

1986 MINNESOTA WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY  
MEDIA GUIDE

QUICK FACTS:

LOCATION: Minneapolis, Minn.  
FOUNDED: 1851  
ENROLLMENT: 45,000  
NICKNAME: Golden Gophers  
COLORS: Maroon and Gold  
CONFERENCE: Big Ten  
PRESIDENT: Kenneth Keller  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Merrily Dean Baker (612) 624-4044  
HEAD COACH: Gary Wilson (612) 624-2058  
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR: Karen Smith (612) 624-3335  
HOME COURSE: Les Bolstad-University Golf Course

CROSS COUNTRY FACTS:

COACH: GARY WILSON, 2nd Year (Cortland St. (N.Y.) '68)  
1985 BIG TEN FINISH: 9th  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: 6  
LETTERWINNERS LOST: 2  
CLASS BREAKDOWN: One senior; eight juniors; six sophomores;  
12 freshmen.

TOP RETURNERS:

PATTI WALSH: Junior -- had outstanding track season last spring...finished strong in cross country last year.

EILEEN DONAGHY: Sophomore -- 1985 Most Improved and Freshman of the Year...number two runner most of last year.

EILEEN SCHALLER: Sophomore -- number three runner most of last season...competed in every meet as a freshman, including Big Ten and NCAA District IV meets.

TOP NEWCOMERS:

CARA DANIELS: Freshman -- (Anoka, Minn./Anoka H.S.)...third in state AA cross country meet...third in mile run at state AA track meet...ran on state champion 4 x 800 relay team.

WENDY BABCOCK: Freshman -- (Iron Mountain, Mich./Iron Mountain H.S.)...Upper Peninsula cross country champion in 1985.

CHERSTE JOHNSON: Freshman -- (Oshkosh, Wis./Oshkosh West H.S.)...fifth in state class A cross country meet in 1985.

MARCY DENMAN: Freshman -- (Clinton, Wis./Clinton H.S.)...runner-up at state class B cross country meet in 1985.

1986 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
CROSS COUNTRY ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Gary Wilson

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL</u>
Kristine Acker	Freshman	Middleton, WI/Middleton
Beth Alford	Junior	Minnetonka, MN/Hopkins
Wendy Babcock	Freshman	Iron Mountain, MI/Iron Mountain
Natalie Burke	Junior	Plymouth, MN/Armstrong
Patty Burns	Sophomore	Menomonie, WI/Menomonie
Rebecca Canner	Freshman	Baltimore, MD/Catonsville
Tiffany Church	Freshman	Appleton, WI/Appleton
Cara Daniels	Freshman	Anoka, MN/Anoka
Marcy Denman	Freshman	Clinton, WI/Clinton
Eileen Donaghy	Sophomore	St. Paul, MN/Highland Park
Patricia Eidman	Junior	Roseville, MN/Kellogg
Kathy Gebeke	Sophomore	White Bear Lake, MN/White Bear Lake
Gwen Gieneart	Sophomore	New Hope, MN/Cooper
Kristi Hittman	Sophomore	Oconomowoc, WI/Oconomowoc
Jackie Hubbard	Junior	Becker, MN/Becker
Cherste Johnson	Freshman	Oshkosh, WI/Oshkosh West
Lisa Johnson	Junior	LaCrescent, MN/LaCrescent
Jean Keske	Freshman	East Troy, WI/East Troy
Debbie Magnuson	Freshman	St. Paul, MN/Como Park
Amy Mills	Junior	Minneapolis, MN/Southwest
Tanya Prickett	Freshman	Cambridge, MN/Cambridge
Eve Rukavina	Freshman	Minnetonka, MN/Hopkins
Eileen Schaller	Sophomore	Neenah, WI/Armstrong
Kathy Scharnhorst	Junior	Wausau, WI/East
Sue Schroeder	Senior	Megnon, WI/University School
Andrea Vogel	Freshman	Roseville, MN/Mounds View
Patti Walsh	Junior	Shoreview, MN/Mounds View

## 1986 WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY OUTLOOK

### (WILSON, CROSS COUNTRY TEAM LOOK FOR IMPROVEMENT, NATIONAL RECOGNITION)

With one year of Division I coaching behind him, coach Gary Wilson begins his drive to return national recognition to the Minnesota cross country program. The team peaked in 1983 with a third-place finish in the Big Ten and a 10th-place finish at NCAA Nationals. However, the team's fortunes have declined since: a sixth-place Big Ten finish in 1984 followed by a ninth-place finish in 1985. The team showed some of its potential last year at the NCAA District IV meet, finishing 10th in a field of 23.

