

# Alicia Weber Makes Gator Cross Country News in 2000!

## Cross Country to race in Jacksonville Invitational

By Amy Zientara  
Alligator Writer

After an impressive victory at the Knoxville Invitational last Saturday, the UF women's cross country team is ready to let their youngsters have a try.

The UF women's "B" team travels to Jacksonville on Saturday to compete in the Jacksonville Invitational. The "B" team is made up of freshmen and sophomores who have a chance to make the varsity squad, coach

Tom Jones said.

Jones anticipates some breakthrough performances will help him add women to the traveling roster.

One runner for the Gators will be Alicia Weber, who transferred to UF this year and made the traveling squad last week. Weber was unable to travel to Tennessee because of unfinished paperwork.

"Alicia has been doing well in practices," Jones said. "She should run a good time in Jacksonville."

With a "B" squad Jones describes as "pretty talented," sophomore Kristina Bratton is also expected to shine.

"I'm looking for Kristina to make the top seven this year," Jones said. "She definitely has the talent to do so."

Bratton was redshirted during her first season last year. During the track season, she ran close to a five-minute mile.

While the young Gators represent their team, the varsity will increase the intensity of their practices in anticipation of the Gator Invitational next weekend.

"We have never lost our home meet since I've been a coach here," Jones said.

Jones has coached at UF for nine years.

To keep the winning tradition alive, the women will need to defeat almost every college team in the state, as well as some out-of-state schools.

"I'm looking for some of the young girls to add depth to the traveling squad," Jones said. "We have a long way to go to be competitive in the SEC."

### Torres wins another medal

Former UF swimmer Dara Torres tied for third with U.S. teammate Jenny Thompson to take the bronze medal in the finals of the 100-meter freestyle at the 2000 Olympics on Thursday.

Torres and Thompson both touched the wall in 54.43 seconds. The bronze medal brings Torres' 2000 Olympics total to one gold medal and two bronze.

Freshman Janelle Atkinson of Jamaica swam in the 800-meter freestyle heats and finished ninth overall.

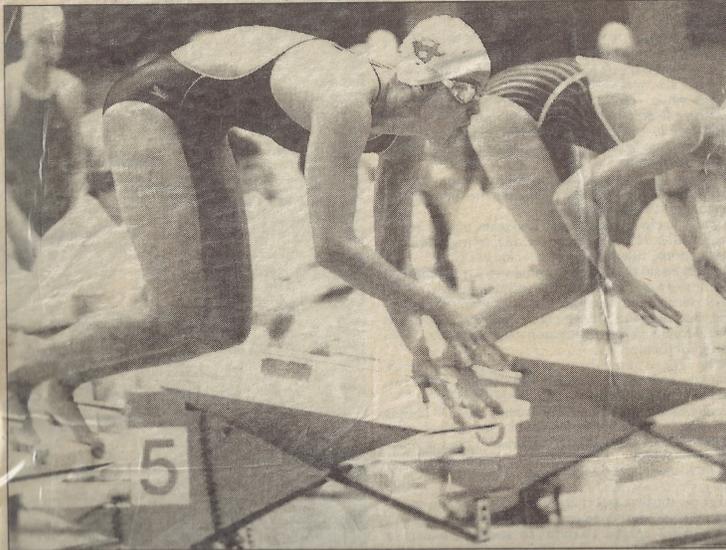
She just missed advancing to the finals. The top-eight swimmers advanced to the finals.

Atkinson finished with time of 8:34.51 and placed fourth in Heat 4.

The swimming competition at the Olympics will continue on Friday, Sept. 22.

In the morning, senior Ricardo Monasterio of Venezuela will compete in the men's 1500-meter freestyle heats, and junior Leah Martindale of Barbados and Torres will swim in the women's 50-meter freestyle heats.

The semifinals of the 50m freestyle will be held tomorrow evening.



UF Sports Information

Former Gator swimmer Dara Torres has won three medals thus far in the 2000 Olympic Games. Torres has



## UF Cross Country Runner Named Athlete of the Week

Wednesday September 27, 2000 | [Send this story to a friend](#)  
 Birmingham, Ala.

In her first race as a Florida Gator, **Alicia Weber** (Pittsburgh, Pa.) finished fifth overall and led her team to a first place finish. Weber had a time of 20:12.00 and was fifth overall at the JTC Cross Country Invitational in Jacksonville last Friday night.

Weber, a transfer from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, ran as an unattached entrant in the Sept. 7 Nike Twi-Light Invitational and finished 13th overall.

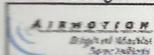
She and the rest of the Gators host the 13th annual Gator Invitational at the University Golf Course on Saturday morning. The women's collegiate race begins at 8 am and the men's collegiate race begins at 8:45 am. There will be four high school races to follow. In all, over 1200 athletes will be running.

