

# CROSS-COUNTRY



## Program Highlights

- \* The University of Scranton ended its long-time affiliation with the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Corporation, also known as the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC), and joined the Landmark Conference in the fall of 2007. The Landmark Conference is made up of the following institutions: The Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.), Drew University (Madison, N.J.), Goucher College (Baltimore, Md.), Juniata College (Huntingdon, Pa.), Moravian College (Bethlehem, Pa.), Susquehanna University (Selinsgrove, Pa.), and the United States Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point, N.Y.)
- \* The men's team placed fourth and the women fifth at the first Landmark Conference championship last October in Baltimore, Maryland. **Chris Wasnetsky** finished second overall to earn first-team all-conference honor and was named the conference's male rookie of the year. Recent graduate **Rob Olechna** finished 11th to earn second-team all-conference honors, while another recent graduate, **Becky Prial**, paced the women's team with a sixth-place finish to earn first-team all-conference. She earned all-conference honors in each of the previous three seasons in Scranton's previous affiliation with the Middle Atlantic Conference.
- \* Both the men's and women's teams have had six top 10 finishes at the NCAA regionals throughout their history
- \* Four members of the men's team--current head **Bill Burke** (1984), **Chris Heaton** (1987, 1988), **Joe Fent** (1998-2000) and **John Mercuri** (2005)--have qualified for the NCAA Division III championships, while **Theresa Meade** of the women's program accomplished this feat in 1984
- \* **Heaton** became the first runner in Royals' history to win a conference individual title in 1988, while **Joe Fent** became the first runner in Middle Atlantic Conference history to win four consecutive conference titles (1997-2000)
- \* **Fent** and **John Mercuri** are two of 13 University of Scranton student-athletes to earn a prestigious NCAA post-graduate scholarship
- \* Year-round training programs have been developed by head coach Bill Burke, with opportunities for runners to compete in track and field meets during the off-season



**2007 Results**

**Date Event**

**A31 Bison Open (Bucknell University)**  
Non-team scoring event

**S8 Vassar Invitational**  
(Poughkeepsie, N.Y.)  
Men: 3rd-place, 11 teams, 90 pts  
Women: 5th-place, 14 teams, 104 pts

**S22 at Cougar Classic**  
(Misericordia University)  
Men: 2nd-place, 7 teams, 71 pts  
Women: 2nd-place, 9 teams, 97 pts

**O6 at Goucher College Mid-Atlantic Cross-Country Classic**  
Men: 3rd-place, 10 teams, 116 pts  
Women: 3rd-place, 9 teams, 105 pts

**O13 at DeSales University Invitational**  
Men: 8th-place, 20 teams, 226 pts  
Women: 10th-place, 23 teams, 291 pts

**O27 at Landmark Conf. Championships**  
Men: 4th-place, 8 teams, 111 pts  
Women: 5th-place, 8 teams, 115 pts

**N10 at NCAA Midwest Regional**  
Men: 26th-place, 41 teams, 724 pts  
Women: 19th-place, 37 teams, 632 pts

**2008 Schedule**

Day	Date	Event	Time
Fri.	Aug. 29	at Northeast Pa. Classic (King's College)	5:00 pm
Sat.	Sept. 6	at Vassar Invitational	11:00 am
Sat.	Sept. 6	at Ursinus Invitational	10:00 am
Sat.	Sept. 20	at Cougar Classic (Misericordia Univ.)	11:00 am
Sat.	Oct. 11	at DeSales Invitational	10:30 am
Sat.	Nov. 1	at Landmark Conf. Championships (Altoona, Pa.)	TBA
Sat.	Nov. 15	at NCAA Midwest Regional (Waynsburg, Pa.)	TBA



**Head Coach  
Bill Burke**

Bill Burke returned to his alma mater as men's cross-country coach in 2005 after a highly successful career at nearby Scranton Preparatory School. He served as head boys' track and field coach there from 1990-2005 and as boys' and girls' cross-country coach from 1989-2004.

He made an immediate impact by leading the Royals to a 9th-place finish in the 41-team field at the 2005 NCAA regional, Scranton's highest finish since 1999. Last fall, he took over the women's program in addition to his men's duties.

During his tenure at Scranton Preparatory, Burke led the Cavaliers to four Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Class AA cross-country championships (2000, 2001, 2002, 2004) and 12 PIAA District II titles. He also produced three state champions in track & field and cross-country and 17 state medalists.

Burke, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education from the University and a Master of Arts degree in American history from the University of Notre Dame, was a two-time NCAA all-regional selection during his standout career from 1982-1985. He owns the distinction of being the first Royal runner to qualify for the NCAA Division III championships, where he finished 89th overall at the 1984 meet. He also finished third at both the 1982 and 1984 Middle Atlantic Conference championships.

In 2005, he was named to the Scranton Times-Tribune list of the Top 25 coaches of all-time in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Bill and his wife, Maripat, reside in Scranton with their four children: Bill, Jack, Peter and Maeve.

**To contact**

**Head Coach Bill Burke:**

**Phone:** (570) 941-7440

**Fax:** (570) 941-4223

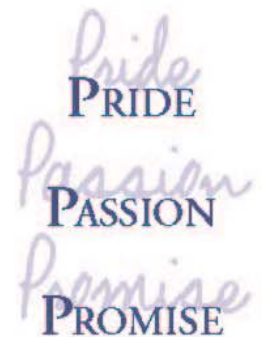
**E-mail:** burkew2@scranton.edu

**Mailing Address:**

Department of Athletics  
The University of Scranton  
Long Center 209  
Scranton, Pa. 18510

**Web site Address:**

www.scranton.edu/athletics



EXPERIENCE OUR  
JESUIT TRADITION

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SCRANTON**  
A JESUIT UNIVERSITY