the sprint events.

DISTANCE EVENTS

The Bulldog women rank among the league's best in the distance events as 2001 NCAA Division II Indoor and Outdoor All-American **Katie Chapman** (800 meters) heads an impressive list of veterans.

"We are looking for Katie to be one of the top 800 meter runners in the country once again this year," Kavalunas said.

Senior **Michelle Terry** returns for her fifth season in the program and will concentrate on the 1,500 meter race this season.

Senior **April Smith** had a solid 2001 cross country campaign and will rank among the GLIAC's top performers in the 10,000 meters.

Freshmen **Stephanie DeLong** and **Mary Miller** also had successful fall campaigns and will add depth in the longer distances.

Newcomer **Joe Swendrowski** is expected to make an immediate impact in the 5,000 and 10,000 meter races for the Bulldog men's squad after a highly-successful prep career.

Kavalunas also expects returnees

Steve Picucci, **Joe Every** and **Josh Wittenbach** to contend for league honors.

"We have a whole group of distance guys that have improved quite a bit," he said. "Some of those guys will certainly be in scoring position this year and start contending for points in the league."

Senior **Braden Bush**, a transfer from Central Michigan, will move up to the 800-meter race this season and is a potential NCAA Division II national qualifier.

"Braden is a talented athlete with a lot of potential," Kavalunas said.

FIELD EVENTS

Ferris State should again have one of the top field events programs in the conference.

Two-time defending GLIAC Champion **Jennifer Brogger** (javelin) and school record holder **Tianna Kirkland** (shot put) are potential national qualifiers and rank among the conference elite.

"Jennifer should be the top javelin thrower in the league again this year," Kavalunas said. "Tianna will make a pretty big impact in both the shot put and the discus after sitting out last season."

Talented freshman **Atesha Olds** will compete in the throwing events along with newcomer **Veronica Joseph**, a versatile athlete who will add depth in the javelin.

"With a little experience and improvement, Atesha will be competitive in our conference," Kavalunas said.

In the pole vault, 2000 GLIAC Outdoor Champion **Kristyn Buck** and indoor school record-holder **Adrienne Desenzio** return for their junior seasons. Freshmen **Emily Kooiker** and **Jacqueline Grove** will add depth.

"The pole vault is a big area for us," Kavalunas said. "We have the potential to score a lot of points in that event."

Buckner and freshman **Sarah Duesing** will both contend for league honors in the high jump while Desenzio, Delamater and Kuzma could form one of the league's best horizontal jump tandems.

With the addition of three talented freshmen, the pole vault will be an improved area for the Bulldog men. Newcomers **Scott Pocan**, **Justin Carscadden** and **Zac Hartman** will add depth in an event which also includes returnees **Kurt Peterson** and **Bryan Green**. Both Peterson and Green scored points at the 2001 conference indoor meet.

"We're pretty excited about the men's pole vault this year," Kavalunas said. "We have an outstanding group of young vaulters who will make an immediate impact in our league."

In the throwing events, sophomore **Jay Dixon** leads a young FSU contingent. Dixon will be a league contender in the shot put, discus and hammer throw. Freshman **Brian Anderson** will also contribute in the throws.

"Jay has steadily improved and should be able to compete with the top throwers in the league this year," Kavalunas said. "Brian has potential and will do well for us."

In the men's horizontal jumps, Kavalunas expects senior **Jason Thompson** to lead the way.

"Jason has been working hard and he'll do well if he can stay healthy," he said.

2001-02

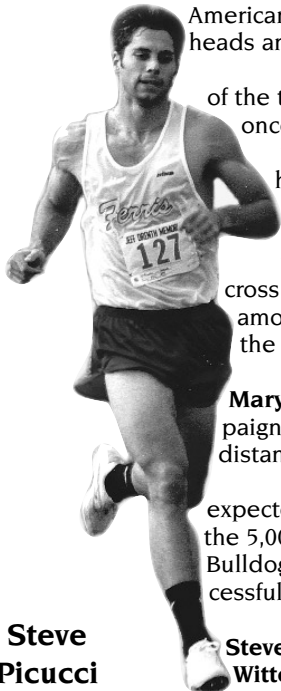
FSU TEAM CAPTAINS

MEN TRACK AND FIELD

Braden Bush
Jay Dixon
Steve Picucci

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Morgan Buckner
Adrienne Desenzio
Tianna Kirkland
Michelle Terry



Steve Picucci