End of Report



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# UF teams favored in home meet

## Women's team looking to extend winning streak as they run in the Gator Invitational

JILL MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

The Gator cross country teams have the potential to post some breakthrough times this weekend at the 13th annual Gator Invitational.

With only the women's "B" team attending the Jacksonville Track Club

### Solutions



(JTC) Cross Country Invitational last Saturday, and the men last competing on Sept. 15, both teams are going into the meet with plenty of rest.

The Gator teams have had great success in the past in the Gator Invitational. In last year's meet, both UF teams swept. Senior Rob Evans, then a junior, finished first for the Gators, and was second overall in 24:50.49, breaking the 25-minute barrier for the first time in his career. For the women, then-senior Tamiaka Grizzle was the first Florida runner to cross the line at 18:09.46, good enough for fourth overall.

Gator team captain Chris Duncan could be on the brink of his third straight victory on Saturday. Duncan, a junior, got his first career win in the Nike Twi-Light Invitational in a time of 20:03.52, breaking his personal record by more than 15 seconds. His second win came only one week later in the Tennessee Invitational on Sept. 15; his time of 25:30.12 was 15th-best all time on the Lambert Acres course. Duncan, and the rest of the Gators, are

looking to improve upon their team finish from the Tennessee Invitational where they were second to the Naval Academy. Earlier this season, the men's team won the Nike Twi-Light Invitational by placing first, third, seventh, eighth, ninth and 11th for 25 points.

Though the Lady Gators are undefeated, they are currently not ranked. That may change after this weekend. This also may be the race for freshman Hilary White to break through with her first collegiate win. White leads this dominantly young squad with her second-place finish at the Nike Twi-Light Invitational (18:26.56), and her third-place finish from the Tennessee Invitational (18:41.56). The team's best pack time this season is 1:05.11, which was at the Twi-Light Invitational held at UF, the same course the team races on this weekend. The Lady Gators have scored 23 and 25 points in their first two meets.

Another strong aspect of the women's team is the "B" team, which won the JTC Invitational over the weekend. Alicia

Weber was tops for the Lady Gators, finishing in 20:12 for a fifth-place overall finish.

This weekend's meet also may serve as a prediction of the finishes of these Florida schools in the women's State Meet, which will be held at the University of South Florida on Oct. 13. The Gator teams are hosting Bethune-Cookman, Florida A&M, Florida International University, Florida Southern College, Jacksonville University, Life University (Georgia), University of Miami, University of North Carolina (Wilmington), and Valdosta State University (Georgia). Life is only bringing a men's team, while the rest are bringing both men's and women's teams.

The Gator Invitational will be held on Saturday, Sept. 30, at the UF Golf Course. The women's race is at 8:00 a.m., while the men start at 8:45 a.m. High school races will follow the collegiate races.

Jill Martin can be reached at [jillmart@ufl.edu](mailto:jillmart@ufl.edu)

# Cross country finishes in top five at SEC Championship

### Staff Report

With its second runner of the season returning from half-way around the world, the UF men's cross country team pulled things together and finished third at the Southeastern Conference cross country championships on Monday in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

The UF women finished fourth. This marks the third time in the past four years that the men has finished in the third position. The women's finish is its lowest since a fourth-place per-

formance in 1994.

The men had a total of 98 points and the women's team had 121 points. Arkansas won both races.

Chris Duncan finished seventh with a time of 25 minutes, 11.91 seconds and earned his first career All-Southeastern Conference.

Rolando Ortiz was the second UF finisher. He finished 15th with an All-SEC time of 26:00.35.

"It feels good, not only that I made it individually, but the

team helped me out," Ortiz said of his All-SEC honor.

"We all ran well even without Rob [Evans]."

Donnell Bowen was 19th overall and had a time of 26:15.74.

His time was two seconds off his best this season. Courtney Chambers was close behind Bowen at 21st place.

"We all pulled together well," Duncan said.

"We came up here with all five guns firing and that will help us when we come back for the re-

gional meet. I am proud of everyone."

UF was without its No. 2 runner and two-time All-SEC performer Evans who returns from Sydney, Australia, today.

Evans was competing in the Paralympic Games where he won two gold medals and set world records in the 1,500 meter and the 5,000.

"We need to take this momentum and add Rob into the mix to do even better at the Regional meet in two weeks on this same course," UF coach Doug Brown

said.

Hilary White, who finished in 16th place with a time of 22:03.37 and was one place away from earning All-SEC honors, led the women's team.

Erin Merten had a time of 22:20.08 and was in 19th place. Freshman Kelly Walker finished 23rd and was third for the Gators with a time of 22:25.85. Nona Allen and Alicia Weber were the final two UF scorers.

Allen finished in 31st place at 22:51.05, and Weber crossed at 22:53.19 in 32nd place.