

More Qualifiers in Day 2

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All-American Katie Palmer placed second in the 800-meter run at the Stanford Invitational in Palo Alto, Calif. BYU Photo/Mark Philbrick

Palo Alto, Calif. (March 28, 2009) – Day two of the Stanford Invitational topped things off for the Cougars with several additional athletes earning regional qualifying marks in Palo Alto, Calif.

The No. 3 nationally ranked women's team added several more NCAA regional qualifying marks to an already impressive showing at the Stanford Invitational.

“Overall it was a successful meet,” said BYU women's head track and field coach Craig Poole. “We learned a lot and had some very encouraging performances.”

All-American Katie Palmer struck first for the Cougars on Saturday with a second place finish in the 800-meter run. Not only is her time of 2:05.56 an NCAA regional qualifying mark, but is this season's Mountain West Conference best time. Palmer's 800-meter time places her fifth on BYU's all-time records list.

Lacey Cramer, the nation's best indoor 800-meter runner, finished right behind Palmer for third place in the 800-meter event. Cramer's time of 2:06.34 is also an NCAA regional qualifying mark.

All-American Mindy Neeley concluded her meet with a solid fourth place finish in the 200-meter event (24.14). Neeley ranks second in the MWC in the 200-meter, first in the long jump and fifth in the 100-meter events.

"I think once we get used to competing outdoors we will be very good," Poole said. "For many of our athletes this was their first collegiate outdoor experience. I think we will continue to see constant improvement throughout the season."

The men's team also pulled ahead with strong performances, racking up four additional qualifying marks and adding to BYU's strong reputation.

Finishing up a successful second day for the distance runners, freshman standout Justin Hedin placed fourth in the 800-meter run with a final time of 1:49.99, earning him a regional qualifying mark.

Moving things to the field, pole vaulters Robert Low and Chris Little cleared new heights, also earning them qualifying marks for Regional's. Low placed second with a height of 5.30 meters (17 feet 4.5 inches) while Little came in fifth with 5.05 meters (16 feet 6.75 inches).

Wrapping up the weekend for the Cougars, junior Daniel Lawson held strong in the distance competition with a sixth place finish and final distance of 53.60 meters (175 feet 10 inches), a personal second regional mark at Stanford.

The Cougars return home to host the BYU Cougar Invitational. The meet will be held at the Clarence F. Robison outdoor Track.