

TRACK & FIELD

Yellowjackets Tune Up for Penn Relays

Rochester expects to be well represented at historic track meet.

By Matthew Taylor

Members of the track and field teams are preparing to compete in one of the most famous meets in the world—the Penn Relays in Philadelphia.

Founded in 1895, the three-day event from April 28 to 30 at the University of Pennsylvania is considered the longest uninterrupted annual collegiate track meet in the country, and is expected to draw 22,000 athletes from around the world who qualify for the competition.

“We decided that we had some high-level athletes this year who would benefit from competing in a high-caliber meet such as this,” says Sam Albert ’01, ’02W (MS), the director of track and field and cross country at Rochester.

With the team coming off a successful indoor winter season, Albert says he expects up to 40 Yellowjackets—15 to 20 each from the men’s and women’s teams—to qualify.

The total depends on the entry standards, which will be published in mid-April.

As of the end of March, the team was scheduled to compete at St. John Fisher College that same weekend, so athletes who don’t compete at the Penn Relays will also be in action.

The trip to Philadelphia is supported by the Hale Fund for Competitive Excellence, which was created in 2012 in recognition of longtime track and field and cross country coach Timothy Hale, and has been supported by alumni and friends of the University.

Albert says competing among some of the best college track and field athletes in the country is an extraordinary experience.

“The Penn Relays meet is really just an additional special opportunity that we are able to offer some of our most elite athletes,” he says. **R**

Taylor is a communications assistant in the Department of Athletics and Recreation.



TOP FORM: Danielle Neu '17 won the three-meter diving title at the UAA championships.

SWIMMING & DIVING

Diver Wins First UAA Title

Danielle Neu '17 is first Yellowjacket to claim a conference diving crown in the women’s competition.

By Matthew Taylor

Danielle Neu '17 became Rochester’s first female diver to capture a University Athletic Association title, winning the three-meter board competition and qualifying for the NCAA regional diving championships.

She was joined at the championships by Max Adler '18, who qualified with a fourth-place finish in the men’s one-meter competition.

The divers’ results were part of a strong showing by both the women’s and the men’s swimming and diving teams at the UAA conference championships, held in the Rochester suburb of Webster. The women finished in sixth place with a total of 673.5 points and the men finished seventh with a total of 689 points. Members of both teams broke school records and met NCAA provisional qualifying standards.

They include:

Alex Veech '17 finished in second place in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:03.29, breaking her own school record of 1:04.16 and qualifying for the NCAAs.

Vicky Luan '16 broke the 100-yard freestyle school record and tied for 10th with a

time of 52.37 seconds. Jennifer Enos '17 set a school record in the 1,650-yard freestyle, placing ninth with a time of 17:38.64. That broke her own school record set in 2013 by more than two seconds.

Gunnar Zemerling '18 broke his own school record in the 50-yard freestyle, with a finishing time of 20.62 seconds and also earning an NCAA time. He finished eighth in the 100-yard free. Elliot Schwinn '19 had two provisional qualifying times, breaking his own school record in the 1,650-yard freestyle in 16:02.26 and besting a 27-year-old school record in the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 4:04.84.

Neu is Rochester’s first UAA champion since the 200-yard freestyle relay in 2009 and the Yellowjackets’ first individual champion since Karen Gromer '07, '10M (MPH) captured first place in the 200-yard butterfly in 2004. The first male diver to win a UAA title was Scott Richardson '88, who won the one-meter board in 1988, the first year of the championship. **R**

Taylor is a communications assistant in the Department of Athletics and Recreation.