



# SEPTEMBER

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FOR IMMEDIATE USE: October 6, 2005

## Cross Country & Golf

### WCC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER SELECTED

#### **WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY - Tiffanie Marley, University of San Diego**

Tiffanie Marley has led the San Diego cross country team to an impressive start to the 2005 season, posting two of the top three 5K times among West Coast Conference harriers during the month of September. Marley, who became the first San Diego runner to capture first place at the WCC Championship in 2003, got the season off to a fantastic start by capturing first place with a time of 18:26 in the 5K race at the Cal State Fullerton Invitational on September 3. After finishing eighth in the 6K race at the USD Invitational with a time of 22:42 on September 10, the graduate student posted a WCC-best 5K time of 17:47 at the Notre Dame Catholic Universities Invitational on September 17 to place third in a highly competitive field.

#### **MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY - Justin Houck, University of Portland**

Justin Houck led the Portland men's cross country team to a second place finish at the Sundodger Invitational in Seattle on September 17. In his first competition of the season, the redshirt freshman traversed the 8K course in 24:10 to finish in sixth place overall. The time posted by the Spokane, Wash. native is the fastest 8K mark recorded by a West Coast Conference harrier so far this season. All 10 of the WCC's fastest 8K times this season were recorded at the Sundodger Invitational, with eight of those marks being recorded by Portland runners. As a team, the Pilot men's squad maintained a top-25 national ranking throughout the season's first month, checking in at No. 22 on September 27 before assuming their current ranking of No. 16 on October 4.

#### **WOMEN'S GOLF - Eileen Vargas, Pepperdine University**

Pepperdine junior All-American Eileen Vargas captured individual medalist honors and helped the Waves to the championship of the Branch Law Firm Dick McGuire Invitational on September 28. Vargas carded a 54-hole score of 8-under par 211 to register a 1-shot victory. It marked Vargas' first career win and included a career-best final round 68. The tournament included eight teams that were ranked in Golfweek's Top 30 preseason poll. The victory helped Vargas move to No. 2 in Golfweek's individual rankings and also helped the Waves to a No. 1 national ranking. The No. 1 ranking marks the second time in program history that Pepperdine has earned a top national ranking. The Waves, who finished fourth at last year's NCAA Championships, were previously ranked No. 1 during the spring of 2003 after winning five straight tournaments.

#### **MEN'S GOLF - Chadd Cocco, Saint Mary's College**

Saint Mary's junior Chadd Cocco posted two top 10 finishes and a 69.8 stroke average in two tournaments during the month of September. In the Mid-Pines Intercollegiate on Sept. 12-13, Cocco shot rounds of 71-66-69 to capture his first career individual medalist honor with a score of 206 (-10), while leading SMC to a fourth place finish. His second round 66 score at the Mid-Pines is the lowest in his career. One week later at the Northwest Collegiate Classic, the Bend, Ore. native posted an 8th place finish following rounds of 67-74-72 for a 3-under score of 213, helping the Gaels to a sixth place finish out of a field of 15 teams. His 69.8 stroke average ranks 19th in the country. Cocco has a total of three eagles and 25 birdies in six rounds and 108 holes played, averaging 4.17 birdies per round, and a sub par strokes per round average of 5.17.