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Optimism Surrounds Cedarville Track Teams

Cedarville University

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SPORTS NEWS RELEASE

from Cedarville College Yellow Jackets

SPORTS INFORMATION
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For immediate release:

Optimism Surrounds Cedarville Track Teams

With the return of four All-Americans plus thirteen other lettermen from last spring's NCCAA national championship team, Cedarville College men's track coach Elvin King has good reasons for maintaining an optimistic outlook for 1985. His Yellow Jackets are already favored to win their third straight NCCAA crown, but they hope to defend their title at the Marietta Relays this Saturday where they open the season. The women's team, which tied for first at Marietta in '84, will be competing in the event as well.

"We do have high expectations, but it's a little hard to define," stated King who begins his 16th season as Cedarville's head track mentor. "We will be going to the same invitationals this spring, however the field of teams may be different and we could face a lot tougher competition. If the teams entered are typical of the ones who were in those meets last year, then there is the possibility we could go undefeated. We were only beaten twice last spring and both times it was by Malone. We feel we can defeat them this season." Cedarville has never beaten Malone in track, but the Jackets will get an excellent opportunity on April 27 when they host the Mid-Ohio Conference meet.

The four returning All-Americans are all underclassmen. They are junior Tom Hill (5,000; 10,000 meters), junior Clarence Eddy (400 meters), sophomore Clancy Cruise (pole vault), and sophomore Rob Moore (1500 meters). Moore just earned All-America status last month at the NAIA national indoor track meet with a third place finish in the mile.

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Four seniors will end fine careers this season in sprinters Dave Christmas and Dee Smith, middle-distance runner Gary Anderson, and pole vaulter Dave Moody. One goal this quartet has in mind is to be on the first Cedarville team to win either the MOC and/or the NAIA District 22 titles.

Women's coach John McGillivray believes his 1985 squad can defend the Western Buckeye Collegiate Conference title it captured last year. The Lady Jackets were third at the NCCAA and eleven letterwinners are back.

It's no secret that junior Jane Romig is one of the foremost female athletes to ever compete at Cedarville. She was an NCCAA All-American in both the 800 and 1500 meters in '84 and Romig also was the NAIA national indoor champion in the 1000 yards last month.

"Our women's program is definitely stronger than last year," said King. "Their season is even harder to predict than the men's because so many women's programs are really growing right now."

Both the men's and women's track teams will host the Cedarville Relays on April 2.