

4-1-2020

## Cross-Country Miles Ahead

Vince Moore  
*Furman University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine>

---

### Recommended Citation

Moore, Vince (2020) "Cross-Country Miles Ahead," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 63 : Iss. 1 , Article 17.  
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol63/iss1/17>

This Regular Feature is made available online by Journals, part of the Furman University Scholar Exchange (FUSE). It has been accepted for inclusion in Furman Magazine by an authorized FUSE administrator. For terms of use, please refer to the [FUSE Institutional Repository Guidelines](#). For more information, please contact [scholarexchange@furman.edu](mailto:scholarexchange@furman.edu).



## SPORTS BRIEFS

### CROSS-COUNTRY MILES AHEAD

BY VINCE MOORE

**How good were the Furman men's and women's cross-country teams this past fall?** In early December, they alone were responsible for Furman being ranked among the top 10 NCAA Division I schools in the Learfield IMG College Director's Cup competition, which tracks the season-long success of both the men's and women's programs at universities across the nation.

The strong performance by the cross-country teams earned Furman a total of 130.5 points in the standings, which reflected the results of NCAA competition in three sports – men's and women's cross-country and field hockey. The university was tied for 10th with Notre Dame and

was well ahead of schools like North Carolina, Texas, Ohio State and Alabama.

It should be noted that of the eight schools ranked above Furman, five accrued a significant number of their points in field hockey, a sport that Furman doesn't offer. The December standings featured 74 schools that had accumulated points in NCAA tournament competition to that point.

Both Paladin cross-country teams won their seventh straight Southern Conference titles. The women finished ninth at the NCAA Championships, while the men finished 14th. **Savannah Carnahan '20**, **Gabbi Jennings '20** and **Ryan Adams '19** also earned All-America status at the NCAA meet. Robert Gary, the men's and women's cross-country coach, was SoCon Coach of the Year.

Furman has led all Southern Conference schools in the Learfield IMG competition the past three years and finished 73rd overall in 2018-19, the best showing in program history. The university has finished among the top 100 schools nationally for three consecutive years.

The cross-country teams weren't the only success story for the Paladins in the fall. Men's and women's soccer also won regular season league titles, and men's soccer head coach Doug Allison was named Coach of the Year.

While the football team didn't accomplish its goal of winning a conference championship,

the Paladins enjoyed another successful season under third-year head coach **Clay Hendrix '86**. The team spent a good part of the season ranked in the top 10 of the FCS poll, finishing with an 8-5 record and qualifying for the playoffs (a 42-6 first-round loss to Austin Peay on the road).

Two players from the Paladin volleyball team – **Courtney Hoffman '20** and sophomore **Neci Harris '22** – were named first-team all-conference, and **Nicole Mack '20** was named to the all-tournament team. Furman reached the semifinals of the tournament for the 22nd time in program history. ♦

Furman men's cross-country athletes David Ahlmeyer '23 and Cameron Ponder '22 compete at the NCAA XC Championship this past November.



Furman men's basketball players Mike Bothwell '22 and Jaylon Pugh '22 react during the Feb. 22 game against Wofford, which drew more than 6,000 fans to the Bon Secours Wellness Arena in downtown Greenville, South Carolina. The Paladins beat the Terriers 67-66.