



# 2005 Auburn Cross Country

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## Auburn Set to Embark on 2005 Campaign

### 2005 Schedule

Date	Event	Finish (M/W)
9.17	Florida State Inv.	
10.1	Paul Short Inv.	
10.8	Auburn Inv.	
10.22	Coach "O" Inv.	
10.29	SEC Champ.	
11.12	NCAA South Reg.	
11.21	NCAA Champ.	

### Quick Facts

#### General Information

Location	Auburn, Ala.
Nickname	Tigers
Enrollment	23,333
Colors	Burnt Orange and Navy Blue
Conference	Southeastern
President	Dr. Ed Richardson
Athletics Director	Jay Jacobs
Athletic Asst. to President	Hal Baird

#### Team Information

Head CC Coach	Peter Watson
Years at Auburn	First season
Alma Mater	West Virginia, '01
Track Office Phone	334/844-9799
Track Office Fax	334/844-9782
2004 SEC Finish (M/W)	4th/5th
2004 South Reg. Finish (M/W)	4th/5th
2004 NCAA Finish (M/W)	N/A
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	
Men	9/5
Women	7/5
Newcomers (M/W)	8/3

#### Media Relations

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### Setting the Scene

The Auburn men's and women's cross country teams will begin the 2005 season Saturday, Sept. 17 at the Florida State Invitational in Tallahassee, Fla. The event will commence at 7:30 a.m. with the men's 8K, followed by the women's 5K at 8:10 a.m. The event will be held at Miccosukee Greenway Park, which will also host the 2005 ACC Championships in October.

### The Field

The event will feature a strong field of 17 men's teams and 19 women's teams. Auburn is the only SEC team competing in the event. Host Florida State has the highest ranked men's and women's teams in the field. The men's team is ranked 20th in the preseason United States Cross Country Coaches Association (USCCCA) Poll. The women are receiving votes in the FinishLynx NCAA Cross Country Poll. The Auburn men are ranked fourth in the south region, while the women's regional polls are yet to be released.

### New Era

Peter Watson begins his first season as the coach of the cross country program. Watson takes over for former coach Chris Fox, who was hired as the head track and field coach at Syracuse after three seasons at Auburn. Watson is a 2001 graduate of West Virginia, where he was a four-year letterman on both the track and cross country teams. A native of London, Ontario, Canada, Watson participated in the 2000 and 2001 Canadian National Track and Field Championships.

### Looking Ahead

#### Men

The men's team returns 10 letterwinners from a year ago, including five of their top-seven runners from a team that finished fourth at the 2004 SEC Championships. Pacing the men will be senior Andrew Heath and sophomore Chris Walsh. Heath is a two-time All-SEC selection and was the Tigers' top finisher in two events last season. Walsh was the 2004 SEC Male Freshman of the Year and finished 73rd at the NCAA Championships.

#### Women

Led by back-to-back SEC Champion and All-

### Florida State Invitational

**Date:** September 17

**Location:** Tallahassee, Fla.

**Course:** Miccosukee Greenway Park

**Teams:** Auburn, Bethune-Cookman, Clemson (women only), Embry-Riddle, Florida, Florida A&M, Florida Atlantic, Florida Southern, Florida Tech, Georgia Tech, Jacksonville, North Florida, Saint Leo, Tampa, Texas A&M, Troy State, University of Central Florida and Webber International (women only)

**Times:** Men's 8K - 7:30 a.m.

Women's 5K - 8:10 a.m.

#### Lineup:

Men		Women	
Name	Yr.	Name	Yr.
Andrew Heath	Sr.	Angela Homan	Sr.
Chris Walsh	So.	Dawn Morgan	Sr.
Patrick Mouser	Jr.	Becca Bell	So.
Patrick Philbin	Jr.	Denise Daughenbaugh	Jr.
Matt Tillman	Sr.	Megan Karl	So.
Joey Giattino	Sr.	Jessica Smith	So.
Elliot Smith	So.	Alayne Thompson	Jr.
Clay Askew	Sr.	Laura Steele	So.
Alan Burnie	Sr.		
Jordan Davis	So.		

American senior Angela Homan, the women's team returns eight letterwinners from last year's team that finished fifth at the SEC Championships and fifth at the NCAA South Regional. Homan won every race last season leading up to the NCAA Championships, where she placed ninth. This season, Homan joins Dawn Morgan as the only two seniors on the team. The women's roster is comprised of 10 underclassmen and just five upperclassmen.

### Looking Back

The 2004 season was very successful for the Tigers. Both the men's and women's team earned top-five finishes in the conference and each team placed one individual in the NCAA Championships. The men's team won one event and finished no worse than fourth in all five events. The women's team picked up one victory, while earning top-five finishes in four of five events. Individually, senior Angela Homan added to her already crowded trophy case by earning All-America honors and winning the SEC and NCAA South Regional Championships. On the men's side, sophomore Chris Walsh became only the second male in Auburn history to qualify for the NCAA Championships, placing 73rd. Walsh's success helped him earn SEC Male Freshman of the Year honors.

