

Terry Aldrich is in his 36th and final year as the head coach of the cross-country program at Middlebury, but speaking with him, you wouldn't know he is just months away from retirement. Aldrich speaks with as much enthusiasm for Middlebury's current runners (the women are among the favorites to win the NCAA Championship, and the men hope to qualify for NCAA's for the first time in team history) as he does when recalling the men's ECAC Championship in 1991, Dorcas Den Hartog's individual NCAA Championship in 1985, or the women's first NCAA Team Championship in 2000.

Aldrich has received numerous accolades over his prolific career, including NESCAC, New England, and National Coach of the Year honors in 2000, 2001, 2003, 2006, and 2008. Terry's legacy at Middlebury goes far beyond the statistics. "I am most proud of the fact that so many of my runners and skiers over the years have made their sport a lifetime activity," he says. "Several have qualified for Olympic teams, while others have continued recreationally."

Aldrich's coaching philosophy is certainly responsible for his athletes' lifelong commitment to the sport. "My goal is to provide for each member of the team to achieve his/her potential. We try to focus on

performance goals (goals you have control over) rather than outcome goals (goals you have no control over)."

Coach Aldrich recalls countless favorite moments, many of which involve a combination of late-season foul weather and championship adrenaline. He recalls the 1981 NCAA Championship in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where the women competed in five inches of snow and Sue Long Wemyss '82 declared, "I'm ready to do battle."

Aldrich also recounted the story of the 1989 Championships when the women got the starting time wrong and he stopped traffic and induced strangers to drive his athletes to the starting line. Fate was smiling on the team that day, as the chief of the race turned out to be Middlebury graduate, Jon Hird '73, who "discovered" timing issues that delayed the race..

And who could forget the 2006 Championships when the course was covered ankle-deep in water and the women battled to an underdog victory? Aldrich speaks proudly of the strength of all of his athletes, forged during countless repeats up Chipman Hill.

Aldrich admits that it probably has not yet dawned on him that he will not return next season. But he is looking forward to spending more time with his children and grandchildren, and traveling with his wife, Beth Ann.

