After over four decades of leading one of the most well-respected cross-country programs in the country, Ray Treacy is retiring from his role as Head Coach / Director of Cross Country & Track at Providence College. This is an emotional, yet celebratory close to a chapter that will absolutely define athletics at Providence for years to come.

Ray's connection to Providence began long before he was coaching on the sidelines. Originally from Ireland, he came to PC as a student-athlete in the late 1970s, soon becoming one of the top distance runners in the country. During his college running career, Ray earned All-American honors and helped establish Providence as a strong presence in collegiate distance running. Him, alongside his brother John and many other runners, helped form the foundation of the success in the program.

Shortly after graduating, Ray remained very close to the sport and then eventually came back to Providence in a coaching role. He was officially named head coach of the men's cross country and track teams in 1984. In the next few years, he took over the women's program as well, starting his decades-long role as overseer of both sides in the Friars' running traditions.

Under Ray's leadership, Providence, particularly the women, turned into one of the best and most sought-after distance-running programs in the NCAA. His teams were consistently made up of national championship qualifiers and All-Americans, competing at the highest level of collegiate competition. Lots of his athletes, similarly to him, came from overseas to pursue their running and academic careers. Over the years, Ray coached dozens of athletes who would go on to compete professionally and internationally.

As was just mentioned, one of the defining parts of Ray's program was his reach to international students. Providence has always been known for recruiting talented distance runners from around the world, particularly from Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand, but Ray's influence was huge for this feature. These athletes really helped shape the identity of distance running at Providence and this contribution of Ray was the strongest reason for the program's consistent presence at national meets.

At forty-one years, Ray's retirement closes one of the longest coaching tenures in college track and cross country. For many generations of runners who have passed through Friartown, Ray was a central figure in the program, guiding athletes through years of training, competition, acclimation, and personal growth in general. As we look toward the future, Ray leaves behind a program that he built through consistency, talent across the globe, and a long history of success out on the course. And of course, he leaves us a track, with his name on it to remind Providence of his legend.