Wilson looks for the downward trend to cease, beginning with this season. Never before have so many new recruits been brought in, and Wilson is hopeful that this season will begin Minnesota's drive back to prominence. Wilson loses only one runner: six-time All-American Jody Eder, the team's dominant runner the last four years. "Jody was a major loss. We didn't get anyone to replace her," says Wilson. "But what we lose in up-front strength we will hopefully gain in depth."

Six returning letterwinners and thirteen newcomers give Wilson the depth he wants. In all, the team will carry 27 runners. "We have 10 to 12 runners who could be in the top seven," he says. The 1986 team will be very young, with 12 freshmen, but Wilson says they could be major contributors. "They will improve as the year goes on -- by the end of the season we could have four freshmen among our top seven runners."

Wilson has modest goals for the team, but they have far-reaching implications. "I'd like to see us improve a couple of spots in the Big Ten, gain a year of experience and build on that. Six Big Ten cross country teams were ranked among the national top 20 in 1985, and Wilson says the Big Ten will again feature many strong teams. If we could finish seventh at Big Tens I'd be thrilled." Wilson picks Wisconsin to win the Big Ten team title.

THE SEASON -- The season opened with a one-week training trip to Pigeon Lake, near Drummond, Wis. the first week in September. "We went up as 27 individuals and came back a team," said Wilson.

Competition begins September 20 with the Illinois State Invitational at Normal, Ill., followed the next week with a meet at Iowa State. The featured home meet is the co-ed Minnesota-GBS Sports Invitational on October 4. Eighteen teams, including national powerhouses Nebraska and Iowa State, will compete. "It will be a great day," says Wilson. "There's a big men's meet the same day and we should draw at least 1,000 spectators."

TOP RETURNERS -- Two sophomores are among Wilson's top returners: Eileen Donaghy (ST. PAUL/HIGHLAND PARK) and Eileen Schaller (NEENAH, WI). After a slow start, Donaghy came on strong at the end of the season, placing fourth (18:22) at the South Dakota Invitational and 32nd (19:09) at the NCAA District IV meet. She was Minnesota's number two runner for the second half of the season and improved her best time from 20:04 to 18:22 by season's end. "Eileen was a walk-on last year. She literally came out of nowhere, improving as the year went on," said Wilson.

Schaller was a steady contributor throughout the season and was the number three runner for most of the year. She had a top time of 18:50 at the South Dakota Invitational, good for tenth place. Junior Patti Walsh (SHOREVIEW/MOUNDS VIEW), another strong performer, is coming off an excellent track season where she ran the 3,000 meters and placed second in her heat at the Big Ten Outdoor Championships. She finished strongly last cross country season as well, and Wilson is counting on her to be one of the team's top performers this year.

**GARY WILSON**  
Head Coach

Gary Wilson enters his second year as head coach of the Gopher women's cross country and track and field teams with the enthusiasm and drive to make Minnesota a consistent national contender. Wilson has developed the reputation of a team-oriented coach who cares about individual athletes, and he wants the Gopher program to be a success at all levels. He also is an aggressive recruiter who in one year committed more newcomers to the program than in the previous four years combined. The recruits, and the core of returners, will build the foundation for Wilson's national powerhouse teams of the future.

In Wilson's first year as head coach the cross country team finished a disappointing ninth at the Big Ten Championship but rebounded for a 10th-place finish (out of 23 teams) at the NCAA District IV meet. One runner, Jody Eder, advanced to the NCAA National Championship where she earned All-American honors for the second year -- the sixth All-American honor of her career. Although Eder has graduated, the 1986 team should benefit from the addition of top recruits and from the experience of the returning harriers.

Wilson came to Minnesota after building a Division III powerhouse at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, where he coached the women's teams to three consecutive national track and field championships and one national cross country championship. During his eight-year coaching tenure (1978-84) he produced 10 cross country All-Americans and won the the 1983 NCAA Division III cross country team championship. UW-LaCrosse was the Division III runner-up in 1982 and 1984, and the school finished in the top five at the cross country nationals in six of Wilson's eight seasons. Depth was a key ingredient to UW-LaCrosse's cross country success: after inheriting a roster of 17 runners in his first season, Wilson's teams regularly carried more than 40 runners, one of the largest cross country squads in the nation.

In Wilson's four seasons as head coach of the UW-LaCrosse women's track and field team, the school won three national titles and finished third once. UW-LaCrosse captured the AIAW Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championship in 1982, and the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships in 1983 and 1984. Wilson coached 33 track and field All-Americans in just four seasons, including 14 All-Americans on the 1985 squad that placed third at nationals. Along with coaching the women's teams, Wilson was the head coach of the school's men's track and field team from 1976-1983, producing 25 NAIA All-Americans.

