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## Lancers prepare for top track tests

**OUA, CIS championships loom large**

**Jim Parker, Windsor Star**

Published: Saturday, February 14, 2009

The University of Windsor Lancers track and field team will deal with the past, present and future at today's Team Challenge event at the St. Denis Centre.

"It'll be a three-ring circus," Lancers head coach Dennis Fairall said.

The big focus will be on the track where the Lancers host their final meet before the OUA championships at York University in two weeks. It's less than a month until the CIS championships come to Windsor.

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"We usually get fired up this weekend," Fairall said. "We've got 16 (athletes) automatically qualified for CI's and we'd like to get 20 to 24 automatically entered because that usually represents top six."

The men are ranked No. 1 in the CIS and should get tested with second-ranked Guelph in the meet along with fourth-ranked York and ninth-ranked Western.

MCMMASTER IN TOWN

On the women's side, the Lancers are ranked second in the CIS and will see competitors from top-ranked Guelph, fourth-ranked Toronto and eighth-ranked Western.

McMaster will also be in town along with the University of Detroit and Macomb Community College.

"It's a pretty competitive meet," Fairall said.

But aside from the meet, the Lancers will look to the future by entertaining 42 recruits and gaze back on the past by honouring two former championship squads.

"It's a tough day, but we'll try to take care of everything," Fairall said.

Of those 42 recruits set to get a tour and take in the meet, a dozen are from Essex County and Fairall said that's been the life-blood for the Lancers.

"There's some real good talent locally and that's important to our program," Fairall said. "Obviously you can't get all (42 recruits) or you could start hanging (championship) banners now, but hopefully we get a few."

To round out the busy day, the Lancers will also recognize the 1998 men's national cross-country team, which was the school's first-ever CIS championship in the event.

Also set to be honoured is the 1999 women's CIS track and field championship team.

Team Challenge competition gets underway at 1:30 p.m., with the event set to run until 5 p.m.

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