Fourth Straight Heeps Victory for Women’s Cross Country

Columbia won its fourth straight Ivy League Heptagonal Women’s Cross Country Championship with an impressive performance at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. The Lions’ Caroline Bierbaum, CC’06, repeated as the individual champion, winning the race in the meet record time of 17:10.04.

“It was an awesome day,” said Bierbaum, who earned All-American honors in cross country, indoor and outdoor track last year and was Academic All-American. “I couldn’t have asked for anything better. There were perfect conditions and I felt great the whole day… You never want to lose a title once you get it, so I was happy to get it back.”

Bierbaum finished three seconds ahead of the race’s second-place finisher from Yale. The Lions’ Lisa Stublic, CC’06, also earned first-team All-Ivy League honors by taking fourth place in 17:10.0. Tenke Zoltani, CC’06, was 14th overall in the field of 90 finishers, good for second-team All-Ivy honors.

The Lions are the fourth team to win four straight Heeps women’s cross country titles. Harvard (1981–1985), Yale (1986–1989) and Dartmouth (1994–1997) have also won four consecutive titles.

Basketball Season Begins

Under the guidance of head coach Joe Jones, prospects for men’s basketball are looking good. This season, senior Dalen Cuff and sophomores Brett Loscalzo, Mack Montgomery and Ben Nwachukwu return to the starting line-up, while John Baumann and Kashif Sweet return after missing most of last season due to injury. The squad also has 11 freshmen, five of whom show potential to make an immediate impact, including shooting guard K.J. Matsui, a graduate of Montrose Christian in Maryland and believed to be the first Japanese to play Division I basketball.

With new head coach Paul Nixon at the helm, women’s basketball is poised to start afresh. The team is young, and coach Nixon said he would turn to the lone returning starter, Megan Griffith, CC’07, to provide leadership.

M. Dianne Murphy

M. Dianne Murphy, director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education, has been named a recipient of the Tennessee Tech University (TTU) 2005 Distinguished Alumna Award. Murphy is a two-time graduate of Tennessee Tech University (B.S. ’72, M.A. ’74), and is a native of Putnam County, where Tennessee Tech is located.

This is the second significant alumni award presented to Murphy in recent weeks. She also received a special award from Florida State University, being named a “Grad Made Good” for her accomplishments in the field of intercollegiate athletics. Murphy received her Ph.D. from Florida State in 1980, after serving as the Seminoles’ women’s basketball head coach from 1976–1979.

Columbia Hosts “Walk With Me” Campaign

On Oct. 27 on College Walk, Assemblymember Daniel J. O’Donnell (D–Morningside, 69th District), pictured here with with Maura Bairley, director of the Columbia University Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Program, voiced his support for “Walk With Me,” a statewide call to action against domestic violence. He noted that domestic violence takes many forms and knows no barriers of race, class, gender or sexual orientation. Additionally, O’Donnell drew attention to October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month and discussed his experiences of defending victims of domestic violence when working as an attorney. O’Donnell was joined by community leaders, campus groups, concerned citizens and organizations including the University’s Violence Prevention Program, Columbia Men Against Violence, Take Back the Night, V-Day, the NiteStar Program, the Ryan Center Crime Victims Treatment Center and Milbank Medical Group. For more information on prevention and response, go to www.bushall.columbia.edu/brp/.