Wilson was named the NCAA Division III Coach-of-the-Year in 1983 and 1984, and honored as a Runners World all-star coach in 1984. He has served as a member of The Athletics Congress (TAC) Coaching Certification Committee and as a member of the AIAW national and regional cross country committees. Wilson also has operated several successful runners camps and coaching clinics, and he has written numerous articles for publication on the subject of coaching.

Prior to coaching at UW-LaCrosse, Wilson was assistant men's track and field coach at West Chester State College in Pennsylvania in 1975. He also served as the athletic director and chairman of the the physical education department at Hannibal Central High School in upstate New York in 1973-74. While at Hannibal, Wilson coached boys' cross country, basketball and track and field from 1968-1974.

Originally from Lyndonville, New York, Wilson received his B.S. (1968) and M.S. (1974) degrees in physical education from the State University of New York at Cortland. Wilson competed in cross country, and indoor and outdoor track while an undergraduate, captaining all three teams as a senior. Gary and his wife, Suzy, have three children: Ben, 6; Laura, 4; and Adam, 1.

## PLAYER PROFILES

### PATTI WALSH

Junior

Shoreview, Minnesota

College: Number five runner for most of sophomore season, but the second Gopher at the Kentucky and Michigan invitationals...best time of year came at South Dakota Invitational, 19:08, good for 16th place...came on strong at end of 1985 season...she was the third Gopher finisher at the Big Ten Championships...10th among freshmen runners at 1984 Big Ten meet, 41st overall...runs at 1,500 and 3,000 meters during track seasons...Patty Berg Academic Award winner.

High School: Mounds View High School...finished second at state cross country meet as a senior, fourth as a junior...three-year all-conference selection in cross country...second at 1,600 meters in state meet as a senior in 1984...conference champ at 1,600 meters as a junior in 1983.

Personal: Born 10/9/65...physical education major...daughter of Martin and Audrey Walsh.

Cross Country PR: 18:40.3 (1984 NCAA District IV meet)

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### EILEEN DONAGHY

Sophomore

St. Paul, Minnesota

College: 1985 Gopher Freshman of the Year and Most Improved Runner...placed fourth at the South Dakota Invitational with a season-best 18:22 time...top Gopher at LaCrosse Invitational, 18:33 for 15th place...number two Gopher at Big Tens and NCAA District IV meet...also runs the 5,000 and 10,000 meters on the track team.

High School: Highland Park High School...two-time conference cross country champion...region champion and all-state as senior...MVP as junior and senior...holds three conference track records...region champion in 3,200 meters as senior... track MVP as junior and senior.

Personal: Born 7/1/66...majoring in geologic engineering...daughter of Laurence and Elizabeth Donaghy.

Cross Country PR: 18:22 (1985 South Dakota Invitational)

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### CHERSTE JOHNSON

Freshman

Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Wilson says: Just came out of the blue...has not been running for long...should show significant improvement.

High School: Oshkosh West High School...fifth in Class A cross country meet in 1985...team MVP as senior...all-conference, all-region and all-state selection...competed at the National High School Athletic Coaches Association All-American Prep Cross Country Championships..

Personal: Born 3/6/68...undecided on college major...member of student council four years in high school...homecoming queen as a senior.

WENDY BABCOCK

Freshman

Iron Mountain, Michigan

Wilson says: Her sister runs for Michigan...not recruited by any other Big Ten schools, but she has the ability...she may contribute immediately...we expect great things down the road from her.

High School: Iron Mountain High School...Upper Peninsula cross country champion as senior; second as junior and sophomore...cross country and track MVP...Upper Peninsula champion in 1,600 and 3,200 meter runs during senior season.

Personal: Born 8/16/68...undecided on college major...enjoys playing racquetball, fishing, reading and playing the flute...3.6 GPA in high school...daughter of Lynn and Lorraine Babcock.

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SUE SCHROEDER

Senior

Mequon, Wisconsin

College: Started season strong, but injuries hampered late-season performance...top Gopher finisher at the Kentucky Invitational...had a new personal best at South Dakota Invitational (18:54), good for 12th place...17th overall and second Minnesota runner at Husker Invitational in Nebraska...one of the Gophers' top seven runners as sophomore and junior...runs 1,500 and 3,000 meters in track...has another year of athletic eligibility remaining.

High School: University High School...second in Wisconsin state cross country meet as senior...conference cross country champ as senior...second in one-mile and two-mile events at Wisconsin state track meet in 1983...also lettered in swimming and field hockey.

