



# Centennial Conference Cross Country Preview

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## HAVERFORD, DICKINSON TEAMS TO BEAT AT 10th ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS Ford Men Shoot for 10th Straight Title; Red Devil Women Look to Three-Peat

**LANCASTER, Pa.** – The 10th annual Centennial Conference Cross Country championships are slated for Saturday, November 2, at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pa. Although the course at Hunsberger Woods may be new, the favorites for the team titles are not – the Haverford men and the Dickinson women.

The Haverford men have won nine straight Centennial championships and have a streak of 13 consecutive league titles dating to its participation in the Middle Atlantic Conference. In fact, the Fords' last non-winning performance in a conference meet was in 1988 (2nd). The Dickinson women have captured the crown the last two seasons and four out of the last five years. Only a one-point loss to McDaniel (formerly known as Western Maryland) in 1999 broke what would have been a five-year Red and White run.

The Fords have also had seven runners win the individual title in nine years and may have the favorite once again in junior **Brandon Rowe (Brookline, MA / Brookline)**. He is the top-rated male runner in the Centennial coaches' poll and has a pair of second-place finishes this season at Villanova and Williams. Other Haverford runners to watch include sophomore **Bobby Cannon (Toms River, NJ / Toms River South)** and senior **Greg Bielecki (Maple Glen, PA / LaSalle College)**, ranked third and fourth, respectively, by the coaches. Bielecki was a first-team All-Conference selection after finishing sixth last season at Dickinson and looks to become just the sixth runner in Centennial history to earn first-team honors three times.

Dickinson, Muhlenberg and Swarthmore are the leading contenders to knock Haverford off its throne. The Red Devils are paced by freshman **Tom Rhodes (Willow Grove, PA / Upper Dublin)** and junior **Todd Derkacz (Huguenot, NY / Port Jervis)**, while the Mules are led by junior **Rob Uniszkievicz (Hillsborough, NJ / Hillsborough)**, and seniors **Will Elson (Piermont, NY / Saddle River Day School, NJ)**, and **Brendan Gallagher (Brookfield, CT / Brookfield)**. Sophs **Lang Reynolds (Seattle, WA / Nathan Hale)** and **James Golden (Hatboro, PA / Hatboro-Horsham)** will lead the Garnet contingent. Others to watch include Gettysburg's **Charles Spock (Upper Black Eddy, PA / Palisades)** and Johns Hopkins' **John Onofrey (Needham, MA / Needham)**.

In the women's competition, the Red Devils are led by senior **Alex Forte (Easton, CT / Joel Barlow)**, who is trying to become the ninth runner in Conference history to earn first-team All-Centennial honors (finishing among the top seven) three times. She finished second a year ago. Teammates **Callie Bradley (North Huntington, PA / Norwin)**, **Jessica Ellerman (Carlisle, PA / Big Spring)** and **Sarah Grant (Woodstock, CT)** will make an imposing foursome for the rest of the field. Bradley, a junior, earned the coaches' top ranking following back-to-back wins at Dickinson and DeSales.

Haverford returns 2001 individual champion **Kristen Wilson (Danvers, MA / Danvers)**, who is attempting to become the third runner in Centennial history to earn first-team honors four times. Sophomore **Sarah LaMoy (Gardiner, NY / Wallkill)** finished third last season and is the Fords' top-ranked runner in the coaches' poll (4th), while freshman **Anastasia Mukhina (Towson, MD / Towson)** and junior **Abigail Noble (Auburndale, MA / Newton North)** are also in the top 10. Ursinus junior **Katie Dougherty (Wilmington, DE / Ursuline Academy)** and Swarthmore junior **Maria-Elena Young (Oakland, CA / Oakland Tech)** are top contenders for the individual gold. Dougherty, ranked second by the coaches, has won four of her six starts this season and finished fourth in 2001, while Young is ranked third and was ninth last season. Also keep an eye on Gettysburg's **Anne Leonard (Manchester, CT / Loomis Chaffee)** and Johns Hopkins' **Hilary Knipe (Contoocook, NH / St. Paul's School)**.

The men's race is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m., while the women's competition is set to start at noon.