

up only with dedication and consistency in practice—a hallmark of Chenoweth's work ethic—is race strategy. “In races,” he says, “I am completely focused on what is going on”: where his rivals are, whether the terrain changes, how he is feeling—and thinking about when to attack. On a downhill, he may stride faster to gain a little momentum that he can carry through a flat, or take the lead at a corner to avoid being forced to the outside, which adds a yard or two to the total distance. On uphill, he may push the pace a little harder right at the top, in an attempt to drop a competitor. “Even if your strategy is to sit back,” he explains, “you always have to be aware of what is going on at the front, because if a group of runners tries to break off and you want to win the race, you have to be ready—at the college level, they usually aren't coming back.”

When he won the 3,000-meter race at the track and field Heptagonal Championship his sophomore year, he recalls, “It

was an interesting field because some guys were really strong and a couple of guys were really quick.” The challenge in such a situation is that if the front runners are still in a pack approaching the finish line, those with a fast finishing kick will break away over the last few hundred meters to win. But simply running a faster pace throughout the race eliminates the speedsters and benefits the endurance crowd.

He and Saretsky planned to let someone else do the work of leading until about halfway through. Then Chenoweth would “make a break, to get a good gap on some of the guys” who were dangerous near the finish. “That was what I needed from Coach,” he says. In the race, the runners adopted a relatively slow pace at first. When Chenoweth made his move, he “threw down a really fast, hard lap” that opened a gap on the rest of the field. He took the next lap “a little easier” to recover and then “drove hard in to the finish,” and won.

A five-foot-eight, 130-pound Platonic ideal of a runner, Chenoweth hails from Geneseo, Illinois. He took up the sport at the urging of his older brother Brian, who ran for Wartburg College in Iowa. (His parents also run, but only in an occasional road race.) At Harvard, Chenoweth competes nearly year-round: cross country in the fall, and then track—indoors during the winter months and then outdoors in the spring.

As he drives toward the finish of his college career, his personal goal is to make all-American—one of the few honors (awarded to the top 20 or so runners nationally) that has eluded him during the course of a stellar Ivy career. His aspirations for the team he now leads have focused on the Ivy League championships on October 29. Columbia and Princeton have been the teams to beat in the last few years, but Harvard has a quintet of promising freshman talent—and Chenoweth.

—JONATHAN SHAW

Soccer Under the Lights

In early September, the new, illuminated, artificial-turf Soldiers Field Soccer Stadium opened with a nighttime women's soccer match against Long Island (a 2-2 tie); the next night, the men took on Stanford (Harvard won, 2-1). Free sunglasses in neon colors, T-shirts, and raffles, refreshments, and prizes served as promotions. The artificial surface allows play in a wider range of weather than the natural grass pitch of nearby Ohiri Field (named for star Crimson forward Chris Ohiri '64), which “remains the primary site for men's and women's soccer now and in the future,” according to director of athletic communications Kurt Svoboda. This fall, Harvard played its first two men's home games on the new surface, with the final four scheduled for Ohiri; the women split their home contests 4-3 between Ohiri and the new stadium.

“The ability to install lights was important” as a factor in the decision to use restricted funds to build the new facility, Svoboda says. (Ohiri Field abuts a residential community, so installing lights might have created problems.) A lit field allows practice after dark: a useful option when undergraduate resistance to early classes has pushed lectures and sections later in the day. The new surface

also enables more flexible preparation for different opponents: if a Crimson side is particularly fast, playing more games on the artificial turf, which speeds up play, may amplify that edge. There is also more space for club and

recreational play and for varsity lacrosse, which scheduled games against the men's and women's national teams for early October.

Soccer at its highest levels, however, is played on grass. The elite professional leagues of England and Europe, as well as the World Cup matches, take place on natural grass (although this year FIFA, the international governing body, permitted some qualifying matches to go off on artificial surfaces in places like Scandinavia, where it is hard to maintain good grass pitches).

And many players favor God's sod. “I spring from the grass roots,” says Brian O'Connor '78, a varsity midfielder in college, who has played on many artificial surfaces. “Nothing equals a well-tended grass field for aesthetics. The ball has a skip off the grass that is unique to its contact with organic matter.”

Another varsity alumnus, David Updike '79, says, “Artificial turf changes the nature of the game, the speed at which it is played, probably induces more injuries than grass, and is less aesthetically pleasing.” For O'Connor, the new man-made surfaces “are much better than the hard, unforgiving turf we sometimes played on in college. But they will never rival the green, green grass of home.”



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