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Duquesne Women Named Preseason Cross Country Favorites

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.— In a poll conducted by the league's 14 head coaches, the Duquesne Women's Cross Country team has been selected as the favorites to capture the 2014 Atlantic 10 Championship, the A-10 announced Monday.

The Dukes, the defending A-10 champions, return four of the top 18 finishers from last year's championship including sophomore Valerie Palermo (10th), senior Danica Snyder (16th), senior Elise Farris (17th) and sophomore Megan Baritot (18th).

Finishing second to Duquesne in the poll was 2013 championship runner up, Richmond. The Spiders are in pursuit of their first A-10 title since 2010 and are led by reigning A-10 Rookie of the Year, Marisa Ruskan who finished 8th in last year's championship.

La Salle, Saint Louis and Dayton rounded out the top five, and were followed by Massachusetts, George Mason, Davidson, Fordham, Rhode Island, St. Bonaventure, George Washington and VCU.

The 2014 Atlantic 10 Women's Cross Country Championship will be hosted by Duquesne University at Schenley Park in Pittsburgh, Pa. on November 1.

2014 A-10 Predicted Order of Finish
(2013 Championship finish in parentheses)

1. Duquesne (1st)
2. Richmond (2nd)
3. La Salle (3rd)
4. Saint Louis (4th)
5. Dayton (7th)
6. Massachusetts (5th)
7. George Mason (8th)
8. Saint Joseph's (6th)
9. Davidson (SoCon 6th out of 11)
10. Fordham (9th)
11. Rhode Island (10th)
12. St. Bonaventure (11th)
13. George Washington (13th)
14. VCU (12th)

About the Atlantic 10 Conference
The Atlantic 10 Conference is a basketball-centric conference founded in 1976 and consists of 14 diverse members across eight states and Washington, D.C. The mission of the Atlantic 10 Conference is to provide an enhanced student-athlete experience through 21 nationally competitive championship sports. The conference is committed to integrity, educational excellence and providing quality equitable championship experiences for its student-athletes, coaches, and support staff. The membership consists of Davidson College, the University of Dayton, Duquesne University, Fordham University, George Mason University, The George Washington University, La Salle University, the University of Massachusetts, the University of Rhode Island, University of Richmond, St. Bonaventure University, Saint Joseph's University, Saint Louis University and Virginia Commonwealth University. For more information, visit www.atlantic10.com.