



MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

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Cross Country Caps 2004 At NCAA Midwest Regionals

Susie Martinez and Sam Watson pave the way for the Flames on Saturday.

Nov. 13, 2004

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Peoria, Ill.- Great finishes by [Sam Watson](#) and [Susie Martinez](#) amidst a gathering of some of the Midwest's best runners highlighted the University of Illinois at Chicago cross country team's performance at the NCAA Cross Country Midwest Regional at Bradley University's Newman Golf Course on Saturday.

UIC's men's team finished 18th out of 21 squads, while the injury-riddled women only ran four racers and did not place.

Watson wrapped up an outstanding sophomore season with a team-leading 32:58.59 in the men's 10,000 meters, placing 92nd out of 153 competitors.

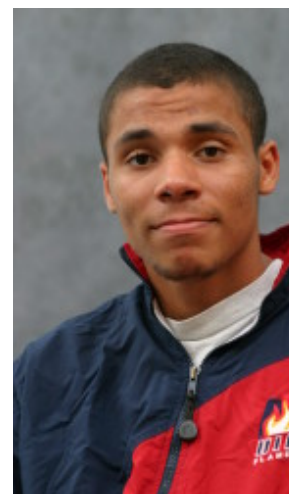
Martinez bashed her previous 6,000-meter best of 24:11 with a 23:08.12, once again taking the role of the Flames' top women's finisher. She placed 112th among 185 entrants in a tough field.

The sophomore capped the season as UIC's best finisher in all six meets of the year.

[Lisa Petty](#) wrapped up her nice season with a 24:41.67 to take 168th, marking the sixth time in six meets that she took the runner-up spot on the UIC women's side.

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Sophomore Sam Watson led the Flames with a 10K time of 32:58.59 on Saturday.

The Flames did their best to finish close together. [Joseph Mbari](#) ended his freshman year on a high note as the Kenya native ran a 33:01.41, finishing 96th and just a few seconds behind Watson.

[Mikhail Davidyan](#) capped his senior cross country season on Saturday with a 33:15.87 that ranked 105th, while Bob Dron turned in a good finish with a 33:33.29 for 116th.

[Jim Sulzberger](#) ran a 33:51.86 for 124th, while [Jorge Flores](#) finished off a strong rookie campaign with a 34:05.82 for 129th.

For the women, [Rachel Covert](#) took 172nd with a 25:00.82, while [Renee Koziol](#) turned in a 26:52.95.

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