Rochester’s seven traditional fall sports teams—men’s and women’s cross country, field hockey, football, men’s and women’s soccer, and women’s volleyball—will face some of their most challenging schedules when the new athletic season begins.

The season launches September 1, when Ithaca field hockey plays at Rochester. Men’s and women’s soccer host the annual Flower City Soccer Tournaments that weekend, too. The field hockey team will face three nationally ranked opponents and one just outside the top 20 through mid-October.

Men’s and women’s soccer will face many teams—five for the men and seven for the women—who made the NCAA play-offs last year. Football begins its season, featuring four home games, with a September 10 opener against Catholic. Rochester cross country has its annual UR Invitational on September 17. And women’s volleyball gets under way on September 2 against Cortland, kicking off a season filled with nationally ranked opponents, including Emory, Washington, and Chicago.

—Dennis O’Donnell