Personal: Born 6/30/65...majoring in biology and minoring in psychology...daughter of Arlene and Robert Schroeder.

Cross Country PR: 18:54 (1985 South Dakota Invitational)

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EILEEN SCHALLER

Sophomore

Neenah, Wisconsin

College: Minnesota's number three runner for most of freshman season...10th place with personal best 18:50 time at South Dakota Invitational...number two Gopher finisher at Minnesota Invitational, 18th overall...competed in every meet last year, including Big Ten and NCAA District IV meets.

High School: Neenah Armstrong High School...Wisconsin state 800-meter champ as junior...7th at state cross country meet as junior...forced to sit out as senior to due leg injury.

Personal: Born 12/22/66...dietetics major...daughter of Charles and Margaret Schaller.

Cross Country PR: 18:50 (1985 South Dakota Invitational)

CARA DANIELS

Freshman

Anoka, Minnesota

Wilson says: Tremendous leadership personality... she's got the speed and strength...she got better as last year went on...I'm pleased that Cara stayed home to attend the "U".

High School: Anoka High School...third at state AA cross country meet as senior...1986 National High School Cross Country All-American...three-time cross country MVP...competed on track team for three years...third in 3,200 meters at 1986 state AA track meet...anchor of champion 4 x 800 relay team...earned all-state honors twice in cross country and three times in track...placed second at 1985 TAC Nationals...member of 1985 Bonne Bell All-American cross country team...also all-conference and team MVP in cross country skiing.

Personal: Born 2/10/68...physical education major...enjoys biking, swimming and babysitting...daughter of David and Marilyn Daniels.

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PATTY BURNS

Sophomore

Menomonie, Wisconsin

College: Competed in every meet last year...best time was 19:17 at LaCrosse Invitational...placed 19th overall at South Dakota Invitational with 19:24 time...improved collegiate best time by one minute during the season.

High School: Menomonie High School...all-conference two years...earned two letters...captained team as senior...also lettered in swimming and gymnastics.

Personal: Born 6/6/67...majoring in nursing...daughter of William Burns.

Cross Country PR: 19:17 (1985 LaCrosse Invitational)

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KRISTI ACKER

Freshman

Middleton, Wisconsin

Wilson says: a walk-on...unlimited potential...phenomenal endurance capacity...she doesn't know how good she can be.

High School: Middleton High School...captain of cross country team as junior and senior...all-conference cross country three years...all-conference 3,200 meter runner in track as junior and senior...qualified for junior Olympic regionals in 1984 and nationals in 1985 in cross country.

Personal: Born 5-13-68.. bio-chemistry major...enjoys piano and singing...3.7 GPA in high school...daughter of Sylvester and Jean Acker.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CROSS COUNTRY  
1986-87 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

13	SAT.	ALUMNI-INTRASQUAD	11:30 A.M.
20	Sat.	at Illinois State (Normal, IL)	
27	Sat.	at Iowa State (Ames, IA)	

OCTOBER

4	SAT.	MINNESOTA-GBS SPORTS INVITATIONAL	11:00 A.M.
11	Sat.	at Carleton Invitational (Northfield, MN)	
13	Mon.	at Arizona (Tucson, AZ)	
18	Sat.	at Wisconsin-LaCrosse (LaCrosse, WI)	
25	SAT.	MINNESOTA QUAD	11:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER

1	Sat.	Big Ten Championships (Columbus, OH)
15	Sat.	NCAA Regionals (Normal, IL)
24	Mon.	NCAA Nationals (Tucson, AZ)

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1985 MINNESOTA CROSS COUNTRY TEAM RESULTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meet</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Top Finisher</u>
9/14	Husker Invitational	3rd of 8 (96)	Jody Eder (3rd, 18:27.7)
9/21	Kentucky Invitational	9th of 12 (222)	Sue Schroeder (31st, 19:25.1)
9/28	Iowa State Invitational	3rd of 6 (98)	Jody Eder (5th, 17:36.3)
10/5	MINNESOTA INVITATIONAL	3rd of 6 (88)	Jody Eder (2nd, 17:55.1)
10/11	Michigan Invitational	5th of 6 (114)	Jody Eder (9th, 18:35)
10/19	LaCrosse Invitational	7th of 15 (221)	Eileen Donaghy (15th, 18:33)
10/26	South Dakota Invitational	2nd of 5 (43)	Jody Eder (1st, 17:22)
11/2	Big Ten Championships	9th of 10	Jody Eder (4th, 18:01)
11/16	NCAA District IV Champs.	10th of 23	Jody Eder (4th)
11/25	NCAA National Champs.	individual only	Jody Eder (17th)